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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

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds plenary meeting

YANGON, 22 Nov — The 6th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held the 6th plenary meeting at Wizaya Mingala Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba-Aye Hill in Mayangon Township here this morning.

Chairman of the SSMNC Presiding Sayadaw of Magway Maha Withutayamaithak Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rathika Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammamajjota Bhaddanta Kumara presided over the meeting and Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitasiribhivamsa acted as MC.

The Chairman Sayadaw delivered an Ovadakatha. Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on the religious matters.

Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dvipatkadhar Bhaddanta Nimala and members of the Sangha presented the report of the 6th SSMNC (Second Branch).

The chairman Sayadaw and member Sayadaws of SSMNC discussed Vinicchaya affairs, religious and academic matters.

Next, Presiding Sayadaw of Kyaikkasan Wayluwun Monastery Bhaddanta Manita and wellwishers offered meals to members of the Sangha. It was also attended by Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, Pro-Rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, officials of the ministry and heads of Division/District Religious Affairs Department. —MNA

Darwin was right about how evolution can affect whole group

OTTAWA, 22 Nov— Worker ants of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your fertility. The highly specialized worker castes in ants represent the pinnacle of social organization in the insect world. As in any society, however, ant colonies are filled with internal strife and conflict. So what binds them together? More than 150 years ago, Charles Darwin had an idea and now he’s been proven right.

Evolutionary biologists at McGill University have discovered molecular signals that can maintain social harmony in ants by putting constraints on their fertility. Dr. Ehab Abouheif, of McGill’s Department of Biology, and post-doctoral researcher, Dr. Abderrahman Khila, have discovered how evolution has tinkered with the genes of colonizing insects like ants to keep them from fighting amongst themselves over who gets to reproduce.

Reproductive constraint comes into play in these ant societies when evolutionary forces begin to work in a group context rather than on individuals, the researchers said. The process can be seen in the differences between advanced ant species and their more primitive cousins. The study was published in the Nov. 18 edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. —Internet

Prosperring Matupi Township of Chin State

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

This time, our media team of the Kyemon Daily chose Matupi Township in southern Chin State. Upon arrival at the township, we reported to Staff Officer of Mindat District U Twal Kal Htan and Chairman of Matupi Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Thein. Then, we visited Bontalar Hydropower Station, six miles from Matupi. Bontalar Hydropower Station was constructed in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State. It generates hydropower with the use of the current of the Lemyo River that rises at Bontalar Waterfall on

See page 10
National spirit essential for perpetuation of independence and sovereignty

A very inspiring day in the course of Myanmar’s independence struggles was designated as National Day on which the people were fully equipped with nationalistic fervour and were inspired to launch anti-colonialist and national liberation movements.

The entire people value and bear in mind the essence of National Day and national liberation movements launched with dynamic nationalistic fervour and patriotic spirit to root out the colonialists’ education policy designed to prolong their colonial administrative machinery.

The message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion to mark the 88th Anniversary National Day says, “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 our life, inspired by patriotic spirit and Union Spirit”.

In successive periods of Myanmar, the people managed to crush any forms of alien intrusion. The nation regained independence and sovereignty thanks to nationalistic spirit, patriotic fervour and high national awareness of the people.

Today, the government is devoting itself to the State’s seven-step Road Map to build a peaceful, modern and developed new democratic nation with flourishing discipline. At the same time, it is building basic foundations in the economic, education and social sectors in conformity with the development of the Myanmar society.

It is, therefore, mandatory for the entire people to continue to work hard with national vigour for ensuring perpetuation of the State’s independence and sovereignty and completion of the State’s seven-step Road Map, while keeping in mind bounden duty for uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit and national prestige and integrity.

**PERSPECTIVES**

**Sunday, 23 November, 2008**

**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

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**Health Department performs health care services in Labutta Township**

**YANGON, 22 Nov** — Deputy Director Dr Than Htun Win of the Health Department and party on 18 November met with village personnel for discussions on construction of the building at Zinywegyi village health care branch being built by Wah Wah Win Construction at Zinywegyi village in Labutta Township.

Next, they supervised the task of inoculating the children between nine months and 15 years old against German measles.

At Uyingon village health care branch in the township, the deputy director and party vaccinat-ed the children between nine months and 15 years and gave medical treatment to the patients. They also saw to measures being taken for ensuring drinking water supply at forty villages in Thangangyi and Gantrieg village-tracts.

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**Meeting for pharmaceutical sale agents 29 Nov**

The organizing committee for 55th Myanmar Medical Conference will meet with pharmaceutical sale agents at No. 249, hall (A) of Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here on 29 November. Invitation cards have been sent to the pharmaceutical sale agents to attend the meeting.

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**Central Committee for Organizing MDA’s Conference to meet medical companies on 31 Nov**

At the introduction ceremony, silkwares were sold at special prices similar to that of Robinson, The Mall, Central and other popular department stores of Thailand.

The silkwares will be sold with 10 per cent discount from 22 to 30 November.

The customers who bought the goods worth over K 200,000 in a month will get the 10-percent discount cards.

Shwe Nan Taw Win Silkware Shop is open from 10 a.m to 8 p.m daily.

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**Silkwares put on special sales**

**YANGON, 22 Nov** — Shwe Nan Taw Win Silkware Shop introduced sales of Mikko, Again, Ella Moss and Veroni brands silkware made in Thailand as sole agent at its hall at No. 21/SR on Saya San Road in Bahan Township this morning.

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**Customers visit Shwe Nan Taw Win Silkware Shop viewing famous brand silkwares made in Thailand.**

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**Central Committee for MDA Conference on 31 Nov**

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**Health Department provides health care services in Labutta Township**

**YANGON, 22 Nov** — Members of medical team of Health Department providing health care services to children of Uyingon Village in Labutta Township —

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**MNA**
Syria rejects more IAEA visits for nuclear probe

VIENNA, 22 Nov — Syria said on Friday a UN watchdog report failed to show anything suggesting a Syrian complex bombed by Israel was a covert nuclear reactor and no further inspector visits would be permitted.

Syrian nuclear energy chief Ibrahim Othman challenged the International Atomic Energy Agency report saying the building’s layout bore similarities to a reactor and UN inspectors had found striking amounts of uranium particles in the desert area.

The findings, based on satellite pictures and soil and water samples, were not enough to conclude a reactor was once there, the IAEA said, but they warranted further IAEA checks at the site and three others as well as full Syrian transparency.Othman, speaking after an IAEA briefing to its 35-nation governing board about the report, repeated Syria’s stance that Israel’s target was only a conventional military building.

“What they are now saying about uranium particles — collecting three particles from the desert is not enough to say there was a reactor there at all,” he told reporters, speaking English in Syria’s first public reaction to Wednesday’s report. “If every square or rectangular or domed building was a reactor, then there are a lot of reactors in the world.”

American soldier dies in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Nov — The US military says an American soldier has died of non-combat-related causes in Iraq.

