The Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference is in its ninth straight anniversary this year, and it is a venue where Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners held discussions and pass resolutions in unity with the objectives of ensuring perpetual existence of Myanmar traditional medicine, improving Myanmar traditional medicine, raising the role of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners, and winning greater trust and reliance of the people on Myanmar traditional medicine.

On this auspicious occasion when you Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners meet in harmony, I wish you a success in scaling up the improvement and prospects of Myanmar traditional medicine in unity.

Myanmar traditional medicine is, indeed, a national legacy that has improved in conformity with our country’s geographical features, climate patterns, culture, customs and traditions in the course of Myanmar history.

Throughout successive periods, Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners have related Myanmar traditional medicine and their valuable knowledge of health care to the people based on the four primary elements, the main source of Myanmar traditional medicine, from one generation to the next with the aim of improving Myanmar traditional medicine.

Now, the government is giving effective encouragement to measures for enabling Myanmar traditional medicine to be well-known at the international level by means of improving it through medical research and manufacturing potent Myanmar traditional medicines without infringing their effectiveness and essence in accordance with fine traditions.

With this lofty aim in view, measures are being taken as a pivotal role in the national health policy for promotion and safeguarding of Myanmar traditional medicine and using Myanmar traditional medicine effectively and on a wider scale in public health care. I would like to exhort you Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners to make collaborative efforts with might and main through the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference, taking full advantage of the encouragement and assistance of the government in order to provide better health care to the people across the nation including rural and border areas through Myanmar traditional medicine, improve Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners’ therapies and potency of traditional medicines through advanced methods, and raise the standard of Myanmar traditional medicine.

In conclusion, I wish you a success in working hard in harness to achieve the noble objectives of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference and making Myanmar traditional medicine, a genuine national legacy, or national prestige earn a good reputation around the world.—MNA

Good headway made in combined therapies of western medicine and Myanmar traditional medicine to cure some major diseases that are resistant to western medicines

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo addresses opening of 9th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivered an address at the opening of the 9th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health here this morning. It was also attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the deputy ministers, the directors-general of SPDC Office and Government Office, (See page 8)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers address at opening of 9th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference.—MNA
Exert expertise, technical know-how for national development

The coordination meeting on development of agricultural sector and boosting of export items was held at the Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw the other day with an address by Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

Myanmar is in pursuance of the target of transforming itself into an agro-based industrialized country. The vast majority of the world’s affluent countries are industrialized ones. Myanmar is blessed with natural resources, with which it can achieve the lofty goal.

The Prime Minister in his speech said that Myanmar was not in a position to build up an industrialized nation because it had not got enough expertise and capital to exploit its natural resources effectively; that basic education schools, universities and colleges had been established across the nation to obtain necessary technical know-how and human resources; and that seeking huge investments were to be based on the agricultural sector.

Agriculture is an investment as well as a legacy Myanmar has inherited from nature. The agricultural sector is the greatest contributor to the nation’s economy and agricultural turnover dominates the export sector of the nation.

So, it is needed to boost production of such crops as rice, beans and pulses, corn and sesame not only for domestic consumption but also for greater export.

Myanmar has favourable conditions for fulfilling the basic needs of the people and is rich in natural resources. So, there will be a promising future along with a large number of job opportunities if the people work hard.

If the people work hard in cohesion with self-reliant basis, the motherland will become a prosperous nation. Therefore, the people have to make all-out efforts, exerting expertise, investments and technical know-how for national development, despite the economic sanctions certain Western countries have imposed against the nation.

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 3 December, 2008

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MoH marks World AIDS Day

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Jointly organized by Ministry of Health, World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, UNAIDS and UNFPA, a ceremony to mark World AIDS Day for 2008 was held at the Ministry of Health here yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint said Ministry of Health has been cooperating with social organizations and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to prevent infection of disease and to give treatment to infected persons. However, some big countries have accused the country of not giving effective treatment to the infected patients and lacking of funds for fighting the disease, he said. Myanmar has designated the HIV/AIDS disease as the Disease of National Priority, he said. According to the United Nations, the HIV infection rate in Myanmar has decreased from 0.94 per cent in 2000 to 0.67 per cent in 2007. Myanmar set aside K 191.4 million to combat the infection of disease in 2007, the minister said.

Chairperson of UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS Mr Ramesh Shrestha, Resident Representative of UNICEF, read the message sent by Dr Peten Piot, Director of AIDS Programme of UN.

Afterwards, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, the deputy ministers for health, diplomats and resident representatives of UN agencies awarded winners of essay, poster, cartoon contests to mark the World AIDS Day for 2008. After the presentation, the minister and guests visited the exhibition staged at the ministry to mark the World AIDS Day for 2008. — MNA

Winners of Air Bagan Open Golf Championship pose for photo together with Patron of MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) and President U Teza. — MGF

Final round of Air Bagan Open Golf Championships ends

YANGON, 2 Dec—The final round of Air Bagan Open Golf Championships of Myanmar Golf Tour 2008-2009, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA brought to an end in PyinUolwin Golf Club in Mandalay Division on 30 November and then its prize presentation ceremony was held at the same venue.

It was attended by Patron of MGF and Myanmar PGA Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), President U Teza, Vice Presidents U Min Thin and U Zaw Min, executives and guests.

After the final round, President U Teza spoke words of thanks before the start of the prize presentation ceremony.

Next, the prize presentation ceremony was held. General Secretary of MGF/U Aung Kyi presented prizes to Daily Best winners in the men’s amateur level and Chairman of PyinUolwin Golf Club Brig-Gen Zar Ni Win to Daily Best winners in the men’s Professional Golfers level.

Afterwards, Brig-Gen Zeyer Aung handed prizes to first-placed Aung Win (Forestry) with 294 total strokes, second-placed Yan Myo Aye with 299 total strokes and third-placed Nay Bala Win Myint with 300 total strokes in the men’s amateur level.

Later, Maj-Gen Win Hlaing presented prizes to first-placed Zaw Zin Win (Srixon) with 291 total strokes and third-placed Zaw Zaw Latt (Srixon) with 293 total strokes in the professional golfer level.

Next, U Teza handed the prize to first-placed Aung Win (Forestry) in the men’s amateur level and cash prize to first-placed Zaw Zin Win (Srixon) in the professional level. Souvenirs were presented to Vice-Chairman of PyinUolwin Golf Club U Min Thin through Brig-Gen Zar Ni Win.

Main sponsor was Air Bagan Ltd and co-sponsors, Hotel Yangon, Ruby Dragon (Jade and Gems)Co Ltd, KBZ Bank Ltd, Alpine Purified Drinking Water, Dagon Brewery Co Ltd, MY AssociatesCoLtd, Srixon, KM Golf Center, ACCEL International Co Ltd (Canon) and Lifeline (DHEA-Plus). Han Event Management took responsibility for the successful realization of the tournament. — MNA
Bush admits “intelligence failure” on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec. — With no more than two months left in his term, US President George W Bush, for the first time, admitted in public that “intelligence failure” on Iraq was his “biggest regret” during the eight-year administration, according to a TV interview to be broadcast on Monday.

The biggest regret of all the presidency has to have been the intelligence failure in Iraq,” Bush told the ABC TV. “I wish the intelligence had been different, I guess.”

The interview was set to be aired in “World News Tonight” later on Monday, but its content has been released on the TV’s website.

“A lot of people put their reputations on the line and said the weapons of mass destruction is a reason to remove Saddam Hussein. It wasn’t just people in my administration,” Bush told ABC.

“Lots of members in Congress, prior to my arrival in Washington, DC, during the debate on Iraq, a lot of leaders of nations around the world were looking at the same intelligence,” he added.

