Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses opening of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force) Soccer Tournament

YANGON, 18 Nov — A ceremony to open the 45th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force) Soccer Tournament for 2006 was held at Youth Training Centre, here, at 3 pm today, with an address by Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, senior military officers, officials of the Ministry of Defence, Tatmadawmen and family members, members of social organizations and guests.

First, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, delivered an opening address.

Next, soccer teams marched past the Adjutant-General.

After the opening ceremony, Central Command and Eastern Command met in the debut, and Central Command beat Eastern Command 5-3.

MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Defend airspace of the nation through flying capability

The Tatmadaw and the people are making concerted efforts for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. A strong, capable and modern Tatmadaw is being built for the new nation to see that the territory, territorial waters and airspace of the nation will be well protected.

At a time when efforts are being made for building a strong and modern Tatmadaw the government has been constantly producing pilots capable of flying advanced aircraft and helicopters. The graduation parade of Pilot Training Course No 68 of No 1 Pilot Training School at Flying Training Base took place at the parade grounds of the training base in Shande, Meiktila, on 17 November.

Flying capability is of utmost importance for a pilot. Each and every pilot is required to be healthy and fit in order that he can fly his aircraft efficiently. Moreover, they are to try their utmost to be able to assess the air power, air defence and communication networks.

The graduate pilots are to continue flying the different types of aircraft and helicopters to which they are assigned duties. And based on knowledge from the course and learning the experience of veteran pilots they are to try hard to become skilled ones.

This being so, the graduate pilots are to continue defending the airspace of the nation as good pilots on whom the State can rely while striving to be endowed with the capability that as good pilots on whom the State can rely while continuing defending the airspace of the nation try hard to become skilled ones.

Wellwishers invited to donate cash to sinking tubewells

YANGON, 18 Nov — Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are carrying out tasks to supply sufficient drinking water to rural regions of States and Divisions where water is scarce.

As tubewells are being sunk in the rural regions, wellwishers may contribute cash towards sinking tubewells — K 250,000 for a 2-inch-diameter and 200-foot-deep tubewell, K 500,000 for a 2-inch-diameter and 400-foot-deep tubewell, and K 500,000 for a 4-inch-diameter nd 400-foot-deep tubewell.

Those wishing to donate cash to sinking tubewells may contact the Director-General, Tel: 067-409026; the Deputy Director-General, Tel: 067-409362; the Deputy Director-General (Engineer), Tel: 01-291967; the Director (Finance), Tel: 067-409407; the Director (Sagaing Division DAC), Tel: 071-22766; the Director (Magway Division DAC), Tel: 063-23164; and the Director (Mandalay Division DAC), Tel: 02-546577. — MNA

Commander, minister inspect roads and bridges on Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao Road

YANGON, 18 Nov — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with officials of Public Works inspected construction of roads and bridges along Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao Road in a motorcade on 15 November. They inspected maintenance of Kyinkharam bridge at mile post No 21/0 and preparations for upgrading of the bridge.

The commander and the minister also viewed the condition of the road section of Myitkyina-Sumprabum Road and maintenance tasks for roads and bridges in the rainy season. The minister gave instructions on measures to be taken to complete the construction tasks in time to officials. — MNA

Presentation on production of bio-diesel held

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Nov — Presentation on Production of Bio-diesel, jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Energy and Fritz Werner Co, was explained at the hall of the Ministry of Energy, here, on 16 November evening.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Li-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, officials of the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Rail Transport, the Ministry of Industry-2, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Commerce.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay and Representative Mr B Bieger of Fritz Werner Co gave speeches. Prof Klaus Becker of Hohenheim University of Germany explained production of bio-diesel and replied to the questions raised by those present.

The Deputy Minister for Energy gave the concluding remarks. — MNA

National Karatedo Championship commences

YANGON, 18 Nov — The National Karatedo Championship, organized by Myanmar Karatedo Federation, was opened at Aung San Gymnasium, here, this morning.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik gave an opening speech.

After the opening ceremony, the director-general accepted K 2.2 million donated for development of Karatedo sport in Myanmar by Managing Director U Thet Khuang of Sports (a) One Nike Centre; K 400,000 by Director Major Tha Zin (Retd) of Thakha Gabar Co Ltd; K 300,000 by Managing Director U Zaw Min of Mingalar Co Ltd; K 300,000 by Managing Director U Min Zeyar Hlaing of Millennium Group; K 200,000 by Managing Director U Khin Hwe of Metropolitan Industry Co Ltd; and K 100,000 by Chief Editor U Maung Maung Myint of Aye of Yaunghbyan Magazine. President of MKF Dr Win Zaw presented K 50,000 to Mingala Taungnyunt Basic Education School No 3 and BEHS No 4 that contributed to the opening ceremony of the competition.

Next, Myanmar selected Karatedo players and junior athletes demonstrated their skills.

Athletes took part in 16 women’s singles and team Kata events, men’s singles and team Kata events, women’s and men’s Kumite events. The final matches will be held tomorrow. — MNA

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Director-General U Thaung Htaik accepts K 2.2 million donated by Managing Director U Thet Khuang of Sports (a) One Nike Centre. — MNA
Chinese, Vietnamese leaders agree to further promote ties

HANOI, 17 Nov — Chinese and Vietnamese top leaders agreed here Thursday to comprehensively promote bilateral ties while adhering to the principles of long-term stability, future-orientation, good neighbourly friendship and overall cooperation.

Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chinese President, held talks here Thursday afternoon with General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Nong Duc Manh and President Nguyen Minh Triet.

They exchanged in-depth views during the talks on relations between the two parties and the two countries, as well as major international and regional issues of common concern. Hu spoke highly of Vietnam’s achievements made by the Vietnamese people under the CPV’s leadership and said he hoped that the Vietnamese people will build the country into a modern socialist industrialized one at an early date.

Manh said Hu’s visit demonstrates the Chinese side’s great attention paid to bilateral good neighbourly friendship and cooperation, and Manh expressed the Vietnamese side’s pleasure and Manh expressed the Vietnamese side’s great satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations and cooperation, and Manh expressed the Vietnamese side’s great satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations and cooperation.

