Ngwehsaung, the longest beach resort in Myanmar

Article: Ei Wah; Photos: Soe Nyunt (Kyemon)

Under the bluish sky is a very beautiful and pleasant beach receiving row after row of sea waves stretching to the horizon. It is Ngwehsaung in Ayeyawady Division that completely draws attention of the tourists. There, bungalows are in row on the large sand to provide accommodation to the visitors. Coconut palms, the symbol of the beach, stretch out along the seaside areas. Breeze from the sea makes everyone on the beach feel relaxed and refreshed. The decoration of the hotels is blended with the beach. It is, therefore, safe to say that the whole area is full of beauty. A visitor can enjoy scenic beauty and fresh air, and ride on the waves that splash against the bank.

(See page 7)
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Sunday, 7 December, 2008

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 7 December, 2008

Prevent cross-border bird flu

Now, avian influenza is spreading sporadically in some eastern neighbouring countries of Myanmar.

Carriers of H5N1 virus are migratory birds and water common moorhen, and outbreak of bird flu is high along the routes they migrate from one region to another. H5N1 virus can survive at a place for 35 days at 4 degree Celsius.

It was deduced that the outbreak of bird flu to the northwest of Myanmar from last week of November to the first week of December was due to migratory birds.

Therefore, it is required to make sure that chicken, baby ducks, eggs and poultry products are not accepted or transported into the nation through border areas illegally.

Poultry can be directly infected with the virus when they have contact with migratory birds or lakes that are contaminated with secretions or excretions from infected birds, and infected chickens or ducks enter a farm. Moreover, they can be indirectly infected through people who come into contact with infected poultry farms or materials contaminated with the virus such as clothes and slippers.

In order to avert such cases, chickens, ducks, geese and waterfowls are to be raised, transported and sold species-wise; and bio-security measures, to be enforced; and markets should have their specific off days for sanitation and pasteurization tasks.

In addition, the places migratory birds pass through and stay are to be demarcated and pet animals are to be prevented from having contact with farm animals.

The people are to join hands with local organizations in health care to animals in order to avoid spread of the virus into the nation.

Ayeyawady Division Police Force meets

YANGON, 6 Dec—A work coordination meeting of Ayeyawady Division Police Force took place at the office of the commander of Ayeyawady Division Police Force in Pathein on 3 December morning, with an address by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe.

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe receives Saudi Arabian delegation led by Ambassador Mr Turki Bin Naji Abdul Kadir Al Ali.

UMFCCI officials meet Malaysian guests

YANGON, 6 Dec—Vice-Presidents of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint-Secretary U Tun Aung and guests met Malaysian delegation led by Executive Chairman Retired Major Amir Alias at the UMFCCI Office here on 1 December. They discussed matters related to holding Seminar and Exhibition on Palm Oil Base Product which will be jointly organized by Felda Delima Oil Products Sdn. Bhd and Malay-sian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) of Malaysia and UMFCCI at Traders Hotel, here, on 19-20 December, boosting bilateral trade and technological cooperation in oil palm cultivation.

MWJA pays respects to doyen literati

YANGON, 6 Dec—CEC members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association presented cash and kind to doyen Kadir Al Ali who could not attend the ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati.

Divided into four groups, CEC members of MWJA and members of township WJAs went to homes of the doyen literati here on 4 December and today and presented K 130,000 and kind each to doyen literati. — MNA

Transport Minister receives Saudi Arabian delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe received a delegation from Saudi Fund for Development of Saudi Arabia led by Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mr Turki Bin Naji Abdul Kadir Al Ali at the ministry here this evening. They frankly discussed bilateral cooperation in trade.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Tun Hlaing of Department of Civil Aviation, Managing Director U Then Hlay of Myanma Port Authority and Head of Office U Win Khant of the Ministry.

Institute of Medicine-2 (Yangon) to pay respects to teachers on 31 Jan

YANGON, 6 Dec—Respect paying ceremony, organized by old students of Institute of Medicine-2 (Yangon) who studies in 1976-1982, 1979-1984 and 1980-1985 academic years, will be held at Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu road here on 31 January, 2009. Those wishing to make donation may pay respects to doyen literati.

People's Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe receives Saudi Arabian delegation led by Ambassador Mr Turki Bin Naji Abdul Kadir Al Ali.
Canadian deaths bring Afghan mission toll to 100
OTTAWA, 6 Dec — Three Canadian soldiers were killed by a massive bomb in Afghanistan on Friday, bringing to 100 the number who have lost their lives since the country’s military mission there started in 2002, officials said.

Canada has around 2,700 soldiers in the southern city of Kandahar on a combat mission that is set to end in 2011. One diplomat has also been killed.

A man, whose 15 year old son died in twin truck bombings in Fallujah, Iraq, on 5 Dec, 2008, stands in front of his destroyed home.

A boy who was wounded in bomb attacks stands beside his father in the city of Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad on 5 Dec, 2008.

A woman comforts her five-year-old daughter Suzan Abbas in a hospital in Baghdad on 3 Dec, 2008. Suzan was wounded when a bomb attached to a minibus exploded in eastern Baghdad. Five people were injured in the blast and one was killed.

14 militants killed in southern Afghanistan
KABUL, 6 Dec — US-led troops killed 14 militants in two days of clashes in southern Afghanistan, US military statements said Friday.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; the British military or civilians killed in Iraq in 2008.

Powerful earthquake rocks Timor Leste
JAKARTA, 6 Dec — An earthquake of 6.2 magnitude hit off Timor Leste’s coast Saturday, with no reports of injuries or damage, the US geological agency said. The US Geological Survey said the earthquake struck 160 km northwest of the capital, Dili at a depth of 408.3 km beneath the Banda Sea at 6:55 pm (1055 GMT). Timor Leste is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, where continental plates meet, causing seismic and volcanic activity.

Internet

Air raid kills 4 Taleban militants in S Afghanistan
KABUL, 6 Dec — An air raid carried out by international troops in southern Afghan province of Helmand Saturday left at least four Taliban militants dead and six others injured including four civilians, Assadullah Shirzad, the provincial police chief told Xinhua.

INTERNET

US to unveil charges in Blackwater shooting in Iraq
WASHINGTON, 6 Dec — US officials expect to announce criminal charges soon against Blackwater security guards over a shooting in Iraq last year that killed 17 civilians and strained US-Iraqi relations, law enforcement sources said on Friday.

The sources, who declined to be identified, said details of the charges could be announced as early as Monday.

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 557
WASHINGTON, 6 Dec — As of Friday, 5 Dec, 2008, at least 557 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Friday at 10 am EST.

Of those, the military reports 405 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 66 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantnamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen. There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.

US military death toll rises to 4209
WASHINGTON, 6 Dec — As of Friday, 5 Dec, 2008, at least 4,209 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 3,395 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; the British military or civilians killed in Iraq in 2008.

A federal grand jury in Washington has been hearing evidence in secret about the shooting by the private security firm’s guards as they escorted a convoy of US diplomats through Baghdad on 16 September, 2007. The charges would come after more than a year of FBI investigations in one of the most high-profile cases remaining before President George W Bush leaves office next month.