However, Bush refused to speculate on whether he would still have gone to war if he knew Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction.

“That is a do-over that I can’t do. It’s hard for me to speculate,” he said.

Bush is expected to leave the White House with a record-low approval ratings that was dragged by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as financial crisis the country is suffering now.”

Obama reiterates plan to withdraw US troops from Iraq in 16 months

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec. — US President-elect Barack Obama reiterated on Monday his plan to withdraw US combat forces from Iraq in the first 16 month after he takes office.

Obama told a press conference in his transition office headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, that he still believes 16 months is the “right time frame” to redeploy US combat troops from Iraq.

He reiterated the timetable that he has been insisting during his campaign as he presented to public his national security team.

The president-elect also underscored the importance to make sure that American troops are safe during transition period and Iraqi military can take more security responsibilities.

When announcing his choice of retaining Robert Gates as the Pentagon chief, Obama said that Afghanistan is where the war on terror began and should be where it must be ended.

“We will continue to make the investments necessary to strengthen our military and increase our ground forces to defeat the threats of the 21st century,” he said.

According to a US-Iraq pact, titled the Status of Forces Agreement, the US troops will withdraw from Iraq’s cities, towns and villages by June 2011.

Suicide blast kills 10, injures 27 in Afghanistan

KABUL, 2 Dec. — A suicide attack against police forces Monday killed 10 people including two policemen and wounded another 27 in southern Afghanistan, police said.

A suicide attacker detonated explosives strapped to his body as he walked to a police vehicle in the crowded main market of Musa Qala district in Helmand province, provincial police chief Assadullah Shirzad told AFP.

Ten people including two policemen were killed and another 27 including two policemen were wounded in the suicide attack today,” he said.

Two US soldiers investigated for prisoner abuse

KABUL, 2 Dec. — The US military is investigating whether two of its soldiers abused a detainee in Afghanistan, a military statement said.

Capt Roger T Hill and 1st Sgt Tommy L Scott, both of 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, are facing investigation, to determine whether they should be brought to trial, the statement said.

The initial hearing was held Monday at the US Camp Salerno, in Afghanistan’s eastern Khost province. It follows a report from within the unit about potential detainee abuse, the statement said.

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,207

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec. — As of Monday, 1 Dec, 2008, at least 4,207 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 3,394 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.

A man injured in a twin bombing near the entrance to a police academy is transported to their bases and will leave the country on 31 Dec, 2011.
Iran develops air-to-air missile, radar-evading aircraft

TEHRAN, 2 Dec—Iran’s Air Force Commander Brigadier General Hassan Shahsafi said that Iran had developed new air-to-air missile and heat-seeking radar-evading aircraft, the official IRNA news agency reported Monday.

“The design of the aircraft has been completed and the preliminary samples of these aircrafts are being constructed,” Shahsafi was quoted as saying.

“When the design tests, the aircrafts will show the real face,” he added.

Shahsafi also revealed that the missile has a range of 40 kilometres and “there are plans to extend the new version to 100 km in range.”

In November, Iran test-fired new generation of surface-to-surface missile, Sejjil, which was claimed to have a range of about 2,000 km.

Iran’s successive war shows and missile-development claims came amid the tensions over its defiance concerning the halt of its nuclear program.

The United States has denounced Iran’s test of long-range missiles, saying the development of ballistic missiles could be used as a delivery vehicle for nuclear weapon.

Israel, the United States and their Western allies have long been accusing Iran of secretly developing nuclear weapons, but Iran insists that its nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes.—INTERNET

Bomb blast kills three, wounds 29 in India

GAURATI, 2 Dec—A bomb exploded in a train coach in India’s insurgency-hit northeast on Tuesday, killing at least three people and injuring another 29, a state government official said.

The explosion occurred shortly after the train arrived at Diphu railroad station, about 200 miles (300 kilometers) south of Guwahati, the capital of Assam state, said District Magistrate MC Sahu.

The train was heading from Lumding in central Assam to the eastern commercial hub of Tinsukhia, Sahu said.

Tuesday’s blast comes just days after suspected Muslim militants attacked targets across Mumbai, killing at least 172 people and injuring 239. Tuesday’s blast was not seen as related to the Mumbai attacks.—INTERNET

Passenger kills bus driver in fare dispute

NEW YORK, 2 Dec—A man stabbed a city bus driver to death over being denied a free ride, then escaped on foot Monday in the first killing of an on-duty New York City bus driver in more than a quarter-century, authorities said.

The man got on the bus in Brooklyn shortly after noon, swiped an invalid fare card, sat down and asked for a free card to change routes.

The driver, 46-year-old Edwin Thomas, told him he couldn’t get a transfer because he hadn’t paid; the attacker then punched him and stabbed him in the torso in front of other passengers, police said.

CPC to further ties with Russian Communist Party

MOSCOW, 2 Dec—The Communist Party of China (CPC) values the friendly relations with the Communist Party of Russia and will constantly promote bilateral ties by adhering to existing principles, a senior CPC official said.

Wu Zhenjun, a CPC representative for the Russian party’s national Congress held in Moscow over the weekend, made the remarks during a meeting with Gennady Zyuganov, chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Russia.

The CPC Central Committee has sent a congratulation letter to the Congress and hailed Zyuganov’s re-election as chairman.

Zyuganov spoke highly of the relationship between the two parties and the two countries, pledging further efforts to develop bilateral ties.—MNA/Xinhua

Gangs clash kills 12 in Guatemala

MEXICO CITY, 2 Dec—Guatemalan police said on Monday that 12 deaths were reported a day earlier after an armed clash between two drug trafficking gangs in the northwest of Guatemala.

The clash lasted from noon to late night, killing 12 people, the reports said. A local radio station said the number of deaths was 18, and that two women were injured by shots.

Authorities seized hand grenades and high power fusils at the site, as well as nine cars. Another radio station said the dead were identified as drug traffickers from Mexico and Guatemala. It is said the two gangs began to quarrel during a horse race and started shooting later.

Police were now investigating if the incident was linked to last week’s clash in the northern city of Coban, which claimed no victims.—INTERNET

People wade through high water in Venice, Italy, on 1 Dec, 2008. The worst flooding in Venice in more than 20 years forced residents and tourists to wade through knee-high water Monday. City officials said the sea level topped 61 inches (156 centimetres) on Monday, well past the 40-inch (110-centimetre) flood mark, following heavy rains.—INTERNET

Handout picture released by the Brazilian Environment Ministry showing a deforested area in the rainforest of southern Para state, Brazil, October 2008. —INTERNET

Moshe Holtzberg, the 2-year-old orphan of the rabbi and his wife slain in the Mumbai Jewish center, cries during a memorial service at a synagogue in Mumbai, India, on 1 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

A police car is seen at the scene after an armed clash between two drug trafficking gangs in the northwest of Guatemala.—INTERNET

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US construction spending drops larger-than-expected

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec—US construction spending fell by 1.2 percent in October, larger than the 0.9 percent decline expected by analysts, the Commerce Department reported Monday.

The big drop left total construction spending in October at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.07 trillion dollars, or 4.6 percent below the year-ago level.

Construction spending in September had been revised to 1.08 trillion dollars, up from the 1.06 trillion dollars initially reported.

For October, spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 756.5 billion dollars, 2.0 percent below the revised September estimate of 771.9 billion dollars.

Private builders cut back their spending on residential construction by 3.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 338.8 billion dollars in October.

Spending by private builders on a range of nonresidential projects, including shopping centers, office buildings, hotels and motels, meanwhile, fell by 0.7 percent in October to an annual rate of 417.7 billion dollars.