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The Chinese side places much importance on bilateral relations and will work with the Vietnamese side to further promote their relations. He made a four-point proposal for the further development of bilateral relations. — MNA/Xinhua

Disaster management officials say no tsunami threat to India

NEW DELHI, 17 Nov — There is no threat of tsunami hitting the Indian coast following a massive earthquake in Japan this evening, disaster management officials said.

The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre issued a tsunami warning for Japan and Russia after a 8.1 magnitude earthquake struck the Kuril Islands near north Japan.

“There is no threat of tsunami hitting Indian coasts,” a disaster management official said.

A pair of small waves hit about 40 centimetres high the northernmost island of Hokkaido Wednesday evening.

The Japan Meteorological Agency had forecast waves up to two metres high in the aftermath of the earthquake. — MNA/PTI

At least nine killed in N Carolina storm

WASHINGTON, 17 Nov — At least nine people were killed Thursday after a tornado ripped through a trailer park in a small town in the southeastern US state of North Carolina, US media reported.

Several mobile homes were demolished and others were torn off their foundations by the high winds in the town west of Wilmington, in the southeast of the state, CNN reported, quoting a local sheriff.

Several people were injured and crews were searching for people who had been reported missing, a spokeswoman for the Columbus County Emergency Services was quoted as saying.

As many as 200 emergency personnel were on the scene, and dogs were searching for people who still might be trapped in the rubble.

CNN Meteorologist Chad Myers said it appeared the tornado touched down on the western side of Columbus County sometime after 6 a.m. local time and "was on the ground for some time..."

The same storm system tore through other Southern states on Wednesday, slightly injuring two children when the building housing a skating rink in Montgomery, Alabama, collapsed, the report said.

Thousands of homes and businesses were left without power in the storm, the Associate Press reported.

MNA/Xinhua

A few squares of dark chocolate a day could cut your risk of heart attack, said US scientists in a study on Thursday 16 Nov, 2006. — XINHUA

British, Swedish climbers missing in Nepal avalanche

KATHMANDU, 17 Nov — Three foreign climbers and their sherpa guides are missing after being hit by an avalanche while trying to scale a Himalayan peak in eastern Nepal, an official said on Wednesday.

The men were sleeping at a camp on the 6,812-metre (22,349 feet) Ama Dablam Mountain — 130 kilometres (80 miles) east of the capital, Kathmandu — on Monday at the time, Lok Bahadur Khatri, a Tourism Ministry official, told Reuters.

"The avalanche hit the camp around midnight," Khatri said, adding that a helicopter had been sent to the area near Mount Everest to look for the climbers.

“The pilots said they could only see something like shoes or clothes from the air but found no trace of the climbers.” He identified the climbers as Briton Duncan Williams, 32, and Swedes Daniel Carlson, 27, and Mikael Forsberg, 41. — MNA/Reuters
China, Japan to jointly study history of bilateral ties

HANOI, 17 Nov — China and Japan Thursday agreed to hold the first academic meeting on joint study of Sino-Japanese history by the end of this year. They will create a committee composed of 10 scholars to jointly study the ancient, modern and contemporary history of Sino-Japanese relations.

The study, to be jointly conducted by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Japan’s institute on international affairs, is aimed at looking at their history objectively and enhancing mutual understanding.

They also agreed to carry out the study in line with the principles of the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement, the Sino-Japanese Treaty of Peace and Friendship and the Sino-Japanese Joint Declaration.

Japanese counterpart

Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met with his Japanese counterpart Taro Aso on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial meeting.

The two governments agreed that each country should be done rationally and with cool heads. It should be done in a responsible manner... Be aware that it is easy to cause misunderstandings and conflicts can easily spark,” Badawi said.

Badawi made the remarks in his presidential policy speech at the opening ceremony of the 2006 General Assembly of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) at the Putra World Trade Centre here. The UMNO, the largest political party in Malaysia, dominates the ruling party coalition National Front which has been ruling Malaysia since the country’s independence in 1957. “The Barisan Nasional (National Front) government has always held to a formula to deal with problems between us, in a spirit of understanding and moderation,” he said.

Malaysian PM stresses importance of national unity

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 Nov — Malaysian Prime Minister and UMNO President Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Wednesday stressed the importance of national unity and remained people to deal with sensitive issues in a rational, responsible manner. “Discussing sensitivities should be done rationally and with cool heads. It should be done in a responsible manner... Be aware that it is easy to cause misunderstandings and conflicts can easily spark,” Badawi said.

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Security robot developed by Chinese scientists

TIANJIN, 17 Nov— Chinese scientists have developed a robot that can help ensure security in public places.

The robot, the first of its kind developed in China, is expected to go on sale within two or three months. Jointly developed by the Civil Aviation University of China and Tianjin YAA’N Technology Electronics Co Ltd, the robot can patrol residential zones, airports, warehouses, department stores and other public places.

The two-wheel differential drive robot, looking like a small car, is 90 centimetres long, 55 centimetres wide and 75 centimetres high, and weighs 55 kilograms.

It can move independently on cement pavements and climb slopes with a 15 to 20 gradient, according to experts from the Civil Aviation University of China. The robot can move freely on fixed or specially designed routes. Equipped with Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) and wide-angle cameras, it uses ultrasonic equipment to avoid obstacles and extraneous information such as fires, to a controller.

Wildlife law adds to woes of India’s tigers

NEW DELHI, 17 Nov— A new Indian wildlife law offers too much protection to people living in forests and threatens to further undermine efforts to save an endangered population of tigers, conservationists said on Wednesday.

The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2006 came into force in September and aims to save the big cats, whose numbers have fallen alarmingly because of poaching.

But activists have called on India’s Supreme Court to scrap parts of the law they say might have the opposite effect.

“Coexistence of humans with large carnivorous wild animals is a myth,” said a petition filed on Monday by the Mumbai Natural History Society, the Wildlife Protection Society of India, the Conservation Action Trust and the Wildlife Trust.

“Conflict between the two is the reality, a reality which is reflected in the ascending graph of the number of fatalities on either side.”

They say the law, which insists authorities ensure “the agricultural, livelihood, development and other interests of the people living in tiger-bearing forests or a tiger reserve”, could mark a new low in efforts to save rare wildlife.

“This act would mean the end of forests as we know them. If you look at the map, you will see that the only forests left in this country are the tiger reserves,” Maneka Gandhi, former environment minister, told Reuters.