A statement says Multi-National Division — Center soldier died Thursday but gives no other details. The brief statement doesn’t give a location but Multi-National Division — Center soldiers operate in areas south of Baghdad. — Internet

Suspected US missile kills four militants in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 22 Nov — A missile strike by a suspected US drone killed at least four militants early Saturday in a northwestern Pakistani tribal district known as a stronghold of Al-Qaeda and Taliban, officials said.

An Al-Qaeda operative was among those killed in the strike 15 kilometres (ten miles) from the town of Marali, amid Taliban militant warnings of revenge attacks across Pakistan for the strikes.

“The strike destroyed a militant hideout in the village of Alikhel in North Waziristan,” a senior security official who declined to be named told AFP.

Local officials said the missiles struck the house of a local tribesman, while a security official said the house was used as a hideout for Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants.

The latest strike came shortly after Taliban militants based in the rugged tribal territory bordering Afghanistan warned of reprisal attacks across Pakistan if there were more suspected strikes by the US. — Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,202

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — As of Friday, 21 Nov, 2008, at least 4,202 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003. The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,393 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each. — Internet

Iraqis inspect at the debris of several restaurants following a twin bombing in Baghdad earlier this week. At least 26 people have been killed in a string of attacks in Iraq, including a dozen people who lost their lives in a rush hour bombing in Baghdad and two US troops slain by an Iraqi comrade. — Internet

Afghan official says suicide bomb attack kills three

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 22 Nov — A suicide bomber drove his car into the gate of an army base in southern Afghanistan on Friday and detonated his explosives, killing three civilians, a provincial official said.

The bombing in Shajoy district of Zabul province also seriously wounded four Afghan army soldiers, Deputy Gov. Gulab Shah Alikhail said. The attacker died in the explosion, he added.

Meanwhile, the death toll from a suicide bombing Thursday in eastern Khost Province rose to at least eight. Officials originally reported only one death from the explosion outside a government office compound and said at least 13 others were wounded. — Internet

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The latest strike came shortly after Taliban militants based in the rugged tribal territory bordering Afghanistan warned of reprisal attacks across Pakistan if there were more suspected strikes by the US. — Internet

A Pakistani vendor collects vegetables as angry protesters burned shops and vehicles after a blast in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan, on 21 Nov, 2008. The blast killed at least eight mourners Friday at the funeral of a Shiite cleric in northwestern Pakistan who was gunned down hours earlier, police said. At least 28 others were wounded. — Internet

Sadr followers protest Iraqi-US pact in huge rally

BAGHDAD, 22 Nov — Tens of thousands of followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr packed a central Baghdad square Friday, where they protested a US-Iraq security agreement and likened Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to fallen dictator Saddam Hussein.

Sheik Abdul Hadi al-Mohammadawi read a nationalist speech on behalf of Sadr urging a rejection of any pacts with the US, charging that approving one would infringe on Iraqi sovereignty.

“The crowd chanted back, ‘Leave, leave, occupier.’”

The rally took place in Firdous Square, the site of an iconic image of the Iraq war’s early days. It’s the spot where US Marines toppled a statue of Saddam in April 2003 when they took control of Baghdad. — Internet
**Fla teen commits suicide with live Web audience**

MIAMI, 22 Nov — A college student committed suicide by taking a drug overdose in front of a live webcam as some computer users egged him on, others tried to talk him out of it, and another messaged OMG it was no joke. Some watchers contacted the Web site to notify police, but by the time officers entered Abraham Biggs’ home — a scene also captured on the Internet — it was too late. Biggs, a 19-year-old Broward College student who suffered from what his family said was bipolar disorder, lay dead on his bed in his father’s Pembroke Pines house Wednesday afternoon, the camera still running 12 hours after Biggs announced his intentions online around 3 am.

It was unclear how many people watched it unfold. Biggs was not the first person to commit suicide with a webcam rolling. But the drawn-out drama — and the reaction of those watching — was seen as an extreme example of young people’s penchant for sharing intimate details about themselves over the Internet.

Biggs’ family was infuriated that no one acted sooner to save him, neither the viewers nor the Web site that hosted the live video, Justinv. The Web site shows a video image, with a space alongside where computer users can instantly post comments.

**Lebanese soldiers clash with gunmen, killing one**

BEIRUT, 22 Nov — Lebanese soldiers clashed with gunmen in a northern port city on Friday, killing one and wounding others, the army said.

The latest violence to hit the city of Tripoli began when three gunmen in a car sped through a military checkpoint in the Bab el-Tabaneh neighborhood, an army statement said.

Soldiers arrested the three gunmen, one of whom was wounded, the army said, without explaining how the man was injured. A security official said the two sides had traded gunfire. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Later, a group of people whom the army referred to as local troublemakers took to the streets — apparently to pro-

**Mexican crash probe finds fault in pilot training**

MEXICO CITY, 22 Nov — Investigators said Friday that they have found evidence of irregularities in the training records of at least one of the pilots handling a jet that crashed earlier this month, killing Mexico’s interior secretary.

Investigators had previously pointed to instability caused by the wake turbulence of a larger plane as the likely cause of the 4-Nov crash of the Learjet 45.

However, they also say the pilots appeared unfamiliar with flight controls or procedures, and on Friday officials filed an administrative complaint with the federal office overseeing public servants.

**Piracy may hit Egypt’s Suez Canal revenues**

CAIRO, 22 Nov — Increasingly brazen piracy off the coast of Somalia is jeopardising traffic heading to and from the Suez Canal, a strategic shipping route and key earner for Egypt’s economy.

After more than 90 hijackings this year, the final straw came on 15 November when pirates hijacked a Saudi supertanker with 25 crew and a cargo worth 100 million dollars. They are now demanding a ransom of 25 million dollars ($19.7 million euros). Some shipping companies have announced they will reroute shipping via South Africa’s Cape of Good Hope instead of through the Suez Canal.

Egypt counts on the waterway as an important source of revenue, but emerged empty-handed after hosting an emergency meeting on Friday for Arab Red Sea states to discuss the threat. “It is very important for Egypt to secure (the canal). It’s one of the most important sources of national income. It’s very serious for Egypt.”

Imad Gad, an analyst with Al-Ahram Centre for Strategic and Political Studies. Friday’s Cairo meeting, convened at the request of Egypt and Yemen, came up short on specifics about how the threat should be handled.

“Arab countries don’t know how to face the situation. Their only option is to work with the real power,” Gad said, referring to US, Russian and NATO ships that have been sent to help safeguard shipping in the region.

**FBI says Ohio man threatened to bomb airports**

CINCINNATI, 22 Nov — FBI officials said Friday they arrested a man who threatened to blow up Cincinnati’s football stadium, two airports, Ohio River bridges, and other landmarks.

Frederick Purvis, 42, of Hamilton, Ohio, is accused of sending e-mails to two local media outlets and to the FBI threatening Paul Brown Stadium, the four bridges, the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and an Indiana casino, FBI spokesman Mike Brooks said.

