Factories going well in industrial zones

Yangon, 3 Dec – Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence met chairmen and members of management committees of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-5 and Shwe Linban Industrial Zone and industrialists at the office of Management Committee of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-5 this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected production process at the factories and attended to the needs.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe together with Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and officials arrived at the office of Management Committee of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-5.

Chairman of Management Committee of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-5 U Mya Maung and Vice-Chairman of management committee of Shwe Linban Industrial Zone U Khin Hla reported on factories in operation, power supply, the amount of investment, the number of workers and export items. Lt-Gen Myint Swe fulfilled the requirements. He inspected Ngwegangaw Garment Factory of Ngwegangaw Industries Co Ltd and production of cakes of A&T Bakery and Confectionery in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-5 and manufacturing of rubber rollers, vehicles and spare parts and rubber rollers and parts for rice mills of Ever Flow River Manufacturing Co Ltd and Thayanzarta polythene bag factory.—MNA

Ngwegangaw Garment Factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-5.—MNA
Traditional medicine practitioners to strive for development of traditional medicine

The ninth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference was held at the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw the other day.

In his message to the conference, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe urged Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners to make collaborative efforts with might and main through the 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. The Head of State also exhorted them to improve Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners’ therapies and potency of traditional medicines through advanced methods and raise the standard of Myanmar traditional medicine.

Myanmar traditional medicine is, indeed, a national legacy that has improved in conformity with the country’s geographical features, climate patterns, culture, customs and traditions in the course of Myanmar history. The people have been consuming Myanmar traditional medicines from the earliest times.

Throughout successive periods, Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners provided health care services to the people. They preserved medical science, therapies and potent medicine.

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 potential Myanmar traditional medicines.

Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference is held every year and it is a forum where Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners hold discussions and pass resolutions in unity. Myanmar traditional medicines are effectively used in the fields of propagation, practical treatment, education and training, research and development and disease control.

We believe that traditional medicine practitioners will continue to make efforts for development of Myanmar traditional medicine, a national prestige, based on their unity and strength.

H & T Ministry holds coordination meeting

Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing delivers speech at work coordination meeting.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe delivers speech at work coordination meeting.—MNA

MRCS commemorates World AIDS Day

Yangon, 3 Dec— Myanmam Red Cross Society held a ceremony to commemorate World AIDS Day at its headquarters on Strand Road here on 1 December morning.

The persons responsible unveiled the commemorative sign-board by cutting the ribbon and U Kyi, treasurer of MRCS made an opening speech.

Next, Mr Ole Johan Hauge of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent delivered an address and Takkatho Zaw Htoo Oo gave educative talks on healthcare and the ceremony came to an end. After the ceremony, those present observed the booths of anti-AIDS campaign.—MNA

Transport Ministry meets

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 Dec— The coordination meeting of Ministry of Transport was held at the ministry here on 1 December. At the ceremony, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe made a speech.

Afterwards, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, the principal of Institute of Marine Technology and the rector of Myanmar Maritime University reported on work being carried out and future tasks. And those in charge of states and divisions reported on work being undertaken and future tasks.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung touched upon the reports presented.

The minister fulfilled the needs and the ceremony ended with closing remark by the Minister.— MNA

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Officials unveil signboard to mark World AIDS Day.—MNA

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Bomb attacks kill 11 people in N Iraq

MOSUL, 3 Dec—Up to 11 people were killed and 45 others wounded in two bomb attacks, including a suicide car bomb, in the Iraqi province of Nineveh on Tuesday, a provincial police source said.

The suicide car bomber in the afternoon struck a checkpoint manned by policemen and Iraqi army soldiers in the town of Tal Afer, 70 km west of the city of Mosul, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attack resulted in the killing of five people, including a policeman, and the wounding of 30 others, including four security members, the source said.

In separate incident, a pushcart packed with explosives detonated in the afternoon near a school and marketplace in the Baladiyat neighbourhood in northern Mosul, killing six shop owners and stall vendors and wounded 15 people, including some school children, the source said.

The attacks came a day after a deadly suicide car bombing targeted a joint US and Iraqi patrol in Mosul, killing 16 people and wounding 33 others. Nineveh province is said to be one of the last strongholds of al-Qaeda fighters in the war-torn country.

Ex-prosecutor says Guantanamo is “stain on America”

LONDON, 3 Dec—US military tribunals at Guantanamo Bay are a “stain on America” that risk convicting innocent people because judicial standards are so low, a former senior prosecutor at the prison said on Tuesday. Darrel Vandeveld, a US Army lieutenant colonel who left his post at the base in Cuba earlier this year on ethical grounds, told the BBC that it was impossible to guarantee fair trials there.

“I thought that the military commissions were part of a grand tradition in accordance with the highest of American values,” he said. “Now I see them as having defiled the US Constitution and I see them as a stain on America. “There should have been a procedure in place so that we could ensure due process and fair trials for these defendants. There was no such process.”

A Pentagon spokesman said it disputed the prosecutor’s claims, telling the BBC: “The military commission process provides full and fair trials to accused unlawful enemy combatants who are charged with a variety of war crimes.”

UN concerned over treatment of Iraqi detainees

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec—The United Nations expressed concern on Tuesday about overcrowding and “grave human rights violations” of detainees in Iraqi custody — in one case, 123 men crammed into a single cell.

The warning comes as the US prepares to turn over control to the Iraqis of thousands of security detainees in its custody under a new security pact that would end the US mission here by 2012. The pact, approved last week by Iraq’s parliament, calls for American forces to transfer all detainees believed to be a major threat to security guards are seen looking at schoolbooks of students who were on a mini bus that was hit by a car bomb near the entrance to a police academy in Baghdad, Iraq, on 1 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

US forces kill three Taleban militants in Afghanistan

KABUL, 3 Dec—US troops killed three Taleban militants and detained another during a raid in central Afghanistan, a US military statement said on Wednesday.

The troops were targeting a militant leader co-ordinating Taleban activities in Ghazni province on Tuesday when insurgents fired on them, the statement said.

Three insurgents were killed in the ensuing firefight in Ghazni’s Andar district, the statement said.

US military has said it will continue its offensives against insurgents throughout the winter months.

Nearly 6,000 people —mostly militants—have died in insurgency-related violence in Afghanistan this year, according to an Associated Press count of figures from Afghan and Western officials.

Iraqi refugees living in Syria take part in a demonstration against the Iraqi and US governments at al-Syydeh Zeinab, near Damascus, on 2 Dec, 2008. —INTERNET

A Pakistani security official stands near trucks hit by rocket-propelled grenades fired by militants, on the outskirts of Peshawar, on 1 Dec, 2008. —INTERNET

A woman reacts on a pavement covered with blood, after a relative was shot dead by a sniper, in Baghdad’s Obaidi district in this file photo. —INTERNET

Iraqi and US patrol in Ghazni province on Tuesday when insurgents fired on them, the statement said.

During a raid in central Afghanistan, a US military statement said on Wednesday.

Security guards are seen looking at schoolbooks of students who were on a mini bus that was hit by a car bomb near the entrance to a police academy in Baghdad, Iraq, on 1 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

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Russian warships hold exercises with Chavez's navy

CARACAS, 3 Dec—Venezuela — Russian warships have ended training exercises with Venezuela's navy in Moscow's first such Caribbean deployment since the Cold War.