Joint petrol operations cut crime rate in Malacca Strait

JAKARTA, 17 Nov— Indonesian Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Slamet Soebijanto has said the crime rate in the Malacca Strait had been cut significantly following the coordinated joint petrol operations by Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia (Malsindo) since July 2002.

“The joint security maintenance by the three littoral countries has succeeded to reduce the crime rate in the strait. Vessels of countries using the waterway such as the United States and Japan have also hailed the success,” Antara news agency quoted the Navy chief as saying.

He said that there were 30 robbery and piracy cases in the strait in 2004. The number of these cases had been reduced to 15 in 2005 and to only two

Canada relaxes rules for foreign workers

OTTAWA, 17 Nov— Canada will make it easier for employers in the booming western provinces of Alberta and British Columbia to hire temporary foreign workers in 170 different fields, Ottawa announced on Wednesday.

The government said it would ease the rules on giving jobs to employees from overseas because firms in the two provinces were “truly having a hard time finding enough workers”.

Last year Canada admitted just over 99,000 foreign workers on temporary permits to fill jobs because there were no Canadians or permanent residents available. Most were skilled professionals.

“These new initiatives will assist employers by reducing overall costs and make it two to four weeks faster for employers to hire temporary foreign workers,” Human Resources Minister Diane Finley said in a statement.

The jobs include mining, chemical and petroleum engineers, financial auditors, astronomers, ministers of religion, jewellers, doctors, veterinarians, plumbers, builders, archivists, funnel directors, truck drivers, bakers, cleaners and leather cutters.

Police solve “grey train robbery”

LONDON, 17 Nov 18— Two elderly women whose pictures were plastered across newspapers recently after they were caught on camera stealing a bag at a railway station have handed themselves in.

Police said the women admitted the offence and have received an official caution in a case variously dubbed the “Grey Train Robbery” and “Gran Larceny”.

The women contacted police after the case received blanket media coverage under headlines such as “Nans on the Run”, “Artful Codgers” and “Old Blugs”.

Two killed in US shooting incident

WASHINGTON, 17 Nov 18— Two persons were killed and three others were injured overnight in a shooting spree in Detroit, Michigan, and police were searching for the gunman on Thursday morning, US media reported.

Police were searching for the gunman who seemingly shot at random on Detroit’s westside, in an area consisting of three to four blocks in about 10 minutes. The suspect fled after the shooting.

Competitors in the Red Bull Air Race World Series fly in formation over part of the Western Australian coast near Perth on 16 Nov, 2006.—XINHUA

A legged robot is able to teach itself to walk by continuously modeling its own body using internal simulations in this image released on 16 Nov, 2006. The same on-board algorithm also allows the robot to diagnose structural damage, such as the separation of a leg, and to recover from such damage by teaching itself to walk using a different gait.—XINHUA

A 500-ton building is pulled by jacks to its new location in Xiamen, east China’s Fujian Province, on 16 Nov, 2006. The building was moved a total of 61 meters (200 feet) from its original position, including a rotation of 45 degrees, China Daily reported.—INTERNET

The Navy chief as saying
More action needed in fight against bird flu in Asia-Pacific

HANOI, 17 Nov — An APEC ministerial meeting on Thursday called for further action in fight against bird flu as there is still potential threat of H5N1 virus to mutate into a pandemic strain in the Asia-Pacific Region as well as the world.

At the 18th Ministerial Meeting of the Asian-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), the ministers and representatives noted in a statement that "the potential for the highly pathogenic avian influenza/H5N1 virus to mutate into a pandemic strain remains a continued threat to the APEC region and the world." Therefore, they stressed the continuing need for vigilance and action to prevent the disease from outbreak.

They renewed their commitment to transparent communication of outbreak and the sharing of samples for research to improve preparedness.

The member economies agreed to continue to collaborate with International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza and to maintain cooperation with specialized international organizations for global preparedness and emergency response capacities.

In the past year, the APEC members have collectively and individually worked hard to control the spread of the bird flu virus and progress has been achieved. However, World Health Organization officials said that avian influenza remains the No 1 danger for global public health.

EU, Russia to negotiate deal on trade, energy at summit

HELSEINKI, 17 Nov — Finland will host the EU-Russia summit next week, expected to launch negotiations for a new EU-Russia framework agreement, which will cover wide-ranging trade and energy policy issues, according to a Wednesday press release from the Finnish Government.

The summit, set for 24 November in the capital Helsinki, will also focus on cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Russia in areas such as energy, environment, culture, justice and home affairs.

The EU delegations will be led by Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen, whose country is holding the current EU rotating presidency, and the Russian delegation, by President Vladimir Putin.

The EU will also be represented by President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, and EU Foreign Policy Chief, Javier Solana.

Key international issues such as Iran, the Middle East, the Western Balkans and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea will also be discussed during the meeting.

The EU-Russia summit will be paralleled with a separate high-level Northern Dimension meeting, which involves the EU, Russia, Norway and Iceland.

WHO launches drive against fake drugs

GENEVA, 17 Nov — The World Health Organization urged governments on Wednesday to crack down on the 30-billion-US-dollar market in fake drugs which make up 30 per cent of the market in some poorer countries.

“Counterfeit medicines — can harm patients by failing to treat serious conditions, can provoke drug resistance, and in some cases kill,” WHO said in a statement.

WHO launched a programme, backed by health bodies and police, that aims to promote greater legal selling of drugs and convince governments to treat the fake drug trade as a serious crime and punish it severely.

“The latest estimates... show that more than 30 per cent of medicines in some areas of Latin America, southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are counterfeit,” it said.

In August, WHO said it believed the illegal trade worldwide was worth more than 30 billion US dollars a year or between 5 and 8 per cent of the annual market for medicines. In richer emerging economies, counterfeit drugs made up 10 per cent of the market and in many of the independent republics of the former Soviet Union the figure went as high as 20 per cent.

Fakes also account for 30 per cent of those medicines sold on the Internet by illegal operators, as opposed to legal pharmaceutical companies that offer drugs at reduced prices but demand medical prescriptions before fulfilling Internet orders.

