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Senior General Than Shwe sends message to 9th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conf

Government giving effective encouragement to measures for enabling Myanmar traditional medicine to be well-known at international level

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—The following is a translation of the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe to the 9th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference:

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

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

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

course of Myanmar history.

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

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

With this lofty aim in view, measures are being taken as a pivotal role in the national health policy for promotion and safeguarding of Myanmar traditional medicine and using Myanmar traditional medicine ef-

fectively and on a wider scale in public health care.

I would like to exhort you Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners to make collaborative efforts with might and main through the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference, taking full advantage of the encouragement and assistance of the government in order to provide better health care to the people across the nation including rural and border areas through Myanmar traditional medicine, improve Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners' therapies and potency of traditional medicines through advanced methods, and raise the standard of Myanmar traditional medicine.

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

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

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

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivered an address at the opening of the

9th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health here this morning.

It was also attended by Commander of Nay Pyi

Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the deputy ministers, the directors-general of SPDC Office and Government Office, (See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers address at opening of 9th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 3 December, 2008

Exert expertise, technical know-how for national development

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

MoH marks World AIDS Day

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

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

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

Afterwards, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, the deputy ministers for health, diplomats and resident



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint awards winner of contests to mark World AIDS Day.

MNA

representatives of UN agencies awarded winners of essay, poster, cartoon contests to mark the World AIDS Day for 2008. After the presentation, the minister and guests visited the exhibition staged at the ministry to mark the World AIDS Day for 2008. — MNA

Final round of Air Bagan Open Golf Championships ends



YANGON, 2 Dec— The final round of Air Bagan Open Golf Championships of

Myanmar Golf Tour 2008-2009, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA brought to an end in PyinOoLwin Golf Club in Mandalay Division on 30 November and then its prize presentation ceremony was held at the same venue.

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

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

presentation ceremony.

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

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

Later, Maj-Gen Win Hlaing presented prizes to first-placed Zaw Zin Win (Srixon) with 290 total strokes, second-placed Min Naing (Srixon) with 291 total strokes and third-placed Zaw Zaw Latt

(Srixon) with 293 total strokes in the professional golfer level.

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

Main sponsor was Air Bagan Ltd and co-sponsors, Hotel Yangon, Ruby Dragon (Jade and Gems) Co, Ltd, KBZ Bank Ltd, Alpine Purified Drinking Water, Dagon Brewery Co Ltd, MY Associates Co Ltd, Srixon, KM Golf Center, ACCEL International Co Ltd (Canon) and Lifeline (DHEA-Plus). Han Event Mangement took responsibility for the successful realization of the tournament.

MNA



An Iraqi police officer looks at the remains of a car bomb after it detonated close to the police academy on Palestine Street in central Baghdad. A spate of attacks targeting security forces in the heart of Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul killed around 30 people on Monday—the bloodiest day in Iraq in three weeks.—INTERNET

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

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

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

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

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

curity responsibilities.

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

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

According to a US-Iraq pact, titled the Status of Forces Agreement, the US troops will withdraw from Iraq’s cities, towns and villages by 30 June next year to their bases and will leave the country on 31 Dec, 2011.

Internet

Suicide blast kills 10, injures 27 in Afghanistan

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

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

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

Two US soldiers investigated for prisoner abuse

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

Capt Roger T Hill and 1st Sgt Tommy L Scott, both of 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, are facing an article 32 hearing, similar to a civilian grand jury investigation, to determine whether they should be brought to trial, the statement said.

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



Mohhamed, left, and Adil Omar, who lost their father in sectarian violence look out their windows in predominantly Sunni neighbourhood of Fadhil in Baghdad, Iraq, on 1 Dec, 2008. Fadhil has seen a heavy armed clashes in the past several years.—INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,207

WASHINGTON, 2 Dec —As of Monday, 1 Dec, 2008, at least 4,207 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,394 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

Internet

A man injured in a twin bombing near the entrance to a police academy is transported out of the emergency room at a hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, on 1 Dec, 2008. At least 16 people were killed and 46 wounded in a nearly simultaneous double bombing near a police academy in eastern Baghdad.

INTERNET

Bush admits “intelligence failure” on Iraq

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

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

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

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

“A lot of members in Congress, prior to my arrival in Washington, DC, during the debate on Iraq, a lot of leaders of nations around the world were

looking at the same intelligence,” he added.

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

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

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



Iran develops air-to-air missile, radar-evading aircraft

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

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

“After the necessary tests, the aircrafts will

show the real face,” he added.

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

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

Iran’s successive war shows and missile-development claims came amid the tensions over its defi-

ance concerning the halt of its nuclear program.