North Carolina-based Blackwater, the largest security contractor in Iraq, has said its guards acted lawfully and in self-defense after their motorcade came under fire in the chaotic incident. It has cooperated in the investigation. The guards, US military veterans hired to protect US diplomats overseas, were responding to a car bombing when shooting erupted in a crowded Baghdad intersection.

The Iraqi government has said the guards deliberately killed the 17 civilians and an Iraqi investigation said there was no provocation for the guards to have opened fire.

INTERNET

A federal grand jury in Washington has been hearing evidence in secret about the shooting by the private security firm’s guards as they escorted a convoy of US diplomats through Baghdad on 16 September, 2007. The charges would come after more than a year of FBI investigations in one of the most high-profile cases remaining before President George W Bush leaves office next month.

North Carolina-based Blackwater, the largest security contractor in Iraq, has said its guards acted lawfully and in self-defense after their motorcade came under fire in the chaotic incident. It has cooperated in the investigation. The guards, US military veterans hired to protect US diplomats overseas, were responding to a car bombing when shooting erupted in a crowded Baghdad intersection.

The Iraqi government has said the guards deliberately killed the 17 civilians and an Iraqi investigation said there was no provocation for the guards to have opened fire.

INTERNET
India, Russia ink nuclear deal

NEW DELHI, 6 Dec — India and Russia signed a civilian nuclear deal Friday that would see Russia build four nuclear reactors for power-starved India.

The deal, inked during a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Mannon Singh and visiting President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia, was one of ten agreements, including the sale of 80 military helicopters and space cooperation.

“The signing of the agreement on civil nuclear cooperation with Russia marks a new milestone in the history of our cooperation with Russia in the field of nuclear energy,” said Singh. The deal follows the conclusion of a landmark nuclear deal between the United States and India earlier this year which opened the way for nuclear trade between India and other nations.

India has faced a nuclear trade ban since its first atomic test in 1974 amid its refusal to sign international treaties designed to limit the illicit spread of such materials. The Indo-Russian deal to build four reactors in southern India had been agreed on in January, but could not be ratified until the international Nuclear Supplier Group agreed to lift the atomic ban.

India is eager to expand its nuclear energy sector to help fuel its rapidly growing economy — but energy-starved India. The two countries have close ties dating back to the Cold War. Russia has traditionally been India’s largest arms suppliers and has built several reactors for India in the past.

India also agreed to buy 80 military helicopters from Russia and discussed leasing a Russian nuclear-powered submarine, Medvedev said.

Death toll from Pakistan car bombing rises to 29

PESHAWAR, 6 Dec — The death toll from an overnight car bombing rose to 29 in northwest Pakistan, unnerving a region already dangerously on edge following the attacks on. About 100 people were also wounded Friday when the bomb went off near Peshawar’s famed Storytellers Bazaar, wrecking a Shiite Muslim mosque and a hotel and setting a string of vehicles and shops ablaze, said Mohammad Khan, a local police official.

Television footage showed survivors frantically carrying bloodied victims through the rubble to private cars and ambulances as fire crews sought to douse the flames.

Neither the motive nor the culprits behind the blast were clear. But provincial government chief Haider Khan Hoti said “external forces” could be to blame — a comment understood in Pakistan to mean India.

Indian police arrest two men in Mumbai investigation

KOLKATA, 6 Dec — Indian police arrested two men accused of providing mobile phone cards to the group of 10 gunmen that attacked Mumbai last week, leaving 171 people dead, said Javed Shahim, a senior police official in the eastern city of Calcutta in West Bengal.

Shahim said one of the men was from West Bengal and the other was from the Indian portion of Kashmir.
Obama warns US economy may get worse

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec — US President-elect Barack Obama warned on Friday that the worst was yet to come for the US economy after the unemployment rate rose to 6.7 percent in November, the highest level in 15 years.

"The 533,000 jobs lost last month, the worst job loss in 34 years, is more than a dramatic reflection of the growing economic crisis we face," said Obama in a statement.

"Our economy has already lost nearly 2 million jobs during this recession, which is why we need an Economic Recovery Plan that will save or create at least 2.5 million more jobs over two years while we act decisively to maintain the flows of credit on which so many American families and American businesses depend," he added.

He warned there are no quick or easy fixes to this crisis, which has been many years in the making, noting "it's likely to get worse before it gets better."

First Nepali aircraft to test-fly

KATHMANDU, 6 Dec — An ultra-light aircraft built by Nepali engineers is scheduled to take off on Saturday afternoon almost one year since its builders sought permission from the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, according to The Kathmandu Post. "The research team is ready for the test flight as we have already fulfilled all necessary lab-safety requirements," said Bikash Parajuli, leader of the team that built the aircraft.

"We are optimistic that the flight will be successful," he was quoted by the Saturday's daily as saying.

Minister for Science, Environment and Technology Ganesh Shah, senior professors and engineers of Pulchowk Engineering Campus and media persons will attend the historic test flight ceremony at Pokhara airport in western Nepal. — Xinhua

Brazilian optimistic about 2009, Lula administration

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 Dec — Despite the global financial turmoil, 78 percent of Brazilians believe they will live a better life in 2009, according to a survey released Friday.

Three percent of Brazilians believed their lives will be worse next year while another 14 percent thought it would remain the same, said the survey by the consulting company Datafolha.

In northeastern Brazil, the country's poorest region, 82 percent of the population was optimistic about 2009, while in the southeastern region, which produces most of Brazil's GDP, that figure dropped to 74 percent.

Brazilians also held high prospects about their financial situation, with 65 percent believing the country will enjoy a better economy next year and only eight percent thinking things will get worse. Another 22 percent thought the situation will stay the same. — Xinhua

November sales in US remains bleak despite Thanksgiving shopping

LOS ANGELES, 6 Dec — November sales remained bleak in the United States despite a surge in day-after Thanksgiving shopping, it was reported on Friday.

Heavy discounts lured consumers to malls and shops on what's dubbed Black Friday, generating reports of sales increases both nationally and locally. But that couldn't offset what was overall a disappointing month, the San Francisco Chronicle said.

Weak Nov sales were exacerbated by early holiday promotions that cut into profit margins along with a late Thanksgiving that shortened the shopping period, said the report.

This signaled that the industry is likely headed toward one of the worst holiday seasons in years, the report said.

Among 40 retailers reporting results Thursday, sales declined about 2.5 percent, according to TNS Retail Forward, a market research and consulting firm.

Most retailers reported that sales declined for the month of November compared with this time last year.

Among the many retailers that reported sales figures Thursday, Wal-Mart Stores Inc remained one of the few bright spots, with a sales gain of 3.4 percent last month compared with the same month a year ago.

But virtually all retailers faltered, even such stalwarts as Costco Wholesale Corp, which posted a sales decline of 5 percent. — Xinhua
China’s first private jet hub to open next year

BEIJING, 6 DEC — China’s first private jet hub is expected to open next year in Shanghai as the country slowly works on easing the tight control of its airspace, a news report said Saturday.

Work began Friday on the Hongqiao Airport Business Aviation Centre, a joint venture between Shanghai’s airport authority and Australia’s Hawker Pacific Pty Ltd, the Shanghai Daily newspaper reported. The airport authority holds a 51 percent stake.

The hub will be expected to handle about 6,000 flights a year when completed, most from overseas, the report said.