Chile says natural gas supplies from Argentina cut after strike

SANTIAGO, 17 Nov — The Argentine Government has cut natural gas supplies to Chile following mass strikes which have paralyzed companies in the country, Chile’s National Energy Commission (CNE) said on Wednesday.

Workers occupied gas wells in the Argentine region of Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut and Santa Cruz to protest what they called ‘irregularly applied’ profit taxes.
Anti-Bush protests flare in Indonesia before visit

JAKARTA, 18 Nov — Anti-Bush protests flared in parts of Indonesia on Friday ahead of a visit by the US President as the government told demonstrators to keep their actions civil.

George W Bush meets President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Monday in Bogor, 56 kilometres (30 miles) south of Jakarta.

Carrying banners saying “Go to hell, George Bush” and “Bush, terrorist king”, more than 500 students yelled slogans near the Bogor talks venue.

Health and education issues top the agenda. Bush is also likely to urge Indonesia to remain a key partner in anti-terrorism efforts in the region.

Groups ranging from radical Muslims to anti-globalization campaigners have rallied in several cities criticizing Bush, Yudhoyono and US policies on the Middle East. While frequent and widespread, most demonstrations have been small, seldom exceeding 100.

The Indonesian Government has told demonstrators to behave but says protests are inevitable.

“If President Bush goes to Bogor and there is no demonstration, that would be weird,” foreign affairs spokesman Desra Percaya said in a weekly briefing on Friday.

He added that Yudhoyono would raise the issue of achieving an independent Palestinian state.

Public opinion in Indonesia, the world’s most populous Muslim nation, overwhelmingly favours the Palestinians in their disputes with Israel, with which Jakarta has no diplomatic ties.

MNA/Reuters

Bond film smashes box office record in Britain

LOS ANGELES, 18 Nov — The new James Bond movie shook up the British box office during its first day of release on Thursday, earning more than any other film in the spy franchise, distributor Columbia Pictures said.

“Casino Royale”, which marks the 007 debut of Daniel Craig, sold 1.7 million pounds (3.2 million US dollars’) worth of tickets, a 54-per-cent increase over comparable sales for the previous Bond film and first-day record-holder, 2002’s “Die Another Day”.

In all, two-thirds of all movie tickets sold in Britain were for “Casino Royale”, the Sony Corp-owned studio added.

The film opens in the United States and Canada on Friday. Of the 27 international territories where “Casino Royale” is debuting this weekend, Britain and Russia are the largest. — MNA/Reuters

China pledges to facilitate trade, investment liberalization

HANOI, 18 Nov — China is committed to providing an open, transparent and highly efficient environment for business people to facilitate trade and investment liberalization, China’s top commercial official said here on Thursday.

“Up to date, over 40 per cent of the technical regulations in China have adopted international standards, compared with only 12 per cent in 1978,” said Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai at the just-concluded ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Cooperation (APEC).

On facilitating the movement of business people, he said that China had issued more than 6,700 APEC business travelling cards since the system was introduced in November 2003.

And more than 3,000 foreigners in the country has been granted the status of permanent residence since China adopted its own “green card” system in 2004, he said, adding that the country’s Customs procedures have also been greatly simplified.

Bo said that economic cooperation among APEC members should focus on substantial results, which call for enhanced collective action. — MNA/Xinhua

MADRID to mount major Picasso exhibit in 2008

GRONA (Spain), 18 Nov — Spain plans to put on one of the biggest exhibitions of works by Pablo Picasso in 2008 after reaching a deal to borrow hundreds of pieces from Paris’ famed Picasso Museum.

The exhibition will bring together 400 works by the Malaga-born artist, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said on Thursday after a bilateral meeting with France. The exhibition will be housed at the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid, home to Picasso’s haunting depiction of war “Guernica”. Picasso lived much of his life exiled in Paris while Spain was under the Leadership of Francisco Franco. He died in France in 1973, two years before Franco died and moves began to restore democracy in his homeland.

The newly-born baby chimpanzee lies in a nursing box at the Wild Animal Zoo in Hefei, 16 Nov, 2006. — XINHUA

MNA/Reuters

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China pledges to facilitate trade, investment liberalization

HANOI, 18 Nov — China is committed to providing an open, transparent and highly efficient environment for business people to facilitate trade and investment liberalization, China’s top commercial official said here on Thursday.

“Up to date, over 40 per cent of the technical regulations in China have adopted international standards, compared with only 12 per cent in 1978,” said Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai at the just-concluded ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Cooperation (APEC).

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The newly-born baby chimpanzee lies in a nursing box at the Wild Animal Zoo in Hefei, 16 Nov, 2006. — XINHUA

MNA/Reuters
Minister inspects livestock activities in Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Nov—CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint inspected the pig farm of the Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise in Napha Village near Lashio-Monywa Road, Lashio, Shan State (North) on 13 November. They were conducted round the farm by General Manager Dr Than Shwe and farm manager Dr Swe Lwin.

The minister and the deputy commander went to the briefing hall of the 5,000-acre highland reclamation project of the USDA.

Officials of Bala Minhtin Co reported on production of corn and physic nut nurseries and bio-diesel plant and the poultry farm in Chemyitpin Village in Nawngkha.

They invited the Thiri Mangala Manus Pagoda.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects progress of agriculture and construction... (from page 16)

The minister and the deputy commander inspected research physic nut nurseries and bio-diesel plant and the poultry farm in Chemyitpin Village in Nawngkha.

On 14 November, the minister and party inspected cultivation of durian, mango and papaya of Patheingyi Township USDA in Aungye Village.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected construction of the two-storey lecture hall of the degree college. Construction of the two-storey building measuring 168 feet by 38 feet was completed by 30 per cent.

At Kengtung-Tongtah section of Kengtung-Mongpyin-Tarkaw Road, Superintending Engineer U Thaung Hay of Shan State (East) reported to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on arrangements for construction of the retaining wall for prevention of landslides.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected maintenance of the road section and bridges, and gave instructions on construction of the retaining walls, expansion of the tarred road, dredging of drains at the respective places and completion of the reinforced concrete bridge project on the road on schedule with the set standard.

ASEAN Radio Quiz held

YANGON, 18 Nov—The ASEAN Radio Quiz for October took place at the Myanmar Radio and Television on 3 November.