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

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



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

Bomb blast kills three, wounds 29 in India

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

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

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

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



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

Passenger kills bus driver in fare dispute

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

The man got on the bus in Brooklyn shortly after noon, swiped an invalid

fare card, sat down and asked for a free card to change routes.

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

Internet

CPC to further ties with Russian Communist Party

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

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

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

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

Gangs clash kills 12 in Guatemala



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

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

Guatemala’s Civil National Police said the shooting began Sunday in the small northwestern town of Agua Zarca, a few kilometers away

from the border with Mexico, according to news reports from Guatemala City.

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

Authorities seized hand grenades and high power fusils at the site, as

well as nine cars.

Another radio station said the dead were identified as drug traffickers from Mexico and Guatemala. It is said the two gangs began to quarrel during a horse race and started shooting later.

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



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

US construction spending drops larger-than-expected

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

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

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

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

Private builders cut

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

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

China launches remote sensing satellite

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

The satellite will be used for scientific research, land resources surveying, crop yield estimate and disaster prevention and relief, according to its chief developer, China Academy of Space Technology. The satellite was launched on a Long March-2D carrier rocket. This was the 113th launch of China’s Long March series of rockets.—Xinhua



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



A crescent moon is seen below planets Jupiter (L) and Venus (R) in the sky over Nairobi, capital of Kenya, on 1 Dec, 2008. A rare astronomical phenomenon was seen across the world Monday night as two of the brightest naked-eye planets, Venus and Jupiter, joined a thin crescent moon in the sky. On Sunday night, the two planets appeared closest together in an event known as “Planetary Conjunction”. —XINHUA

S Korean economy grows 0.5% in 3rd quarter

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

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

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

UAE oil company to raise 28.5% production capacity by 2017

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

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

According to Kindi, ADCO will see increases in its production capacity of 197,000 bpd by 2013, 94,000 bpd by 2014, and 133,000 bpd by 2017 respectively.

ADCO is owned 60 percent by the government-controlled Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and 40 percent by international oil giants like BP, Shell, Total and ExxonMobil.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

HIV infection rate in Europe has doubled since 2000

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

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

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

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

Xinhua

Bernanke says Fed has options as rates near zero

AUSTIN, 2 Dec — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Monday urged decisive action to protect the economy and said the central bank had alternative tools it could employ to help as interest rates approach zero. “Our nation’s economic policy must vigorously address the substantial risks to financial stability and economic growth,” Bernanke told the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce.

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

Students walk past an artificial lake dug in ancient China’s Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) at Dalu Village, Lingshan County, southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 14 Nov, 2008.

XINHUA



30-mile debris pile becomes symbol of FEMA delays



Workers watch as a back hoe drop a scoop of hurricane debris, on 25 Nov, 2008, in Smith Point, Texas. Spotters watch for bodies and hazardous debris as each scoop is lifted and moved.—INTERNET

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

sluggish response to the 2008 hurricane season.

Two and a half months after Hurricane Ike blasted the shoreline, alligators and snakes

crawl over vast piles of shattered building materials, lawn furniture, trees, boats, tanks of butane and other hazardous substances, thousands of animal carcasses, perhaps even the corpses of people killed by the storm.

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

Internet

Singapore, DPRK sign investment guarantee agreement

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

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

Under the agreement,

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

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

Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister Lim

Hng Kiang and the DPRK's Minister of Foreign Trade Ri Ryong-nam signed the agreement.

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

One in five young adults has personality disorder

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

The disorders include problems such as obsessive or compulsive tendencies and anti-social

behavior that can sometimes lead to violence.

The study also found that fewer than 25 percent of college-aged Americans with mental problems get treatment.

One expert said personality disorders may be overdiagnosed.

But others said the results were not surprising since previous, less rigorous evidence has

suggested mental problems are common on college campuses and elsewhere.

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

Internet



People look at Porsche roadsters in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 30 Nov, 2008. Forty-five Porsche roadsters taking part in a charity travel organized by Hong Kong Porsche Club were exhibited in Wuhan on 30 Nov, 2008.—XINHUA

NEWSALBUM



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

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

Thief steals Thanksgiving dinner off woman's porch

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

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

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

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

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

Lillian Moore says it's "just awful" to steal from people who don't have much.



Late workers, students get notes blaming NY subway

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Kungyangon Township on verge of mechanized farming

Article and photos: Kyaw Khaing Thein (Energy)

(from page 16)

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

Rescue and rehabilitation tasks were carried out with heart and soul under the leadership of the Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee as well as the Prime Minister. Moreover, a minister each was assigned duties for a storm-hit township to provide close supervision over rescue and rehabilitation tasks. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi was vested with duties to regenerate and reconstruct Kungyangon Township of Yangon Division.