China has been under rising pressure to further open its skies as available flight paths grow increasingly crowded.

The country’s military controls about 80 percent of China’s airspace, and more room is needed for the sharp rise in civilian air traffic, Dorothy Reimold, a US Federal Aviation Administration official, said earlier this year.

Even state media, including the China Daily newspaper, has said restrictions are “stunting” the industry’s growth in China. The Shanghai Airport Authority has said the private jet hub will open in the second half of next year. —Internet

Eight Colombian police die in attack

BOGOTA (Colombia), 6 Dec — Suspected leftist rebels attacked a small police convoy in Colombia’s turbulent northeast on Friday with explosives and automatic weapons, killing eight police officers and wounding one.

The slain officers, traveling in a four-wheeled vehicle and on two motorcy- cles, were responding to an anonymous tip about a cadaver supposedly found near a cemetery not far from their base in Fortul, the Arauca Province police chief, Col Luis Ortiz, told The Associated Press. He said it appeared the bomb blast was triggered by remote control.

The rebels finished off the police with gunfire, said Colombian Defence Min- ister Juan Manuel Santos, who blamed the attack on leftist rebels.

Later Friday, police issued a state- ment blaming the attack on the National Liberation Army, or ELN, which oper- ates in the oil-producing region border- ing Venezuela. —Internet

World’s oldest person dies in US at age 115

The world’s oldest person, an Indi- ana woman, died on Wednesday at the age of 115, according to a gerontol- ogy expert.

“Ms. Edna Parker of Indiana, the world’s oldest person for a number of years, passed away today (Wednesday) at the age of 115 years, 220 days,” Stephen Coles, a gerontologist at the University of California in Los Ange- les, said on the website of the Geron- tology Research Group.

Parker, a former school teacher who was born on April 20, 1893, died peace- fully at the Heritage House Convales- cent Center in Shelbyville, Indiana, the local newspaper reported. A photo of Parker, dressed in a blue dress with a flower corsage, graced the front page of The Shelbyville News.

Parker and her husband, who died of a heart attack when she was 48, had two sons.

Parker was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest person alive.

The nursing home where she lived was also the home of Sandy Allen, who at 7 feet, 1 1/4 inches was listed as the world’s tallest woman.

A Japanese zoo puzzled by its lack of success in getting two polar bears to mate has discovered the reason -- both are female. The zoo in the northern city of Kushiro swapped an orangutan for a polar bear cub in January 2005, hoping it would eventually produce offspring with a female bear called Kurumi.

Sri Lanka jets hit Tiger positions as ground battles rage

COLOMBO, 6 Dec — Sri Lanka’s airforce staged a series of bombing raids against suspected Tamil Tiger targets as ground troops fought fierce battles on several fronts, the defence ministry said on Saturday.

Security forces, waging a mas- sive offensive against the Liberation Ti- gers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), have been facing stiff resistance in their march to- ward the northern rebel political capital of Kilinochchi, the ministry said.

“Air Force fighter jets launched three air strikes at LTTE strong points located in the west of Paranthan on Friday,” the ministry said, referring to a town just north of Kilinochchi. Government sol- diers further north in the Jaffna penin- sula clashed with Tiger rebels at three locations on Friday, the ministry said. —Internet

Sri Lanka’s first private jet hub to open next year

BEIJING, 6 DEC — China’s first private jet hub is expected to open next year in Shanghai as the country slowly works on easing the tight control of its airspace, a news report said Saturday.

Work began Friday on the Hongqiao Airport Business Aviation Centre, a joint venture between Shanghai’s airport authority and Australia’s Hawker Pacific Pty Ltd, the Shanghai Daily newspaper reported. The airport authority holds a 51 percent stake.

The hub will be expected to handle about 6,000 flights a year when completed, most from overseas, the report said.

China has been under rising pressure to further open its skies as available flight paths grow increasingly crowded.

The country’s military controls about 80 percent of China’s airspace, and more room is needed for the sharp rise in civilian air traffic, Dorothy Reimold, a US Federal Aviation Administration official, said earlier this year.

Even state media, including the China Daily newspaper, has said restrictions are “stunting” the industry’s growth in China. The Shanghai Airport Authority has said the private jet hub will open in the second half of next year. —Internet

Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Stoere, right, welcomes the Afghan cluster bomb survivor Sohail Alam Hubb, to the dinner in honor of the signing conference on the Convention On Cluster munition at Akershus Castle in Oslo, on 3 Dec, 2008. —INTERNET

[Image 65x339 to 233x454]

[Image 245x97 to 415x211]

[Image 337x855 to 506x1075]
Myanmar has several beach resorts local and foreign tourists can visit for rest and recreation, such as Ngapali, Maungmagan, Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung. Among them, Ngwehsaung came to existence in 2000. With a length of nine miles, Ngwehsaung is the longest as well as the last of its kind in Myanmar. It is situated near Bukhwegyi Village, 30 miles west of Pathein, Ayeyawady Division. Now, Ngwehsaung Beach Resort designed to help development the nation’s tourism industry has been really put on the map of the nation and has won the customer satisfaction. Ngwehsaung Beach Resort has led to an increase in the number of tourists to Myanmar and has improved tourism industry and hotel industry. In addition, that has helped improve the living conditions of the people of its surrounding villages. Thanks to the goal of the government: “The whole country including rural areas must develop”, Ngwehsaung Beach has developed considerably, and its surrounding regions are also enjoying cumulative development in parallel. Local people’s major businesses are fishing, agricultural farming, and running shops. With the development, the beach has created many job opportunities for local people. Hotels in the beach provide good services to the visitors. On the nine-mile-long Ngwehsaung Beach are 21 hotels stretching five miles. The beach is kept naturally, thus adding attraction to all visitors. Due to its serenity, the visitors may see clearer seawater and more silvery sand, Ngwehsaung Beach is more attractive than any other beach in Myanmar.

Facilities of Myanmar Treasure Resort are attractive to visitors.

At the entrance to Aureum Palace Resort, visitors are greeted by a dummy of young woman holding a Pathein parasol which is the symbol of Pathein. The living room is supported by huge log pillars. The style of the resort blends with the beach. It is really pleasant to view Aureum Palace Resort, which is located among coconut palms, not far from the sea. Visitors can take a swim in the sea or in the swimming pool in the compound of the resort. From the swimming pool, visitors can enjoy the beauty of the sunset and the beach simultaneously.

Now, Ngwehsaung Beach Resort has been a household name at the international level. Most of the tourists to the resort are from Russia, Italy, Germany and Switzerland, and some are from other Asian countries. Many tourists frequent Ngwehsaung Beach owing to the beauty of the beach, hospitality of Myanmar people, and good services of the hotels. Gaining a good reputation for their peaceful conditions, wonders and interesting sites, the beaches in Myanmar receive a good number of foreign tourists every year.

According to the Myanmar Treasure Resort, yearly, Ngwehsaung Beach is in season commencing November, and its peak season falls in December and April. The Myanmar Treasure Resort, a four star hotel, is made up of 40 deluxe rooms, 24 superior rooms, a souvenir shop and a dining hall. And guests have Internet and e-Mail access. It is furnished with mostly wickerwork and is decorated with things of traditional style. It also has a space to take sunbathe and a swimming pool. Myanmar Treasure Resort has a wonderful view over Ngwehsaung Beach.