Ma Aye Thiri Kyaw of Yankin Township, Yangon Division, won the first prize, Maung Aung Kyaw Kyaw of Hmuda Township, Taninthayi Division, the second prize, Ma Loi Yai Tun of Taikkyi Township, Yangon Division, the third prize, and Maung Chit Ma AYE THIRI KYAW of Yankin Township, Yangon Division, the consolation prize.

Any one regardless of age and educational qualification can participate in it, and enthusiasts are to contact MRTV, Pyay Road, Yangon.—MNA

Minister for Electric Power

No 2 receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Nov.—Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Maung Thein received Director Mr Stuart Griffiths and party of John Brown Company of the United Arab Emirates at his office, here, on 15 November morning.

The minister also received Regional Vice-President Mr Maurice J Dres of France-based Areva T & D Pte Ltd at his office on the same morning.

Also present at the calls were Director-General Dr Theirin Tun of Electric Power Department, Managing Director U Tin Aung of Electric Power Supply Enterprise and officials. — MNA

Chairman of Tianshi Group Mr Li Jinyuan speaking at the family get-together of Sky Lion Trading Co Ltd.—MNA

Minister inspects livestock activities in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 18 Nov—The opening of Sky Lion Trading Co Ltd took place at Sakura Tower at 339 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, here, this afternoon, attended by officials, departmental heads, Chairman of Sky Lion Trading Co Ltd U Sai Maung Maung Myint, the chairman of the Tianshi Group, the Asian-Pacific Regional chairman, the general managers for Myanmar and Vietnam and the director of the Tianshi Group and guests.

In the evening, a get-together ceremony of the company was held at the Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium (1) in Thingangyun Township, with greetings extended by General Manager of the branch (Myanmar) of Tianshi Group Li Tie Gang. The Asian-Pacific Regional Chairman extended greetings and the chairman of Tianshi Group addressed the ceremony. — MNA

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Chairman of Tianshi Group Mr Li Jinyuan speaking at the family get-together of Sky Lion Trading Co Ltd.—MNA
Presentation on production of bio-diesel

YANGON, 18 Nov—
Under the arrangements of the Myanma Industrial Development Committee, MAN Ferrostaal Industrieanlagen BmbH (Yangon branch) extended greetings.

Prof Mr Klaus Becker of University of Hohenheim, Jatro Solutions GmbH of Germany presented use of jatropha oil. He said that Myanmar will be successful in producing bio-diesel if the large-scale cultivation of jatropha curcas (physic nut) in Myanmar is combined with application of the findings from the research he conducted in Africa and India in four years.

General Manager of Shwe Than Lwin Co explained machines and production process of the machines for bio-diesel plants.

Academic programmes supervised in Yangon

YANGON, 18 Nov—
Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein had a meeting with rectors, pro-rectors, professor deans at Yangon East University this morning.

Rector Dr U Win reported on day courses, holding examinations of Universities of Distance Education, use of language labs and computer training centres for academic purposes, research, and rule enforcement steps for uplift of morale of the students.

The minister gave instructions on raising the standard of the universities, use of language lab and computer training centres, research, enforcement of rules and regulations, ensuring sufficiency of pedagogical aids, use of libraries, greening of educational institutions, and assessing departments and teachers.

He visited the intensive courses for Geography and Economics subjects at the university and encouraged the students.

He met with the principals and teachers at the National Management College, and at Yangon Institute of Economics. He encouraged the students of Executive Master of Public Administration course and Master of Development Studies course.

The minister visited the University for Foreign Languages (Yangon). He inspected No 3 Basic Education Middle School and No 3 Basic Education Primary School in Bahan Township, No 5 Basic Education High School, No 7 BEPS and No 2 BEHS in Mayangon Township. During his inspection tour, the minister assessed the skills of the students and encouraged them.

Don’t smoke
Journey through Caring Society and Cultural Heritage of ASEAN

YANGON, 18 Nov — Under the ASEAN Campus Journalists/Leaders Exchange Programme Phase II of ASEAN Cultural and Information Committee, a 20-member student delegation group of colleges and universities in ASEAN countries together with Project Coordinator Mrs Preekamol and Lecturer Dr Rosechongporn visited Myanmar from 12 to 17 November. Myanmar Radio and Television organized the programme under the supervision of Ministry of Information. On their tour, Myanmar scholars gave lectures on Getting To Know Myanmar, Cultural Diversity of ASEAN and Forming a Caring Society with Cultural Heritage. They visited University of Culture, MRTV, Union National Races Village, Archaeological site of Kambawzathadi Palace in Bago, Hninzigone Home for The Aged, Gems Museum, Kyaihtiyo Pagoda and Shwedagon Pagoda.

ASEAN Campus Journalists/Leaders Exchange Programme Phase II is a programme for journalists and leaders of colleges and universities in ASEAN countries to make study tour in the region alternately. Under the Phase I, they visited the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia in 2005. They visited Thailand, Laos and Myanmar in 2006 under Phase II.

New refrigerator of Daewoo introduced

YANGON, 18 Nov — OK Myanmar Co Ltd introduced new models of Daewoo refrigerator at Crystal Jade Hall on the 10th floor of Excel Treasure Tower in Bahan Township this evening.

Managing Director U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing of OK Myanmar Co Ltd extended greetings and member of the Board of Directors U Zaw Weik explained distribution of the Daewoo electronics and warranty for the products. The company will present lucky draws worth K 23.4 million to the customers.

Engineers of the company explained quality and capacity of the refrigerator. Daewoo brand refrigerators and air-conditioners and Sanyo brand air-conditioners are available at electronic showrooms in the entire nation. Everyone can contact Head Office, No (163), Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Ph: 392986, 392987, 377627, 392977, Daewoo Showroom, No (201–203), Pansodan Street, Ph: 241077, 387644 and OK Myanmar Sale and Service Centre, No (4/28), Yan Aung (1), Pyinmana, Ph: 067-22953.

HIV/AIDS and STD educative talks given to inmates

YANGON, 18 Nov — A 7-member HIV/STD unit led by Dr Nyan Tun of Shan State Health Department on 26 October held educative talks on HIV/AIDS and STD diseases at Taunglaylon Agricultural Farm of Taunggyi Prison. A total of 165 prisoners attended the educative talks. Later, Dr Nyan Tun and party provided medical checks to them.
China’s biggest travel service to go public in 2007

BEIJING, 18 Nov — China International Travel Service (CITS), China’s biggest travel agency, plans to go public by the end of 2007, Yao Yuecan, president of the CITS, said here on Thursday.

