Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Vietnamese Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in the Union of Myanmar Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Tran Van Tung who has completed his tour of duty at the Government Office here at 3.30 p.m. today.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets Mr Tran Van Tung, Dean of Diplomatic Corps in the Union of Myanmar Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Mr Tran Van Tung, Dean of Diplomatic Corps in the Union of Myanmar Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

INSIDE

At a time when the government is building clusters of dams and reservoirs and sluice gates for national development it is incumbent upon the entire national people including locals to safeguard the irrigation facilities for durability.

PAGE 2 PERSPECTIVES

Lippi: Brazil are like buses

ROME, 24 Nov — Marcello Lippi is excited at Italy’s Confederations Cup draw, as it means he’ll face Brazil twice in four months. The Azzurri are in Group A for the South African tournament with Brazil, USA and Egypt - curiously they’ll also face the Selecao in a friendly at London’s Emirates Stadium.

What has never happened in a lifetime suddenly happens twice,” smiled Lippi.

“I had never faced Brazil or a Brazilian club in my career as a player or Coach, but now I will take them on twice between February and June 2009. It’ll be wonderful. I am happy that we’re in a tough group, the kind I like.”

Italy make their debut in the Confederations Cup on 15 June in Pretoria against the United States, then travel to Johannesburg to face Egypt on 18 June. The big clash with Brazil is on 21 June in Pretoria — just over four months after their friendly meeting in London on 10 February.

Earthquake report

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Nov — A strong earthquake of intensity (7.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (3800) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory outside Myanmar (Russia) was recorded at (15) hrs (35) min (16) sec MST on 24 November 2008. — MNA
Build more irrigation facilities for national development

The government is constructing a large number of dams and reservoirs and sluice gates while implementing underground water projects throughout the nation for agriculture purpose.

Priority is being given to construction of dams and reservoirs in upper Myanmar where water is scarce. Today, there have emerged 216 dams and reservoirs and 322 river water pumping stations, thereby enabling local people to extensively engage in double and mixed cropping.

Daungmyu Dam to be implemented on Daungmyu Creek near LeU Village, Wuntho Township, Sagaing Division, one of the projects under implementation in the central Myanmar, will benefit 6,300 acres of farmlands and contribute to greening of the region.

More irrigation projects to be implemented are Kandaunt Dam Project, Myaukyama Dam Project, Kyaukchat Dam Project and Yebokegyi Dam Project.

Dams and reservoirs are being constructed along with sluice gates so that they can prevent floods that could often occur in the rainy season.

Under the underground water projects, altogether 800 tube-wells were sunk in Meiktila and Thazi Townships for agriculture purpose.

At a time when the government is building clusters of dams and reservoirs and sluice gates for national development it is incumbent upon the entire national people including locals to safeguard the irrigation facilities for durability.
Separate bombings in Baghdad kill at least 20

An Iraqi woman cries out in pain as she is treated for burns after a bus bombing in Baghdad, Iraq, on 24 Nov, 2008. A female suicide bomber blew herself up near an entrance to the US-protected Green Zone and a bomb tore through a bus carrying Iraqi government employees in separate attacks on Monday, killing at least 18 people, Iraqi officials said.—INTERNET

Baghdad, 24 Nov—A female suicide bomber blew herself up near an entrance to the US-protected Green Zone and a bomb tore through a minibus carrying Iraqi government employees in separate attacks on Monday, killing at least 20 people, Iraqi officials said.

Three more people were killed in bomb attacks on police patrols in Baghdad and Baqouba, northeast of the capital, police said.

In the first attack, a bomb attached to a bus used by the Trade Ministry to ferry employees to work exploded shortly before 8 a.m. in eastern Baghdad, police and hospital officials said on condition of anonymity.

Violence against Afghan children rising

KABUL, 24 Nov—Violations of children’s rights are increasing in Afghanistan with more attacks against schools, more children killed and more evidence of child sexual abuse, the United Nations said on Sunday.

The report was conducted using a combination of data from agencies working across Afghanistan and anecdotal reports or allegations of violations against children.

“The report really shows how difficult the situation is and to some degree it is worsening,” Hilde F. Johnson, deputy executive director of the UNICEF agency, told Reuters.

“This goes for several of the violations in particular attacks against schools and health centers, killing and maiming and grave sexual violence and to some degree recruitment of children (to armed groups),” Johnson said.—INTERNET

Residents hold up their coupons during a distribution of relief goods by the Iraqi soldiers to people living in the marshes near al-Ezz river, on the outskirts of Basra, 420 km (260 miles) southeast of Baghdad on 23 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET

Brazil flooding kills at least 20

SÃO PAULO, 24 Nov.—At least 20 people are reported to have died and thousands have been forced from their homes following floods in Brazil’s Santa Catarina state.

A state of emergency has been declared in the area and President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has offered federal help to deal with the disaster.

Heavy rainfall over the last two months has led to landslides which have destroyed homes and blocked roads. Four towns in the southern state are reported to be cut off by the flooding.

Weather forecasters say more rain is expected for the region.

By Sunday night more than 15,000 people had been forced out of their homes. Some are able to stay with relatives and friends, while others have gone to public shelters. In total more than a million people are said to have been affected by the flooding.

Many of the deaths have been caused by landslides which have destroyed homes and blocked roads.

A resident wounded in a roadside bomb attack receives treatment in a hospital in Baghdad on 23 Nov, 2008. A roadside bomb attack in Karrada district killed one person and wounded six others on Sunday, according to the police.—INTERNET

Afghan schoolboys look at the crater formed by the explosion of a roadside bomb in the Shamali Palains, 10 kms north of Kabul on 24 Nov.

KABUL, 24 Nov—US-led forces killed seven Taleban fighters in central Afghanistan while a bomb exploded near the capital on Monday and wounded a civilian, authorities said, in new incidents linked to a militant insurgency. Coalition forces came under attack as they approached a building on a raid targeting a senior Taleban commander in the central province of Ghazni, said a coalition statement.

The soldiers “returned fire, killing the seven armed militants inside,” the coalition said.

Forces then found a large stash of weapons in the building compound, including bomb-making materials such as fertilizer, the statement said.

The targeted Taleban commander is believed to have directed bomb attacks and helped foreign militants in Afghanistan, the statement added. Monday’s bomb was about 10 kilometres (six miles) outside of Kabul and wounded one civilian, the interior ministry said. It was not clear what it had targeted.
A displaced Pakistani family sits in front of their tent in Kachagari camp November 19, 2008. Pakistan has reopened camps originally set up in the 1980s for Afghans who fled the Soviet occupation in order to provide shelter for villagers made homeless by offensives against militants on its northwest border. —INTERNET

Internet

Internet

**Caracas, 24 Nov —** Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that Russian warships will soon reach his country’s Caribbean coast for joint naval exercises.

Chavez said the Russian ships “will enter Venezuelan waters within a matter of hours.” He didn’t say exactly when the ships are to arrive.

It’s the first such deployment by the Russian navy in the Caribbean since the Cold War.