If Ngwehsaung Beach receives a growing number of visitors, that will help improve tourism industry and the living standard of local people.

*****

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 5-12-2008
Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects preventive measures...

(from page 1)

Next, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin reported to Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party on purchasing of Abate for prevention of DHF, distribution of treated mosquito nets and work carried out for ensuring proper flow of drains in the division.

Afterwards, Head of Engineering Department (Road/Bridge) U Bo Htay reported on steps taken for proper flow of drains in Ahlon Township, dredging of Ywathit creek and underground drains and carrying out of sanitation tasks along Strand Road and near Thakhinnya Park in the township.

Later, Chairman of Ahlon Township Peace and Development Council U Win Myint reported on dredging of overflow drains for proper flow of water and prevention of floods in the rainy season.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe spoke of the need to strive for control flies and mosquitoes and the people to use fly-proof latrines to prevent DHF and diarrhea, dredging of drainages and imparting health knowledge to the people.

After inspecting the dredging of drainages along Strand Road and Ywathit creek, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions.

At 9.30 a.m., Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party proceeded to the paddy plantation of farmer U Han Soe of Shwellehaung Village-tract near Mile Post No. 6/2 in Dalla Township, Yangon South District and looked into harvesting of paddy with the use of farm equipment.

Afterwards, they inspected irrigating of summer paddy field, ploughing and direct sowing of paddy with the use of machines. — MNA

Mass walk activity launched in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec— Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint took part in the mass walk activity (2008) in front of Nay Pyi Taw Myoma market this morning.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, officials, staff families of the ministries totalling over 7000 also participated in the mass walk activity. They started to go for a walk along Pyinmana-Taungnyo road and went back to the gathering point in front of Myoma market, where they took exercise collectively and they were served with refreshments.

MNA

Ancient Danok Pagoda under all-round renovation

YANGON, 6 Dec — A meeting on all-round renovation of the ancient Danok Pagoda took place on the platform of the pagoda in Dalla Township, Yangon South District, here this morning. At the meeting Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence called for timely completion of the renovation.

Next, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint, Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co, U Kyaw Win, project engineer U Sai Naw Kham, Chairman of Fund Raising Committee, Chairman of Yangon South District PDC U Zaw Win reported on their respective renovation tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected the all-round renovation of the pagoda. — MNA

Hninzigon Home for the Aged celebrates Diamond Jubilee

YANGON, 6 Dec— Hninzigon Home for the Aged marked its Diamond Jubilee and opened the 47th charity bazaar at the home in Bahan Township here this afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and Chairman U Kyaw Shein of the executive committee of the home delivered speeches.

Vice-Chairman U Aung Than of the executive committee clarified the purpose of the celebration.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Brig-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and U Kyaw Shein open the 47th fun fair and charity bazaar of Hninzigon Home for the Aged. — MNA

Training course on bio-security opens in Pyapon, Bogale

YANGON, 4 Dec — A training course on bio-security for poultry farmers in storm-affected regions was opened at the District Fisheries Department in Pyapon on 30 November in Pyapon.

It was organized by Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and FAO.

Chairman of Pyapon District Peace and Development Council U Mya Kyang, Senior Adviser Dr Murray Maclean of FAO avian influenza controlling programme and Deputy Director-General of LBVD Dr Aung Gyi made opening addresses.

A total of 40 trainees from Pyapon, Dedaye, Kyakka and Kungyankon townships took the course.

Besides, 25 trainees from Bogale and Mawlamyinegyun townships attended a similar training course held in Bogale Township.

DON'T SMOK
Regional development work in Kanbalu Tsp inspected

YANGON, 6 Dec.—Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe visited thriving paddy fields of Kanbalu Township in Sagaing Division and Kabo Dam near Kabo village on 3 December. Next, he visited the station hospital in Zeegon Village and inspected the spraying of pesticides on the groundnut plantation of farmer U Kyaw Zin in Mezialigon Village and fulfilled the requirements. The commander proceeded to Linban dam project site about three miles from Mezialigon Village. Officials reported on progress in construction of the dam and the commander called for measures for durability of the dam and greening its environs. The project started in fiscal year 2006-2007 and is scheduled to finish in 2008-2009. Afterwards, the commander inspected construction of a self-reliant dispensary and a regional development hall and the Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Natpay village. —MNA

UMFCCI officials meet Thai Commercial Minister Counsellor

YANGON, 6 Dec—General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, CEC member U Tin Ko Ko and executive U Myo Thant of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 4 December met with Minister Counsellor (Commercial) Mr Prajuab Supinee of the Royal Thai Embassy.—UMFCCI

AOpen computer introduced

YANGON, 6 Dec—AOpen Brand computer and accessories were introduced and demonstrated at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this evening. Managing Director U Myo Myint Tun of Royal Ayeayarwaddy Co Ltd gave an introductory speech. Ms. Gloria Tsan of AOpen Technology Asia Pacific Co Ltd introduced AOpen products to the attendees. Aopen Brand computer and accessories are available at Royal Ayeayarwaddy Co Ltd, sole agent for Myanmar, at No. 7, Ground Floor, 87th Street, Mingala Taungnyunt, Yangon (Tel: 01 384850, 389366, 709601).—MNA

Myanmar attends 2nd International Conference on Financing for Development

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec—Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun attended the 2nd International Conference on Financing for Development in Doha, Qatar from 29 November to 2 December. The delegation members including the UN Secretary-General and delegates from 165 UN member nations also attended the conference. Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon opened the second conference on 29 November at Al Dafina Hall of Sheraton, Dona Resort and Convention Hotel.

Qatari Prime Minister H H Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani stressed effects of the financial crisis on the developing nations on the developing countries and work programmes on pledges to be implemented by the developed nations. Next, the attendees submitted reports and, the heads of the States and the representatives presented reports on implementation of the development agreement made in Monterrey, Mexico in 2002.

On 30 November, Myanmar delegation leader Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun made a speech on economic development in Myanmar, progress of savings and investment indispensible for the nation, foreign investment, the need for cooperation between the developed and developing countries during the world economic crisis.

After that, the delegation leaders of the nations reported on implementation of Monterrey Agreement. On 2 December, delegates to the conference approved the report of Credentials Committee by Chairman of the committee Mr Charles Niwaagae, Botswanan permanent representative to the UN. And then, the Doha Statement was issued. The chairman of the conference presented Draft Outcome of the Conference.

The attendees to the conference agreed the drafting outcome to be named as Doha Declaration on Financing for Development put forward by the representative from Antigua and Barbuda representing the People’s Republic of China and G-22 nations.

Those present approved the Doha Declaration and the conference ended with the concluding remarks by the chairman. The Myanmar delegation arrived back here this morning. They were welcomed by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. —MNA
Construction and maintenance of power grids course concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Dec — Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint made a speech at the closing of the construction and maintenance of power grids course No.1/2008 at the ministry, here on 2 December.

Dr San Oo, Managing Director of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise, presented completion certificates to the trainees.

A total of 42 Engineer Officers did the course.

MNA

Pazundaung BEHS-1 to pay respects on 11 Jan

YANGON, 6 Dec — The 15th respecting ceremony of old students of Pazundaung Basic Education High School No.1 will be held at the hall of the school at 12 noon on 1 January 2009.