Bernanke says Fed has options as rates near zero

AUSTIN, 2 Dec — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Monday urged decisive action to protect the economy and said the central bank had alternative tools it could employ to help as interest rates approach zero.

“Our nation’s economic policy must vigorously address the substantial risks to financial stability and economic growth,” Bernanke told the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce.

On a day when the arbiter of US business cycles said the United States fell into recession last December, Bernanke said the economy was still under “considerable stress” and had slipped further since markets crumbled anew in September. “Households have continued to retrench, putting consumer spending on a pace to post another sharp decline in the fourth quarter,” the Fed chief warned.

HIV infection rate in Europe has doubled since 2000

STOCKHOLM, 2 Dec—The rate of HIV infection has almost doubled in Europe and the epidemic remains a major public health issue in Europe, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said here Monday.

48,892 newly diagnosed cases of HIV infection were reported in 2007 from European countries except Austria, Italy, Monaco and the Russia and the annual rate of infection increased from 39 per million people in 2000 to 75 per million population in 2007, ECDC said in a report for World AIDS Day.

The highest HIV rates in Europe were reported from Estonia, Ukraine, Portugal and the Republic of Moldova, it added.

Injecting drug use is still the main mode of HIV transmission in the eastern part of the WHO European Region, while in the central and western European countries, the predominant mode of transmission is heterosexual contact. The number of HIV cases reported among men having sex with men has also increased, according to ECDC.

China launches remote sensing satellite

JIUQUAN, 2 Dec—China launched a new remote sensing satellite “Yaogan IV” on Monday at the Jiuquian Satellite Launch Center in northwestern Gansu Province.

The satellite was launched on a Long March-2D carrier rocket. This was the 113th launch of China’s Long March series of rockets.

A new remote sensing satellite “Yaogan IV” is launched at the Jiuquian Satellite Launch Center in northwest China’s Gansu Province, at 12:42 on 1 Dec, 2008. — Xinhua

S Korean economy grows 0.5% in 3rd quarter

SEOUL, 2 Dec—The South Korean economy expanded 0.5 percent in the third quarter from the second quarter, lower than an earlier estimate of 0.6 percent, the Bank of Korea (BOK) said Tuesday.

Exports of goods fell 2.1 percent in the third quarter from the previous three months while private spending edged up 0.1 percent in the same period, the BOK said.

Facility investment gained 2.1 percent from the previous quarter, the central bank added.

UAE oil company to raise 28.5% production capacity by 2017

ABU DHABI, 2 Dec—The Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Oil Operations (ADCO) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will raise its oil production capacity by 28.5 percent to 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) by 2017, local newspaper Gulf News reported on Tuesday.

“ADCO will respond to the Supreme Petroleum Council guidelines by raising its sustainable production in incremental steps, to up to 1.8 million barrels per day by 2017,” the company’s general manager Abdul Munim Al Kindi was quoted as saying.

According to Kindi, ADCO will see increases in its production capacity of 197,000 bpd by 2013, 94,000 bpd by 2014, and 133,000 bpd by 2017 respectively. ADCO is owned 60 percent by the government-controlled Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and 40 percent by international oil giants like BP, Shell, Total and ExxonMobil.

Students walk past an artificial lake dug in ancient China’s Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) at Dalu Village, Lingshan County, southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 14 Nov, 2008. — Xinhua
30-mile debris pile becomes symbol of FEMA delays

SMITH POINT, 2 Dec — A 30-mile scar of debris along the Texas coast stands as a festering testament to what state and local officials say is FEMA’s sluggish response to the 2008 hurricane season.

Two and a half months after Hurricane Ike blasted the shoreline, alligators and snakes crawl over vast piles of shattered building materials, lawn furniture, trees, boats, tanks of butane and other hazardous substances, thousands of animal carcasses, perhaps even the corpses of people killed by the storm.

State and local officials complain that the removal of the filth has gone almost nowhere because FEMA red tape has held up both the cleanup work and the release of the millions of dollars that Chambers County says it needs to pay for the project.

One in five young adults has personality disorder

CHICAGO, 2 Dec — Almost one in five young American adults has a personality disorder that interferes with everyday life, and even more abuse alcohol or drugs, researchers reported Monday in the most extensive study of its kind.

The disorders include problems such as obsessive or compulsive tendencies and anti-social behavior that can sometimes lead to violence.

One expert said personality disorders may be underdiagnosed.

But others said the results were not surprising since previous, less rigorous evidence has suggested mental problems are common on college campuses and elsewhere.

Experts praised the study’s scope — face-to-face interviews about numerous disorders with more than 5,000 young people ages 19 to 25 — and said it spotlights a problem college administrators need to address.

Singapore, DPRK sign investment guarantee agreement

SINGAPORE, 2 Dec — Singapore and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) signed an Investment Guarantee Agreement on Tuesday.

Singapore’s Trade and Industry Ministry said in a statement that the agreement will help promote investment flow by protecting investors.

Under the agreement, investors will be given non-discriminatory treatment. They will also receive free transfer of capital and returns from investment.

Furthermore, compensation will be accorded to investors if their investments are expropriated or nationalized.

Singapore’s Trade and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang and the DPRK’s Minister of Foreign Trade Ri Ryongsam signed the agreement.

Both leaders also witnessed the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Singapore Business Federation and the DPRK’s Chamber of Commerce.

Late workers, students get notes blaming NY subway

People late for school or work because of New York City subway delays can get notes from the transit agency to give to their teachers or bosses.

The New York City Transit division says it gives passengers the notes so they can prove they’re not lying about being delayed while riding the subway.

Passengers request the delay verification letters over the phone. NYC Transit verifies the date and time of the delay and sends an official note in the mail in one or two weeks. It mails 34,000 notes a year.

Each letter shows the subway line taken and the durations of the delay and the delay.

NYC Transit is working on an online system so it can accept Internet requests and e-mail the exact letters.

Man accused of stealing 3-year-old’s identity

Authorities say a North Carolina man used a Social Security number belonging to a 3-year-old girl to sign up for telephone and natural gas service. The News and Record of Greensboro reported Tuesday that 44-year-old Michael John Maris of Mebane was charged with one count of identity theft and two counts of obtaining property by false pretense.

Alamance County sheriff’s officials said the child’s grandmother, Linda Raker, contacted authorities after a collection agency began looking for unpaid utility bills in her granddaughter’s name.

The sheriff’s office said the suspect is related to Raker, but did not disclose the relationship.

Maris was being held Tuesday on $5,000 bond at the Alamance County jail. Court records didn’t show that he had an attorney.

Thief steals Thanksgiving dinner off woman’s porch

A Wisconsin family found it hard to be thankful after a thief made off with their turkey dinner.

Lillian Moore says she sent a cooler stuffed with Thanksgiving food to her daughter Cindy, only to have it stolen from her porch.

Moore packed the cooler with half a turkey, potatoes and salad. She left it on her daughter’s porch Wednesday evening because her daughter’s refrigerator was too small to hold the food.

When Cindy Moore went to get the turkey, Thanksgiving morning, the cooler was gone.

Cindy Moore says she had to buy turkey using money she sets aside for bills. The disabled single mother didn’t bother reporting the theft to police.

Lillian Moore says it’s “just awful” to steal from people who don’t have much.

Solar panels are seen on the roof of the Paul VI Hall, at the Vatican. The panels became functional on Wednesday, illuminating and heating Pope Benedict XVI’s weekly general audience, held inside the Paul VI Hall.

News Album

A huge Christmas tree is installed in Red Square, with St Basil Cathedral in the background, in Moscow.