Russia is sending the nuclear-powered cruiser and a supply ship.

The Russian navy said the two warships will visit the Venezuelan port of La Guaira starting Tuesday, according to the Russian news agency Interfax.

It says the ships are scheduled to hold joint exercises with Venezuel a’s navy starting 1 Dec.

Chavez is also expecting a visit by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev starting Wednesday as part of a Latin American tour.

**Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez.**

**Lebanese President Michel Sleiman.**

**Beirut, 24 Nov —** Lebanese President Michel Sleiman begins on Monday a two-day visit to Iran for political and economic talks at the invitation of Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a government official said.

“The President will discuss everything: political and economic issues, bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East, the peace process,” the official, who declined to be named, told AFP on Sunday.

Talks will also include efforts to forge a “national defence strategy” for Lebanon, where Hezbollah’s arsenal remains a thorny issue, the official said.

Shiite-majority Iran is a staunch supporter of the Shiite Hezbollah group, which is also backed by Syria. But Tehran has repeatedly denied Western and Israeli charges that it provides military backing to Hezbollah. Last May, Hezbollah staged a spectacular takeover of mainly Sunni parts of west Beirut, amid deadly clashes which brought the country to the brink of another civil war and left at least 68 people dead.

The fighting ended after an accord was struck in Qatar between the Western-backed parliamentary majority and the Hezbollah-led opposition, which also called for the development of a national defence strategy.

**Lebanese President begins visit to Iran on Monday**

**Internet**

**Iraqi soldiers detain a man during a patrol on the outskirts of Basra, 420 km (260 miles) southeast of Baghdad on 23 Nov, 2008.—INTERNET**

**SINGAPORE, 24 Nov—** Singapore’s inflation rate eased in October thanks to lower gasoline prices, according to data released Monday by the country’s statistics department.

The consumer price index in October gained 6.4 percent from the same month last year, following a 6.7 percent year-on-year increase in September.

Inflation reached a 26-year high in June at 7.5 percent. Transport and Communication costs—which includes gasoline—fell 0.2 percent in October from the previous month.

**Singapore inflation eases to 6.4 percent in October**

**Internet**

**Singapore inflation rate on November 23, 2008.**

**Internet**

**Vietnam starts building new resort island airport**

Hanoi, 24 Nov — Vietnam has begun construction of a new international airport on a popular tourist island off the country’s southern coast, aiming to boost passenger capacity to the destination by 10 fold, officials said Monday.

The $1 billion airport will help accommodate the influx of tourists to Phu Quoc, where several luxury hotels have opened recently and several more are under construction.

When the first phase is finished in four years, the new Phu Quoc International Airport will be able to handle 3 million travelers a year—10 times the current airport’s capacity, said Nguyen Tien Viet of Vietnam’s Southern Airport Corp.

Eventually, the airport would be able to handle 7 million passengers a year. Viet said speaking at a groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said the new airport will help boost the country’s economic growth.

“The island will be one of the country’s major transportation and commercial centers once the new airport is put into operation, contributing to the regional and national economic growth,” Dung was quoted as saying on the government Web site. —INTERNET

**Average US gasoline price falls below $2/gallon**

**New York, 24 Nov—** US average retail gasoline prices fell below $2 per gallon, due to a continuing slide in crude oil prices, falling gasoline demand and a weakening global economy, according to the latest nationwide Lundberg survey.

“It is the first time that the average price for regular gasoline has been below $2 a gallon since 4 March, 2005,” survey editor Trilby Lundberg said in an interview.

The national average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was $1.9717 a gallon on 21 November, a drop of nearly 33 cents in the past two weeks, based on a survey of about 5,000 gas stations.

The average US price per gallon of regular gasoline has now fallen about 81 cents in the past month and is down about $2.14 since peaking in mid-July.

It is world demand and not OPEC (the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) that drove prices of crude so high earlier this year and it is demand not OPEC that will call the bottom on crude prices, said Lundberg.

Earlier on Sunday, Venezuela’s oil minister Rafael Ramirez urged his fellow OPEC members to agree to lower crude oil supply by 1 million barrels per day at an emergency meeting of the group in Cairo on 29 November.

**Internet**

**Internet**

**Vietnam starts building new resort island airport**

**Internet**

**Internet**
South Korea builds city from sea at wetland’s expense

Baghdad opens campaign to kill city’s stray dogs

Indian shipping union calls for UN patrols against pirates

Upstate NY dad drowns saving two sons after crash

People look at Minnie dolls during a charity auction of 80 Disney Minnie dolls, by 80 fashion designers, to mark the 80th anniversary of Mickey Mouse, at Christie’s auction house, in Paris recently. Proceeds of the sale will go to the Maison de Solenn, which helps young adults who suffer from bulimia, anorexia, depression and other disorders.

Teen lives 4 months with no heart, leaves hospital

Rapper gets 20 years after writing shooting song

One of the Indian crew members of MV Stolt Valor, the cargo ship which was hijacked by pirates off the coast of Yemen in September, is greeted by his mother on his return to Mumbai.

MUMBAI, 24 Nov — An Indian shipping union on Monday called for United Nations naval patrols in the treacherous waters off Somalia, as the crew of one hijacked vessel returned home to an emotional welcome. “Naval patrols at the moment are conducted by different countries,” Abdulgan Serang, general secretary of the National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) told. “We want patrols under the mandate of the United Nations which should not be country sensitive. That would be more effective in the long run. With all due respect to the navies already there, you can’t pick and choose who to help.” Serang was speaking after a news conference following the return of four Indian crew members of the MV Stolt Valor, a Japanese-owned, Hong Kong-registered ship that was held by armed pirates for two months.

Internet

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Internet

Rapper gets 20 years after writing shooting song

He shot a man twice and felt so good about it, police said, a rapper wrote a song describing the shooting and calling out the victim by name. A judge sentenced 25-year-old Rico Todriquez Wright Monday to spend the next 20 years in prison after his victim mentioned the hip hop confession to police. Chad Blue, 28, told police he had known Wright before the September 2006 shooting, but that the men weren’t friendly. He testified companions egged Wright on as he chased and shot his victim in the thigh and groin. Later, Blue told police he recognized Wright’s voice on a CD, rapping “Chad Blue knows how I shoot.”

Internet

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Teen lives 4 months with no heart, leaves hospital

D’Zhana Simmons says she felt like a “fake person” for 118 days when she had no heart beating in her chest. “But I know that I really was here,” the 14-year-old said, “and I did live without a heart.” As she was being released Wednesday from a Miami hospital, the shy teen seemed in awe of what she’s endured. Since July, she’s had two heart transplants and survived with artificial heart pumps 0 but no heart 0 for four months between the transplants. Last spring D’Zhana and her parents learned she had an enlarged heart that was too weak to sufficiently pump blood. They traveled from their home in Clinton, SC to Holtz Children’s Hospital in Miami for a heart transplant. But her new heart didn’t work properly and could have ruptured so surgeons removed it two days later.