The coordination meeting for holding the ceremony will be held at the school on 7 December, 2008. Old students are invited to attend the meeting. Those wishing to donate cash or and kind may contact Dr Kyaw Tin (Ph- 066-44058), U Tint Win, Secretary of Education Department U Myint Than of Irrigation Department and wife Daw Myint Myint Htway donated wife of the commander, and officials spoke on the occasion.

Afterwards, the commander presented prizes to outstanding students who stood in the top ten positions in matriculation examination for 2007-08 in the country and six-and five-distinction winners, the wife of the commander, the headmistress and officials spoke on the occasion.

YANGON, 6 Dec — Old students of TadaU BEHS No. 2 holds prize presentation ceremony

YANGON, 6 Dec — The prize presentation ceremony of Basic Education High School No.2 of Latha Township was held at the school yesterday attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint.

The headmistress and officials spoke on the occasion.

Afterwards, the commander presented prizes to outstanding students who stood in the top ten positions in matriculation examination for 2007-08 in the country.

ROK Ambassador’s Cup Taekwondo Competition concludes

YANGON, 6 Dec — The final match of the Republic of Korea Ambassador’s Cup Taekwondo Competition was held in conjunction with prize-giving ceremony at National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwunna), here, on 3 December.

It was attended by officials of the Ministry of Sports, executives of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation, ROK Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Park Key Chong and embassy staff, Mr. Cho Kwang Golr and party of KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency), guests, managers of contestants of the teams.

The Chairman of MTF presented prizes to best referees and best players. MTF Executive U Lay Tin, Secretary of Tatmadaw Taekwondo Committee Captain Zaw Win Tun, Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee Captain Taekwondo Committee U Nyi Nyi Oo, MTF Secretary presented prizes to best referees and best players.

MTF Executive Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Tin Win, Resident Representative of KOICA Mr. Cho Kwang Golr and Korean Ambassador Mr. Park Key Chong presented awards to winners and winning teams.

ROK Ambassador Mr. Park Key Chong awards first prize to a winning team in 14-18 age group taekwondo contest.

YANGON, 6 Dec — The prize presentation ceremony of Basic Education High School No.2 of Latha Township was held at the school yesterday attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint.

The headmistress and officials spoke on the occasion.

Afterwards, the commander presented prizes to outstanding students who stood in the top ten positions in matriculation examination for 2007-08 in the country and six- and five-distinction winners, the wife of the commander, the headmistress and officials spoke on the occasion.

YANGON, 6 Dec — Old students of TadaU BEHS to pay respect on 24 Jan

YANGON, 6 Dec — Old students of TadaU Basic Education High School held a ceremony to donate cash for organizing the 7th paying respect to teachers at Htaikain Aung cafe in TadaU on 30 November. Director U Myint Than of Irrigation Department and wife Daw Myint Myint Htway donated K 1 million. The respect paying ceremony will be held on 24 January 2009 and those wishing to make donation may contact Dr Kyaw Tin (Ph- 066-44058), U Tint Lwin (Ph-066-44023) and U Thant Zin (Tawin jewellery shop). (Ph-066-44047).

MNA

Prawn Breeding Basic Course No. 6 opens

YANGON, 6 Dec — Under the Capacity Building Programme, the opening of Prawn Breeding Basic Course No.6, jointly organized by Action Aid (Myanmar) of Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanmar Shrimp Entrepreneurs Association, was held at MFF Building on Bayintsnaung Road in Insein Township here on 3 December.

Director General U Khin Maung Aye of Fisheries Department, MFF Vice-President U Han Tun and Chairman of Myanmar Shrimp Entrepreneurs Association U Hla Maung Shwe spoke on the occasion.

Altogether 39 trainees are taking the two-week course.

MNA

Chairman of Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association U Hla Maung Shwe speaking at opening of Shrimp Breeding Basic Course No. 6. — UMWCCI
Senior leader hails Chinese medical assistance in foreign countries

BEIJING, 6 Dec — Chinese foreign aid medical workers have played an irreplaceable role in promoting friendship between China and other countries, Vice Premier Li Keqiang said here on Friday.

Li, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks at an awarding ceremony for outstanding medical workers-stationed overseas.

China sent its first medical aid team to Algeria in 1963. It has since sent more than 20,000 medical workers abroad, helping 260 million patients in 69 countries and regions across the world.

Chinese foreign aid medical workers have overcome difficulties of working overseas, away from their homeland and families, and have provided excellent services for people in need in a selfless manner, Li said.

He said sending medical teams to work abroad is key to maintaining friendly ties with other developing countries, building a responsible image for the country, and building a favorable international environment for China’s development.

He urged relevant authorities to improve the benefits and the working conditions of Chinese medical workers abroad, and to provide more financial support and trainings for them.

Iraq, Ecuador call for expansion of ties

TEHERAN, 6 Dec — Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his Ecuadorian counterpart Rafael Correa Delgado called for the expansion of ties between the two countries, Iran’s official IRNA news agency reported.

In a joint press conference here on Saturday, the visiting Ecuadorian president said “We are determined to consolidate the current friendship” with Iran.

Referring to the growing relationships between two countries, especially those of the commerce, Delgado said the embassies of the two countries would be opened in Tehran and Quito in the near future.

Meanwhile, Ahmadinejad highlighted the potentials in the cooperation between the two countries in a number of areas, including the international issues, economic and industrial projects, energy, banking, tourism, technological-know-how, electricity and water.

The Islamic Republic of Iran sees no limit to transfer its invaluable achievement and experience to Ecuador,” he added.— Internet

British government talks to car manufacturers

LONDON, 6 Dec — The British government said Saturday that it is discussing how to help car manufacturers cope with falling sales and funding problems. The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform said Saturday that Business Secretary Peter Mandelson and Business Minister Ian Pearson met representatives from the automotive industry to talk about how the sector could access funding.

Britain’s car industry wants the government to help boost car sales by making it easier for potential customers to obtain motor loans. It also wants the government to bolster car companies’ own finance arms. The ministry said in a statement that car makers including Toyota, General Motors, Nissan and Rolls-Royce discussed concerns over liquidity. The government promised to ask the European Investment Bank to provide loans to the car industry.

The ministry statement said the government will continue to talk to the automotive industry over the coming weeks. — Internet

Climate change, drought to strain Colorado River

SALT LAKE CITY, 6 Dec — Seven Western states will face more water shortages in the years ahead as climate change exacerbates the strains drought and a growing population have put on the Colorado River, scientists say.

Clearly we’re on a collision course between supply and demand,” said Brad Udall, director of the Western Water Assessment at the University of Colorado.

Although there is some disagreement about when the most dire conditions will materialize, scientists at a conference in Salt Lake City said Thursday they expect less water to be available in the coming decades.

Without fundamental shifts in water management, the result will be shortages and difficult decisions about who in the seven states the river serves will get water and who will go without, said Dave Wegner, science director for the Glen Canyon Institute, which organized the one-day conference at the University of Utah.

To me, it’s not going to be a pretty debate,” Wegner said.— Internet

Moderate quake shakes area outside Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 6 Dec — A magnitude-5.5 earthquake struck an area 117 miles (about 187 kilometers) east-northeast of downtown Los Angeles Friday evening, but there was no immediate report of injuries or damage, authorities said.