FBI officials said Purvis was charged with making e-mail threats to blow up the Denver airport.

The other threats are cited in the federal complaint filed against him.

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However, they also say the pilots appeared unfamiliar with flight controls or procedures, and on Friday officials filed an administrative complaint with the federal office overseeing public servants.
Nokia to start Japan cell phone service in 2009

Tokyo, 22 Nov — Nokia Corp plans to launch a mobile phone service in Japan next spring, a move expected to intensify competition among Japanese cell phone carriers, Japanese daily Yomiuri Shimbun reported on Saturday.

Finnish cell phone manufacturer Nokia is expected to use lines owned by Japan’s biggest mobile phone carrier, NTT Doicom Inc, under an arrangement called mobile virtual network operator, the paper said.

Nokia will first offer the service with high-end models to establish a strong brand, Yomiuri said.

Nokia is the world’s biggest handset maker but holds less than a 1 percent market share in Japan. Major Japanese cell phone makers, such as Sharp Corp, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co Ltd and NEC Corp, dominate the world’s most advanced handset market.

GM, Chrysler making deep cuts to hold on for loans

Detroit, 22 Nov — When Chrysler was near death and awaiting a government bailout in 1979, then-CEO Lee Iacocca ordered drastic spending cuts and required all checks above $1,000 to be approved by a senior vice president.

Chrysler LLC and General Motors Corp, need to follow the same playbook now, industry analysts and management professors say, as they try to outlast the debate in Washington over whether they will get billions in government loans.

With no hope of getting credit elsewhere and auto sales at a 25-year low, both automakers are perilously close to having only the minimum amount of cash needed to operate.

Today, with GM alone spending $6.9 billion more than it took in last quarter and having operations in 34 countries, Iacocca’s $1,000 limit might not be practical. But industry analysts and bankruptcy experts say both companies must take similar measures to ensure their companies live long enough to use any loans they get.

“You turn the electricity off. You do things like shut the proving grounds down,” said Jim Hall, managing director of 2953 Analytics of Birmingham, Mich.

Rocket hits Israeli city, Gaza still sealed

Jerusalem, 22 Nov— Palestinians fired a rocket at an Israeli city near the Gaza Strip on Friday but caused no casualties, police said, as the Israeli military continued its closure of all crossings into the coastal territory because of ongoing rocket fire.

Early Friday’s rocket landed in an industrial zone in Ashkelon, about 11 miles inside Israel, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said.

Israel allowed a trickle of key supplies into Gaza during a five-month truce with Gaza’s Hamas rulers, then shut the crossings after the truce began breaking down 4 Nov in a flurry of Palestinian rocket fire and Israeli airstrikes.

Both Israeli and Hamas officials have said they hope the calm can be restored.

The closure has caused shortages of basic goods and fuel for Gaza’s 1.4 million Palestinians. Israeli says the closure will continue until militants halt their fire.—Internet

Man says cell phone saved him from stray bullet

RJ Richard says he doesn’t normally put his cell phone in his chest pocket, but he’s glad it saved his life the one time he did.

The 68-year-old man from Covington, La., was mowing the lawn on his 5-acre property when a stray bullet from nearby woods struck that cell phone. He figured a rock kicked up by his tractor hit him. That is, until he took out the phone and a .45-caliber bullet fell from its case.

Richard told The Times-Picayune of New Orleans he doesn’t think it was a coincidence, either.

“I look at this as God telling me to put my cell phone in that pocket, and I’m grateful and humbled,” he said.

Doctors told Richard the bullet came at an angle, which along with the cell phone probably prevented serious injury.

Deputies are investigating the case, St Tammany Parish Sheriff Jack Strain said.

He said the case should serve as a serious reminder that people should consider the consequences before firing a gun.

However, Strain said investigators don’t believe the shooting was intentional.

Woman wins $2.4M in her first trip to Vegas

A 24-year-old woman, on her first trip to Las Vegas, is worrying less about the economy. That’s because Jessica Agbunag won $2.4 million on Wednesday at a Wheel of Fortune slot machine at the California Hotel and Casino.

Agbunag, a baby sitter who graduated high school in 2002, was in Las Vegas with her boyfriend and family in remembrance of her grandmother’s birthday. Her grandmother was a frequent visitor to Las Vegas who loved slot machines.

An Aztec dancer performs after arriving to the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City, during an annual pilgrimage. Thousands of Aztec dancers dressed in feathers and beads danced at the Basilica Sunday, part of a pilgrimage to the site which was considered holy by local tribes long before the Spaniards arrived.

A Nautilus swims in the Underwater World Singapore’s new showcase known as The Masters of Diquise, a collaboration of intelligent marine life form found in the deep seas. The Nautilus is the only member of the Cephalopod class to have a fully developed shell which encases its entire body.

Robber apologizes during Vt general store holdup

A thief who robbed a general store apologized to the owner and left the singles behind so workers on the next shift would have something in the till.

The knife-wielding man made off with an undetermined amount of money from Joe’s Pond Country Store on Wednesday after threatening owner Jeff Downs.

“I’m very sorry I have to do this,” he told Downs.

When Downs asked him to leave behind the $1 bills for the morning shift, he agreed.

No arrests have been made, Vermont State Police Lt. Timothy Clouatre said.

“Usually, they’re in more of an angry mode, ‘Just give me the money and get out,’” he said. “Maybe this is somebody who’s just desperate, but isn’t a career criminal.”

A man who robbed a Vermont general store is apologizing to the owner of the store.

The 68-year-old man from Covington, La., was mowing the lawn on his 5-acre property when a stray bullet from nearby woods struck that cell phone. He figured a rock kicked up by his tractor hit him. That is, until he took out the phone and a .45-caliber bullet fell from its case.

Richard told The Times-Picayune of New Orleans he doesn’t think it was a coincidence, either.

“I look at this as God telling me to put my cell phone in that pocket, and I’m grateful and humbled,” he said.

Doctors told Richard the bullet came at an angle, which along with the cell phone probably prevented serious injury.

Deputies are investigating the case, St Tammany Parish Sheriff Jack Strain said.

He said the case should serve as a serious warning that people should consider the consequences before firing a gun.

However, Strain said investigators don’t believe the shooting was intentional.

A man who robbed a Vermont general store is apologizing to the owner of the store.

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Cambodian PM predicts 7% GDP growth for 2009

Phnom Penh, 22 Nov — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen predicted that the economic growth of the country could be 7 per cent next year, despite a recent IMF growth forecast of under 5 per cent, national media reported Saturday.

A heavy rainy season, which boosts rice crops, could help bolster GDP growth to 7 per cent, Hun Sen said at the 14th Government-Private Sector Forum, according to the Cambodia Daily newspaper. However, dropping demand and international financial turmoil have darkened the country’s economic horizon, Hun Sen said. Hun Sen also agreed to suggestions that farmers be offered contract farming to help assure reasonable prices for their products.