Internet

South Korea builds city from sea at wetland’s expense

Busan, 24 Nov — South Korea is betting a multi-billion dollar land reclamation project about seven times the size of Manhattan will lift the economy but environmentalists say it could be one of the country’s biggest ecological blunders.

The Saemangeum land reclamation project uses a 33-km (20.5 mile) sea dyke to reclaim an area of 400 square km (155 sq miles), turning coastal tidelands that are key feeding areas for globally threatened birds into land for factories, golf courses and water treatment plants.

“This project is not about protecting the environment. It is about economic development. And we will do that in an environmentally sound way,” said Park Hyongbae, an official with the Saemangeum development authority.

The authority said the project, built at a cost of nearly $3 billion, will bring industry to North Jeolla, a province that has traditionally been the agricultural breadbasket of the country but lacks modern industry.

Internet

Baghdad opens campaign to kill city’s stray dogs

Baghdad, 24 Nov — Baghdad authorities killed more than 200 stray dogs on Sunday, the opening day of a campaign to cull dog packs roaming the capital that was prompted by a spate of fatal attacks on residents.

Three teams of veterinarians and police officers used poisoned meat and rifles to kill the animals, said Dr Hassan Chaloub, an official at the veterinary hospital supervising the effort. He said the capital has no dog shelters.

The campaign started Sunday in western Baghdad and will move to the eastern half of the city early next year.

Thirteen people died in August alone in the capital after being attacked by dogs, according to Baghdad’s provincial council, which is overseeing the campaign.

People in some neighborhoods have been too frightened to go outside when the dogs are present.

Internet

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Internet
China, Russia vow to strengthen strategic coordination

LIMA, 24 Nov—Chinese President Hu Jintao said Sunday that China and Russia should strengthen strategic coordination at a time when the global political and economic structures are undergoing the most profound changes since the end of the Cold War.

Hu made the remarks at a meeting with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev on the sidelines of the 16th Economic Leaders’ Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Lima, Peru. China and Russia should make concerted efforts to overcome the impact of the ongoing global financial crisis, maintain the sound momentum of their economic growth, and push ahead with reforms of the international financial system, the Chinese President said.

Hu also called for efforts to earnestly carry out the outline on implementing the Sino-Russian Good-Neighbourly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. The two nations should enhance consultation on strategic security, and conduct timely exchanges of views on major international and regional issues and coordinate their positions, Hu said.—Xinhua

More New Yorkers join ranks of unemployed

NEW YORK, 24 Nov—Some 70,000 New Yorkers lost their jobs in October, a 5-per-cent increase over the previous month and the most in more than four years, according to a report available on www.nypolitics.com Sunday.

“Compared with a year ago, the number of people on unemployment in October rose by nearly 20,000, or 37 per cent, the sharpest year-over-year increase since May 2002, the New York State Department of Labour was cited as saying.

The city lost 7,000 private sector jobs in October, the largest one-month loss in the recent downturn, statistics show. “The loss of jobs in October clearly indicates that New York City has entered a recession,” economist Barbara Byrne Denham was quoted as saying. Surprisingly, the city lost only 700 securities jobs last month, despite announcements that indicate massive layoffs. Economists theorize that many laid-off Wall Street workers are still being carried on payrolls because of severance packages, said the report.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Turkish police seized large amount of drugs

ANKARA, 24 Nov—Turkish Security Forces seized a total of 142.5 kilos of drugs in separate operations launched across the country over the weekend, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Sunday.

The security forces confiscated 120 kilos of heroin and 22.5 kilos of hashish in separate operations conducted in south-eastern province of Gaziantep, central Anatolian Province of Ankara, western province of Balikesir and eastern province of Van, said the report. A total of 14 people have been detained in connection with the illicit drugs, it added.

Turkey is a key transit route for smuggling drugs from Asia and the Middle East to markets in Western Europe.—Xinhua

Five survive after plane lands in W Canada

OTTAWA, 24 Nov—Five people survived a plane crash after the pilot managed to land in a dense bush before the plane burst into flames during an accident Saturday in western Canada, reports said Sunday.

The group, which also included a co-pilot and a nurse, was on a medevac trip in Manitoba Province when a fire erupted in the aircraft’s cockpit shortly after taking off Saturday night, police said.

With no time to turn around, the pilot opted to set the plane down in thick bush in a rugged area about 500 kilometres north of provincial capital Winnipeg. The pilot and all the passengers, including a 10-month-old baby, managed to get out of the wreckage just moments before it burst into flames.

The pilot is being hailed as a hero as he had to dodge several bodies of water in the dark of night in order to put the plane down safely.—Xinhua

Neighbours rejects using Iraqi lands as base for attack

ANKARA, 24 Nov—Iraq’s neighbouring countries on Sunday rejected using Iraq’s lands, waters or airspace as a corridor or base to launch attacks against its neighbours.

They made the rejection in a final statement at the end of the third meeting of the Security Cooperation and Coordination Committee for Iraq’s neighbouring countries. Representatives from Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, Egypt, Bahrain, Turkey, Iran and Iraq took part in the one-day meeting here on Sunday.

The participants underlined their rejection of using Iraqi lands or any of the neighbouring countries as a base to launch any terrorist acts that pose a threat to the stability of Iraq and any of the neighbouring countries, said the statement.

They praised the noticeable improvement in Iraq’s security status as terrorist attacks had significantly declined, underlining that border control is a common responsibility between Iraq and its neighbours. They stressed the necessity of cooperation between Iraq and its neighbours in the fields of combating terrorism and organized crime, exchange of information and thwarting transnational operations, as well as drying out terrorist financial resources. —Xinhua

Iran says Armenia supports its civilian N-programme

TEHRAN, 24 Nov—The Secretary of Armenian National Security Council Arthur Baghdasaryan said here on Sunday that Armenia supports Iran’s “civilian nuclear programme”, Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) reported.

Baghdasaryan made his remarks during his visit with his Iranian counterpart Saeed Jalili.

He urged the expansion of ties between Iran and Armenia on a multiple grounds of “economic, diplomatic, defence and security relations”.

Meanwhile, Baghadasaryan also called on Iran to actively cooperate in Caucasus security, the report said. Caucasus suffers the two unsettled conflicts, one is between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the other is Russia and Georgia. Iran has made several attempts to have a role in the region’s hot issue.

“Iran’s basic policy seeks practical support for promoting regional peace and preventing crises,” Jalili said, adding that “cross-regional forces’ interference only creates crisis and regional issues need to be settled only by regional countries,” according to ISNA.
National Landmarks Gardens in PyinOoLwin

The township is situated in Shan Plateau, sharing border with Nawnghkio, Madaya, Pathinngyi and Kyaukse townships.

PyinOoLwin has many interesting places, one of which is 49-acre National Gardens, which has biodiversity including nearly 5000 pine trees and nearly 600 species of flowers, a large meadow, patches of seasonal flowers, and orchids of over 100 species, aeon-old Peikchin-myaung Cave, Dattaw-chaik (a) Anisakhan Water Fall, Pwekauk Water Fall, and Clock Tower.