A traditional Felucca wooden sailing boat passes an art installation entitled “Going Bananas” organized by the Austrian Cultural forum in the middle of the Nile river in downtown Cairo, Egypt. The project consisted of around 2,000 inflatable yellow bananas, each about 5 feet long, which were to be ejected into the river by the Nile fountain, but technical problems prevented them all being dispersed.
Kungyangon Township on verge of mechanized farming

(from page 16)

Seven townships of Ayeyawady Division and 40 townships of Yangon Division including Kungyangon Townships were hit hard by the cyclone "Nargis" on 2 and 3 May 2008, leaving a large number of people dead and injured, houses and buildings ravaged, and cattle, dead and missing.

Rescue and rehabilitation tasks were carried out with heart and soul under the leadership of the Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee as well as the Prime Minister. Moreover, a minister each was assigned duties for a storm-hit township to provide close supervision over rescue and rehabilitation tasks.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi was vested with duties to regenerate and reconstruct Kungyangon Township of Yangon Division.

The major businesses of Kungyangon Township are fishing and agricultural farming, and the majority of local people are farmers. In the catastrophe, they lost their farm implements and cattle on a large scale. Moreover, they did not have enough money to make investments in their agricultural farms. Being convinced well of the conditions of local people, the minister initiated and supervised mutual interest-based farms with the aim of helping local farmers resume their farms; boost agricultural production; and enjoy better socio-economic life.

In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State on improving living conditions of storm victims to a much better level than that in the pre-storm period, the minister initiated mutual interest-based farms which were launched with the use of modern mechanized farming methods, high-yielding paddy strains and advanced agricultural production. The drive also covered double- and triple-cropping patterns. Therefore, storm victims will be able to enjoy higher incomes and better living standard.

An agreement on mutual interest was signed between Green Luck Trading Co Ltd and some storm-hit farmers and a trial programme was put into action to run 27.34-acre paddy farm of U Kyaw Mya Than of Tawkyaung Village, Kungyangon Township, 8.21-acre paddy farm of Man Hla Than, and 9.10-acre paddy farm of U Than Aye, totaling 44.65 acres. Those interested farmers had to present a written application for the opportunity of helping local farmers.

When paddy is in season, the company used high-yielding paddy strains, fertilizers, farm implements and machinery, advanced agricultural methods and farm machines. As a result, the paddy per acre yield increased from 40-50 in the pre-storm period to 95-100.52 baskets.

Now, it is a trial period, so the paddy output has not reached its peak yet, and the paddy per acre yield is expected to touch more than 120 baskets soon.

Thanks to the new programme, local farmers have enjoyed an extra income of over 58,000 kyats an acre. Furthermore, farmers get wages for the labour they have contributed towards the farms.

The harvesting of 44.65-acre paddy farm was held at the field of farmer U Kyaw Mya Than at Tawkyaung Village-tract in Kungyangon on 23 November 2008, which was graced by Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe.

Without doubt, local people and farmers will have a promising future due to genuine goodwill of the government, fulfillment of the requirements by the minister, assistance of the company and active participation of local farmers.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin:
1-12-2008
Good headway made in combined therapies of western ...

(from page 1)

Good headway made in combined therapies of western medicine practitioners of successive periods...

Thanks to effective encouragement of the government and collaborative efforts of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners, the programmes for improving Myanmar traditional medicine laid down and good opportunities created at the Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners' conferences are now being applied in an effective way in the fields of dissemination of health knowledge, treatment, health education and training, research and development, and disease control. As a result of taking these measures in combination, Myanmar traditional medicine world has made dramatic progress. Originally, the area of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners have played an indispensable role throughout the successive periods in preserving, promoting and handing down Myanmar traditional medicine, which reflects the image of the nation and the people, to younger generations for ensuring its existence with long traditions till today.

Therefore, here, I would like to call on you to take sustained efforts in concert in order to modernize and develop traditional medicine and improve the potency of traditional medicines without sacrificing its long traditions by effectively using good prospects of Myanmar traditional medicine, harmonious cooperation of traditional medicine practitioners and advanced herbal remedies in combination in conformity with the lofty goals and prudent work of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners of successive periods.

Next, after the opening ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo visits traditional medicine booths and party viewed the traditional medicine exhibits.

Now, a good headway has been made in combined therapies of western medicine and Myanmar traditional medicine to cure some major diseases that have resistance to western medicines. It is, therefore, required to do research more effectively and on a wider scale and keep records on research, thereby carrying out medical research scientifically in order to improve and manufacture potently Myanmar traditional medicines without sacrificing their original potency not only for customer satisfaction in the domestic market but also for securing a foothold in the international market.

In conclusion, I would like to say Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners are worthy of high esteem praise for their generous donations of traditional medicines, and cash and kind worth more than 219.7 million kyats in total to storm victims and health care to about 100,000 storm victims in the storm-hit areas of Ayeyawady Division and Yangon Division after the storm that broke out in May this year, and the State recognizes their voluntary contributions.

Next, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe to the conference.

As a result of constant encouragement in various ways, Myanmar traditional medicine has improved significantly and won trust in reliance of the people considerably. Now, not only State-owned pharmaceutical factories but also private-owned pharmaceutical factories use international level manufacturing processes on a wider scale, and the people have come to trust traditional medicines at the unprecedented level. Next, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the traditional medicine booths of traditional medicine practitioners to make sustained efforts so as to preserve the already-achieved fruitful results and enable Myanmar traditional medicine to stand firmly with high prestige in the international market.

The area of Myanmar traditional medicine is very wide and deep as well as very delicate by means of essence.

that Myanmar is endowed with fine traditions of cultural heritage, of which we can be proud, and Myanmar traditional medicine is one of the prestigious national legacies.

Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners have played an indispensable role throughout the successive periods in preserving, promoting and handing down Myanmar traditional medicine, which reflects the image of the nation and the people, to younger generations for ensuring its existence with long traditions till today.

Therefore, here, I would like to call on you to take sustained efforts in concert in order to modernize and develop traditional medicine and improve the potency of traditional medicines without sacrificing its long traditions by effectively using good prospects of Myanmar traditional medicine, harmonious cooperation of traditional medicine practitioners and advanced herbal remedies in combination in conformity with the lofty goals and prudent work of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners of successive periods. Thanks to effective encouragement of the government and collaborative efforts of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners, the programmes for improving Myanmar traditional medicine laid down and good opportunities created at the Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners' conferences are now being applied in an effective way in the fields of dissemination of health knowledge, treatment, health education and training, research and development, and disease control. As a result of taking these measures in combination, Myanmar traditional medicine world has made dramatic progress. Originally, the area of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners have played an indispensable role throughout the successive periods in preserving, promoting and handing down Myanmar traditional medicine, which reflects the image of the nation and the people, to younger generations for ensuring its existence with long traditions till today.