Meanwhile, Hun Sen said that he had ordered a 100 US dollars reduction to the price of passports issued to Cambodian migrant workers, which will now cost only 24 US dollars including the price of photographs.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Arroyo’s plane makes emergency landing in Japan

Manila, 22 Nov — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s plane made an emergency landing in Japan on Friday because Arroyo’s husband suffered a heart attack, Philippine media reported Friday night.

Quoting Philippine Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, local media said that the President’s chartered Philippine Airlines flight landed at the Osaka Airport at 11:00 pm Manila time.

“Because of this, we alerted the First Gentleman’s doctors. Three doctors will board a special plane to Japan anytime now,” Ermita told on-line news network INQUIRER.Net.—Xinhua

Russian strategic bombers patrol Arctic Ocean

Moscow, 22 Nov — Two Russian strategic bombers are conducting an aerial patrol over the Arctic Ocean. Interfax news agency reported Friday.

The Tu-95MS bombers took off from the Engels base in southern Russia’s Saratov region, said Air Force spokesman Vladimir Drik. “Various elements of flight training are being drilled during the flight,” Drik was quoted by Interfax as saying.—Xinhua

Obama to select New Mexico governor as commerce secretary

Washington, 22 Nov — US New Mexico governor Bill Richardson, who has turned from a rival to supporter for President-elect Barack Obama, appeared as the most potential candidate for the next commerce secretary, said a TV report on Friday. According to NBC, Obama has nodded for the next commerce secretary, said a TV report.

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If confirmed, Richardson will make the history by becoming the first high-level Hispanic official. He launched his bid for the White House last year as the country’s first Hispanic candidate, but withdrew from the competitive camp of the Democratic Party when Obama and former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton tied in the presidential primaries. —Xinhua

ETA leader faces charges in France

Paris, 22 Nov — Mikel Garikoitz Aspiazu, the suspected leader of Basque separatist group ETA, is being investigated for charges of terrorism by a Paris court, according to French judicial official source.

The 35-year-old Garikoitz Aspiazu, aka Txeroki, is described by Spanish officials as the head of ETA. He was arrested Monday in southwest France.

Several charges have been filed against Garikoitz Aspiazu, including “association with a terrorist enterprise,” the source said. If convicted, he will face a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. —Xinhua

Indian UN peacekeepers patrol through a camp for people displaced by fighting in Kiwanja, 70 km (50 miles) north of Goma in eastern Congo, on 22 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET

Three Professors win top medical awards of Thailand

Bangkok, 22 Nov — The International Award Committee of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation of Thailand announced Friday three professors from China, Brazil and Japan, respectively, have won its 17th Prince Mahidol Award for 2008.

The Prince Mahidol Award 2008 in the field of medicine is conferred on Professor Sergio Henrique Ferreira from University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and the Prince Mahidol Award 2008 award in the field of public health is jointly awarded to Professor Michiaki Takahashi from Osaka University, Japan and Professor Yu Yongxin from the Chinese National Institute for the Control of Pharmaceutical and Biological Products, announced Voradet Viravakin, chairman of the Sub-Committee on Public Relations of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation.

According to the award committee, there were a total of 49 nominations from 19 countries competing the awards in 2008. Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the meeting of the Board of Trustees on 3 November, 2008 in which the final decision on the Prince Mahidol Award 2008 was made.— Xinhua

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Indonesia eyes domestic growth sources amid crisis

LIMA, 22 Nov—Indonesia, expecting a slowdown in economic growth to 6 percent in 2008 in the face of a global economic crisis, intends to turn to its large domestic market to maintain growth, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told executives from Asia and the Americas on Friday.

Yudhoyono did not give figures for new spending, but said Jakarta would boost growth with infrastructure projects like power plants, and fight poverty with greater spending on education and health care.

With global markets weakening and soft prices for the commodities Indonesia exports, “sources of growth will come more from our large domestic market,” he said at a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Peru.

“We also have a strong focus on infrastructure projects,” said Yudhoyono. He cited roads, railways and industrial projects to boost development and sustain growth in the Southeast Asian archipelago nation.—Internet

UK militant ‘killed in Pakistan’

LONDON, 22 Nov—A fugitive British militant linked to an alleged UK plot to use liquid bombs to blow up transatlantic airliners has been killed in Pakistan, reports say.

Pakistani media said Rashid Rauf, born in Birmingham, was killed in a US air strike in North Waziristan, a haven for militants and the Taliban.

Mr Rauf, on the run after escaping from Pakistani custody, was seen as a link between the UK plotters and Pakistan.

Three men were convicted in the UK in September of conspiracy to murder.

News of the liquid bomb plot paralysed global air travel, prompting authorities to implement stringent security measures at airports around the world.

Newly wed French couple in traditional Nepalese attire enjoy a cycle Rickshaw ride through the streets after their wedding ceremony in Katmandu, Nepal, on 20 Nov, 2008. —Internet

Greek ship released by pirates

LONDON, 22 Nov—Pirates in Somalia have released a Greek-owned ship that was hijacked two months ago.

Greek officials say the tanker’s cargo of refined oil is intact and its 19 crew members are safe.

The owners of the MV Genius declined to say whether a ransom had been paid to the pirates.

In the past two weeks Somali pirates have seized eight vessels, including a huge Saudi tanker carrying $100m worth of crude oil.

This high profile case has outraged the maritime industry and the international community have called for joint action against piracy.

“The pirates released the ship today and it is now sailing to freedom,” said Andrew Mwangura, the head of the East African Seafarers Association.

The Greek Merchant Marine Ministry says the 6,765 tonne vessel was on its way to the United Arab Emirates and is about 500m (800km) off the coast of Somalia.

Somali pirates seized the tanker on 26 September in the Gulf of Aden near the Horn of Africa, waters that are highly dangerous for shipping.

The MV Genius was hijacked on the same day as MV Favina, a Ukrainian ship that was carrying a cargo of tanks and weapons, and it is still being held by pirates.

Pirates based in war-torn Somalia regularly attack vessels plying major commercial shipping routes nearby.

This year here have been 95 attempts at capturing ships by pirates in the Gulf of Arden, 39 of which have been successful, according to maritime organisations.—Internet

Panda in China zoo bites student who wanted a hug

BEIJING, 22 Nov—A college student in southern China was bitten by a panda after he broke into the bear’s enclosure hoping to get a hug, state media and a park employee said Saturday.

The student was visiting Qixing Park with classmates on Friday when he jumped the 6.5-foot (2-meter)-high fence around the panda’s habitat, said the park employee, who refused to give his name.

The park in Guilin, a popular tourist town in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, houses a small zoo and a panda exhibit. It was virtually deserted when the student scaled the fence surrounding the panda, named Yang Yang, the employee said.

He said the student was bitten in the arms and legs. Two foreign visitors who saw the attack ran to help get help from workers at a nearby refreshment stand, who notified park officials, the employee said.

The student was pale clear-headed, he said.