The CITS will be transformed into a shareholding company in the middle of next year and go public at the year end, Shanghai Securities News quoted Yao as saying.

Currently the CITS is restructuring 50 of its local branches, most of which have fairly good financial conditions and are located at provincial capital cities, coastal cities and major sceneries. The China United Travel Co Ltd, controlled by the CITS, has been listed as A-shares on the Shanghai bourse in 2000, which recorded a net profit of 16.92 million yuan (2.17 million US dollars) in the third quarter of this year.

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Nov — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stressed on Thursday the richness of diversity.

In a message marking the observance of the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November, Annan pointed out that recent years have witnessed a sharp rise in intolerance, extremism and violence across the world.

“This disturbing trend is fuelled, in part, by a growing tendency to articulate differences in terms of identity rather than in terms of opinions or interests,” he said.

He called on people to strive to uphold the principles of tolerance, pluralism, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, to be ready to correct stereotypes and distorted images, and to speak up for victims of discrimination.

“On this International Day of Tolerance, let us therefore reaffirm the notion that diversity — in thought, in belief, and in action — is a precious gift, not a threat, and let us seek to build more tolerant communities steeped in this essential ideal,” he concludes.

Few sequels give holiday movies a fresh feel

LOS ANGELES, 17 Nov — Hollywood’s holiday movie season kicks into gear on Friday with a fresh spin on the old James Bond films, followed by six weeks of releases that surprisingly lack many high-profile sequels like the “Harry Potter” films.

“This season to be jolly in Hollywood, and if this year’s group of movie hopefuls hold up as expected at box offices, producers will be laughing all the way to the bank.

Since September, ticket sales are up 4.5 percent at 1.55 billion US dollars, compared to 1.29 billion US dollars last year, according to tracker Exhibitor Relations Co Inc.

The holiday season begins with super spy Bond returning in “Casino Royale,” but British actor Daniel Craig replaces Pierce Brosnan as 007. Debuting alongside that film are some pesky animated penguins dancing on the Antarctic ice in “Happy Feet”.

One week later comes superstar Denzel Washington in action adventure “Deja Vu,” followed by five weeks of stars like Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett and Will Smith in “Blood Diamond,” “The Good German” and “The Pursuit of Happyness.”
China sets up alliance to combat chronic lung diseases

BEIJING, 17 Nov — An alliance of Chinese doctors and lung specialists has been set up to fight chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a deadly illness, ahead of the fifth “World COPD Day” on 16 November.

The Guangzhou-based alliance, started by the Chinese Medical Association (CMA) and the German Boehringer Ingelheim Group, brings together respiratory specialists from across the country. It aims to raise public awareness, share clinical experience and advise policymakers about issues such as smoking and air pollution.

The COPD is a group of chronic lung diseases. As the disease worsens, breathing becomes more difficult, making it hard to carry out daily activities. A COPD exacerbation can be mild to life-threatening. Although COPD can be controlled, it cannot be cured, experts said.

According to the World Health Organization, COPD and HIV/AIDS rank fourth in the list of deadly world diseases after cardiopathy, cerebrovascular diseases and acute lung infections. Zhong Nanshan, director of the CMA and one of the organizers of the alliance, said COPD poses a serious challenge to the medical field.

George Clooney—“People” “Sexiest Man” again

LOS ANGELES, 17 Nov — Coming off a pivotal year in which he earned three Academy Award nominations and clinched an Oscar for his performance in “Syriana,” actor George Clooney was again named People magazine’s “Sexiest Man Alive” on Wednesday.

The accolade marks the second time Clooney, 45, has topped the magazine’s annual list of Hollywood heartbeats, having been so honoured in 1997. His close friend and co-star Brad Pitt is the only other celebrity twice dubbed People’s “sexiest man” — “This one’s going to be hard for Brad since he’s been ‘Sexiest Man Alive’ twice,” Clooney joked in an interview with People. “He’s enjoyed that mantle — ‘Sexiest Man Alive’ to him, and he’d go, ‘Two-time.’ So that’s been taken away.”

Clooney headed to California from his native Kentucky in the early 1980s to work as a chauffeur for his aunt, singer Rosemary Clooney. “It’s a little more fun when the sexiest man in the world’s most eligible bachelors helped. It’s a little more fun when the sexiest man in the world’s most eligible bachelors helped. — People

People touch the trunk of a Ceiba tree while walking around it three times, hoping to get three wishes granted from Havana’s patron saint San Cristobal in Havana on 16 Nov, 2006. Inhabitants of Havana celebrate, every November 16, the anniversary of the first mass and first town council of San Cristobal de la Havana since the foundation of the city in 1519. — Internet

APEC Counter-Terrorism Task Force to focus on aviation security

HANOI, 17 Nov — The APEC Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CFTF) will focus its work on ensuring aviation security next year, aiming to minimize terrorism risks, according to a Press release issued here on Thursday by the task force. The 2007 CFTF work programme will include new initiatives such as the Aviation Security Quality Controls to mitigate the terrorist threat to the international civil aviation network.

The CFTF will also establish an aviation security point of contact network to improve communications and identify gaps in aviation security networks to cope with potential urgent aviation security threats. It has agreed to form a business resumption point of contact network with an aim to ensure rapid communication in the case of terrorist attack with an impact on border operation.

To consolidate the network, the CFTF has developed with the APEC Task Force for Emergency Preparedness an APEC Emergency and Rapid Responses Points of Contact Network that can be called into immediate action to respond a terrorist attack or other disasters such as a disease pandemic.

Take an aspirin with that flame-broiled burger

NEW YORK, 17 Nov — You might want to cook the holiday turkey in the oven instead of on the grill, hoping to get three wishes granted from Havana’s patron saint San Cristobal in Havana on 16 Nov, 2006. Inhabitants of Havana celebrate, every November 16, the anniversary of the first mass and first town council of San Cristobal de la Havana since the foundation of the city in 1519. — Internet

The new light of myanmar Sunday, 19 November, 2006

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Clooney headed to California from his native Kentucky in the early 1980s to work as a chauffeur for his aunt, singer Rosemary Clooney, before making his own way in show business. — Reuters
Plastic surgery reality show sparks debate in China

BEIJING, 17 Nov—After the barnstorming success of Super Girls, the Chinese version of the popular US TV show “American Idol”, another US show — “I Want A Famous Face” — has arrived in living rooms across the land and is generating even more controversy.