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HNC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiba Thuara Tin Aung Myint Oo hosts dinner to traditional medicine practitioners

NAV PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiba Thuara Tin Aung Myint Oo hosted dinner in honour of delegates to the 9th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference from States and Divisions on the laws of Medical Research Department (Central Myanmar) of the Ministry of Health here this evening. It was attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of the National Health Committee, the director-general of State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the ambassadors of foreign embassies in Yangon and their wives, the directors-general and medical superintendents of the Ministry of Health, members of Traditional Medicine Council and Traditional Medicine Inspection Central Committee, responsible persons of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Association, delegates to the conference, responsible persons of social organizations and guests. During the dinner, Cultural Troupe of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture presented the entertainment. — MNA

Industry-1 Ministry opens computer, financial courses

NAV PYI TAW, 2 Dec—A ceremony to open the advanced computer course (3/2008) and financial management course (2/2008), conducted by Directorate of Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1, was held at the hall of the ministry here yesterday morning, with an address by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung. A total of 84 trainees are attending the 5-week courses. — MNA

Minister receives Indian Ambassador

NAV PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Ambassador of the Republic of India Mr Aloke Sen and party at the office of Ministry of Energy at 8 a.m. today, and frankly held discussion on energy sector. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, Directors-General and Managing-Directors from the departments under the ministry. — MNA

Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein delivers address at meeting between Myanmar Industrial Development Work Committee and automobile producers. — MNA

MIDWC meets automobile producers

NAV PYI TAW, 2 Dec—A meeting between the Myanmar Industrial Development Work Committee and automobile producers of the industrial zones took place at the Ministry of Industry-2 here yesterday morning. It was attended by Chairman of the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Chairman of MIDWC Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, and Industrialists who produce automobiles and guests. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi receives Ambassador of India Mr Aloke Sen. — MNA

Ninth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference held

NAV PYI TAW, 2 Dec—The Ninth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference was held at the Ministry of Health here, this morning. The conference was presided over by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe with members of Traditional Medicine Council Deputy Director-General of Traditional Medicine Department U Aung Myint Kyaw and U Than Nyunt, delegate of Yangon Division Dr Khin Maung Tun and delegate from Shan State U Khin Kyaw Hsan as members of Panel of Chairman. Deputy Director (Medicine) U Thein Han Oo of Traditional Medicine Department acted as master of ceremonies. Chairman Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe delivered a speech. Delegate of Nyaung-lebin Township U Aye Shwe submitted a proposal on participation with Myanmar traditional medicine in primary health care services in accord with national health policy. Daw Yan Yin Kyi of the Ministry of Forestry seconded the proposal. U Myo Aung of Mawlamyine Township submitted a proposal on efforts for enhancing the codes of conduct of traditional medicine practitioners. Daw Phyu Mee Hlaing of Shwebo Township seconded it.

The afternoon session was presided over by Chairman of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association U Maung Nyan with members of Traditional Medicine Association U Hlay Myint and U Nyan Lwin, delegate of Yangon Division U Kyi and delegate Mandalay Division DR Mesk. Deputy Director (Research) of Traditional Medicine Department Daw Thida Swe acted as master of ceremonies. U Khin Maung Win of Mohnyin Township submitted a proposal to make efforts for systematic development of Myanmar traditional medicine. Daw Tin Tin Aung of Magway Township seconded it. U Tin Soe of Myawaddy Township submitted a proposal on conducting research on wider scale and U Tin Htut of The Ministry of Energy seconded the proposal.

The conference continues tomorrow. — MNA

Mawlamyine Market catches fire

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—A fire broke out at No.1 Market in Phettan Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State at about 5.30 p.m. yesterday, and it was under control at 7.50 p.m. and put out at 8.15 p.m.

Altogether 1,124 shops were lost in the fire. — MNA
Information Minister attends ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati

YANGON, 2 Dec—With the sponsorship of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, a ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati in commemoration of the 1370 ME Sarsodaw Day was held at the City Hall here this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan.

Also present on the occasion were Supreme Court Judge Dr Tin Tun Oo, Aye, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, U Thaung Nyunt, heads of departments under the Ministry of the Interior, Chairmann of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Secretary of MWJA Dr Tin Tun Oo (Dr Tin Tun Oo) read the message of the MWJA chairman.

Next, Joint-Secretary-1 of MWJA U Than Hlaing (Tekkatho Thinkha) read out the names of doyen literati and introduced them to the audience.

After that, Treasurer of MWJA Retired Police Col Khin Maung Tun (Rerd) (Khin Maung Tun-Lannadaw) read the names of well-wishers.

This was followed by the respects-paying ceremony.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan presented K 130,000 each plus gifts to doyen literati Daw Mi Mi Gyi (Shwebo Mi Mi Hsan (Thukhi Aung), U Maung Maung Khin (Tektatho Maung Maung Khin), U Sao Tun Hmat Win, Col Saw Myint (Retd) (Hnuthuamein), U Thaung Htut, U Hla Myaing (Paragu), U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), U Sein Win (Guardian U Sein Win), Bogale Tin Aung, U Tin Soe (Thagado), U Bala Kalay (Cartoon U Ba Kalay) and U Than Oo.

Next, Supreme Court Judge Dr Tin Aung Aye, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, U Thaung Nyunt and others presented K 130,000 each and gifts to the remaining literati.

Later, U Thaung Htut, on behalf of the doyen literati, gave advice.

Appointment of Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Union of Myanmar agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Chhong Toeun as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Chhong Toeun was born in Battambang Province, Cambodia, on 3 January 1946, and he studied from primary to high school in that province from 1952 to 1963.

In 1982, he attended the Diplomacy Training Course at Postdom Institute in the German Democratic Republic. From 1979 to 1980 he served as Deputy Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia. He was posted as Counselor of the Cambodian Embassy in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic from 1980 to 1986. Then he served as Deputy Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia until 1990. From 1990 to 1992, he served as Director of Asia and Oceania Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia. From 1992 to 1996, he was posted as Minister-Counselor as the rank of Ambassador of the Cambodian Embassy in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. From 1996 to 1998, he served as Director of Asia Pacific Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia.

From 1998 to 2002, he was posted as the Consul General of the Royal Consultate-General of Cambodia to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He served as Deputy Inspector General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia from 2002 to 2004. He has been serving as Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia since 2004. Mr Chhong Toeun is fluent in English and French and he can also speak Lao and Vietnamese languages.

Mr Chhong Toeun is married and has two sons and four daughters.—MNA

ROK Ambassador’s Cup Taekwondo tournament opens

YANGON, 2 Dec—The opening ceremony of the Republic of Korea Ambassador’s Cup Taekwondo tournament for 2008 was held in National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna), here, this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, President of Central Work Committee for Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and committee members, the Vice-President of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation Dr Mya Hlaing extended greetings on the occasion.

Next, Mr Cho Kwang Gulp of KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) and members, guests, managers and coaches and athletes, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Park Key Chong extended greetings on the occasion. Next, Vice-President of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation Dr Mya Hlaing extended greetings on the occasion.

Next, Mr Cho Kwang Gulp declared the opening of the tournament and Taekwondo players demonstrated their skills.

The tournament continues tomorrow at the same venue. A total of 20 teams are competing in the tournament—seven teams from the ministries and 13 clubs—There are altogether 600 male and female athletes participating in the tournament. — NLM

The audience led by Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan pays respects to doyen literati.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan presents cash gift to a doyen literati.

Korean Ambassador Mr Park Key Chong extends greetings at a ceremony to open Korean Ambassador’s Cup Taekwondo tournament.

NLM
Cell phones biggest distraction for drivers

BEIJING, 2 Dec—Cell phone calls distract drivers far more than even the chattiest passenger, causing drivers to follow too closely and miss exits, US researchers reported yesterday.

Using a hands-free device does not make things better and the researchers believe they know why—passengers act as a second set of eyes, shutting up or sometimes even helping when they see the driver needs to make a maneuver.

The research, published in the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied, adds to a growing body of evidence that mobile phones can make driving dangerous.

Lee Strayer of the University of Utah and colleagues have found in a series of experiments using driving simulators that hands-free cell phones are just as distracting as handheld models.

They have demonstrated that chatting on a cell phone can slow the reaction times of young adult drivers to levels seen among senior citizens, and shown that drivers using mobile telephones are as impaired as drivers who are legally drunk.

For the latest study, also using a simulator, Strayer’s team showed that drivers using a hands-free device drifted out of their lanes and missed exits more frequently than drivers talking to a passenger. They tested 96 adults aged 18 to 49.

“The passenger adds a second set of eyes, and helps the driver navigate and reminds them where to go,” Strayer said in a statement.