“Yang Yang was so cute and I just wanted to cuddle him. I didn’t expect he would attack,” the 20-year-old student, surnamed Liu, said in a local hospital, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Liu underwent surgery Friday evening and was out of danger, but will remain in the hospital for several days, Xinhua said.

Vietnam and Venezuela set up 200 million dollar joint fund

CARACAS, 22 Nov—Vietnam’s president and Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez signed a deal for a 200-million-dollar joint fund and 15 cooperation projects, during the first visit here by a head of state from the communist nation.

The fund is similar to deals Venezuela has with allies China and Iran and will finance joint projects, President Chavez said after meeting with Nguyen Minh Triet, at the end of a two-day visit, at his Miraflores Palace late Thursday.

“We won’t lack resources. While right now there’s a worldwide crisis of funds, a credit crisis, we’re creating funds and banks and finance mechanisms,” Chavez said.

A first joint project using the fund — for an energy-saving light bulb factory due to produce 74 million bulbs per year — was already under construction in western Venezuela, Chavez said.

Triet and Chavez also signed 15 cooperation deals, in fields from technology to tourism and energy, including the setting up of a joint venture to develop existing reserves in eastern Venezuela’s oil-rich Orinoco basin.

Since Chavez toured Vietnam in 2006, his government has stepped up bilateral relations with the Southeast Asian nation, whose Communist Party General Secretary Nong Duc Manh visited Caracas early last year.

Iraqi police and civilians examine human remains found in mass grave near Latifiyah, 20 miles (30 kilometers) south of Baghdad, Iraq on 22 Nov, 2008. Iraqi police say they have discovered a mass grave containing the remains of at least 10 people south of Baghdad. The victims’ hands were bound and they had been shot in the head, execution-style. Authorities believe the people were killed about two years ago by al-Qaida in Iraq. —Internet
Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt awards a student who won the essay contest to mark the 88th Anniversary National Day.—MNA

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min presents award to a winner in essay contest to mark the 88th Anniversary National Day.

Minister Dr Chan Nyein presents prize to a student who won the essay contest to mark the 88th Anniversary National Day.—MNA

Khin Maung Htae of MRTV presented prizes to students who won the high, middle and primary school level essay and art contests.

Likewise, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe held a ceremony to mark the 88th Anniversary National Day at No. 1 Basic Education High School at 9.30 a.m. today, and Chairman of the Township PDC U Naing Tun read the National Day message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Next, Director-General U Bo Win and Director-General U Khin Maung Htae of MRTV presented prizes to students who won the high, middle and primary school level essay and art contests.

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The 88th Anniversary National Day commemorative ceremony in progress at Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon BEHS No (1).—MNA

Tatmadaw Weightlifting and Body-building Contests conclude

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—The opening ceremony of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Cup Weightlifting and body-building Contests was held at station gymnasium of Northern Command Headquarters in Myitkyina on 15 November. Deputy Commander made an opening speech and opened the competition.

In first day of the competition, weightlifting competitions were held and presented the prizes to the winners.

On 18 November, final match and awarding ceremony were held. The Deputy commander and officials presented prizes to the winners.
Ministry of Construction coordination meeting concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—The final day of the coordination meeting of the Ministry of Construction was held at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw this morning, with an address by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun.

It was also attended by Deputy Ministers for Construction U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, the departmental heads, superintending engineers from states and divisions, deputy superintending engineers of road, bridge, building and airport projects, senior engineers, district engineers, and those in charge of the engineering works. MNA

88th Anniversary National Day commemorative ceremonies held in Yangon

YANGON, 22 Nov—The ceremonies to mark the 88th Anniversary National Day were held at Basic Education High Schools here this morning.

The ceremony in commemoration of the 88th Anniversary National Day was held in conjunction with the 13th Diamond Jubilee Ceremony of Myoma School at U Ba Lwin Hall of Dagon Township this morning.

Firstly, Dagon Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Khin Maung Oo read out the National Day message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Next, Patron of the School Board of Trustees U Chit Hlaing presented awards to outstanding students who got highest marks in matriculation examination for 2007-08, Patron U Thet Tun (retired Ambassador), a double gold medalist of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Art Competitions and Secretary U Hla Shwe Lay, a six-distinction winner.

Next, well-wishers made cash donation and a patron of the school spoke words of thanks.

Similarly, Latha Township No. (1) BEHS held the 88th Anniversary National Day commemorative ceremony at the hall of the school today. Latha Township PDC Chairman U Thein Tun read out the National Day message, and Director-General U Aye Kyaw read out the National Day message.

Education Department and officials presented prizes to outstanding students in essay and poem contests. Pabedan Township No. (1) BEHS also held the ceremony to mark the 88th Anniversary National Day at the school today. Pabedan Township PDC Chairman U Kyaw Myint Hlaing read out the National Day message, and Director-General U Kyaw Thu of No 1 Basic Education High School Board of Trustees U Chit Hlaing presented prizes to outstanding students.

Patron U Chit Hlaing presents prize to Maung Aung Paing Min who stood second in matriculation examination for 2007-08. MNA

Bridge construction on Toungoo-Leiktho-Yadoi-Loinkaw-Hopong road inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov—Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Win Myint on 7 November inspected progress of construction of Loilemlay Station and called for timely completion of the construction work.

Next, Brig-Gen Win Myint proceeded to work site of Hisekhar bridge construction at Mile post No. (1472) on Toungoo-Leiktho-Yadoi-Loinkaw-Hopong road. He looked into construction of main structure of pier Nos 1 and 4, installation of reinforced concrete beams and floor structure between approach structure (1) and pier No. 1 and earth works of approach road, and called for timely completion of the construction work.

88th Anniversary National Day being observed at Lannmadaw BEHS No. 1.—MNA

MOC Chairman’s Cup & 10th ISD Boxing C’ships commences

YANGON, 22 Nov—The opening ceremony of the 3rd Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman’s Cup A Class (2008) and the 10th Inter-State/Division novice B class and C class Championships were held at Padethar Gymnasium in South Okkalapa Township this afternoon.

The competition will be held up to 1 December with the participation of 123 boxers of eleven teams.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 23 November, 2008
Prospering Matupi Township of Chin State

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

The two 250-kilowatt Francis hydropower turbines operating at Bontalar Hydropower Station.

An aerial view of Bontalar Waterfall where the Lemyo River rises.

Tea processed being produced at Matupi Tea Factory.

The Lonhein Mountain, north of Matupi. The facility is one of the hydropower projects in the region for improving the living standard of local people and supply of electric power to urban and border areas.

The station is of reinforced concrete type with two 250-kilowatt Francis hydropower turbines. We noticed that thanks to the access to electricity, the region was lively with activities of local people even at night.

We proceeded to Matupi Tea Factory, whose engine was produced in Monywa Industrial Zone. The factory produces 300 viss of tea a month.

Tea farming is the major business of the region. It has come to grow paddy extensively and apply advanced agricultural methods. As a result, its sown acreage of monsoon and summer paddy has increased to 24,396. It was very pleasant to view paddy fields from Lemyo Bridge, some were greenish and some yellowish, stretching on the horizon.