To enforce compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, National Landmarks Gardens was established on a 56.67-acre land adjacent to the National Garden by companies namely Htoo Trading Co Ltd, Asia Green Co Ltd, Dagon Timber Co Ltd, Tun Win Tun Co Ltd, Momentum Trading Enterprise Co Ltd, Pacific Timber Enterprise Co Ltd, Asia World Co Ltd, Myat Noe Thu Co Ltd and Naut That Phu Co under the supervision of the Ministry of Forestry to enable local and foreign visitors to observe famous landmarks of states and divisions for rest and recreation, and to become an international level garden. It was opened in PyinOoLwin in December 2006.

Replicas of landmarks of states and divisions are on display in the garden. They are: Mt. Khakaborazi of Kachin State, Taungdwe Pagoda, and Mt. Zwegabin of Kayin State, Reed Lake and Natma Mountain of Chin State, Kaunghdaw Pagoda and Sagaing Hill of Sagaing Division, Bayintnaung Cape of Taninthayi Division, KanbawzathadiPalace of Bago Division, Oilfield of Magway Division, Mya Nan San Kyaw Palace, Moat, Brick Wall, Paikchin-myaung Cave and Mt. Popa of Mandalay Division, Kyakhtiyio Pagoda of Mon State, Shitthaung Stupa of Rakhine State, Shwe-dagon Pagoda, City Hall and People's Square of Yangon Division, Inlay Lake, Phaungdaw-U, Gokhteik viaduct, and Pinya Cave of Shan State, and Chaungtha Beach and Mawtinsun Pagoda of Ayeyawady Division.

Now, Htoo Trading Co Ltd is constructing an amusement park, which is due to be completed this November, near Reed Lake. It has also carried out wiring, and established a nursery, five recreation centres, a 15,000-gallon-capacity tank and a 3200-gallon-capacity tank.

In the National Landmarks Gardens are more than 5000 shady trees and seasonal flowers of more than 40 species. PyinOoLwin has many hotels to provide accommodation for tourists. Of them, Aureum Palace Resort and The Governor's House in Ward (5) on Mandalay-Lashio Road are decorated in a different way, without sacrificing the traditional style of PyinOoLwin. The Governor's House was built with the original design of the residence where successive British governors lived. Aureum Palace Resort is among large trees including pine trees and has a coach and 18 bungalows. The resort is of a mixture of traditional and western styles.

Due to its peace and cumulative development, Myanmar is receiving a growing number of tourists. Now, the tourism is in season here, so PyinOoLwin is welcoming local and foreign tourists.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin:
14-11-2008
Secretary-1 addresses meeting of Central Committee ...

(from page 16)
First, the Secretary-1 delivered an opening speech saying that the Central Committee has been formed to organize the anniversary of Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2009 on a grand scale.

He added the four national objectives of the 61st Anniversary Independence Day – All the national people to constantly join hands for ensuring the perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State; All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity; All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for building up a modern, developed nation in accordance with the new State Constitution that has been approved by the votes of the entire national people; and All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State’s seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit – have been laid down.

He said Independence Day is observed every year with the aim of realizing the value of independence that all national races regained sacrificing their lives, blood and sweat through solidarity and incalculating younger generation with a spirit of safeguarding the independence forever.

He spoke of the need to observe the 61st Anniversary Independence Day with political essence in accord with the national objectives laid down.

Like the previous years, Independence Day ceremony will be held on a grand scale with fun fairs, he said.

He said security measures are to be taken as there are various attempts to undermine stability, peace and tranquillity. He called on the sub-committees to accomplish the tasks for observance of Independence Day through coordination.

He urged the officials to make arrangements for observance of Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw in Nay Pyi Taw District, Nay Pyi Taw Pymannya, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw Takou Townships.

Chairman of Sub-committee for holding State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Chairman of Sub-committee for Reception and Dinner Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw, Chairman of Security Sub-committee Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Chairman of Information Sub-committee Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, Chairman of Sub-committee for Compiling Independence Day Message Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of Health Sub-committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and Chairman of Sport Sub-committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Hlaik reported on related works.

Those present also reported on general matters. The Secretary-1 took part in the discussions and the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Secretary-1. —MNA

There are various attempts to undermine stability, peace and tranquillity.

U San Win, Director-General of Department for Archaeology, National Museum and Library delivers an address at the opening ceremony of three-month course on museum and library science.—MNA

Three-month course on museum and library science opens

YANGON, 23 Nov.—A three-month course on museum and library science, organized by Department for Archaeology, National Museum and Library of the Ministry of Culture was opened at the meeting hall of the National Library this morning, with an address by Director-General U San Win of Department for Archaeology, National Museum and Library.

Director Daw Nu Mya Zan and Director U Kyaw Oo of the National Library explained subjects related to the course.

The ceremony was ended with the concluding remarks made by Director-General U San Win.

A total of 20 trainees are taking the three-month course. —MNA

9th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference 2-3 December 2008
Nay Pyi Taw

Traditional medicine, principal contributor to public health

Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference, a genuine Myanmar legacy left by ancestors

Myanmar delegation attends FAO Conference’s 35th Special Session

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Nov.—The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo arrived back here by air this morning after attending FAO Conference’s 35th Special Session held in Rome of Italy from 18 to 22 November.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein and departmental heads.

The Myanmar delegation attended the special session together with a large number of ministers from 189 nations.

At the special session, Director-General of FAO Dr Jacques Diouf made an introductory speech on the occasion and inaugurated the special session.

The Minister of Economic Affairs of Finland Mr Mauri Pekkarinen acted as the special session’s meeting chairman and the

Minister of Agriculture of Panama, the minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Sudan and the deputy permanent representative of FAO to the USA as the deputy meeting chairman.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo met Director of Italy-based FOCSIV-INGO Mr Alberto Zamberletti at Hotel Mediterraneo in Rome and discussed matters related to agriculture development projects being implemented in Taunggyi, Kengtung and Tachileik and progress in building cyclone shelters in Bogale and Labutta.

On 19 November, the Director-General of FAO read out the reports containing the world food security and eradication of poverty and the Chairman of FAO’s Conference Committee and FAO Council Mr Noroi Naemee on proposal of Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal to be carried out from 2009 to 2011. Next, the conference approved the proposal.

Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo met with the Director-General of FAO and discussions were made to render assistance in undertaking rescue and rehabilitation tasks in the storm-hit regions, to construct small-scale dams and lakes and to provide assistance in the tasks for tapping underground water.

On 20 November, the special session continued and Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo made a speech on the occasion. Next, the minister met with Head of Project FAO Dr Roberto Samaniez and discussed assistance rendered to Myanmar from UAE for boosting food production. And he met with Vice-Chairman of IFAD of Rome Mr Kanay Nwanze to discuss rural development tasks.