Study: sleep terrors partly inherited

BEIJING, 2 Dec—Night terrors, which send children into sudden inconsolable screaming, are at least partially inherited, according to a study published yesterday.

“Our results show that there is a substantial effect of genetics factors in sleep terrors,” though no specific genes behind the phenomenon have been identified, Bich Hong Nguyen of the Sleep Disorders Center at Montreal’s Sacre-Coeur Hospital and colleagues reported.

In the study of 390 sets of twins, which appeared in the journal PloS Genetics, the researchers found identical twins were much more likely to both experience night terrors than fraternal twins.

Identical or monozygotic twins have nearly identical genetic makeups, while fraternal or dizygotic twins do not. Twins are often studied because their similar genetic makeup can provide information about diseases and other issues.

The researchers said that environmental factors could be part of the cause of night terrors since the twins were being raised together in similar settings.—Internet

Death toll rises to 21 in NW China highway accident

URUMQI, 2 Dec—The death toll from Tuesday’s highway bus-truck collision in northwest China’s Xinjiang has risen to 22, after one seriously injured passenger died in a hospital, traffic police said.

Another 11 injured passengers, two in serious condition, were still receiving treatment. The accident happened at about 8:30 a.m. when a coal truck and a bus collided head-on while traveling on National Highway 314 in Kuqa County, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, said the county traffic police.

The latest fatality was a passenger on the bus, raising the death toll from that vehicle to 20. Two others who died were from the truck, which belonged to the Third Transport Co. of Experimental Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps.

The bus, with 34 reclining seats, left Artux in southwestern Xinjiang and was headed for Urumqi, the regional capital, more than 1,000 km north.—Internet

Republic of Congo reports 500 new cancer cases each year

BRAZZAVILLE, 2 Dec—The Republic of Congo has registered an average 500 new cases of cancer since 1996, according to the latest report released by the country.

“It was in 1996 when we began cancer registration. Since then, we have registered an average 500 new cases every year,” Dr. Judith NsondÈ Malanda told a press conference on Monday ahead of the launch of an anti-cancer program in the country.

Specialists from francophone Africa and Europe are expected to join the activities to be held in Brazzaville on Friday. The International Cancer Research Center has reported that 70 percent of the cancer cases worldwide will be found in developing countries by 2030, compared with the current 53 percent.

In the Republic of Congo, it falls into four categories, including cervical cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer and liver cancer among children, said Ignace Ngakala, the director general of the Central Hospital and University (CHU) in Brazzaville, deploring the “extremely expensive” treatment of cancer in his country.

Malanda, also a cancerologist of CHU, urged patients to have a medical check-up as early as possible, saying many have been found in the third or fourth stage of the disease at diagnosis, a situation where treatment is difficult.—Internet

Uruguay controls spread of AIDS virus

M OVIDEO, 1 Dec—Uruguay has effectively controlled the spread of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), showed a research released by the country’s health authorities said Monday, the World AIDS Day. The research said the HIV prevalence has fell to 0.43 percent of the national population, with less than one person being diagnosed with HIV infection daily.

The reduction is a result of the country’s sexual transmission diseases prevention campaign, director of the national STD program Maria Luz Osimani told the press.
Palestinian killed by Israeli troops in West Bank

NAIROBI, 2 Dec—A Palestinian man has been killed by Israeli troops in a West Bank refugee camp.

A Palestinian witness, Naim Abdel Salam, says the man was killed late Monday in an ambush by undercover forces in the Balata camp. The Israeli military says he tried to escape arrest, was shot in the legs and later died of his injuries.

The Israeli army and Palestinian security officials identify the man as Moham med Abu Daragh, a 27-year-old member of the Al Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades. Al Aqsa is a violent group that has largely halted its activities, and most of its members have received amnesty from Israel.

Palestinian officials say Abu Daragh had also been granted amnesty and acc used Israel of violating the agreement. Army officials say Abu Daragh was in volved in violent activity in recent months.—Internet

Fire on ferry in Baltic Sea, no injuries

HELSINKI, 2 Dec—Helicopters evacuated ferry passengers traveling from Finland to Stockholm in the Baltic Sea early Tuesday after a fire broke out in the engine room, rescue officials said.

All 11 passengers were flown to the nearby port of Mariehamn in the Aland Islands while the 28 crew members put out the fire. Robin Lindstrom of the Turku Rescue Center said.

“No one was hurt in the incident,” Lindstrom said.

“The passengers are all OK, and the crew managed to put out the fire and are about to be towed to safety.”

The Sea Wind was en route from the southwestern Finnish city of Turku to Stockholm, Sweden, when a fire broke out in the engine room at about 2:40 am, Lindstrom said. He said the crew did not know what caused the fire.

Rescuers planned to tow the ferry to a port in the Aland Islands, situated in the Baltic Sea between Finland and Sweden.—Internet

S’pore launches fund to support HIV-AIDS affected children

SINGAPORE, 2 Dec—The World Vision Singapore “One Life Fund” was launched here on Monday, the World AIDS Day, aiming to pay for the education of every child affected and infected by HIV-AIDS.

The fund, which has received a 50,000-Singapore dollar (33,000-US-dollar) boost from MAC Cosmetics, will help to meet the education needs of HIV-AIDS affected young Singaporeans aged between two and 25. The fund hopes to raise 300,000 Singapore dollars and provide 300 bursaries within the next three years.

“AIDS patients do not get subsides for their medication in Singapore. The cost of medication can come up to about 1,000 Singapore dollars every month. The criteria for the ‘One Life Fund‘ are couched in very general and generous terms. Our hope and dream is that every child who is affected or infected by AIDS will be able to avail himself or herself of this bursary,” said James Quek, executive director of World Vision Singapore.

The fund hopes to raise medication in Singapore. The cost of medication can come up to about 1,000 Singapore dollars every month. The fund hopes to raise 300,000 Singapore dollars and provide 300 bursaries within the next three years.—Internet

Cholera kills 473 in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 2 Dec—Cholera has killed 473 people in Zimbabwe since the latest outbreak of the disease, the World Health Organisation (WHO) office in Harare said in a report, a copy of which was received Tuesday.

“A large cholera outbreak is affecting most regions of the country, with more than 11,700 cases and 473 deaths recorded between August and 30 November,” Custodia Mandilhathe, of the WHO’s Zimbabwe office, wrote in the report.

Concerned authorities said they were investigating whether any bystanders were trapped under the collapsed wall.—MNA/Xinhua

China’s police overseas solve crimes, face emerging threats

BEIJING, 2 Dec—China has sent 30 police liaison officers to 19 countries over the past decade to help combat transnational crimes and safeguard national security, the Ministry of Public Security said in a statement on Monday.

The officers were stationed at embassies including those in Thailand, Turkey and Kyrgyzstan. The first officer was sent to the United States in May 1998, the ministry said.

The officers helped other law enforcement agencies deal with major cases. They also helped arrest and repatriate suspects. From 2005 to 2007, more than 60 suspects were arrested and repatriated with the aid of these overseas officers, the statement said.

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Dirty teeth reveal ancient diet

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec — Thanks to poor dental hygiene, researchers are getting a more detailed understanding of what people ate thousands of years ago in what is now Peru.

Dental plaque scraped from the teeth of people who lived as much as 9,200 years ago revealed traces of cultivated crops, including squash and beans, according to a report in Monday’s online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. These ancient people also ate peanuts and a local fruit known as pacay, according to the report by Dolores Piperno, a staff scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the National Museum of Natural History, and Tom Dillehay, professor of archaeology at Vanderbilt University.

They studied 39 teeth from six to eight individuals. Found in northern Peru’s Nanchoc Valley, the teeth were uncovered in the remains of round house structures in a settlement dated to 9,200 to 5,500 years ago.