In the livestock breeding sector, the region relies on raising mythun, and so far, the whole township breeds 4027 heads.

The township has five Basic Education High Schools, eight BEMSs, and 133 BEPSs, along with the border area youths training school under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the vocational education school for the women.

Standing at an altitude of 3303 feet with an area of 1906.41 square miles, Matupi is the largest township in Chin State. Now, it has got eight fine tarred roads passing through it.

Today, Matupi Township has kept abreast of cities in other states and divisions in terms of development as a result of the prudent projects the government is implementing to bridge the development gap between one region and another.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 20-11-2008 ****
Israel maintains Gaza closure despite humanitarian concerns

Jerusalem, 22 Nov — Israel said on Friday it will maintain its closure of the Gaza Strip, despite international concern over a deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the aid-dependent Palestinian territory. “This decision was taken because of the continuation of Palestinian rocket attacks against southern Israel,” said Peter Lerner, a defence ministry spokesman.

A rocket fired from Gaza exploded near the portcity of Ashkelon early on Friday without causing casualties or damage, army radio said. A flare-up of violence on 4 November prompted Israel to tighten a blockade it has imposed since the Islamist Hamas movement seized power in Gaza in June last year. Since the recent surge in violence, only 33 truckloads of basic supplies and limited quantities of fuel have been allowed into the impoverished coastal strip.

The UN Relief and Works Agency, which distributes rations to half of Gaza’s 1.5-million population, said it had food stocks for “days not weeks.” “In the coming days we expect some food items to run out,” spokesman Chris Gunness told.

The Israeli blockade has already forced UNRWA to suspend its food deliveries once last week. It suspended the distribution of rations last Friday before resuming on Tuesday after some supplies were allowed in the previous day.

Slovenia elects new government

Belgrade, 22 Nov — Slovenia’s Parliament endorsed the ministerial line-up proposed by Prime Minister Borut Pahor in a 56 to 30 vote on Friday evening, the official Slovenian news agency STA reported. The 18-member Cabinet, which includes five women, was sworn in and is expected to hold the first meeting Saturday to adopt further measures to tackle the economic crisis, said the reports.

In a conciliatory speech to Parliament, Pahor said that this would formally be a coalition government, but it would in fact be “a government of all people”.

“The government understands that this time of uncertainty requires consensus,” he said.

Pahor’s leftist Social Democrats won 29 seats in the September 21 general election, narrowly defeating former Prime Minister Janez Jansa’s centre-right Slovenian Democrats. — MNA/Xinhua

US Govt workers punished in oil-sex scandal

Washington, 22 Nov — The US Interior Department said on Friday it took disciplinary action against government workers who had sex, used drugs and took gifts from employees of regulated oil and gas companies.

The punishments stem from an investigation by the department’s inspector general, who found there was “a culture of substance abuse and promiscuity” among employees at the department’s Minerals Management Service, which handles billions of dollars in oil and natural gas supplies that are turned over by companies as royalty payments for drilling on federal lands. The scandal shocked Congress, which held several hearings on the matter and proposed legislation to clean up the agency. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne testified at the time that he was “outraged” by the government workers accused of wrongdoing and their “abuse of the public trust”.

The disciplinary measures ranged from a letter of warning and reprimand up to and including permanent reassignment from the agency’s royalty-in-kind programme, suspension without pay, demotion to a lower pay grade and being fired.

MNA/Reuters

Meteor lights up skies over Western Canada

Calgary, (Alberta), 22 Nov — A massive ball of fire that lit up the skies over two Western Canadian provinces on Thursday evening was likely among the biggest meteor events to be witnessed in Canada this year, one expert said.

The fireball, which streaked through the darkening skies over Alberta and Saskatchewan at about 5:30 pm. Calgary time, likely weighed between one and 10 tons and shone brightly enough to be seen over an area 700 km (435 miles) wide.

“It was somewhere between the size of a chair to the size of a desk,” said Alan Hildebrand, a planetary scientist at the University of Calgary and a co-ordinator of a fireball reporting service.

Mogadishu clashes leave 20 dead, 15 wounded

Mogadishu, 22 Nov — Heavy fighting between insurgent fighters and Somali Government forces and Ethiopian troops in the Somali capital of Mogadishu has left nearly 20 people dead and almost 15 others wounded, police and witnesses said Friday.

Fifteen people, most of them young men, were killed after a gunfight between Somali Government security forces and heavily armed fighters, who attacked the home of a Somali Government official in the southwest of the restive capital, witnesses said. It is not yet clear who the dead were but police spokesman, Colonel Abdulahi Hassan Barise, claimed that they were insurgent fighters.

Barise said his forces lost two men while four others were wounded in the gunfight that lasted for nearly two hours. In separate clashes involving Ethiopian and insurgent fighters in the northeast of Mogadishu, three civilians were killed and 11 others were wounded after stray shells and bullets hit residential areas away from the battle scenes, witnesses told local media.

MNA/Xinhua

Mitsubishi Motors’ assembly plant in Kawasaki, Japan. JIJI Press said Mitsubishi Motors Corp will join other major Japanese carmakers in making further cuts to production and jobs to cope with the global economic downturn. — INTERNET
Iraq-Turkey pipeline hit by Kurd rebel bomb attack

ISTANBUL, 22 Nov — Kurdish guerrillas launched a bomb attack on the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline linking Iraq and Turkey on Friday, halting oil exports, sources from the Turkish energy ministry and pipeline company Botas told Reuters.

They said the attack, which triggered a large fire, occurred at 8:30 pm (6:30 pm British time) on Friday evening near Midyat in Mardin province, southeast Turkey.

No details on the scale of damage were available. Local officials in Mardin declined to comment.

Separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebels have claimed responsibility in the past for similar attacks on pipelines in eastern Turkey.

The PKK, regarded as a terrorist organization by Turkey, has been fighting a decades-long war against the Turkish state, which it seeks to oust with the aim of carving out an ethnic homeland in mainly Kurdish southeast Turkey.

The blast damaged a 46-inch pipeline, the sources said.— Internet

Guatemalan inheritance dispute leaves four dead

GUATEMALA CITY, 22 Nov — Three adults and a 1-year-old baby have died in what Guatemalan police believe may have been a violent family dispute over an inheritance, the local police spokesman said on Friday.

The Monday shooting in the village of Santa Ana, which was decorated with scenes from mythology, the team unearthed well-preserved wooden and leather objects, some of which the archaeologists believe were horse harnesses.— Internet

China hotel fire kills eight, injures 16

BEIJING, 22 Nov — A fire at a hotel in northern China has killed eight people and injured 16 others, state media said on Saturday.