Russian television on Tuesday showed images of a Venezuelan-operated Sukhoi fighter jet swooping low over Russian warships in a simulated air attack.

The exercises that ended late Monday with a fireworks display included an air defense exercise and joint actions to spot, pursue, and detain an intruding vessel. Russian navy spokesman Capt Igor Dygalo said. The Russian ships arrived in Venezuela last week in an operation widely seen as a show of Kremlin anger over the US decision to deliver aid to Georgia aboard warships following that country's conflict with Russia.

President Hugo Chavez has said the naval exercises weren't meant as a provocation to the United States or any other nation.

He has praised Russia for raising its profile in the Americas, while saying the US Navy's recently reactivated Fourth Fleet poses a threat to Venezuela.

Iranian official says US main enemy of Iran

TEHERAN, 3 Dec—Chairman of Iran's Expediency Council Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Tuesday that "the United States is the main enemy of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the official IRNA news agency reported.

Making the remarks on the thirtieth anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979, Rafsanjani reiterated one of the revolution's main premises that "the United States is the main enemy of the Islamic Republic of Iran" and "Washington is making great efforts to disturb it."

He said that the US policies are doomed to failure.

"On the existing problems facing the country, there is a need for consolidation of unity and solidarity among different Iranian groups and individuals," he added.

Pirates fire on US cruise ship in hijack attempt

NAIROBI, 3 Dec—The luxury American cruise ship (towing hundreds of tourists just might have been too much for the Somali pirates to resist.

But the bandits, riding in two skiffs and firing rifle shots at the gleaming luxury American cruise ship, were outrun in minutes when the captain of M/S Nautica gunned the engine and sped away in the Gulf of Aden, a spokesman for the company said on Tuesday.

Still, the implications had the pirates hijacked the ship add a new dimension to the piracy scourge as NATO foreign ministers grooped for solutions at a meeting in Brussels and the United Nations extended an international piracy-fighting mandate for another year.

The potential for massive ransom payments from the families of hundred of thousands of Kurds in a crackdown in the late 1980s — in which chemical weapons were used against civilians. But legal wrangling has delayed that execution.

US soldiers search for weapons on an Afghan man, who works for a private security firm escorting truck convoys, after they found illegal weapons in his vehicle, in a village near Kandahar in this file photo. Internet

Afghan prisoners who were released by Pakistani government queue up to enter Afghanistan at Pakistani border post Chaman, on 2 Dec, 2008. Pakistani authorities released 110 Afghan nationals who entered Pakistan illegally seeking employment.—INTERNET

"Chemical Ali" sentenced to death in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 Dec—Saddam Hussein's notorious cousin "Chemical Ali" Hassan al-Majid received a second death sentence on Tuesday — this time for crushing a Shiite uprising in the wake of Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War.

Al-Majid, once among the most feared members of Saddam's regime, muttered "thanks be to God" as chief judge Mohammed Obeidi al-Khalifa declared him guilty and imposed the sentence at the end of the trial, which began in August 2007.

Al-Majid already faces the gallows after being convicted last year for his role in the killing of tens of thousands of Kurds in a crackdown in the late 1980s — in which chemical weapons were used against civilians. But legal wrangling has delayed that execution.
China’s reform, opening up contribute to stability, prosperity of world economy

LORBEVILLE, 3 Dec—China’s reform and opening up during the past three decades has not only brought about the country’s own development, but has contributed to the world economy’s stability and prosperity, a Gabonese scholar told Xinhua in a recent interview.

China’s reform and opening up are one of the most significant issues in the world in the last quarter of the 20th century, said Bernard Boussougou Moungonga, a senior researcher from Gabon’s humanities research institute. Under the guidance of reform and opening up policies, China’s fast-growing economy has increased continuously. China also has wielded increasingly important international influence, he said.

Moungonga spoke particularly of the establishment of the five Special Economic Zones in south-eastern and southern China in the 1980s, including Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Xiamen, Shantou and Hainan. The zones, he said, can be regarded as the pioneers of China’s reform and opening up career.

By implementing reform and opening up policies, China has actively attracted foreign investments, improved imports and exports and participated in international affairs, the scholar said.

“China’s reform and opening up have not only boosted its own development, but contributed to the world economy’s stability and prosperity,” he said.

Argentina denies suspending commercial ties with Iran

BUENOS AIRES, 3 Dec—Argentina on Tuesday denied its halting commercial ties with Iran due to an old diplomatic dispute between the two countries. Argentine Justice, Security and Human Rights Minister Anibal Fernandez denied he had told Julio Schlosner, general secretary of the Argentine Israeli Mutual Association, that the Argentine government had decided to suspend commercial ties with Iran.

According to reports of the Jewish News Agency, Fernandez told Schlosner and a visiting delegation of the American Jewish Committee that the country would halt commercial ties with Iran. Fernandez’s spokesman Fernando Coradazzi said that Fernandez “did not make announcement related to issues that are not of his competence.”

Coradazzi added that the minister only talked about specific issues on the agenda with leaders of the Jewish community during their meeting.

Argentina froze its diplomatic ties with Iran after a bomb attack at a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires in 1994 that killed 85 people. —Xinhua

UN Security Council steps up call to fight Somali pirates

UNITED NATIONS, 3 Dec—The UN Security Council unanimously voted on Tuesday to extend the mandate for states to fight Somali pirates and urge the United Nations to play a coordinating role in the endeavor.

Resolution 1846 was the third such document that has been adopted by the 15-member body since June with an aim to fight the scourge of Somali pirates.

Through the resolution, the council decided to extend for 12 months the mandate for states and regional organizations to fight piracy at sea off the coast of Somalia.

The council requested UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to deliver to it a report within three months on ways for the United Nations to protect humanitarian vessels and to coordinate and assist states and regional groups in their fight against piracy. —Xinhua

Israeli air raid kills two Palestinians in Gaza

GAZA, 3 Dec—Israeli forces killed two Palestinians during an army operation in southeast Gaza Strip on Tuesday afternoon, Palestinian medical sources said. Meanwhile, witnesses said an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a group of people in the east of Rafah city in southern Gaza Strip shortly after tanks rolled in the area.

The identities of the slain still undisclosed. —Xinhua

US remains opposed to ban on cluster munitions

WASHINGTON, 3 Dec—The United States will still refuse to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Norway to ban cluster bombs this week, because the signing endangers American soldiers, the State Department said on Tuesday.

“Although we share the humanitarian concerns of states signing the CCM, we will not be joining them,” the State Department said in a statement.

“The CCM constitutes a ban on most types of cluster munitions; such a general ban on cluster munitions will put the lives of our military men and women, and those of our coalition partners, at risk.”

Some 100 countries are expected to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions on Wednesday in Oslo, Norway.