On 21 November, the minister met with Deputy Executive Director Mr John Powell of WFP. —MNA
Bio-gas digesters benefitting farmers

YANGON, 24 Nov—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint viewed drilling of tube well with the use of drilling machine to supply irrigation water to 200-acre physic-nut plantations in local battalion of Hmawby township, Yangon North District this afternoon.

Next, the Commander looked into cooking process with bio-gas digester of TAS Co. Ltd and lighting with 60-watt bio-gas used bulb at peasant U Mya Kyaing’s house in Hnawgon village, Hmawby township. He called for extended use of bio-gas digesters as they can not only provide light but substitute firewood in cooking and reuse wastes as fertilizer.

The Commander later looked into cooking process with the use of bio-gas digester at farmer U Sir Thinyel of Thayagon village. He answered queries raised by local peasants and explained supporting programmes to them.

It is learnt that Yangon Division PDC will provide multi-use bio-gas digesters to each and every village in Yangon division, aimed at development of rural regions.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi unveils the signboard and stone plaque of new Myoma market in Kungyangon.—MNA

Instructor course on prevention against trafficking in persons opens

YANGON, 24 Nov—Instructor course on prevention against trafficking in persons jointly organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Human Trafficking Prevention Central Body Ministry of Home Affairs and United Nations Inter-Agency Project (UNIAP) was opened at the federation on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township today.

Present were Vice-Presidents of the federation Daw Khan Lay Myint and Daw Khan Thet Hui, heads of department, working group leaders, secretary and officials. Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Kyin Myaing and members, officials of Human Trafficking Prevention Central Body, officials of UN agencies and INGO, instructors, trainees and guests.

First, Vice-President of the Federation Daw Khan Lay Myint gave an opening speech. Police Col Sit Aye of Human Trafficking Prevention Central Body also spoke.

The five-day course is being attended by 36 trainees from state and division.

Prevention Central Body officials, officials of  UNIAP, officials of Human Trafficking Prevention Central Body, officials of INGO, instructors, trainees and guests also spoke.

Next, the Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe accepted documents related to the market handed over by Managing Director U Tun Myint Naing.

Next, the Deputy Minister, Managing Director of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise U Sein Tin Win and Managing Director U Tun Myint Naing formally opened the market.

Afterwards, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi formally unveiled the signboard and stone plaque inscriptions. New Myoma market was damaged in the storm in May of 2008. Now, the market has returned to normalcy.—MNA

Kayan Tsp Assoc to honour students

YANGON, 24 Nov—The Kayan Township Association (Yangon) will hold a ceremony to present prizes to offspring of members of the association who were outstanding in the 2008 matriculation exam.

Students who passed the exam with one distinction and more are to contact the association, Room-001, Building-14A, B1, Yangyiayang Street, Myittanyunt Ward, Tamway Township (Tel: 001 549339).—MNA

Myanmar rowing team arrives back

YANGON, 24 Nov—Myanmar rowing team that took part in the Princess’s Trophy traditional boat race held at Pattaya beach, Thailand from 21 to 23 November 2008 arrived back here this morning.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Tin Ngwe accepted documents related to the market handed over by Managing Director U Tun Myint Naing.

Next, the Deputy Minister, Managing Director of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise U Sein Tin Win and Managing Director U Tun Myint Naing formally opened the market.

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Daw Khin Lay Myint, Vice-President of MWAF makes a speech at the opening ceremony of instructor course on prevention against human trafficking.—MNA
Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe holds discussion at the 3rd East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families Meeting held in Bali, Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

**SWRR Minister attends 3rd East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families Meeting**

NAK PIY TAW, 24 Nov—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe attended the 3rd East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families Meeting held in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia from 17 to 19 November.

Ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials from ASEAN countries, the People’s Republic of China and Timor attended the meeting.

The meeting of Timor senior officials was held on 17 November and the East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families took place at Nusantara meeting hall of Westin Hotel in Bali on 18 Nov, with addresses by ministers and the mayor of Bali, Republic of Indonesia.

Mr. Bachtiar Chamsyah, Minister for Social Services of the Republic of Indonesia made an opening speech as chairman and ministers gave account of undertakings on families affairs. Leader of Myanmar delegation, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe discussed social objectives concerning families in Myanmar, founding of National Committee on Child’s right, establishment of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Committee, activities of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and measures undertaken for welfare of children, women and elderly persons.

Next, the ministers held discussion on Bali Statement on families. The minister, on 19 Nov, observed a study programme on families affairs being carried out in Bali together with ministers and high-ranking officials from other countries and attended dinner held at Laka Leke Ubud in Bali in the evening.

Leader of Myanmar delegation, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe arrived here by air on 22 November. Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi and officials welcomed him back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. MNA

**Primary schools in Bogale Township get new school buildings**

NAK PIY TAW, 24 Nov—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung yesterday morning visited the site chosen for building a cyclone shelter that can house 500 people near Touktagon Village on the bank of Ayeya Village, Bogale Township and left necessary instructions.

In the afternoon the minister attended the opening of a new school building of Sarphyusu Village BEMS and donated exercise books, stationery and food gifts to the students. The school building was built at a cost of K 17 million. He also addressed the opening of a new school building of Kyonlutkyi Village BEMS. Wellwishers donated exercise books and stationery to the students. The new school building cost K 8 million.

Afterwards, the minister attended the opening of Latachaung Village BEMS and donated exercise books, stationery and food gifts to the students. The school building was built at a cost of K 5 million donated by U Myat Min Maung.

In the evening, the minister inspected the harvesting of monsoon paddy and ploughing of summer paddy in the 6-acre field of farmer U Tun Kyi in 1000-acre plot at the entrance to Thakanwa Village in Bogale. The field produced 75 baskets of paddy per acre. MNA

**Natural Disaster Preparedness (Instructor) Course No. 4/2008 opens**

YANGON, 24 Nov—Natural Disaster Preparedness (Instructor) Course No. 4/2008 was opened at the Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayagone Township this morning.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint spoke on the occasion. Dr Osamu Kunii of UNICEF and Professor Dr Aung Tun Thein also spoke.

Altogether 40 trainees of ministries from states and divisions are attending the course which lasts till 5 December. MNA
Vietnam to open embassy in Israel

TELAVIV, 24 NOV — Vietnam is preparing to open an embassy in Israel after more than 30 years of diplomatic relations between the countries, sources say. Citing unnamed sources, Ynetnews.com reported Monday that Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Aharon Abramovich was told of Vietnam’s plans while visiting the Southeast Asian country last week to discuss expanding trade between the two countries, which currently stands at $200 million per year.

UK’s Sellafield nuclear site gets new management

LONDON, 24 Nov — A consortium from France, Britain and the United States took over management of the Sellafield nuclear waste reprocessing facility in northwest England on Monday — part of a plan by the British government to shift costly energy operations to the private sector.

Aharon Abramovich, Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General, was told of Vietnam’s plans while visiting the Southeast Asian country last week to discuss expanding trade between the two countries, sources say. Citing unnamed sources, Ynetnews.com reported Monday that Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Aharon Abramovich was told of Vietnam’s plans while visiting the Southeast Asian country last week to discuss expanding trade between the two countries, which currently stands at $200 million per year.