The hotel, in Luliang city in Shanxi Province, caught fire early on Saturday morning, with flames eventually engulfing the whole seven-story building, the official Xinhua news agency said. Authorities are investigating the cause of the blaze, the report added.— Internet
Children of centenarians live longer, healthier

New York, 22 Nov — People who make it to the age of 100 may indeed have some “good genes” that they pass on to their children, according to a new study.

The study, of more than 600 older US adults, found that the children of centenarians tended to live longer and were substantially less likely to develop diabetes or suffer a heart attack or stroke over four years.

The results suggest that children of centenarians tend to retain a “cardiovascular advantage” over their peers as they age, note Emily R Adams and colleagues at Boston University and Boston Medical Centre.

“These findings reinforce the notion that there may be physiological reasons that longevity runs in families and that centenarian offspring are more likely to age in better cardiovascular health and with a lower mortality than their peers,” the researchers wrote in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

The study included 440 men and women who had at least one parent who’d survived to age 100 or beyond, and 192 adults whose parents had lived an average life expectancy.

The average age in both groups was 72 at the start of the study.

New mad-cow rule poses health dangers of its own

LITITZ, 22 Nov — A federal regulation aimed at preventing mad cow disease from getting into the food supply could create health risks of its own: many thousands of cattle carcasses rotting on farms, spreading germs, attracting vermin and polluting the water.

At issue is a Food and Drug Administration rule, set to take effect in April, that will prohibit the use of the brains and spinal cords of older cattle as ingredients in livestock feed and pet food.

Some of the rendering plants that grind up carcasses for use in feed have already announced they will stop accepting dead cattle from farms because it would be too costly to remove the banned organs. Other renderers are likely to raise the prices they charge farmers.

As a result, many farmers — especially now, with the economy in crisis — may simply bury dead cattle on their property or let them rot in the open, industry officials and regulators say.

“I think there will be some illegal disposal — animals that get dragged into the woods or into the back fields,” said Gerald F Smith Jr, president of Winchester, Va.-based Valley Proteins Inc, which operates 12 rendering plants in seven states but will no longer remove dead cattle from farms come February. He said the fee per animal would have to go from $85 to $200 to cover the additional expense, and “I don’t think the farmers would be willing to pay.”

Retirees hit by “longevity risk”

MIAMI, 22 Nov — Like many other elderly Americans, Edie Stark has been hard hit by the meltdown in US financial markets. She is 84 and has been worried a lot lately about outliving her savings.

A retired nurse, Stark is a prime example of what financial planners call “longevity risk,” a reference to the need for a secure income and lasting savings at a time when growing numbers of Americans can live for 30 years in retirement.

Life expectancy in the United States has already reached a record high of 77.8 years, up from 70.8 in 1970, according to the US National Center for Health Statistics. Fueled by continuing health gains, the US Census Bureau projects life expectancy in the world’s wealthiest country will reach 79.2 years by 2015.

Stark said she and her husband had seen more than 50 percent of their retirement assets wiped out since the stock market started tanking several months ago.

She still plans to see out the end of her days with her 88-year-old husband at the Palace, an upscale retirement complex where they live on the palm-fringed southern outskirts of Miami.

Autumn babies at greater risk of asthma

CHICAGO, 22 Nov — Babies born four months before the peak cold and flu season have a 30 percent higher risk of developing asthma, US researchers said on Friday, suggesting that these common infections may trigger asthma.

“All infants are exposed to this and it is potentially preventable,” said Dr Tina Hartert, director of the centre for Asthma Research at Vanderbilt University, whose study appears in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

She said it has been known for some time that infants in the Northern Hemisphere born in the fall are at higher risk of developing asthma, but the study is the first to tie this trend to peak viral activity in the winter months.

Hartert and colleagues studied the medical records of 95,000 infants and their mothers in the state of Tennessee.

They found that all babies in the study were at increased risk if they had bronchitis, a lung infection usually caused by respiratory syncytial virus or RSV. But autumn babies were at the highest risk.

While genetic risk factors predispose a child to develop asthma, Hartert thinks environmental exposure such as winter viral infection, and particularly RSV infection, may activate those genes.

Stable blood sugar curbs diabetes complications

New York, 22 Nov — In people with type 1 diabetes, adequate control of blood sugar over the long haul helps reduce the risk of diabetes-related eye and kidney disease, new data suggest.

The findings stem from a look at 1,441 type 1 diabetic patients followed for roughly 9 years as part of the pivotal Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT).

By analyzing hemoglobin A1C levels over time — a standard indicator of long-term blood sugar control — the researchers observed that increasing variability in hemoglobin A1C heightens the risk of new or worsening diabetic retinopathy (damage to the retina) and diabetic kidney disease. Specifically, for every 1 percent increase in hemoglobin A1C, they found that the risk of retinopathy increased more than twofold and the risk of diabetic kidney disease increased nearly twofold.

The findings suggest that the long-term stability of blood sugar, and not just the average blood sugar control, predict the risk of these complications, study investigator Dr Eric S Kilpatrick of Hull Royal Infirmary in Hull, England, noted in an interview with Reuters Health.
**SPORTS**

**Hong Kong teen, 14, youngest to make Euro Tour cut**

**Hong Kong, 22 Nov** — A 14-year-old golfer from Hong Kong became the youngest player to make the cut at an European Tour event on Friday, breaking the record set by Sergio Garcia.

Jason Hak shot 70 in each of the first two rounds at his home tournament, the $2.5 million Hong Kong Open, just making the par 140 cut.

Garcia, currently No. 2 in the world, was 15 years, 46 days old when he made the cut at the 1995 Open Mediterrania in Valencia, Spain.

Hak, based in Lake Mary, Fla., isn’t letting the record go to his head.

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**CROSSWORDS PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**


**DOWN**


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**Barclays Premier League**

(22-11-08)

- Aston Villa 0 - 0 Man Utd
- Chelsea 0 - 0 Newcastle
- Liverpool 0 - 0 Fulham
- Manchester City 3 - 0 Arsenal
- Middlesbrough 1 - 3 Bolton
- Portsmouth 2 - 2 Hull City
- Stoke City 1 - 0 WBA

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**Manchester United Argentine striker Carlos Tevez(R), seen here on 11 Nov, 2008, will be a Real Madrid player next season, the Marca sports daily reported on Friday.**—Internet

**Tevez to join Real next season**

**Madrid, 22 Nov** — Manchester United striker Carlos Tevez will be a Real Madrid player next season, the Marca sports daily reported on Friday.

“Tevez said ‘yes’ to Madrid...for next season,” claimed the newspaper which added that a deal between Real and the Argentine international has already been signed.

Real are desperate for reinforcements having seen Dutch striker Ruud Van Nistelrooy ruled out for at least six months with a right knee injury suffered in the Champions League defeat to Juventus in October.

Real are fourth in La Liga, five points behind leaders Barcelona.—Internet

**Benitez looks to Spanish stars as title race gathers pace**

**London, 22 Nov** — Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez expects the feelgood factor from his Spanish contingent’s international adventure will help keep the pressure on Premier League leaders Chelsea.