Cluster munitions are weapons that open in mid-air and randomly scatter dozens or hundreds of individual submunitions (or “bomblets”) over a large area. They often fail to explode, creating virtual minefields that can kill or injure anyone who finds them later, often curious children. —Xinhua

A man dressed as Santa Claus rides in an artificial reindeer sleigh on a high wire above a Christmas market near Alexanderplatz in front of the television tower in Berlin, on 2 Dec, 2008. —Xinhua

Yangci from Nedong County smiles with a cap on his head in the Lhoka Yarlung Material & Culture Exchange Festival, on 1 Dec, 2008.—Xinhua

A model holds a new “Nokia N97” phone during the “Nokia World 08” congress in Barcelona on Tuesday, a new flagship model with a large touch screen which it hopes will bolster its smartphone offering. —Xinhua

Argentina's Moungonga, a senior researcher, told Xinhua in a recent interview. China’s reform and opening up have not only boosted its own development, but contributed to the world economy’s stability and prosperity, the scholar said. “China’s reform and opening up have not only boosted its own development, but contributed to the world economy’s stability and prosperity,” he said.

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The homes of the Kubeniks (R) and the Pekars are damaged after a dam broke at man-made Lake Delton, Wisconsin, on 9 June 2008. The dam, near the Wisconsin Dells resort area, broke on Monday, sweeping away some homes, as torrential rains caused more flooding across parts of the US Midwest, authorities said. — Internet

25 injured in suspected gas explosion in Spain

Madrid, 3 Dec — A suspected gas explosion injured 25 people, 17 of them seriously in a block of flats at Gava, near Barcelona, in northeast Spain, a regional government spokesman told AFP. "An accumulation of gas in the lower part of the three-storey block could have set off the explosion, the spokesman said for the interior ministry of the Catalan government said. The blast happened around 3.00 am (0200 GMT). At least four children were among the injured. Firemen were combing the wreckage in the search for any more victims in the building which had been partially destroyed and whose walls were instable, she added. Around 50 people living in neighbouring blocks of flats had been evacuated as a precaution, she added.

Dozens hurt as Hebron settlers, Palestinians clash

Hebron, 3 Dec — Israeli settlers and Palestinians hurled stones at each other Tuesday near a disputed home in this West Bank city, injuring two dozen people, including a Jewish teenager with a serious head wound, medics and Israeli officials said.

Seventeen Israelis and Palestinians were arrested, police said. The clash was the worst outbreak of violence in the dispute over ownership of a four-story building where settlers have defied an Israeli Supreme Court order to vacate. On Monday, hundreds of right-wing Israelis rushed to the house following rumors that eviction was imminent.

Hebron, holy to Jews and Muslims, is one of the most volatile flashpoints in the West Bank.

Some 500 hard-line Jewish settlers live in guarded enclaves amid some 170,000 Palestinians in the city, and the sides frequently clash. Internet

US soldier seeks asylum in Germany over Iraq

Berlin, 3 Dec — A US Army soldier says he is seeking asylum in Germany nearly a year-and-a-half after deserting his unit because he objects to the war in Iraq. Spc. Andre Shepherd says he deserted his unit in April 2007 after returning from a six-month deployment in Iraq.

The 31-year-old from Cleveland, Ohio, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he has been staying with friends in southern Germany and supporting himself working odd jobs and hopes the German government will approve his request for asylum because of its opposition to the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq.

The US military confirmed that Shepherd had deserted.

Mammoth task: could DNA discovery see woolly beasts revived?

Scientists in the U.S. have discovered the genetic code of the woolly mammoth, an animal that's been extinct since the Ice Age. It's led to fevered speculation that it might one day be hope of reviving it.

Scientists have pieced together 80 per cent of the mammoth's genome, using DNA samples from hair preserved over ten thousands of years in the Siberian permafrost.

It raises the prospect that it may one day be possible to resurrect these creatures as well as some other species that died out at the end of the last ice age. The research also revealed that mammoths were more closely related to modern elephants than had been thought.

The million-dollar project is a first draft, detailing more than three billion DNA building blocks of the mammoth, the study published in Thursday's journal Nature says. It's not finished yet, but that's already enough to give scientists new clues on the timing of evolution and the reasons behind ancient creatures' extinction.

The New kitchen for space crew

The NASA shuttle Endeavour has docked with the International Space Station, bringing new equipment to upgrade the facility. In a make-over with a difference, the shuttle brought a kitchenette, an extra bathroom, two sleeping compartments, and a water-recycling system.

Commander Christopher Ferguson guided the shuttle to a smooth docking. The linkup took place more than 210 miles above Central Asia. Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke and Flight Engineers Yury Lonchakov and Greg Chamitoff welcomed a new set of visitors aboard the ISS. Five men and two women are on board the shuttle and will spend two weeks at the station. Female astronaut Sandy Magnus will stay behind for a three-month stint, replacing Greg Chamitoff who'll go home after six months on the station.

Four spacewalks are planned, beginning on Tuesday, primarily to clean and lubricate a sliding rotating joint that broke down more than a year ago.

Fake surgeon jailed in Germany

A bored German banker who faked university diplomas to realise his dream of becoming a surgeon has been jailed for three years, officials said on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old turned his back on a career in finance and armed with a diploma from Britain's elite Oxford University knocked up on his home computer and landed himself a new job at the Erlangen university clinic in Bavaria. Taken on as a trainee doctor, he took part in 190 operations including 17 organ operations, the Bild newspaper said, and according to a spokesman for the clinic he nearly got away with it.

"The head of the clinic never noticed anything out of the ordinary with his work. No one would have noticed (that he was an imposter) if it hadn't been for an anonymous tip-off," the spokesman told AFP.

Separately on Wednesday a court in Hamburg handed down an 18-month suspended jail sentence to a 34-year-old woman with forged medical qualifications who practised as a paediatrician for four and half years.

Surgeons at work. A bored German banker who faked university diplomas to realise his dream of becoming a surgeon has been jailed for three years, officials said.
Pyawbwe-Phayangazu Railroad leads to saving of time and money

(from page 16)

is Pyawbwe-Phayangazu Railroad put into commission on 30 November 2008. The new route is about 16.19 miles long, and Pyawbwe-Thazi-Phayangazu Railroad, the old route, is 31.75 miles long. So, choosing the new railroad will lead to a saving of nearly half the total time. A passenger can get to his destination of Shan State (South) in a short time by taking the new railroad, instead of taking a train to Thazi as they did in the past. The newly-opened facility is made up of 34 large and small bridges and three stations. Due to the facility, passengers can reach Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Namhsan-Mongnai in a short time by taking the new railroad. And when the facility is linked with Namhsan-Kengtung Railroad, people can travel to Shan State (East) directly as well as to Loikaw of Kayah State. The facility considerably benefits about 22 villages of five village tracts, and local goods can be transported to other states and divisions.

Going by train is economical, safer and more convenient than going by any other modes of transport. So, train is the choice of most travelling public. The Myanma Railways is constructing more and more new railroads throughout the nation.

During the period from 1988 to date, the total length of railroads across the nation has jumped from 1976.35 to 3203.05 miles; the number of railway stations, from 487 to 815; and bridges, large, medium and small, from 5650 to 10,232. As part of its drive for helping ensure all-round development of Nay Pyi Taw, the Ministry of Rail Transportation has spread its wings by launching many new railroads with Nay Pyi Taw as the centre such as Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw-Bagan, Nay Pyi Taw-Pyay, Nay Pyi Taw-Man dalay, Nay Pyi Taw-Myingyan, Nay Pyi Taw-Mawlamyine, and Nay Pyi Taw-Chauk railroads. The launch of Pyawbwe-Phayangazu Railroad will be followed by Nay Pyi Taw-Shwenyaung and Nay Pyi Taw-Loikaw train schedules.