The temblor struck at 8:18 pm local time (1618 GMT) 16 miles (about 26 kilometers) west-northwest of Ludlow, a small town in the Mojave Desert, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said.

The shaking could be felt from San Diego to West Los Angeles.

San Diego County sheriff’s Lt. Mike Munsey said he felt his building roll but not shake.

Jeremy Chestnut, 20, who worked at a Dairy Queen and gas station in Ludlow, said the quake was not major, local KTLA News reported.
Philippine robbery shootout leaves 16 dead

MANILA, 6 Dec — Sixteen people died after suspected robbers engaged police in a shootout outside the headquarters of a transport firm in a Manila suburb, police said on Saturday.

Highway police and special operations acting on an informant’s tip were deployed to the transport firm’s office but were spotted by the robbers and met by a volley of gunfire, according to police chief inspector Glenn Tigson’s official report.

Eight robbers inside a sports utility vehicle died on the spot after the police returned fire. A second vehicle with two thieves on board sped away during the crossfire but was chased by the police.

The two robbers later abandoned their vehicle and grabbed a motorcycle from a passing motorist but were intercepted by police who shot and killed the suspects on the spot.

A father and his 7-year-old daughter on board a passing sports utility vehicle were also hit in the crossfire and later died. Two other people manning a truck near the office of the transport firm also died from gunshot wounds.

The police report said one member of the police’s elite special action force and the transport firm’s security guard also died after being hit in the crossfire.

Suspected pirates turned over to Yemen

MOGADISHU, 6 Dec — Seven suspected pirates were in the custody of Yemeni authorities early Friday, after they were picked up in the pirate-plagued Gulf of aden.

The Royal Danish Navy said one of its warships, the HDMS Absalon, rescued the seven men on Wednesday after they were found in a powerless skiff with rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47s aboard, navy spokesman Jesper Lynge told.

They were found approximately 75 nautical miles (140 kilometers) off the coast of Yemen after a distress call, Lynge said.

However, a Yemeni Interior Ministry official offered a different account of events, saying its coast guard rescued the suspected pirates on Friday. The official said a coast guard patrol had detected a boat near a port near Balhaf, Yemen, and, believing its activity to be suspicious, chased it down.

The coast guard exchanged fire with the men on board the boat, the official said, and the Somali boat overturned.

The men are suspected to be pirates because of the weapons on board, Lynge said. Pirates frequently use small boats to attack commercial vessels with small arms and grenades, but he said the Absalon crew could not connect the men “directly with another pirate attack in the area.”

Lufthansa acquires 41.56% stake in Austrian Airlines

VIEUNNA, 6 Dec — The Austrian state holding company OeIAG signed a contract with German Lufthansa for sale of its 41.56 percent stake in loss-making Austrian Airlines (AUA) after OeIAG’s supervisory board voted in favor of the sale at a special meeting on Friday.

According to the arrangement, the AUA will have a separate brand while keeping its headquarters in Austria. Lufthansa also planned to keep all long-distance routes, which is important to its headquarters. The revenue and cost synergies through the AUA integration into the Lufthansa Group are estimated to be around 80 million euros annually.

AUA is headquartered in Vienna and based at the Vienna International Airport with about 8,000 employees. Due to factors like price surge in aviation oil, AUA suffered huge loss last year, gaining 900 million euros of debts.

In July 2008, AUA announced an estimated loss of 70 to 90 million euros for the whole year. Therefore, on 12 Aug, the Austrian government gave the green light to the privatization that is to be finalized by the end of the year.

Turkish jets hit PKK targets in N Iraq

ANKARA, 6 Dec — Turkish General Staff said Friday that Turkish warplanes bombed several targets of the outlawed Workers Party (PKK) in mountainous region of Qandil in northern Iraq.

The General Staff said in a statement posted on its website that the raid on Friday targeted the PKK hideouts in the Qandil region, a major rebel stronghold near the border between Iraq and Turkey, adding that “the targets...were struck successfully.”

The statement said the bombardment was effective, adding that all planes returned to their bases safely after completing their mission.

The Turkish armed forces have taken tougher actions against the PKK since the country’s legislature extended on Oct. 8 the government’s mandate to launch cross-border operations against the rebels in northern Iraq.

The PKK took up arms in 1984 to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. Some 40,000 people have been killed in the over-two-decade conflict.

Passengers stranded in Antarctica rescued by Chilian Navy

SANTIAGO, 6 Dec — The 33 crew members and 89 passengers aboard the cruise liner Ushuaia stranded in Antarctica were rescued Friday by the Chilian navy.

The rescuers used the boats on the cruise ship to take all the passengers and crew members to the Chilen navy vessel Aquiles.

“The Aquiles is sailing with all the passengers to the Chilian Crei Base,” which is located 350 km from the accident place, the Argentine navy said in a statement.

Aquiles is expected to arrive the Chilian base early Saturday, where the passengers will be taken by a Hercules C-130 plane of the Argentine Air Force to the Port of Ushuaia in southern Argentina.

The cruise ship has a Panamanian flag but is owned by an Argentine company. It sent out alarms midday Thursday after it started leaking fuel and taking in water.

A rock damaged the hull as the Ushuaia passed through the Gerlache Strait, about 300 km from Argentine base Marambio and 1,300 km south of Ushuaia.

The crash left the boat adrift in Guillermina Bay, northwest of Antarctic Peninsula.

Aboard the ship there were 14 Danish, 12 Americans, 11 Australians, nine Germans, seven Argentines, seven British, six Chinese, six Spaniards, five Swiss, three Italians, three French, two Canadians, two Irish, a Belgian and a passenger from New Zealand. All of them were in “perfect” conditions, rescuers said.

A rescue ship inspects a residence damaged by a landslide in Kuala Lumpur on 6 Dec, 2008. A landslide occurred early Saturday in a housing estate in Kuala Lumpur.

A cruise ship with 33 crew members and 89 passengers is stranded in Antarctica on 4 Dec.

The cruise liner was rescued Friday by the Chilian navy. —INTERNET

A rock damaged the hull as the Ushuaia passed through the Gerlache Strait, about 300 km from Argentine base Marambio and 1,300 km south of Ushuaia.

The crash left the boat adrift in Guillermina Bay, northwest of Antarctic Peninsula.

Aboard the ship there were 14 Danish, 12 Americans, 11 Australians, nine Germans, seven Argentines, seven British, six Chinese, six Spaniards, five Swiss, three Italians, three French, two Canadians, two Irish, a Belgian and a passenger from New Zealand. All of them were in “perfect” conditions, rescuers said.

A rescue ship inspects a residence damaged by a landslide in Kuala Lumpur on 6 Dec, 2008. A landslide occurred early Saturday in a housing estate in Kuala Lumpur.

A cruise ship with 33 crew members and 89 passengers is stranded in Antarctica on 4 Dec.

The cruise liner was rescued Friday by the Chilian navy. —INTERNET

A rock damaged the hull as the Ushuaia passed through the Gerlache Strait, about 300 km from Argentine base Marambio and 1,300 km south of Ushuaia.

The crash left the boat adrift in Guillermina Bay, northwest of Antarctic Peninsula.