Thailand growth slows as industry, tourism hit

BANGKOK, 24 Nov — Thailand’s economic growth slowed to 4 percent in the third quarter, a state body said, lower than expected amid falling tourist arrivals and the global financial crisis.

Gross domestic product growth was down from 5.3 percent in the second quarter and six percent in the first, prompting the National Economic and Social Development Board to revise its outlook for the year to 4.5 percent.

The figure is down from the previous projection of 3.2 to 5.7 percent GDP growth by the NESDB, a government think tank dealing with economic policy.

Blockaded Gaza gets some supplies

LONDON, 24 Nov — Israel has temporarily re-opened a border crossing with the Gaza Strip to allow in essential supplies of food. It has also allowed delivery, through a pipe line, of diesel fuel for Gaza’s only power plant.

It’s only the second time in three weeks that Israel has permitted aid deliveries into the territory.

The figure is down from the previous projection of 3.2 to 5.7 percent GDP growth by the NESDB, a government think tank dealing with economic policy.

Somali pirates say tanker ransom unchanged

MOGADISHU, 24 Nov — The US$25 million (HK$195 million) ransom demanded for the release of a Saudi super-tanker laden with crude oil is unchanged, a leader of the group of Somali pirates who seized the ship said on Monday.

“We have not changed the amount of the ransom, it remains at exactly US$25 million,” said Mohamed Said.

Henkel’s French subsidiary to close two sites, cut jobs

PARIS, 24 Nov — The French subsidiary of the German chemical products group Henkel said on Monday it would close two sites in France and cut 251 jobs to cope with the economic downturn and to boost its competitiveness.

Citing “a particularly unfavorable” economic climate, Henkel Technologies France said in a statement it was closing its offices in Chalons-en-Champagne and Cosne-sur-Loire and reorganising its laboratories in a third site.

The company makes detergents, adhesives and cosmetics.

It blamed difficulties facing France’s ailing car industry for the closures, but also cited the move by packaging and paper markets to eastern Europe as factoring into the Chalones closure.

Altogether, Henkel Germany plans to close five sites around Europe, according to some supplies

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Maldives’ first President dies at 82

COLOMBO, 24 Nov—Ibrahim Nasir, who led the Maldives’ independence movement from the British and became the nation’s first president, has died at age 82, an official said.

Nasir died on Sunday at a Singapore hospital and his body was flown to the Maldives and kept for public viewing at the president’s office, Foreign Minister Ahmed Shareef said Sunday, adding that the cause of death was not known.

Born on 2 Sept, 1926, Nasir became the prime minister of the British protectorate in 1957 at age 31. He signed an agreement with the British that won independence for the Indian Ocean archipelago in 1965. In 1968, three years after independence, Nasir became the Maldives’ first president and held that position until he resigned 10 years later. Nasir modernized the country’s fishing industry and introduced tourism until he resigned 10 years later. Nasir modernized the country’s fishing industry and introduced tourism until he resigned 10 years later. Nasir modernized the country’s fishing industry and introduced tourism until he resigned 10 years later. Nasir modernized the country’s fishing industry and introduced tourism until he resigned 10 years later. Nasir modernized the country’s fishing industry and introduced tourism until he resigned 10 years later.

President Mohamed Nasheed and his ministers were to be present at the burial on Sunday night.

Donate Blood

 Wife shot and killed at New Jersey church

This photo released by the Clifton Police Department shows Joseph M Pallipurath of Sacramento, California.

Clifton, 24 Nov—A gunman drove across the country to confront his estranged wife, then killed her in a church vestibule as Sunday services let out, authorities said. Two other people were injured in the attack, which sent churchgoers scrambling for safety.

The gunman fled, and authorities were searching for him and warned people that he was believed to be armed.

About 200 people were attending services inside St Thomas Syrian Orthodox Knanaya Church in Clifton when the gunman opened fire before noon. Churchgoers described bedlam after the shots rang out.

“Kids were crying. People were screaming,” Suja Alummoottil told The Record of Bergen County. “It was chaotic.”

Russia’s Lavrov skeptical about US missile shield

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov listens to questions during a news conference at the Necessidades palace in Lisbon on 18 Nov, 2008.

Moscow and Washington to post-Cold War lows.

“It would be better if the Americans gave up the idea,” Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters in the Peruvian capital Lima, where President Dmitry Medvedev was attending a summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, or APEC. “If, despite all, the United States carries out its plans, it will need to provide transparency measures to reduce Russian concerns,” he added.

“But our concerns would be fully removed only if Washington gives up its plan and starts working on a joint missile defense system from scratch.”

China’s high prices boost Bangladesh garment exports

DHAKA, 24 Nov—Bangladesh’s garment industry is growing rapidly despite the global economic turmoil as China loses orders due to high prices and worldwide demand for cheap clothing soars.

Nearly 5,000 apparel makers here initially sought government help when some top US and European buyers postponed and cut orders in the wake of the worst financial crisis since the 1930s Great Depression. But clothing makers say that a massive diversion of orders from China, the world’s largest producer of apparel, has more than compensated.

In the first quarter to September, garment shipments grew by a record 45 percent to 3.4 trillion dollars, government data this week showed, with more than 90 percent of the exports going to the US and Europe.

“It’s a huge change in fortune for us,” said Golam Faruq, owner of the country’s largest sweater manufacturer and a key supplier to British upmarket retailer Marks and Spencer.

“This month I got an unexpected 12 million-dollar order to make sweaters for a Swedish manufacturer. They told me in the past they used to give the order to Chinese manufacturers. But this year we offered a far better price,” he said.—Internet

WASHINGTON—US plans, which would include deploying a radar system in the Czech Republic and interceptor missiles in Poland to repel possible attack from Iran, as a direct threat to its security.

The dispute over the US missile shield has become one of the key factors behind a chill in relations between Moscow and Washington to post-Cold War lows.

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New type of Ebola virus discovered

New York, 24 Nov — A new species of the deadly Ebola virus has been identified by American and Ugandan scientists. The new virus, called Bundibugyo ebola-virus, caused an outbreak in western Uganda in 2007. It is genetically distinct from all other known Ebola virus species, differing by more than 30 percent at the genetic level, said the scientists from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Columbia University, the Uganda Virus Research Institute, and the Uganda Ministry of Health.

To determine the genetic signature of the new virus, the scientists had to employ a recently developed “random-primed pyro-sequencing” method. Using this, they were able to quickly determine more than 70 percent of the virus genome, which then enabled rapid development of a molecular detection assay that was used during the outbreak.

The draft genetic sequence also led to completion of the entire virus genome sequence using a traditional method and immediate confirmation that this was a new species of Ebola virus.