Now, 284-mile Okshitpin-Pakokku railroad section, 95-mile Katha-Bhamo railroad section, and 198-mile Namhsan-Kengtung railroad section are under construction. And feasibility study is being conducted to seek axis for construction of 95-mile Pyawbwe-Yanaung-Natmauk-Magway railroad and 132-mile Dawei-Myeik railroad.

The hard work of the staff of the Myanma Railways and Tatmadaw members and contribution of local people has brought about regional development in a short time.

At a time when all-round steps are under way for equitable development of all parts of the nation and building a modern nation, the Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation is determined to continue to do its bit in the plan for ensuring secure and smooth transport, while putting the interests of the nation and the people in the fore.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 2-12-2008

Taw-Shwenyaung and Nay Pyi Taw-Loikaw train schedules.

The first train running on Pyawbwe-Phayangazu Railroad.

The inauguration of Nay Pyi Taw-Thazi-Meiktila-Myingyan Railroad being held on 16 July 2006.
**Preparation for holding 77th anniversary of National Kandawgyi Gardens**

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—At the hall of National Landmark Garden in Pyin Oo Lwin yesterday morning, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung heard reports on preparations for organizing the 77th anniversary of National Kandawgyi Gardens, the third floral festival and the 2nd anniversary of the National Landmark Garden which falls in second week of December.

The minister inspected greening of the National Landmark Garden, construction of the modern playground and installation of modern equipment, collection of various species of flowers to be shown at the third floral show, arrangements for the floral designs, preparations for recreation and for the National Kandawgyi Gardens and various species of orchids collected at home and abroad.

At Dokwin Nursery of Forest Department, the minister viewed the housings built with Eucalyptus wood. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the Eucalyptus plants are being set up in all villages with the supervision of the Forest Department with a view to use Eucalyptus wood in construction of rural housings.

The minister also visited the Dendrobium orchid nursery.

**IBTC Open Golf Championships 7-10 December**

YANGON, 3 Dec—Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, the IBTC Open Golf Championships as the third leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2008-2009, mainly sponsored by International Beverages Trading Co Ltd, will be held at Lashio Golf Club in Lashio, Shan State (North), from 7 to 10 December. Professional golfers and the amateur golfers (handicap 0-12) will be allowed to take part in the championships.

The competition will be held in accord with the Saint Andrew rules and regional regulations. The hole-in-one scorers may be awarded deservedly.

Those wishing to participate in the championships may enlist at Myanmar Golf Training Range, at 9th Mile, Tel: 01-651374, 09-2037671 and 09-5017049 and Lashio Golf Club, not later than 5 December. — MNA

**1st Asian Open Compound Tournament 9-14 Dec**

YANGON, 3 Dec—A meeting took place at Aung San Stadium here this afternoon for ensuring successful completion of 1st Asian Open Compound Tournament due to be held at Kyeikkasan Archery Field of the Myanmar Archery Federation in Tamway Township, Yangon Division, from 9 to 14 December 2008. General Secretary of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik delivered an introductory speech.

Honorary Chairman of the MAF Dr U Khin Shwe and General Secretary U Kyaw Oo reported on arrangements for the tourney.

Officials of SPED touched on requirements for the tourney. The attendees made suggestions and held discussions about the goal. — MNA

**9th Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference concludes**

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—The second and final day session of the 9th Traditional Medicine Practitioners’ Conference took place at the Ministry of Health here this morning.

Director-General of the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health Dr Tin Nyunt chaired the conference together with members of the panel of chairmen: members of Traditional Medicine Council U Mya Win and U Hla Htay, and Yangon Division delegates U Aung Myat Kyaw and U Kyaw Sein. Deputy Director (Admin) of the Traditional Medicine Department U Soe Win acted as MC.

Thandwe Township delegate U Hla Myint Aung put forward a motion “Produce growing number of competent Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners”. Delegate Dr Daw Tin Tin Thein of the Department of Medical Research (Upper Myanmar) seconded the motion. Delegate Daw Khin Thaw Tar of University of Medicine (Mandalay) proposed a motion “Educative talks to preserve potency of herbal raw materials”. It was formally supported by Dawe delegate U Thein Naing.

Yangon Division delegate Daw Cho Cho Aung tabled a motion “Standardization of Myanmar traditional medical therapies”, which was then seconded by Yangon Division delegate U Soe Thein.

The resolutions of the conference were approved through common consent. The conference chairman made conclusion remarks. — MNA

**Book of Condolences signed for demise of former Indian Prime Minister**

YANGON, 3 Dec—Director-General U Paw Lwin Sein of the Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed Book of Condolences at the Embassy of the Republic of India, at No. 545-547, Merchant Street, here, at 11 a.m. for the demise of His Excellency Mr V. P. Singh, former Prime Minister of the Republic of India on 27 November 2008. — MNA

**Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects preparations for third floral festival in National Kandawgyi Gardens.** — MNA
Appointment of Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Union of Myanmar agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Dec—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Jerzy Bayer as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Jerzy Bayer was born on 8 January 1952 in Warsaw. He earned Masters’ Degree in Sinology, Oriental Studies from the University of Warsaw in 1974 and Ph.D from the Polish Academy of Science in 2005. He served as interpreter, logistical engineer, combat engineer, combat officer, staff officer and military observer in many UN peacekeeping missions in Egypt, Syria, Cambodia, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Zaire, Kenya and Somalia from 1974 to 1995. He was also a journalist in the Foreign Section of the Polish Press Agency-PPA and a permanent correspondent of PPA in Beijing from 1976 to 1992. He joined the Polish Foreign Services in 1995. Since then he has served in various capacities at the Polish Foreign Ministry and also at the Polish Embassy and Consulate General in Beijing and Shanghai from 1995 to 2005. In 2005, he served as First Counsellor at the Department of Strategy and Policy Planning and also as a lecturer at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the University of Warsaw.

Mr Jerzy Bayer will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok, Thailand. He is married with two children.

MNA

Coord meeting on construction of Yadanaon Myothit held

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—A work coordination meeting on construction of Yadanaon Myothit near PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Division was held at the meeting hall of Yadanaon Teleport on 30 November with an address by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of building infrastructure meeting the set standards for 35 companies from abroad and at home which will make investments in Soft Base Factory Area in Yadanaon Myothit.

Next, departmental heads reported to the minister on progress of construction of road, installation of power lines and water supply and the entrepreneurs, progress of their respective works and requirements. The minister attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the minister looked into Incubation Centers, construction of Yadanaon Myothit and works being carried out.

On 1 December, the minister inspected Auto Exchange Station, Microwave Station and G.S.M room at Auto Exchange in Wundwin, Mandalay.

MNA

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivers a speech at work coordination meeting on construction of Yadanaon Myothit.—crt

Seinle Shwepyi News Journal in circulation

YANGON, 3 Dec—Volume 6, No. 1 of Seinle Shwepyi News Journal has been in circulation.