Screened by MTV China at 10 p.m. every evening from September 25, the show describes cosmetic surgery that may involve anything from cutting human skin to grinding bones.

Candidates for the surgery are on a quest for beautiful celebrity-like faces but achieving that goal can be painful and the reality show is proving highly controversial.

“Cosmetic surgery, like any kind of surgery, includes bloody scenes that can frighten medical students and even surgeons, let alone ordinary viewers,” said Qin Junmin, a cosmetic sur-geon in a Guangzhou-based hospital.

Nin’s remarks were echoed by Cai Fangming, head of the Shuguang Hospital in Guangzhou, who recommended stricter viewer guidelines.

Sina.com, one of the major news websites in China, reported camera men fainting while shooting scenes in the operating theatre.

MTV China has already blurred images on the screen and issued warnings about bloody scenes during the show. It has also avoided peak viewing time for children.

Other cosmetic surgeons fear that, even though it is popular with viewers, the show will drive away potential customers.

Michael Jackson performs in comeback…of sorts

LONDON, 17 Nov—Pop superstar Michael Jackson made a musical comeback of sorts on Wednesday, singing the chorus line of his charity single “We Are The World” before the sound cut out as he reached for the high notes.

The 48-year-old, performing live for the first time since he was acquitted of child molestation charges in June, 2005, looked uncomfortable at times as he humbled by this award,” said Jackson, who wore a black sequin jacket and matching shirt.

“It was my dream that ‘Thriller’ would be the biggest-selling album ever… and God has answered my prayers.”

Whether the performance helps him on the road to professional recovery remains to be seen. Jackson has said he planned to move to Europe in a bid to resurrect his musical career and indicated he will release a new album in 2007.

The World Music Awards are based on artists’ sales as opposed to votes from the public or a panel of judges.

Scientists identify key mutations in bird flu virus

HONG KONG, 17 Nov—Scientists have discovered two spots on the H5N1 bird flu virus which would need to mutate for the virus to infect people more easily.

H5N1 is largely a disease in animals because it has surface proteins which bind more easily to “receptors” lining respiratory tracts of birds, rather than receptors in humans.

Experts fear H5N1 will infect more humans and trigger a pandemic killing millions of people if the virus mutates to attack easily to human receptors.

In the latest issue of Nature, scientists in Japan, Britain and the United States said they had discovered two specific spots on the genes of H5N1 which appeared to determine if the virus attached more easily to bird or human receptors.

This discovery will help scientists decide if any strain of the H5N1 has the potential to cause a human pandemic. “The bottom line is that the changes (on the two spots) can be used as molecular markers to identify the potential of the viruses that may grow well in humans,” said Yoshihiro Kawakita of the Institute of Medical Science at the University ofTokyo.

Using 21 samples of the H5N1 virus taken from human victims in Indonesia and Vietnam, the team of scientists found that three of them bound especially easily to human receptors.

World Toilet Expo kicks off in Thailand

BANGKOK, 17 Nov—Thailand, hosting the World Toilet Expo and Forum 2006, plans to adopt proactive strategies to help public toilets throughout the country to meet international hygienic standards, Thai News Agency reported Thursday.

Thai Public Health Minister Mongkol Na Songkha presided over the ceremony opening the World Toilet Expo and Forum 2006 on Thursday.

The event, scheduled from November 16 to 20, was joined efforts by the government and private sectors.

Thailand has set a target to increase the figure to 60 per cent in 2007 through public relations campaigns, the minister said.

Hu Jintao (C), Chinese President, Nong Duc Manh (R), general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh Triet attend the opening ceremony of a website for China-Vietnam economic and trade cooperation, in Hanoi, on 16 Nov, 2006.—Xinhua

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 19 November, 2006 13
Bochum rally to beat Frankfurt 4-3 in thriller

BERLIN, 18 Nov—VfL Bochum recovered from 2-0 down to beat 10-man Eintracht Frankfurt 4-3 in a thrilling match that gave the hosts only their second win in seven home games.

The victory took Bochum out of the relegation zone with 12 points from 13 matches as they climbed two places to 15th. Frankfurt stayed 10th in the 18-team standings on 16 points.

Frankfurt’s Albert Streit scored with a free kick after 45 seconds and doubled their lead four minutes later by tapping in a cross from Alexander Meier. Many Bochum fans, fearing another home rout, jeered or headed for the exits.

But the home side came storming back through Zcejdan Misimovic’s 29th minute penalty after Frankfurt’s Alexander Vasoski was sent off for the third time this season after bringing down Theofanis Gekas in front of Eintracht’s goal.

Marcel Malritz equalized in the 33rd and Heiko Butscher put Bochum in front three minutes later to send those loyal Bochum fans who had stayed into a frenzy. Bochum made it 4-2 just after the break thanks to a splendid individual effort by Gekas with his fifth goal of the season before Ioannis Amanatidis pulled one back for Frankfurt in the 56th minute.

Nadal outlasts Davydenko to set up semi against Federer

SHANGHAI, 18 Nov—Spain’s Rafael Nadal won a Masters Cup round robin shoot out with Russian Nikolay Davydenko 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 on Friday to set up a semifinal against world number one Roger Federer.

The world number two pulled out of last year’s event with injury, reached the last four despite losing to James Blake in his opening match. Last year’s semifinalist Davydenko goes home with a 1-2 record in the Gold Group. American Blake, who plays Spain’s Tommy Robredo later on Friday, has already won the group and will meet Argentine David Nalbandian in Saturday’s other semifinal.

Robredo is already out of contention after two defeats.— MNA/Reuters

Lara edges ahead in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 18 Nov—Spain’s Jose Manuel Lara fired a second round four-under-par 66 to open a one-shot lead at the Hong Kong Open on Friday, while defending champion Colin Montgomerie moved into contention for a repeat triumph.