“They were dirtier than others. We found starch grains on most of the teeth. About a third of the teeth contained large numbers of starch grains,” Piperno said in a statement.

More HIV testing can save babies’ lives

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Dec — The United Nations on Monday urged countries across the world to expand screening of newborn infants exposed to the virus that causes AIDS, saying it could save the lives of countless children.

“Without appropriate treatment, half of children with HIV will die from an HIV-related cause by their second birthday,” Ann Veneman, executive director of the UN children’s fund UNICEF, said about a new UN AIDS report launched in New York on the 20th World AIDS Day.

“Survival rates are up to 75 percent higher for HIV-positive newborns who are diagnosed and begin treatment within their first 12 weeks,” she said in a statement.

Evidence growing for vitamin D-heart health link

NEW YORK, 2 Dec — People with a deficiency in vitamin D may be at increased risk of heart and blood vessel disease, the authors of a new review of current research on vitamin D and cardiovascular health conclude.

While placebo-controlled, randomized trials are needed to confirm the relationship, the authors note in the current issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, Dr. John H. Lee of Mid America Heart Institute and the University of Missouri in Kansas City and colleagues say, doctors have long known that adequate vitamin D, obtained through diet and sunlight, is required for bone health.

People can obtain vitamin D through supplements, fortified foods such as milk and orange juice, and fish oil, while skin exposed to ultraviolet radiation synthesizes vitamin D. Obese people appear to be at greater risk of vitamin D deficiency, possibly because it gets trapped in fat cells.

Researchers link C-section babies to asthma risk

LONDON, 2 Dec — Babies born by Caesarean section are more likely to develop asthma than children delivered naturally, Swiss researchers said on Tuesday. There has been conflicting evidence on the link between asthma and C-sections but the researchers said the number of children involved in their study and a long monitoring period strengthened their results.

“The findings also underscore the potential risks of elective C-sections as more women in Western countries choose to avoid a natural birth, the researchers said in the medical journal, Thorax.

“In this situation the mother should be informed of the risk of asthma for her child, especially when the parents have a history of allergy or asthma.”

150 whales die in stranding off Australian coast

SYDNEY, 2 Dec — At least 150 whales have died in a mass stranding off Tasmania’s west coast, Australian authorities said on Sunday, despite the efforts of rescuers who managed to shepherd a small number back to the ocean.

The state government said the number of long-finned pilot whales that had perished had climbed to 150 after a body count on Sunday, almost double the earlier estimate of 80.

The stranded whales were discovered on Saturday and members of the local community and government officials worked to rescue them, but the whales had been badly injured by the rocks.

Department of Primary Industries

Health workers carry culled poultry for disposal at Hajo village, about 40 km (25 miles) west from Guwahati, the major city of India’s northeastern state of Assam on 28 Nov, 2008. Authorities in Assam have ordered culling thousands of chicken and ducks after a fresh outbreak of bird flu in poultry was detected late on Thursday, a senior official said.—INTERNET

Asthma, which affects more than 300 million people worldwide, is the most common pediatric chronic illness. Symptoms include wheezing, shortness of breath, coughing and chest tightness.

Babies born by C-section are not exposed to their mother’s bacteria when they pass through the birth canal—a thing that helps prime the immune system and could explain the increased risk, the researchers said.

Health workers carry culled poultry for disposal at Hajo village, about 40 km (25 miles) west from Guwahati, the major city of India’s northeastern state of Assam on 28 Nov, 2008. Authorities in Assam have ordered culling thousands of chicken and ducks after a fresh outbreak of bird flu in poultry was detected late on Thursday, a senior official said.—INTERNET

150 whales die in stranding off Australian coast

SYDNEY, 2 Dec — At least 150 whales have died in a mass stranding off Tasmania’s west coast, Australian authorities said on Sunday, despite the efforts of rescuers who managed to shepherd a small number back to the ocean.

The state government said the number of long-finned pilot whales that had perished had climbed to 150 after a body count on Sunday, almost double the earlier estimate of 80.

The stranded whales were discovered on Saturday and members of the local community and government officials worked to rescue them, but the whales had been badly injured by the rocks.

Department of Primary Industries

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Stranded long-finned pilot whales on a beach near Sandy Cape, Tasmania are seen in this handout photograph obtained on 1 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET and Water spokesman Warwick Brennan was quoted in Australian media said rescuers in a boat managed to steer about 30 whales out of the bay.

Pilot whales are among the smaller whales, typically up to about 5 meters (16 ft) in length and dark with a grey underbelly. Last week, 64 long-finned pilot whales were stranded at Anthony’s Beach on Tasmania’s north-west coast.

Eleven of those whales were rescued and returned to sea.—INTERNET

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Ronaldo wins European footballer of the year award

Paris, 2 Dec — Manchester United winger Cristiano Ronaldo won the European Footballer of the Year award here on Tuesday. The 23-year-old Portuguese star is the first from his country to win the coveted ‘Ballon d’Or’ award which is given by ‘France Football’ since Luis Figo in 2000.

His award - which he has widely spoken about having said in the last week that not only is he the best footballer in the world but also the second and third best - comes on the back of exceptional performance for his club side last season. He scored a remarkable 42 times in 49 matches as United secured a memorable league and European Cup double.

Real’s Pepe sidelined for a month due to injury

Madrid, 2 Dec — Real Madrid’s Brazilian-born Portuguese defender Pepe will be sidelined for up to a month due to the left leg muscle strain which he picked up during a weekend Spanish league match, the club said Monday.

“After having magnetic resonance imaging, the Portuguese defender was diagnosed with a Grade I-III left quadriceps injury that will keep him sidelined between three and four weeks,” it said in a statement posted on its web site.

The 25-year-old was one of three Real players who were injured during the reigning Spanish champions 3-1 defeat on Saturday away to Getafe. Dutch international midfielder Wesley Sneijder, 24, picked up a hamstring strain while Spanish defender Miguel Torres strained a thigh muscle.

DPR Korea reaches semis of FIFA U-20 women’s World Cup

Santiago, 2 Dec — Holders DPR Korea booked passage to their second consecutive FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup semifinal on Monday after edging out East Asian neighbors Japan 2-1.

The win in the Chilean capital set up a mouthwatering last-four date with France, who beat Nigeria 3-2 on Sunday. The Japanese, who have many fans in Chile with their stylish and highly technical brand of soccer, started the brighter side. Kei Koyama made three fine runs in the first quarter-hour, but failed to find the mark, steering her shots wide.

Cha Hu Nam punished the Japanese for their profligacy and opened the scoring for the DPR Korea after 22 minutes, combining well with Ri Jong Sim to score from close range.

Chelsea reach agreement over Mikel transfer deal

London, 2 Dec — Chelsea have reached an out-of-court settlement with Norwegian club FC Lyn Oslo over the transfer of Nigerian midfielder John Mikel Obi.

The English Premier League side had launched High Court proceedings in October aimed at recovering all of the 16 million pounds they paid for the player because of alleged fraudulent mis-representation by officials of the Norwegian club. In a statement issued on Monday, the club said it had “resolved all matters between the two clubs with regard to John Mikel Obi,” while stressing the terms of the agreement would remain confidential.

Obi Mikel joined Chelsea in June 2006 with the London club paying four million pounds to Lyn Oslo and a further 12 million to Manchester United, who had a prior agreement to sign the player.

Wigan set for Heskey sale in January

LONDON, 2 Dec — Wigan chairman Dave Whelan has indicated that the club will be looking to sell Emile Heskey in the January transfer window given the England forward’s reluctance to sign a new contract.

The 30-year-old’s current deal expires in the summer and, having resurrected his England career, he has hinted that he would be interested in moving to a bigger club, which he would be able to do for nothing at the end of the season.