Current efforts to develop effective Ebola diagnostics, antivirals and vaccines will need to factor in the distinct genetic makeup of this new species, the scientists said in an article published Nov. 21 in the journal PLoS Pathogens. —Internet

Doctors’ illegal drug sales led to lashes

Riyadh, 24 Nov — Two Egyptian doctors sentenced to prison and lashes in Saudi Arabia illegally sold pharmaceuticals and one had affairs with female patients, the official news agency reported on Sunday.

Quoting a statement from the health department in the city of Mecca, the Saudi Press Agency said the two doctors confessed. According to Egyptian newspapers, one of the doctors, Raouf Amin al-Arabi, was accused of driving a Saudi princess “to addiction.” He initially was sentenced to seven years in prison and 700 lashes, but when he appealed two months ago, the judge not only upheld the conviction, but more than doubled the penalty — to 15 years in prison and 1,500 lashes.

The statement from the Saudi health department did not mention the princess but said al-Arabi gave drug injections to a woman over a period of five years. It identified the woman as the wife of the doctor’s sponsor. Expatriates need Saudi sponsors — government agencies, influential businessmen or members of the royal family — to work in the kingdom. The other doctor, Shawki Ibrahim, was sentenced to 20 years in prison and an unspecified number of lashes, according to Sunday’s statement. The statement said the pharmaceuticals the men allegedly sold have adverse effects on the nervous and respiratory systems and the heart. —Internet

Wild beavers return to Britain after 400 years

London, 24 Nov — Four families of beavers have arrived in Britain for a landmark project which will see them introduced into the wild here for the first time in over 400 years, experts said Friday.

The wild beavers were captured in the Telemark region of Norway and brought to London, where they arrived Thursday and will spend six months in quarantine.

The animals will then be released in Argyll, western Scotland, during the first half of next year.

Experts say they hope the beavers will help create new habits for wetland wildlife in the area by building dams. “Beavers are native to Britain but were hunted to extinction over 400 years ago,” said Simon Jones, project manager for the Scottish Beaver Trial, which is coordinating the animals’ reintroduction. “We are excited to get the trial under way and really see what benefits beavers can bring to Scotland.” —Internet

Egypt faces obstacles in recovering antiquities

Cairo, 24 Nov — More than half a century ago, a prominent Egyptian archeologist unearthed a stunning ancient mummy mask at the Saqara pyramids near Cairo — the golden image of a noblewoman’s face.

Mohammed Zakaria Ghoneim deposited the 3,200-year-old relic in a warehouse at Saqara, where he meticulously documented his discovery. Seven years later, in 1959, Egyptian records show it was still in the same storeroom.

What happened to the burial mask of Ka Nefer Nefer in the four decades that followed is a mystery.

It resurfaced in 1998 when the St. Louis Art Museum acquired it. And now it is at the center of one of the most acrimonious fights in the antiquities world.

The case lays bare the complexities involved in growing efforts by Egypt and other countries to reclaim artifacts stolen or looted from their ancient civilizations.

Local and international laws are often inadequate or nonexistent.

The process requires delicate cooperation between government, law enforcement, museums, and antiquities dealers. And frequently, there are gaps in the historical records.

Claims are attracting increasing attention after prestigious institutions such as the J. Paul Getty Museum of Art in Los Angeles and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York agreed to return looted or stolen artwork or antiquities.

Zahi Hawass, head of Egypt’s antiquities authority, said his country has recovered some 5,000 stolen artifacts since 2002, and is pursuing dozens more.

“This is the No. 1 case,” he told The Associated Press in an interview. “Egypt has a right to the mask.” —Internet

Australian officials say rescued whales now safe at sea

Sydney, 24 Nov — Wildlife officials Monday said rescue efforts had saved 11 whales from a mass stranding on an Australian beach, with the animals now swimming freely in deep water and unlikely to return to land.

Some 64 pilot whales, many of them mothers and calves, were found stranded on Anthonys Beach on the southern Australian island of Tasmania on Saturday. Fifty-three of the animals died but rescuers worked throughout the weekend to save the rest, eventually hauling 11 of them on to specially-modified vehicles and driving them to a nearby beach for release into the sea.

Tasmania’s Parks and Wildlife Service said satellite tracking devices which had been fitted to five of the rescued whales indicated that the animals were now swimming freely in deep water near Bass Strait.

“While this is good news, we will monitor the wider area with an air craft,” spokesman Chris Arthur said in a statement. —Internet

A woman dressed as a mermaid dives to feed fish at the Gongti Richina Underwater World in Beijing on 24 Nov, 2008. —Internet

A handout picture obtained from the Scottish Wildlife Trust shows a beaver chewing on some wood. —Internet

File photo shows whales off the Australian coast near Sydney. Wildlife officials said on Monday rescue efforts had saved 11 whales from a mass stranding on an Australian beach, with the animals now swimming freely in deep water and unlikely to return to land. —Internet
**SPORTS**

**Tottenham boss Redknapp tips Lennon to star for England**

LONDON, 24 Nov — Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp has told Fabio Capello that Aaron Lennon deserves a chance to shine for England after the winger inspired his side’s 1-0 win over Blackburn.

Lennon was a constant problem for the Blackburn defence at White Hart Lane on Saturday and he set up Roman Pavlyuchenko’s first-half winner before inducing two fouls that led to Blackburn defender Martin O’Nicson’s dismissal.

With Theo Walcott out for at least three months after shoulder surgery and David Beckham increasingly marginalised, there is a vacancy on the right flank for England that Redknapp believes Lennon can fill.

Lennon has fallen out of favour at senior international level since going to the 2006 World Cup and England coach Capello hasn’t asked Redknapp about the former Leeds star’s form.—INTERNET

**Shin wins: South Korean takes LPGA’s ADT title**

WEST PALM BEACH, 24 Nov — As she walked down the 18th fairway Sunday, Ji-Yai Shin kept her thoughts away from becoming an instant millionaire. Or, in her native currency, Shin collected 1.493 billion — yes, billion — South Korean won.

That’s a lot of won for one win.

Ji-Yai Shin, of South Korea, hits her seventh tee-shot during the final round of the ADT Championship at the Trump International Golf Club on 23 Nov, 2008 in West Palm Beach, Fla.—INTERNET

**Welsh winger Williams named 2008 top player**

LONDON, 24 Nov — Welsh winger Shane Williams, who played a pivotal role in his team’s 2008 Six Nations Grand Slam triumph, has been named the International Rugby Board Player of the Year.

Williams was a key player as Wales defeated Scotland in the first Old Firm derby of the season against Rangers at the end of August.

But the Scottish champions have so far only collected two points from a possible 12 in their Champions League Group E campaign.

And Australian international McDonald says his team’s form will count for nothing if they can’t end their poor away form in the Champions League.

**Man Utd eye breaching Villarreal fortress**

MADRID, 24 Nov — Both Manchester United and Villarreal look poised to qualify for the last 16 of the Champions League but top place is at stake when the two meet in a Group E duel on Tuesday at El Madrigal.