Features in the journal are an interview with the executive representative-elect, Ye Myaw hydro power project, new Nyaungyi Kyin oil deposit in Magway Division, tea to be cultivated in Ngape Township, Magway Division, earthquakes that struck some regions of Myanmar, physical, verbal and mental actions and their results, real choice and Myanmar, unreal storms, methane, carbon monoxide and other interests.

The journal is available at the Sarpay Beikman Building, Theinbyu Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon (Tel 382070) for manuscripts.—MNA

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, President of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin and guests view documentary photos on activities of MMCWA in commemoration of World AIDS Day.—MNA

MMCWA observes World AIDS Day

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec—Organized by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day was held at the hall of the association in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe this morning with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

It was also attended by Deputy Ministers Dr Myo Oo and Dr Paing Soe, patrons of the association, responsible persons of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and MMCWA, resident representatives of UN agencies, departmental heads of the ministries concerned, chairpersons of district/ township MCWAs in Nay Pyi Taw District, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and executives and members, expectant mothers and guests.

Firstly, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address.

Next, MMCWA President Daw Khin Saw Hnin spoke on the occasion.

After the ceremony, those present viewed documentary photos on activities of MMCWA.

Next, Deputy Director Dr Daw KhinOoHmar San of Health Department gave educative talks on AIDS and answered the queries raised by members of MCWA. —MNA

Football referee course opens

YANGON, 3 Dec—Jointly organized by FIFA and Myanmar Football Federation, Football referee course was opened at the Goal Hotel in Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) here this morning.

According to the agenda, Treasurer of MFF U Than Zaw and Mr Azimi Bib Abdullah, FIFA Instructor, made speeches. A total of 27 trainees are attending the course. It will last till 6 December.—MNA

Old civil engineering students of YTU and YIT hold a ceremony to donate cash for third paying respects to teachers at Myanmar Engineering Society in Yangon University (Hline Campus) on 22 November. On behalf of old civil engineering students graduated in 1991, U Ko Ko Aye donated K 300,000 to Secretary U Kyaw Lin of the Organizing Committee.—NLM
Plan under way to supply water for summer paddy

YANGON, 3 Dec—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, accompanied by officials concerned, made an inspection tour of Dagon Myothit (South) and (East) townships in Yangon East District, here on 1 December.

The commander and party first inspected progress in digging the channel at Maso creek in Thongwa village in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. The commander made arrangements to fulfill the needs. At agriculture zone-1 of Dagon Myothit (East), the commander and party oversaw progress in digging the main channel, intake channel and outlet channel to supply water for the summer paddy as well as land preparation made with the use of machine. Next, the commander and party were conducted round the site by the chairman and officials of the company. After hearing the reports, the commander left necessary instructions.—MNA

“i love Myanmar” donates over K140 million to build 234 houses in storm hit areas

YANGON, 3 Dec—Non-governmental organization “i Love Myanmar” donated K140.4 million to the central committee for national disaster preparedness for building 234 houses in the village of Danichaung in Mawlamyinyu Township yesterday.

On behalf of President of “i Love Myanmar” Mr. Levisap nei Thang, Chief Operating Officer of “i Love Myanmar” Mr. Charles Mang Lian Thang handed over the cash to Secretary of the central committee for national disaster preparedness Chairman of the supervisory committee for cash and kind donation Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe at the Fire Services Department here today.

The organization has donated K 171.6 million to build 286 houses—148 in Daukkyi Village and 138 in Thechaung Village in Bogale Township; FEC 138,000 to build 230 houses—50 in Amatkalay Village, 80 in Aima Village and 50 in Thayargon Village in Labutta Township; K 300 million to build 500 houses — 88 houses in Theikpunkong Village, 46 houses in Padaukpong Village, 150 houses in Thufaludaw Village and 36 houses in Kayakgy Village in Labutta Township and K 18.6 million to build 31 houses in Htawpailay Village in Bogale Township.

Book for association members in circulation

YANGON, 3 Dec—The Sarpay Beikman Book Association distributed the book written by Dr Kyaw Than Tun (Guangdong University of Medicine) that won the first prize in the research literature genre of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award to the association members from Yangon and other areas.

The members in Yangon may take out the book at Sarpay Beikman Book Association at No. 529/531 on Merchant Street, and the copies of the book are being sent to the association members in the districts through postal service.

Those wishing to join the association may contact the secretary of the association at No. 529/531 on Merchant Street, dialing 341448.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe accepts K 140.4 million donated by i Love Myanmar, to be used in building 234 houses in Danichaung Village, Mawlamyinyu Township.—MNA

I & P Minister gives instructions on issuing Citizenship Scrutiny Cards

YANGON, 3 Dec—Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Saw Lwin visited North Okkalapa Township Immigration and National Registration Department on 30 November and urged staff of the ministry to make efforts for timely completion of work for issuing Citizenship Scrutiny Cards.

The minister also visited the Population Department here. At the meeting with officials concerned at the department, U Hla Daung, Head of the Yangon Division Population Department, reported to the minister on matters related to issuing Citizenship Scrutiny Cards and challenges and requirements of the work.

After hearing reports, the minister urged officials concerned to supervise the works for issuing Citizenship Scrutiny Cards at grass root levels and to coordinate with responsible personnel to solve problems in accordance with rules and regulations of the ministry. He also urged them to make efforts with added momentum for completion of work and to report challenges and requirements to departments concerned in time.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspects the office in North Okkalapa Township Immigration and National Registration Department.—MNA
Cambodia, UNESCO sign of world heritage at Angkor Wat

PHNOM PENH, 3 Dec — Cambodia and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) on Monday unveiled the sign of World heritage at the Angkor Wat Temple in Siem Reap Province, which was listed as a World Heritage in 1992. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Marcio Barbosa, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, were presided over the ceremony at the Angkor Wat Temple.

“It is a great honour for Cambodian people and the world because the Angkor Wat Temple is universal for humanities,” Hun Sen said at the ceremony with live radio broadcasting. “We want to use our culture to develop the country through tourism,” he said, adding that the country has hundreds of ancient temples.

“We also want to see a ceremony like this at the Preah Vihear Temple,” he said. He also expressed concern that local residents in Siem Reap are trying to pump underground water which could cause damage to the Angkor Wat temple. — MNA/Xinhua

Turkey, Sri Lanka to cooperate against terrorism

ANKARA, 3 Dec— Turkish President Abdullah Gul said on Tuesday that Turkey is willing to boost cooperation with Sri Lanka in fighting against terrorism, thus cooperation against terrorism will definitely benefit both of us,” said Gul. As for bilateral trade, Gul said trade volume between the two had seen a significant increase in the past few years, and the trade volume is expected to reach 100 million US dollars by the end of 2008. For his part, Rajapaksa said that his visit is the first ever visit of a Sri Lankan President to Turkey, which will serve as springboard to boost bilateral relations. Rajapaksa said the Sri Lankan Government is to develop cooperation with Turkey in all areas, especially in the field of fighting terrorism. “Counter terrorism is a main topic that has been on the agenda of Turkey and Sri Lanka. Cooperation in fighting against terrorism will benefit our two countries,” he added. According to the report, the two countries on Tuesday signed agreements on extradition of migrants and air transport.— MNA/Xinhua

Hyundai Motors cuts productions in all overseas plants

SEOUL, 3 Dec— South Korea’s Hyundai Motor Co. announced on Tuesday that it will cut production at all its overseas plants as sales drop. Hyundai, which has overseas plants in the US, China, India, Turkey and Czech, has already cut its monthly output by 10 percent at its seven plants in South Korea and reduced output at its US plants.— MNA/Xinhua

About 60% of EU households have Internet access

BRUSSELS, 3 Dec— Some 60 percent of households in the European Union (EU) had access to the Internet in the first quarter of 2008, compared with 54 percent in the same period last year, said the EU’s statistics bureau Eurostat on Tuesday. Almost half of the households had a broadband connection in the first quarter of 2008, compared with 42 percent in the same period last year. In the first quarter of 2008, the highest proportions of households with Internet access were recorded in the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark, being 86 percent, 84 percent and 82 percent, respectively. While the lowest levels were registered in Bulgaria, Romania and Greece, with 25 percent, 30 percent and 31 percent respectively. The Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden also reported the highest proportions of households with a broadband connection.