In contrast, if Wigan sell him in January, they could hope to raise upwards of two million pounds for the forward.

“Emile is out of contract in the summer, but he doesn’t want to sign a new one at the moment,” Whelan confirmed.

“It could cost us two, three or four million (pounds) if that goes on to next summer, so we’ll have to see what January brings.”

Benitez tells Liverpool fans to revel in being top of the league

Liverpool, 2 Dec — Rafael Benitez told disgruntled Liverpool fans to enjoy their side sitting on top of the Premier League table despite the frustration of a goalless draw at home to West Ham.

The point was enough for Liverpool to leapfrog Chelsea at the summit but Liverpool’s players were left under no illusion as to what their supporters thought as they trudged off to a round of boos on Monday night.

Nine days after being held by Fulham at Anfield, Benitez’s side were forced to endure more frustration but the Spanish manager refused to dwell on the negative.

“Sometimes people are disappointed not to win, but sometimes you have to enjoy, especially when you are top of the table,” said Benitez.

The crowd can be disappointed after a draw at home, “But when they go home and look at the table they will see us at the top of the table.”

“If we had scored the first goal we would have scored a lot of goals.”

Chelsea have reached an out-of-court settlement with Norwegian club FC Lyn Oslo over the transfer of Nigerian midfielder John Mikel Obi, seen here in November 2008.

Liverpool’s Irish forward Robbie Keane controls the ball against West Ham United during their English Premier League football match at Anfield in Liverpool. The match ended in a 0-0 draw.

Chelsea’s forward Alessandro Del Piero lets fly against Genoa during their Italian Serie A football match at Olympic Stadium in Turin. Del Piero struck his 250th goal in Juventus colours at the weekend, bagging a penalty in a 4-0 rout of woeful Reggina.

Juventus’ forward Alessandro Del Piero lets fly against Genoa during their Italian Serie A football match at Olympic Stadium in Turin. Del Piero struck his 250th goal in Juventus colours at the weekend, bagging a penalty in a 4-0 rout of woeful Reggina.

Wigan Chairman Dave Whelan, seen here in May 2008, has indicated that the club will be looking to sell Emile Heskey in the January transfer window given the England forward’s reluctance to sign a new contract.

Emile Heskey in the January transfer window given the England forward’s reluctance to sign a new contract.
Obama adviser warns US recession may be worsening

CHICAGO, 2 Dec — A senior adviser to US President-elect Barack Obama said on Monday that the US has been in a recession for a year and underscored the need for an economic stimulus package. Lawrence Summers, tapped by Obama to become director of the White House National Economic Council, said the slump may be worsening.

"While the economy has already lost 1.2 million jobs this year, recent economic evidence suggests that the pace of this downturn is accelerating. That is why President-elect Obama has instructed his economic team to come up with recommendations for a stimulus package that would include a mix of middle-class tax cuts and spending on infrastructure projects like roads and bridges and investments in renewable energy. Obama has not offered a price tag yet for his proposed stimulus but indicated it would be large. House of Representatives Democrats, meanwhile, are talking of a package in the range of 500 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

EU calls for reinforced training in nuclear fields

BRUSSELS, 2 Dec — The European Union (EU) members on Monday called for reinforced training in nuclear fields so as to preserve a sound nuclear knowledge base.

EU industry ministers, who are meeting in Brussels, warned that there is a real risk of losing nuclear know how for the EU, as numerous retirements in the nuclear field will be seen in a short term.

The ministers called to reinforce training in nuclear fields and remove administrative impediments to the free movement of nuclear experts.

They also asked for more coordination in nuclear education and training in Europe on the basis of the European Nuclear Education Network and underlined the need to reinforce the teaching of mathematics, physics and chemistry at each level so that nuclear-related education can have a solid basis.

The ministers said that appropriate conditions must be created for mutual recognition of nuclear professional qualifications throughout the EU.

They also encouraged EU member states and the European Commission to establish a review mechanism for professional qualifications and skills in the nuclear field. — MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Tuesday, 2 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) below November average temperatures in Rakhine and Mon States, Bago Division, (5˚C) to (6˚C) below November average temperatures in Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Divisions, (3˚C) to (4˚C) above November average temperatures in Kachin and Chin States, Mandalay Division and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (-2˚C) and Nambian (0˚C) and Pinlaung (4˚C).

Maximum temperature on 1-12-2008 was 90˚F. Minimum temperature on 2-12-2008 was 58˚F. Relative humidity at (09-30) hours MST on 2-12-2008 was 66%.

Total sunshine hours on 1-12-2008 was (9.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 2-12-2008 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 Southeast at (14:30) hours MST on 1-12-2008.

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

Forecast valid until 01:00 hr of 3rd December 2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 3-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-12-2008: Partly cloudy.
6th Waxing of Nadaw 1370 ME

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

A.C.S.R cable wire factory, meter factory in Inndagaw Industrial Region inspected

YANGON, 2 Dec — Lt-Gen Tin Aye and Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence together with Minister for Electric Power No-2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint visited ACSR Cable Wire Factory and Meter Factory in Inndagaw Industrial Region in Bago Division yesterday. They inspected samples of A.C.S.R cable wires and samples of other cable wires which are being manufactured. Factory Manager U Kyaw Win and officials reported on production of A.C.S.R cable wires and other power lines and arrangements being made for meeting the set standards and preventive measures being taken for safety of electricity.

Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint looked into production process of various kinds of A.C.S.R cable wires and meter assembly section, testing section, packing section of the Meter Factory. At the briefing hall of the factory, Lt-Gen Tin Aye heard reports on availability of raw materials and production of electrical equipment at the factory by Managing Director U Sein One of the factory and he stressed the need for production of electrical appliances meeting with the set standards and fulfilled the requirements. —MNA

Kungyangon Township on verge of mechanized farming

YANGON, 2 Dec — The Government of the Union of Myanmar today announced that Bakri Id Day, which falls on 9 December 2008 (12th Waxing of Nadaw 1370 ME), is a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instrument Act.—MNA

Id Day falls on 9 December

Inzaghi: “I cannot see Kaka wearing another jersey”

MILAN, 1 Dec— AC Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi has claimed that Brazilian international Kaka would not be leaving Milan despite strong interest from Premiership club Manchester City. City have made no secret of their desire to bring the Rossoneri playmaker to the Eastlands Stadium, with money no object following the summer takeover by the ADUG at the Manchester club. However, Inzaghi believes that Kaka will not leave the San Siro and hopes that the Brazilian will follow his lead and end his career with the Serie A giants.

Using invisibility to increase visibility

SINGAPORE, 2 Dec — Research into the development of invisibility devices has spared two physicists’ thought on the behaviour of light to overcome the seemingly intractable problem of optical singularities which could soon lead to the manufacturing of a perfect cat’s eye. A research paper published in a New Journal of Physics’ focus issue ‘Cloaking and Transformation Optics’ called ‘The Transmutation of Singularities in Optical Instruments’, written by Thomas Tyc, Masaryk University, and Ulf Leonhardt, the University of St. Andrews and Singapore National University, shows that it is possible to reflect light from all directions.—Internet

A surgeon you can swallow

SCIENCEDAILY, 2 Dec— In the future, tablet-shaped robots could perform some surgical operations without injuring the body. A new publication by the Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Systems of ETH Zurich shows how such surgical bio-microrobots might function.

Paolo Dario, Professor of Biomedical Robotics at the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa, Italy, explained the dawn of a new medical era in the September edition of the American financial magazine “The Economist”. Surgical operations with open wounds are increasingly being replaced by non-invasive techniques extending even to systems that enable operations without a single scar.—Internet