Holders United are bidding to become the first team to defeat Villarreal on their own ground in the Champions League - the club have played in the competition twice and have yet to lose at home - and if Sir Alex Ferguson’s team achieve that feat they will go through as group winners.—INTERNET

**Fiorentina looking for revenge against Lyon**

FLORENCE, 24 Nov — Fiorentina may be on the brink of Champions League elimination but they will feel that they have a score to settle with Lyon at the Stadio Artemio Franchi on Tuesday.

Two months ago when the teams met in France a brace from Alberto Gilardino looked set to fire Fiorentina to an impressive opening victory in their first Champions League appearance for eight years.

But in the final 18 minutes Lyon scored twice with Fiorentina complaining that one of the goals should have been disallowed.—INTERNET

**Fiorentina’s Serbian Serbian forward Alberto Gilardino. Fiorentina may be on the brink of Champions League elimination but they will feel that they have a score to settle with Lyon at the Stadio Artemio Franchi on Tuesday.—INTERNET**

**Celtic must go on Euro attack, says Aussie McDonald**

GLASGOW, 24 Nov — Celtic striker Scott McDonald has ordered all-out attack in Aalborg on Tuesday if the Scottish giants are to save their Champions League hopes.

Celtic have won 11 matches in a row in the Scottish Premier League since their defeat in the first Old Firm derby of the season against Rangers at the end of August.

But the Scottish champions have so far only collected two points from a possible 12 in their Champions League Group E campaign.

And Australian international McDonald says his team’s form will count for nothing if they can’t end their poor away form in the Champions League.

**Verdasco hands Spain third Davis Cup tennis title**

MAR DEL PLATA, 24 Nov — Fernando Verdasco won the Davis Cup for Spain here on Sunday, beating Argentina’s Jose Acasuso 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 to give his country a third title after 2000 and 2004 and deny the hosts a first.

Verdasco’s success in the 5hr 56min gave the Spanish, shorn of the services of injured world number one Rafael Nadal, a winning 3-1 lead to render academic the outcome of the second reverse singles between the hosts’ David Nalbandian and Feliciano Lopez.

“It’s like a dream come true - it’s the most beautiful day of my life,” beamed Verdasco.

“It’s a nice sensation,” he told Sky Sports. “It’s a great day for all the people in Spain.”—INTERNET

**Bayern eyes on Steaua as Klinsmann demands win**

BERLIN, 24 Nov — Bayern Munich coach Jurgen Klinsmann has insisted his side focus solely on beating Steaua Bucharest on Tuesday to guarantee their place in the first knock-out round of the Champions League.

Bayern hammered Bundesliga bottom side Energie Cottbus 4-1 on Saturday and Klinsmann insisted his side began the recovery process immediately with ice baths and long warm-downs to Group F clash.

With two wins and two draws, Bayern are level with leaders Lyon and a win over bottom-of-the-group Steaua at Munich’s Allianz Arena will guarantee their place in the next round.—INTERNET
No agreement with US over cross-border attacks

Islamabad, 24 Nov—Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Sunday said Pakistan had no agreement with the United States to allow the US to carry out cross-border attacks inside Pakistan’s territory.

Referring to the cross-border missile attacks conducted by the US, Gilani said the sentiments against the US, North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the West would rise if the US continued the strikes, private TV channel Dawn News reported.

He also said the Pakistani Government would evolve a strategy to stop the strikes. Gilani said missile strikes were undermining Pakistani Army’s strategy to control the situation in the northwestern tribal areas.

Pakistan’s tribal areas have witnessed a string of cross-border missile attacks, most of which were reportedly conducted by unmanned US drones. Terming them violations of Pakistan’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, Pakistan has lodged protests against such attacks.—MNA/Xinhua

US alone critical of Syria at Iraq conference

DAMASCUS, 24 Nov—The United States stood alone at a conference on Sunday in accusing host Syria of sheltering militants attacking Iraq, while other countries adopted a more conciliatory tone, delegates said.

No other state present at the conference on security for Iraq joined Washington in its open criticism, weeks after a US raid on Syria that targeted suspected militants linked to al-Qaeda, they told Reuters. US Charge d’Affaires Maura Connelly, the senior American diplomat in Syria, told a closed session that Syria must stop allowing what she called terrorist networks using its territory as a base for attacks in Iraq.

Washington’s leading Western ally, Britain, has recently praised Syria for preventing foreign fighters from infiltrating into Iraq, and its Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, was in Damascus this week pursuing detente with Syria.

“The American diplomat’s speech was blunt and short. The United States was the only country at the conference to criticize Syria openly,” one of the delegates said.

“The British Amb-assador called on neighbouring countries to take action against ‘facilitators’ based inside their territories, but he did not name names,” a second delegate said.

MARRIAGE

Lay Hwa Kaw (a)  Ei Ei Tun
Pharr. D. 2009
the youngest daughter of (U Tin Htun) and Daw Khin San Yin of No.15, 23rd Street, Latha Township, Yangon
to
Dr. Min Naing M.B.B.S (Ygn)
the eldest son of U Tin Aye and Daw Kyin Win of No.40, Bo Ywe Street, Latha Township, Yangon at Mirchon Room, Sedona Hotel on 23 November 2008.

Parents from both sides and Maung Min Naing and Ma Ei Ei Tun

WEATHER

Monday, 24 November, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 br
MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) below November average temperatures in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Magway and Bago Divisions, (3˚C) above November average temperatures in Mon State and Ayeyawady Division and about November average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (2˚C) and Loxim (3˚C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthoung (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 23-11-2008 was 95˚F. Minimum temperature on 24-11-2008 was 68˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours on 24-11-2008 was 99%. Total sunshine hours on 23-11-2008 was (6.8) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 24-11-2008 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 (5) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours. MST on 23-11-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over the Southwest Bay. Weather is partly cloudy in the North bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25th November 2008: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin and Kayah States, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (65%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of light rain or thundershowers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Independence Day is observed with aims of realizing value of independence and inculcating younger generation with a spirit of safeguarding the independence forever.

Four objectives of the 61st Anniversary Independence Day

* All the national people to constantly join hands for ensuring the perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State;
* All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;
* All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for building up a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the new State Constitution that has been approved by the votes of the entire national people;
* All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State’s seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit.

National Landmarks Gardens in PyinOoLwin

Being a repository of scenic natural beauties, peculiar customs and traditions of diverse national races, archaeological places, edifices of cultural heritage, wonders and pleasant and beautiful hill stations, Myanmar captivates foreign tourists around the world.

One of the hill stations is PyinOoLwin, which is located in Mandalay Division, Upper Myanmar. The hilly region stands at an altitude of 3538 feet, and so it is never very hot, but cool all-year round. PyinOoLwin earns a good reputation for its hilly geographical location, fascinating natural places, pleasant climate pattern, and a large number of species of flora in abundance. So, the hill station receives a constant stream of foreign tourists every year.

In addition to plain regions, Myanmar has so many hills and mountain ranges which add beauty to the nation. PyinOoLwin was established more than 100 years ago.

Visitors at National Landmarks Gardens, which was opened in December 2006.