China supports int’l efforts to ban cluster bombs

BEIJING, 3 Dec — China attaches importance to humanitarian problems resulting from cluster bombs and supports international efforts to resolve this issue, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a Press conference on Tuesday.

Liu said that “China would continue its effort with other parties for an early and proper solution on the humanitarian problems arising from cluster bombs”.

He said a government experts’ group, under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), had been working to ban cluster bombs and China had taken an active and constructive part in its work.

The CCW took effect in 1981. It bans or restricts the use of specific types of weapons that are considered to cause unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering to combatants or to affect civilians indiscriminately.

Turkish jets hit PKK targets in Northern Iraq

ANKARA, 3 Dec— Turkish General Staff on Tuesday said that Turkish warplanes on Monday bombed several targets of the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) in northern Iraq. The General Staff said in a statement posted on its website that Turkish jets on Monday bombed the Zap region in northern Iraq, close to the Turkish-Iraqi border.

The statement said that the bombardment, which started from 11:00 am (0800 GMT) to 6:00 pm (1500 GMT), was effective, adding that all planes returned to their bases safely after completing their mission.

According to the statement, there was no civilian casualties in the raid because the area was unpopulated. A Turkish Army officer and two soldiers were killed along with four PKK rebels in clashes in eastern Turkey last month.
Rocket company sells discount rides to space

CAPE CANAVERAL, 3 Dec—The space tourism race heated up on Tuesday when a second company began offering tickets for suborbital rides at less than half the price of competitor Virgin Galactic’s. XCOR Aerospace Inc. of California said it is partnering with long-time tour developer and operator Jules Klar, co-creator of the 1960s-era “Europe on $5 a Day” guides, to sell rides aboard its Lynx spaceship for $95,000. The two-seat Lynx craft is under development at XCOR’s Mojave Desert base and test flights are scheduled to begin in 2010. Danish investment banker Per Wimmer will take the first ride when paid flights begin, possibly as early as 2011. The service is similar to trips being sold by Virgin Atlantic Airways’ offshoot, Virgin Galactic, which plans to operate a fleet of suborbital space ships based on the world’s first privately developed manned spacecraft, SpaceShipOne. Aircraft designer Burt Rutan and his company, Scaled Composites of Mojave, California, built SpaceShipOne to win a $1 million prize in 2004. Rutan is overseeing development of a seven-person craft known as SpaceShipTwo for Virgin Galactic, which is operating flights into zero-gravity for $200,000.

Egypt lifts ban on its doctors working in Saudi Arabia

CAIRO, 3 Dec—Egypt is again allowing its doctors to work in Saudi Arabia, lifting a ban imposed last month after two Egyptian doctors working there were sentenced to lengthy prison terms and 1,500 lashes each. Egypt’s labour minister, Aisha Abdel-Hadi, lifted the ban after assurances from the Saudi government that Egyptian doctors would get contracts guaranteeing treatment equal to that of their Saudi counterparts, the Middle East News Agency reported on Tuesday.

UNICEF launches relief emergency programme in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 3 Dec—The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has launched a 120-day emergency response to intensify relief efforts in Zimbabwe’s educational and health sectors, local media said on Wednesday.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, UNICEF’s country representative Roeland Monasch said the emergency response would see the organization focusing on relief efforts in the provision of basic social services.

Under the 120-day plan, UNICEF said it would increase health outreach services, provide nutritional supplements, boost school attendance and scale up access to safe water.

UNICEF said it would also roll out a nationwide campaign on cholera prevention and reach out to at least 1.5 million children with immunization.

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Expedition uncovers ancient citadel in Peruvian jungle

LIMA, 3 Dec—A team of archaeologists on Tuesday announced they had discovered a fortified citadel in the remote Amazonian rainforest of northeastern Peru that appears to be from the pre-Inca era.

The main encampment comprises circular stone houses overgrown by lush jungle over an area of five hectares (12 acres), said archaeologist Benedict Goicochea Perez, quoted by the official Andina news agency. The citadel sits atop a cliff that the former inhabitants may have used as a lookout to spy on approaching enemies, said Goicochea Perez.

Rocks paintings cover some of the fortifications, and next to the dwellings are large platforms believed to have been used to grind seeds and wild plants for food and medicine, he said.

The citadel is tucked away in the remote Jamalca district of Ucchabamba province, part of the northern Amazonas department, said Jamalca Mayor Ricardo Cabrera Bravo, who had joined the expedition. (INTERNET)

Ancient insect imprint found in Massachusetts

NORTH ATTLEBORO, 3 Dec—US researchers say they have discovered what appears to be the oldest imprint of a prehistoric insect, made while the dragonfly-like creature was still alive. The imprint found at a rocky outcrop near a large shopping center in North Attleboro, Massachusetts, is believed to have been made by an insect about three inches long as it stood on mud some 312 million years ago.

“It’s not a dragonfly but picture a dragonfly-like body. We’re looking at something related, maybe a mayfly. They have the same body plan,” said the discoverer, Richard Knecht, a geology student at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

The fossilized remains of a wing that were uncovered two weeks ago. The imprint of the insect shows the thorax and abdomen, along with six legs, two of which may have moved slightly to create drag marks that hardened into burgundy-colored stone. (INTERNET)

Canadian oil sands industry threatens millions of birds

OTTAWA, 3 Dec—Extraction and refining of heavy oil from Canada’s oil sands threatens to kill as many as 166 million migratory birds over the next 30 to 50 years, according to a report released on Tuesday.

“The public needs to understand the real and long-term ecological costs of this development and determine if this is acceptable,” said lead author Jeff Wells of the Boreal Songbird Initiative.

The Boreal forest in Canada’s Alberta Province, part of which is being mined or considered for future development, is a “globally important destination” for millions of birds as a nesting area and breeding habitat, especially for an array of wetland-dependent birds, the report said. Each year an estimated 22-170 million birds breed in the area of the forest being mined or pegged for development.

Such activity causes significant habitat loss and fragmentation, said the report. Toxic tailing ponds already result in 8,000 to 100,000 oiled and drowned birds annually.

The mortality numbers are also elevated with the decrease in air and water quality from tar sands development, as contaminants and toxins are released through the refining process.