Lara was the co-overnight leader and while most of the front-runners conceded ground to the chasing pack, the Spaniard carded five birdies to remain top of the leaderboard at the halfway stage with a 10-under-par 130 total.

However, with a dozen players lying within four shots of the lead, including Frenchman Gregory Bourdy at nine under, Lara said he was not taking anything for granted.

Montgomerie managed to claw himself back into contention with a four-under 66, after a frustrating opening round at the 2 million US dollars co-sanctioned European and Asian Tour event.

China’s leading player Zhang Lian-wei delighted the home support with a seven-under-par 63 to sit just two shots off the pace along with Australian Andrew Buckle and Jovic Pagonus of the Philippines.

Zhang played an inspired round that included an eagle and seven birdies. Zhang’s compatriot Liang Wen-chong failed to build on his solid opening round and stumbled to a two-over 72 that leaves him seven behind the leader.—MNA/Reuters

Nathan Green maintains two shot lead at Australian Open

SYDNEY, 18 Nov—Nathan Green shot a one-under-par 71 to maintain a two-shot lead at the Australian Open after Friday’s second round.

Green failed to match his spectacular opening round of 67 but still finished the day at six-under par to remain two clear of fellow Australian Richard Green. Stuart Appleby and Gavin Coles were tied for third a further three shots back at one-under, one ahead of a bunch of seven players at even par, including US Open champion Geoff Ogilvy and PGA Tour Championship winner Adam Scott.

Five-time champion Greg Norman holed a 10-metre birdie putt on the final hole to make the cut in possibly his final appearance at the tournament.— MNA/Reuters

Cannavaro named European player of year

MADRID, 18 Nov—Italy captain Fabio Cannavaro has been named European Footballer of the Year by France Football magazine, Real Madrid president Ramon Calderon said on Friday.

"The joy at Cannavaro winning the Ballon d’Or has been overshadowed by the sad news of the death of Ferenc Puskas today," Calderon told reporters on Friday. The 33-year-old centre-back, who captained Italy to victory at the World Cup in Germany, joined Real from Juventus along with Brazilian midfielder Emerson in July.

France Football will not officially announce who has won the award, which is based on a vote by European soccer journalists, until 27 November.

Pongsaklek beats Mykeni for record defence

NAKHON RATCHASIMA (Thailand), 18 Nov—Thailand’s Pongsaklek Wongjirakom made a record 16th straight defence of his WBC light-flyweight title on Friday with a points victory over South African Monelisa “squeamish” Mykeni.

Fighting in his home city for the first time, the Thai was made to work hard for his win, with Mykeni frustrating him by ducking and dodging most of his punches.

The Thai southpaw survived a late onslaught by the lively challenger to win a unanimous decision, drawing scores of 119-108, 117-111, 118-110 from the Mexican, Italian and South Korean judges.

Pongsaklek was as relieved as he was ecstatic, and said he was concerned the world number one would be a threat to his five-year reign as champion.

"It was a tough fight, but I’m very happy to fight and win in my home province," he told Reuters.

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Foreigner arrested in Canada for spying

OTTAWA, 18 Nov — Canada said on Thursday it had arrested a foreign man who it branded a threat to national security and who one national newspaper identified as a possible Russian spy.

The man, who had been living under a false name, was detained at Montreal Airport on Tuesday after two federal Cabinet ministers signed a national security certificate deeming him to be a danger.

Ottawa rarely issues such certificates, which are used to deal with what are considered to be major threats to security.

“The government’s most important duty is to ensure the security of all Canadians. A security certificate has been issued... against a foreign national,” He is now in custody in Montreal,” said Melissa Leclerc, a spokeswoman for Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day.

A copy of the certificate provided to Reuters showed Ottawa believed the man had been “engaging in an act of espionage or an act of subversion”, was a danger to Canada’s security and “belonged to an organization that there are reasonable grounds to believe engages” in spying.

The National Post newspaper quoted officials as saying the case had all the hallmarks of an operation by Russia’s foreign intelligence agency. The security certificate said he had been using the false name Paul William Hampel.

A spokesman at the Russian Embassy declined to comment.

The case now passes to Canada’s federal court, which has a week to review the evidence the government used when it issued the security certificate.

Reuters

Russia’s players toss the team’s head coach Giovanni Caprara (C) of Italy after their win at the FIVB women’s Volleyball World Championship at the final match against Brazil in Osaka, western Japan, on 16 Nov, 2006.—INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

WEATHER

Saturday, 18 November, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Haka (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 17-11-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 18-11-2006 was 75°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 18-11-2006 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 17-11-2006 was (7.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 18-11-2006 were (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (98.46) inches at Mingaladon and (111.61) inches at Kaba-Aye and (116.69) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from North at 15:30 hours MST on 17-11-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 19-11-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in the Kachin, Rakhine, Shan and Kayah States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

State of the Sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.


Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 19-11-2006: Generally fair.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 19-11-2006: Generally fair.
**Graduation dinner of Pilot Training Course No 68 held**

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Nov — The graduation dinner of Pilot Training Course No 68 of No 1 Pilot Training School was held at the flying training base in Shande, Meikhtila, yesterday evening.

It was attended by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Hwe, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of the Flying Training Base Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin, the Air Base commander, squadron leader, the commandant, military officers of battalions and units of Meikhtila Station, departmental officials and parents and relatives of graduate pilots.

After the dinner, Lt-Gen Myat Hein and senior military officers cordially greeted the graduate pilots.

**Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects progress of agriculture and construction tasks in Kengtung Township**

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, inspected thriving rubber and physic nut plantations of the local military unit in Kengtung yesterday.

Col Myint Ko Ko of the local station reported on growing of rubber and physic nut plants. Under the arrangement of Shan State (East) PDC, Triangle Region Command had cultivated 55,000 acres of rubber. Next year, Shan State (East) is making arrangements to grow 100,000 acres of rubber.

In Kengtung, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with entrepreneurs, agriculturists and breeders. In his address, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that entrepreneurs of Kengtung Township are to serve the interest of their region and the State, while the Government is striving for development of the national economy. Local authorities and departmental heads are to provide necessary assistance to the growing of quality strain crops for ensuring food sufficiency in the region, while engaging in extended cultivation of physic nut plants.

(See page 8)