Aboard the ship there were 14 Danish, 12 Americans, 11 Australians, nine Germans, seven Argentines, seven British, six Chinese, six Spaniards, five Swiss, three Italians, three French, two Canadians, two Irish, a Belgian and a passenger from New Zealand. All of them were in “perfect” conditions, rescuers said.
Microsoft tackles auction pirates

LONDON, 6 Dec — Microsoft has launched 63 separate lawsuits against people peddling counterfeit software on auction sites. The legal action targets sellers in 12 nations including the US, UK, Germany and France.

Most of those Microsoft has targeted have been selling fake “Blue Edition” versions of Windows XP.

Microsoft said the operating system was proving popular on auction sites as it is reaching the end of its commercial sales cycle.

Windows XP stopped being installed on new PCs at the end of June 2008 to make way for the newest version of Windows, Vista.

While Microsoft has claimed strong sales for Vista many businesses and consumers have shunned it in favour of the older software. In a statement David Finn, Microsoft’s general counsel on worldwide anti-piracy and anti-counterfeiting, said auction sellers were taking advantage of unsuspecting customers. — Internet

Microsoft tackles auction pirates

FDA says risks of new asthma drugs vary

WASHINGTON, 6 Dec — The blockbuster asthma drug Advair does not appear to have an increased risk of serious respiratory complications seen with similar new medicines, federal health officials said on Friday.

But a less widely used medication, Serevent, had a significantly higher rate to patients developing serious complications in some patients.

The long-acting medications relax tight muscles around stressed airways and free patients from the need to take a puff from their inhaler every few hours.

For many asthma sufferers, that means they can sleep through the night. But LABAs, for reasons that are still being debated, can increase risks of death and respiratory complications in some patients.

The risk may be lower when a LABA is used together with a steroid to treat underlying inflammation deep inside the airways. Current medical guidelines suggest using both kinds of drugs together for patients with chronic asthma who aren’t responding well to other treatments. — Internet

Parents warned on fake consoles

LONDON, 6 Dec — Parents are being warned about fake imported Nintendo games consoles which could be a fire hazard and pose a danger to their children’s safety.

HM Revenue & Customs said it had seized hundreds of counterfeit Nintendo DS and DS Lites, which were discovered to contain dangerous power adaptors. Nintendo confirmed it had not produced the potentially dangerous adaptors.

Several UK consumers had ordered the consoles after being attracted by the much cheaper price.

Many had been bought for £40 instead of the usual £100 retail price.

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) warned UK customers to be “vigilant” when purchasing electronic goods from websites. “Buy from a reputable or regulated site, and if purchasing from outside the UK or a new website research the site, check all the facts before you buy,” said Pamela Rogers, HMRC’s head of intellectual property rights.

HMRC spokesperson Clare Merrills warned that faulty counterfeit consoles could be unsafe. “You might find you plug it in and the adaptor sets on fire or the wires start to melt and stick out,” she warned. — Internet

Warning over Internet painkillers

LONDON, 6 Dec — UK experts have warned of the dangers of purchasing drugs online after a study showed wide availability of strong painkillers over the internet.

A team at Edinburgh University found 35 websites selling prescription-only pain drugs to UK customers without requiring a prescription.

Government regulators warned that buying medicines online could have “deadly” consequences. The results appear in the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology.

About half of the sold prescription-only painkillers but 76% did not require the customer to provide a valid prescription.

Six asked for a prescription but accepted a fax or email copy which the researchers said could be forged or modified.

The drugs available included opioids such as tramadol and non-steroidal antiinflammatories, such as naproxen and celecoxib, commonly prescribed for conditions such as arthritis.

They can have severe side-effects and some should not be taken in conjunction with other medicines or in people with certain conditions, the researchers said.

A spokeswoman for the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, said although the sale of prescription-only medicines without a proper patient consultation was illegal it was not illegal to buy medicines online. — Internet

Microsoft tackles auction pirates

Coobface computer virus attacks Facebook users

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 Dec — Facebook’s millions of users are in the crosshairs of a computer virus dubbed Koobface that is spreading through the social networking site’s messaging system.

Users whose computers are infected may have their credit card numbers stolen or their searches on Google, Yahoo and MSN diverted to fraudulent Web sites.

The malicious code underscores how hackers are increasingly targeting social networking sites including Facebook and MySpace to capitalize on their big audiences. Because social networking sites allow messages only between fellow members who are friends, many users assume they are safe.

Koobface is spread through messages sent from friends whose computers are infected with the virus. The messages arrive in Facebook inboxes with titles like “you look just awesome in this new movie” and direct readers to another Web site to supposedly watch the clip.

After clicking to visit the site, users are shown a message that tells them they need an updated Adobe Systems Flash player. But downloading the software infects the victim’s computer with the virus.

“Only a very small percentage of Facebook users have been affected, and we’re working quickly to update our security systems to minimize any further impact,” said Barry Schnitt, a spokesman for Facebook, in Palo Alto.

Internet

Performs stage the United States Broadway classic musical “Aida” in Tianjin, north China, on 3 Dec, 2008. XINHUA
French title rivals hope for end to goal drought

PAGE, 6 Dec — French fans will hope for slightly more goalmouth action in Ligue 1 this weekend after the last round of fixtures produced just 11 goals in 10 matches.

The most surprising result last weekend saw league leaders, and reigning champions, Lyon draw 0-0 at home with bottom club Valenciennes on a heavily rain-soaked Stade Gerland pitch.

But none of Lyon’s main title rivals were able to take real advantage, with Marseille being held to a goalless draw at Toulouse and last season’s runners-up Bordeaux drawing 0-0 at second-bottom Sochaux.—Internet

Lyon’s Brazilian forward Fred (left) with Valenciennes’ French defender David Ducourtois during a match that ended in a 0-0 draw.—INTERNET

Man United go top as Spurs slide

LONDON, 6 Dec — Manchester United made the most of Tottenham Hotspur’s stumble with a 3-1 victory at White Hart Lane to go top of the Premier League for the first time since before Christmas and move 10 points clear of second-placed Chelsea.

Fulham and Wigan both fell to defeat, allowing their north-east counterparts to take the lead in the race for the Champions League places with two games to go.

Arsenal also moved into second place with a 2-0 victory over Reading but, like Spurs, face a tough match at the weekend with a trip to leaders Manchester City.

Tottenham, who have not won a Premier League title for 57 years, were hemmed in with a goalless draw at Toulouse and last season’s runners-up Bordeaux drawing 0-0 at second-bottom Sochaux.—INTERNET

Arsenal’s Emmanuel Adebayor (C) celebrates scoring the winning goal with teammate Mark van Bommel during their German first division Bundesliga football match at the Allianz Arena in Munich, southern Germany.—INTERNET

Gunnar Weimann (left) celebrates scoring the winning goal with teammate Mark van Bommel during their German first division Bundesliga football match at the Allianz Arena in Munich, southern Germany.—INTERNET

Barclays Premier League

Arsenal 1 - 0 Wigan Athletic
Blackburn 1 - 3 Liverpool
Bolton 0 - 2 Chelsea
Fulham 1 - 1 Manchester City
Man Utd 1 - 0 Sunderland
Newcastle 2 - 2 Stoke City

Chelsea’s Nicolas Anelka (L) scores against Bolton Wanderers during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford on 6 December, 2008. —INTERNET

Arsenal’s French manager Arsene Wenger

LONDON, 6 Dec — A home encounter with a mid-table minnow should be enough to have one of the English Premier League’s giants smacking its lips in anticipation.