“The loss of as many as 166 million birds is a wholly unacceptable price to pay for America’s addiction to oil,” commented Susan Casey-Leitkowitz of the Natural Resources Defence Council. (INTERNET)

Young doctors still too tired for safety

WASHINGTON, 3 Dec—Doctors-in-training are still too exhausted, says a new report that calls on hospitals to let them have a nap. Regulations that capped the working hours of bleary-eyed young doctors came just five years ago, limiting them to about 80 hours a week.

On Tuesday, the prestigious Institute of Medicine recommended easing the workload a bit more. Anyone working the maximum 30-hour shift should get an uninterrupted five-hour break for sleep after 16 hours.

At issue is how to balance patient safety with the education of roughly 100,000 medical residents. Violations of current limits are common and residents seldom complain, the committee found. While quality of life has improved, there’s still a lot of burnout.

And despite one study that found residents made more errors while working longer shifts, patient safety depends on so many factors that it’s impossible to tell if the caps helped that problem, the report said.

So it also recommends:

—Experienced physicians should more closely supervise residents.

—Better overlap of schedules during shift changes to reduce chances for error as one doctor hands patients’ care over to the next. (INTERNET)

Bird flu makes mallards thin, study finds

WASHINGTON, 3 Dec—Avian flu viruses make mallard ducks thinner than other ducks, a finding that implies they do not spread the germs over long distances, researchers reported on Tuesday.

Their tests of thousands of ducks migrating through Sweden showed the viruses do affect the birds, contrary to conventional wisdom that the pathogens have no effect on them. And, to their surprise, they found the birds only “shed,” or release, virus for a few days. Before then, residents in some specialties could average 110 hours a week.

The government asked the IOM to study the current caps. (INTERNET)
Real Madrid sign Huntelaar from Ajax

MADRID, 3 Dec—Spanish champions Real Madrid, plagued by injuries and poor form this season, have signed Dutch international striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar from Ajax for 27 million euros, the two clubs said on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old is expected to replace another Dutchman, Ruud van Nistelrooy, who will miss the rest of the season after a knee operation.

“Huntelaar is now officially a new player at Real Madrid,” the club said in a statement, which praised “his great positioning, opportunism and intelligence.”

“The agreement is of course contingent upon the player passing a physical and signing his contract with Real Madrid,” which would keep him at the club until June 30, 2013.

Benitez expects Keane to come good

LIVERPOOL, 3 Dec—Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez has backed Robbie Keane to come good despite his latest flop against West Ham.

Keane was substituted for the 15th time since his £20 million pounds move from Tottenham in pre-season as Liverpool were held to a goalless draw at Anfield on Monday.

Although Liverpool went a point clear of Chelsea at the top of the Premier League, they were far from convincing and Keane looked a frustrated figure when Benitez replaced him with young French striker David Ngog in the second half.

But Benitez is convinced the real Keane, who starred for Tottenham, will emerge sooner rather than later.

“Robbie is a better player than the one we are seeing now,” he said. “We know what kind of player Robbie Keane is. He needs people around him to pass the ball well.”

“I believe he will be okay, he will score more if we create chances for him.”—INTERNET

Vietnam Football Federation offer big money to lure Manchester United

HANOI, 3 Dec—The Vietnam Football Federation (VFF) is negotiating to pay up to $2.47 million US dollars to entice Manchester United for a one-off game next year, with AC Milan also on its radar.

“This is a huge amount of money but we can arrange it. We can get money from tickets, advertising and broadcasting rights and so on,” VFF chairman Nguyen Trong Hy was quoted as saying by the Asean Football Federation.

But negotiations with United are far from over.

According to VFF, the Red Devils have insisted on strict conditions for the game, whose date has yet to be set.

These include no advertising at the stadium while Vietnamese players must wear jerseys sporting only their names and national flag, with logos banned.

United last played in Asia in 2007, with stops in Japan, South Korea, Macau and the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou.

Internet

Celtic’s Shunsuke Nakamura, seen here in November 2008, will stay with Celtic until the end of the season rather than returning to Japan permanently in January following the Scottish champions’ exit from European competition.—INTERNET

GLASGOW, 3 Dec—Shunsuke Nakamura will stay with Celtic until the end of the season rather than returning to Japan permanently in January following the Scottish champions’ exit from European competition.

According to reports in the Scottish media, Nakamura’s agent Roberto Takuda has informed Celtic that his client will not be the subject of a January bid from J-League club Yokohama F Marinos, as had been anticipated.

Celtic would have insisted on a fee to release the 30-year-old and, with Yokohama’s backers Nissan feeling the pinch from the economic downturn, the Japanese club are reportedly prepared to wait until the playmaker becomes a free agent at the end of the season.

The Glasgow club confirmed on Tuesday that neither party wanted to cut ties at present.

“Celtic didn’t want Naka to leave and Naka didn’t want to leave. Therefore, there was never any prospect of Shunsuke leaving in January,” a Celtic statement read.

Celtic’s interest in European competition ended last week after a defeat by Danish side Aalborg condemned them to finishing last in their Champions League group.

Nakamura, who has helped Celtic win three Scottish titles since arriving at Parkhead in 2005, refused to comment on his future in the aftermath of that defeat, fuelling a belief he would quit Glasgow for Japan in time for the start of the new J-League season in March.—INTERNET

Alonso says standard F1 engine could make him quit

MADRID, 3 Dec—Double world champion Fernando Alonso said on Tuesday he would think about quitting Formula One if the sport adopted a standard engine from 2010.

“If they approved that, it would be the last straw. It would be time to think about retirement,” the Spaniard told reporters at a charity event organised by his Renault team’s sponsors ING.

Formula One’s governing body, the International Automobile Federation (FIA), said in October it intended to change the rules to force teams to use a standard engine from 2010 as part of a cost-cutting drive.

It has since launched a tender for bids to provide the engine, although it said this was only one of three options being considered.

Champions Ferrari, who could well figure in Alonso’s future, and Toyota have already said they will consider pulling out if standard engines were imposed.—INTERNET

World No1 Jankovic in doubt for Sydney International

SYDNEY, 3 Dec—World No 1 Jelena Jankovic is in doubt for next month’s Sydney International and will have to request a wildcard to play in the tournament, according to officials.

The Serb had indicated she would contest the Sydney event which begins on January 11 but will not be on the official acceptance list because she has not yet finalised her 2009 playing schedule.

“We had some good signs from Jelena early on and she indicated to me in New York that she was looking forward to returning to Sydney,” tournament director Craig Watson said.

“Players often end up re-arranging their schedules a number of times and in this instance, Jelena has not finalised her plans for 2009 yet.”

The 23-year-old, who is yet to claim a Grand Slam title, has played in the Sydney International, which is one of several tournaments held Down Under in the lead-up to the Australian Open, four times previously.

Her best performance was in 2007 when she was runner-up to Kim Clijsters.—INTERNET

Nakamura to stay a Celt until end of season

Real Madrid have signed Ajax’s Dutch international striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, seen here in June 2008, the Spanish club announced, on 2 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Internet

World No1 Jelena Jankovic (seen here in November) is in doubt for next month’s Sydney International and will have to request a wildcard to play in the tournament, according to officials.—INTERNET

Renault’s Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain stands in the pits at the Interлагос race track in Sao Paulo, on 30 Oct, 2008. INTERNET

Celtic's Shunsuke Nakamura, seen here in November 2008, will stay with Celtic until the end of the season rather than returning to Japan permanently in January following the Scottish champions' exit from European competition.—INTERNET

INTERNET

Internet
Two killed, 30 injured in India’s train Blast

MUMBAI, 3 Dec—At least two killed and 30 injured when a bomb exploded in the passenger coach of a train in India’s northeastern state of Assam at about 7:50 in the morning, officials said on Tuesday.