Benitez breathed a sigh of relief as his players returned in one piece after friendly matches with their countries in midweek and he was especially pleased that Fernando Torres, Xabi Alonso, Albert Riera, Pepe Reina and Alvaro Arbeloa all starred in Spain’s 3-0 win over Chile in Villarreal.—Internet

**Bernabeu expectant as Schuster walks tightrope**

**Madrid, 22 Nov** — Real Madrid players have been coming out in support of under pressure coach Bernd Schuster but the German manager knows results are what count and a home win against Recreativo Huelva on Saturday is crucial for both coach and club.

League leaders Barcelona have opened up a five-point gap over fourth-placed Real and the champions can’t afford another slip-up after a 1-0 defeat at Valladolid last weekend that means they have collected four points from their last three matches with the champions in midweek and he was especially pleased that Fernando Torres, Xabi Alonso, Albert Riera, Pepe Reina and Alvaro Arbeloa all starred in Spain’s 3-0 win over Chile in Villarreal.—Internet

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**Wembley**

**Veteran tennis stars John McEnroe of the US, left, and Bjorn Borg of Sweden enter tennis court to conduct tennis clinic for the Thai youths before their exhibition tennis match in Bangkok, Thailand on 22 Nov, 2008.**—Internet

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**INTERNET**

Bangkok, Thailand on 22 Nov, 2008.—

Veteran tennis stars John McEnroe (US) and Bjorn Borg (Sweden) walked in front of the Thai youths to conduct tennis clinic before their exhibition tennis match in Bangkok, Thailand on 22 Nov, 2008.—Internet

Manuel Reina and Alvaro Arbeloa all starred in Spain’s 3-0 win over Chile in Villarreal.—Internet

Liverpool's Spanish manager Rafa Benitez...
Spiders get their space legs

HOUSTON, 22 Nov—Spiders flying as an educational project aboard the International Space Station seem to have gotten the hang of weightlessness.

Their first orbital web was messy, disorganized. But a week into their flight, television images beamed back to Earth showed surprising progress.

“We noticed the spider made a symmetrical web,” space station commander Mike Fincke told ground controllers on Friday. “We’re really amazed that the spider could adapt to space so quickly,” Flight directors replied that the spider video had become the favorite form of entertainment for engineers overseeing the station’s science experiments from Earth.

“We used to be your major form of entertainment,” Fincke replied. “We’ve been overtaken by spiders.” The orb-weaving spiders were delivered by the crew of the space shuttle Endeavour, which lifted off from Florida last Friday on a 15-day mission.

IBM plans to develop super brainy computer

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov—IBM is teaming up with leading US universities to build a computer that emulates human brain capabilities.

Big Blue and researchers from the likes of Stanford, Cornell and the University of California, have been awarded $4.9m in funds from the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency. The agency is part of the government’s defense department.

IBM said the team hopes to break the conventional programmable machine paradigm. The end goal: ubiquitously deployed computers imbued with new intelligence that can integrate information from a variety of sensors and sources, deal with ambiguity, respond in a context-dependent way, learn over time and carry out pattern recognition to solve difficult problems based on perception, action and cognition in complex, real world environments, said an IBM statement.

The research will emerge during the next nine months, IBM said.

WEATHER

Saturday, 22 November, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan and Kayah States, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above November average temperatures in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and about November average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperature was Hakha (6°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall were Loikaw (0.36) inch, Pyay (0.12) inch, Thipaw and Kawthoung (0.08) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 21-11-2008 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 22-11-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 22-11-2008 was 67%. Total sunshine hours on 21-11-2008 was (8.4) hrs.

Rainfall on 22-11-2008 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 (7) mph from Northeast at (16:30) hours MST on 21-11-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 23rd November 2008: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Shan and Kayah States, Tanintharyi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, Yangon and Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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


An Artwork is projected on the wall of the Singapore Art Museum during the Japan Media Arts Festival on 22 November, 2008. The Japan Media Arts Festival is a showcase of award-winning new media art, animation, manga and entertainment with a strong focus on Japanese culture according to the museum press release and open to the public from 22 November and ends 14 December.—INTERNET
Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge contributes to development of Myeik

The government is making heavy investments in road and bridge projects across the nation including border areas for smooth transport and swift commodity flow between one region and another.

Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge is the main entrance to Myeik, Taninthayi Division. Thanks to the facility, about 10 miles from Myeik, local people in and around Myeik Archipelago now can travel to Dawei and Yangon with convenience.

The bridge is located over the Kyaukphya River near Kyweku Village between two greenish mountains. The stone plaque of the bridge says that the bridge was built in compliance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe during his inspection tour of Anawrahta Bridge Project (Chauk) on 14-4-1996 to avert lack of friendly relations and bridge the development gap between one region and another stemming from poor transport.

The 3612-foot steel girder type facility was inaugurated in October 2003. In an interview, Ko Ye, a local, said, “The bridge links island-like Myeik with the inland areas. Local people are very happy with it. We are very grateful to the government. Now, we can transport goods to Yangon without much difficulty. So, I would say we local people have great benefit from it.” Due to the bridge, local people can travel from and to Myeik both by water and by car, and local goods can be transported to Yangon via Dawei. So, Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge makes huge contribution towards regional development.

Translation: MS

No City move for Buffon, says agent

TURIN, 22 Nov—The agent of Juventus goalkeeper Gigi Buffon “knows nothing” about an alleged approach from Manchester City.

There were reports in La Gazzetta dello Sport yesterday morning that the Eastlands outfit are pondering a £65m swoop for the Azzurri No 1. But Buffon’s representative Silvano Martina has heard nothing concrete from the Premier League side.

We know nothing about this news,” he told Goal.com. “I haven’t heard anything and the clubs haven’t come forward.

I read about it in La Gazzetta dello Sport this morning. Usually any interested clubs contact Juventus or the player’s agent, but I haven’t heard from anyone.

“I am sure that City like the player, but nothing has happened, so there is no point in talking about it.”—Internet

Del Bosque wants more from Spain

MADRID, 21 Nov — Spain coach Vicente del Bosque is hoping for more of the same next year after seeing his side cap a magical 2008 with a convincing 3-0 friendly win over Chile on Wednesday night.

That triumph at Villarreal’s El Madrigal stadium extended Spain’s unbeaten run to 28 matches, while in the last 12 months alone they have been triumphant in all 16 of their matches, scoring 53 goals and conceding just five.

During that run they also clinched the Euro 2008 title and took over as the number one-ranked team in the world for the first time.

Del Bosque, who replaced Luis Aragones following Euro 2008, said: “It has been a fantastic year and we hope next year will be the same, or better.”

Spain, whose unbeaten run stretches back to 2006, may have swept all aside this year but they did not have it so easy against Chile last night.—Internet

Michael Owen (front) of Newcastle United fights for the ball with John Obi Mikel of Chelsea during their English Premier League match at Stamford Bridge, London on 22 Nov, 2008. The match ends in a goalless draw.—Internet