But, if this season has taught us anything, it is that Arsenal are not a typical member of the top flight elite. Arsene Wenger’s side apparently likes nothing better than to confront one of their Big Four peers, having already toppled Manchester United and Chelsea this term. It is the games against the lesser lights which have been their undoing, so Wigan Athletic’s trip to the Emirates stadium will provoke familiar flutterings of dread in the stomachs of the club’s followers on Saturday. It is remarkable in itself that Arsenal remain in contention in the title race.

Wenger’s side have already suffered five defeats this season but they are still in touch thanks to the stumbles of their elite rivals, with Chelsea (12 points dropped at home), Liverpool (held at Anfield by Fulham, West Ham and Stoke) and Manchester United (three wins out of eight on their travels) all equally inconsistent.—INTERNET

INTERNET

Lyle, Goggin lead Australian PGA

COOLUM, 6 Dec — Jarrod Lyle tied the course record with a 9-under-par 63 Friday to take a share of the second-round lead with fellow Australian Mathew Goggin at the Australian PGA championship.

Lyle and Goggin, who shot 68 Friday, are at 9-under par, a record after two rounds on the Greenmount course.

Six players, including last week’s Australian Masters winner Rod Pampling (67), were tied for fourth at 7 under. Australian Nathan Green, who had a hole-in-one on the par-3 11th, shot 68 and was in a group three strokes back.

INTERNET

Last-minute Luca gives Bayern victory

MUNICH, 6 Dec — Italian striker Luca Toni scored an injury-time winner to give Bayern Munich a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Hoffenheim on Friday to pull level with their opponents at the top of the Bundesliga.

In front of a 69,000 sell-out crowd at the Allianz Arena, little Hoffenheim, who started the day with a three-point lead over their illustrious opponents, proved their lofty position was no fluke when they grabbed a 49th-minute lead.

Bosnian striker Vedad Ibisevic, the league’s top scorer, hit the target to register his 18th goal in 16 matches for a team who were playing in the third division just two seasons ago.—INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

Guns & Hoses

Geoffrey Fison

A man who has completed more than 70 marathons, including ten in London, Geoff started running at the age of 14 and continues to keep fit through running and cycling. Geoff has also travelled extensively around the world, visiting over 30 countries including the USA, China and Australia. Geoff has a particular interest in the sociology of sport and the psychology of coaches and athletes. Geoff is also a keen photographer and enjoys long holographic sessions at the seaside.
Many risks seen with traumatic brain injury

WASHINGTON, Dec — Traumatic brain injury may lead to an increased risk of developing symptoms like those of Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and other disorders, a panel of experts said on Thursday.

A committee of the Institute of Medicine, which provides advice to US policymakers, reviewed studies on the consequences of the kind of brain injuries that thousands of US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have suffered.

The panel’s report said more than 5,500 troops have sustained traumatic brain injuries in the two wars, many due to the roadside bombs commonly used by insurgents against American military vehicles.

Led by George Rutherford of the University of California, San Francisco, the panel said there is evidence that such injuries at moderate and severe levels may leave a person at higher risk for dementia like that experienced by people with mind-robbing Alzheimer’s disease.

PM says Singapore may face years of slow growth

SINGAPORE, Dec — Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Friday that the country’s economy, which is already in recession, may face years of slow growth. “I think that the recession - to the best of the experts’ judgment— may last a year. Maybe if we are lucky, three quarters,” Lee told members of Singapore’s Foreign Correspondents Association at a lunch.

“But the recovery from the recession is likely to be weaker than from previous recessions and we must be prepared for several years of slow growth,” he added.

The city-state’s gross domestic product (GDP) contracted 6.8 per cent in the third quarter from the previous quarter, following the 5.3 per cent decline in the second quarter. That means Singapore economy turned into technical recession.—Xinhua

WEATHER

Saturday, 6 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December average temperatures in Taninthayi Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were (Loilim (2°C).

Maximum temperature on 5-12-2008 was 90°F, Minimum temperature on 6-12-2008 was 62°F, Relative humidity at (99-30) hours MST on 6-12-2008 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 5-12-2008 was (9.0) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 6-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (10.31) inches at Mingaladon, (12.58) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from South at (12:30) hours MST on 5-12-2008.

Bay influence: According to the observations at (11:30) hrs MST today, the depression over the Northeast Bay and adjoining Southwest Bay has moved to Southeast Bay of Bengal and centered at about (450) miles Southeast of Chennai (India). It is forecast to move West-Northwest direction. Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 7th December 2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, 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 increase of night temperatures in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 7-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-12-2008: Generally fair weather.
**Defence Services**

**C-in-C’s Cup Football Tournament continues**

**YANGON, 6 Dec**—The first round matches of the 47th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Cup Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament continued at designated venues today.

At the matches of Group A held at South-East Command Zone (Mawlamyine), No 33 LID team beat No 99 LID team 5-4 and Yangon Command team beat No 11 LID team 2-0. North-West Command team won over No 22 LID team with 3-0 at the Group B held at South-West Command Zone (Pathein). North-West Command team beat No 88 LID 4-0 at Group C held at North-West Command Zone (Monywa). At the Group D held at Central Command Zone (Mandalay), Eastern Command team trounced Western Command team (C) 7-1. Costal Region Command won over Tatmadaw (Navy) with 1-0 at the Group E held at Southern Command Zone (Toungoo).

---

**Storm News**

**YANGON, 6 Dec**—A small storm occurred at Southwest of Bay of Bengal has slightly intensified and moved to the Southsouthward. According to the observations at (2.30 p.m.) today, it is centering at the sea, 140 miles southeast of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. It is forecast to move to southwestward and across the eastern coast of Sri Lanka from south within next 24 hours.

---

**Regional development in Hsipaw Township inspected**

**Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing visits Manli Village BEMS (Branch) in Hsipaw Township.** — MNA

---

**Equitable education opportunity for national races in Hpa-an region**

**As part of efforts to modernize and develop a nation, it is necessary to uplift the national education standard and produce the human resources. In the 21st Century, the world is facing the changes in all aspects. To be able to overcome the challenges in the 21st Century, the Union of Myanmar must strive for modernizing itself meeting with high-quality education standard.**

With a view to enabling the local national people to have the equitable opportunities to pursue education and turning out the qualified human resources, a total of 49 technological colleges under the Ministry of Science and Technology in 24 special development regions have been upgraded to university level beginning 20 January 2007.

Of them, Government Computer College (Hpa-an) in Kayin State was also upgraded to Government Computer University (Hpa-an).

In the past, the local people had to pursue education in the urban areas. At present, all the national brethren have the opportunities to study in their respective regions. Therefore, a considerable number of intellectuals and intelligentsia can be produced in the respective areas of the Union.

The equitable opportunities in the education sector will narrow the development gap in all regions of the nation. All in all, the development of States and Divisions will reflect the progress of the Union.

---

**Translation: TTA**

**Myanma Alin:**

22-11-2008

7-12-08 NL 7/30/18, 2:48 AM