The passenger train runs between Guwahati and Tinsukhia in Upper Assam. The blast took place at around 7:50 am on Tuesday, local NDTV reported. Prior to blast, another serial blasts occurred in Assam on October 30, which killed many people.

An ethnic insurgent group has been fighting for wide autonomy in the state for the past five years. Last week a serial terror attacks hit Mumbai, the finance centre of India, killing at least 162 people and injuring over 240.

Ven. U Kawsawng
B.A, M.A (Sri Lanka), Dip. in English (Gold Medallist, Dhammacariya Exam (Hons) (Srippapura Dhammacariya)
Aged (68) yrs
Vassa (47) yrs
Head monk of Thakali Monastery (Bago) Professor (Suttanta Studies), DEA, Faculty of Parittatti, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Yangon, Myanmar, passed away at 6:30 am on 27.11.2008 and will be cremated at the monastery compound on 28.12.2008 (Sunday) at 2:00 pm.
Bereaved disciples

Mr M.K Chaudhury (a) Dulal (a) U Tun Myint (Bago)
Age 72
Office in Charge
(Sri kali Temple Trust) Yangon
Son of late Mr. S.K Chowdhury (Mrs Shanti Chowdhury of Bago belived husband of Mrs Bokul Rani Chowdhury father of Subir, Monju, Sanjay and Rajiv expired on 2 Dec, 2008 at 7:15am and cremated on the same day at Yeway Hindu cemetery according to Hindu rites.
Bereaved family

Alabama Mayor arrested on corruption charges

BIRMINGHAM, 3 Dec—Federal authorities arrested the mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, on Monday in a corruption probe surrounding a sewer bond debt that could lead to the largest municipal bankruptcy in US history. Authorities arrested Mayor Larry Langford in Birmingham at 7 am (1200 GMT) and charged him with 60 counts including bribery, money laundering, conspiracy and filing false tax returns, according to US Attorney Alice Martin.

Langford was charged along with investment banker William Blount and lobbyist Al LaPierre for a total of 101 counts. The government said it was also seeking 7.6 million US dollars in forfeiture from the three men. Blount’s company profited from collecting fees recommended by Langford in the sewer bond transactions, Martin said.

Birmingham is the largest city in Alabama’s Jefferson County, which is fighting to stave off bankruptcy over what is now a 3.2 billion US dollar sewer debt.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 3 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kashmir, Chins and Rakhine States, upper Sagraing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in upper Sagraing and Mangway Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem and Namhsan (0°C) each and Pinaung (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 2-12-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 3-12-2008 was 59°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 3-12-2008 was 60%. Total sunshine hours on 2-12-2008 was (9.8) hrs. Approx. Rainfall on 3-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mongaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.3) inches at Mongaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (21:30) hours MST on 2-12-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4th December 2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin and Rakhine States, Upper Sagaing 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 4-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Young giant pandas are seen in their enclosure at Beijing Zoo.—INTERNET

7:00 pm
11. "The New Light of Myanmar": 4-12-08 NL 7/29/18, 3:30 PM
15
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7/29/18, 3:30 PM
Government gives priority to uplift of dignity of disabled persons in human society

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Dec.—A ceremony to mark the International Day of Disabled Persons which falls on 3 December 2008 was held at City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe said that Myanmar, a member country of the United Nations, has been organizing the ceremony to mark the International Day of Disabled Persons on 3 December of every year and this year’s occasion is the 15th ceremony of its kind. Today, a total of 11 per cent of 6,600 million population is disabled persons, and of them, 400 million disabled persons live in the Asia-Pacific region. According to the reports of researchers, the disability is directly related to the development of country. Moreover, the disability is interrelated with the poverty as well as the justice in the social field. Indeed, the disability is a matter for social development concerning the whole human society.

He added that in Myanmar, the Social Welfare Department had established one training school for the disabled adults, one for the disabled children, two for the blind and one for the deaf in Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing. Moreover, volunteering organizations set up the schools for the deaf, blinds and disabled in the nation. Nowadays, the government gives priority to uplift of dignity of the disabled persons in the human society. Therefore, the disabled persons are to strive for showing off their wonderful skills and talents.

The minister said that a total of four outstanding disabled persons from departments and 18 from the training schools for the disabled will be honoured on the occasion. In conclusion, he thanked the wellwishers for their donations to uplift the living standards of the disabled persons.

Resident Representative of UNDP Mr Biswajit Parajuli read the message on the International Day of Disabled Persons 2008 sent by the UN Secretary-General.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe presented prizes to the outstanding disabled persons.

Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein, UNDP Resident Representative Mr Bishow Parajuli and UNICEF Resident Representative Mr Ramesh Shireshtha presented prizes to the outstanding disabled children.

After the ceremony, the minister and party viewed the documentary photos of the activities for the International Day of Disabled Persons 2008.—MNA

Pyawbwe-Phayangazu Railroad leads to saving of time and money

The Myanma Railways, in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, is repairing old railroads, upgrading present ones, constructing new railroads for ensuring smooth transport and regional development, producing coaches and wagons domestically at low cost, extending producing machines and spare parts including locomotives, and taking all-round measures for comfort and convenience of passengers.

As given guidance that if a transport facility project is completed one day ahead of schedule, the people can begin to enjoy it one day earlier, and if a one-hour drive can be reduced to a 30-minute drive in the same trip, passengers can reach their destinations in a short time, the Myanma Railways is now working hard to complete new railroad projects, one of which (See page 7)

Chelsea’s Drogba & Mourinho’s Inter in the meeting that never took place

MILAN, 3 Dec.—After widespread speculation on Chelsea striker Didier Drogba’s alleged meeting with Serie A giants Inter Milan, comes a firm denial from the Ivorian star’s agent.

There was much confusion on whether the 30-year-old former Marseille man met with Inter sporting director Marco Branca in west London to discuss a potential reunion with former Blues boss Jose Mourinho.

Drogba remained silent on whole incident while Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon ruled out the possibility of letting the forward leave and boss Luiz Felipe Scolari reacted angrily as the speculation raged on. Moreover, Mourinho, who took up Inter job in the summer, denied any meeting with the Blues star through agent Jorge Mendes.

Antioxidants unlikely to prevent aging, study suggests

LONDON, 3 Dec.—Diet and beauty products which claim to have anti-oxidant properties are unlikely to prevent aging, according to research funded by the Wellcome Trust. Researchers at the Institute of Healthy aging at UCL (University College London) say this is because a key fifty year old theory about the causes of aging is wrong.

Superoxide” free radicals – oxygen molecules that have an imbalance of electrons to protons – are generated in the body through natural processes such as metabolism. These free radicals can cause oxidation in the body, analogous to rust when iron is exposed to oxygen. Biological systems, such as the human body, are usually able to restrict or repair this damage. —Internet