The major businesses of Kungyangon Township are fishing and agricultural farming, and the majority of local people are farmers. In the catastrophe, they lost their farm implements and cattle on a large scale. Moreover, they did not have enough money to make investments in their agricul-



Farmers carrying out groundwork to grow summer paddy.

tural farms. Being convinced well of the conditions of local people, the minister initiated and supervised mutual interest-based farms with the aim of helping local farmers resume their farms, boost agricultural production and enjoy better socio-economic life.

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

victims will be able to enjoy higher incomes and better living standard.

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

When paddy is in season, the farmers will have to settle the debts in paddy in proportion to overall costs the company had expended on the farming. They have the right to

enjoy paddy surplus. And they will have to sell their paddy at prevailing prices to the company at an opportune time.

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

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

Thanks to the new programme, local farmers have enjoyed an extra income of over 58,000 kyats an acre. Furthermore, farmers get wages

for the labour they have contributed towards the farms.

Now, groundwork is being done under the leadership of Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi to grow summer paddy in pursuance of the drive for extensive cultivation of paddy for better incomes of farmers. Under the programme, farmers do not need to make investments, and they will obtain the mechanized farming system, high-yielding paddy strains, and advanced agricultural methods. Besides, it is heartening to note that they will be able to manage by themselves in running their farms with modern farm implements and machinery, advanced agricultural methods, high-yielding paddy strains by investing their extra incomes.

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

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

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin:
1-12-2008



A thriving mutual interest-based paddy field in Tawkyang Village-tract of Kungyangon Township.

Good headway made in combined therapies of western ...

(from page 1)

diplomats of foreign embassies in Yangon, resident representatives of UN agencies, the directors-general of the departments under the Ministry of Health, members of Traditional Medicine Council and Traditional Medicine Inspection Central Committee, responsible persons of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Association, traditional medicine practitioners, delegates to the Conference, responsible persons of social organizations and guests.

The Secretary-1 said:

medicine practitioners of successive periods.

Thanks to effective encouragement of the government and collaborative efforts of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners, the programmes for improving Myanmar traditional medicine laid down and good opportunities created at the Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners' conferences are now being applied in an effective way in the fields of dissemination of health knowledge, treatment, health educative talks and training, research and de-

traditional medicines and therapies through medical research, providing supervisions over advanced manufacturing processes for meeting the standards, effectiveness and safety by opening traditional medicine universities that prescribe and teach subjects on traditional medicine scientifically, establishing international level national herbal gardens and nurseries.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe occasionally gives guidance on steps to be taken for revitalizing and promoting delicate Myanmar traditional sciences with long traditions and upgrading



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo visits booths exhibiting traditional medicine. — MNA

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

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

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

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

development, and disease control. As a result of taking these measures in combination, Myanmar traditional medicine world has made dramatic progress.

Originally, the area of Myanmar traditional medicine is very wide and deep as well as very delicate by means of essence. The secret of the potency of Myanmar traditional medicine is embodied not only in the palm leaf inscriptions, books on traditional medical science and traditional medical treatises but also in traditional medical sciences, therapies and herbal remedies.

That is why the government is now taking measures to improve and encourage Myanmar traditional medicine by reviving neglected traditional medical sciences, treatises on traditional medicine, effective therapies, potent traditional medicines and giving due regards and recognition to experienced and well-versed traditional medicine practitioners.

Simultaneously, the government is taking necessary measures for improvement and popularity of traditional medicine such as standardization of

Myanmar traditional medicine into evidence-based scientific national medical science that wins the recognition of the international community.



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint reads out message sent by Senior General Than Shwe. — MNA

As a result of constant encouragement in various ways, Myanmar traditional medicine has improved significantly and won trust in reliance of the people considerably.

Now, not only State-owned pharmaceutical factories but also private-owned pharmaceutical factories use international level manufacturing processes on a wider scale, and the people have come to place trust in traditional medicines at the unprecedented level.

Now, a good headway has been made in combined therapies of western medicine and Myanmar traditional medicine to cure some major diseases that have resistance to western medicines. It is, therefore, required to do research more effectively and on a wider scale and keep records on research, thera-

carrying out medical research scientifically in order to improve and manufacture originally potent Myanmar traditional medicines without sacrificing their original potency not only for customer satisfaction in the domestic market but also for securing a foothold in the international market.

It is obligatory for all Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners to preserve and ensure perpetual existence of raw materials for Myanmar traditional medicines such as herbal plants, aquatic and terrestrial resources, and herbal resources from animals.

Besides, it is necessary to avert import of raw materials for traditional medicines that have been used in successive periods. Accordingly, the process calls for conservation and propagation of herbal plants, and commercial-scale production of herbal saplings with the use of advanced agricultural methods such as tissue culture.

Due to occasional guidance and encouragement of the Head of State, and harmonious cooperation of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners, Myanmar traditional medicine has become popular and drawn the attention of many other global countries. I would like to urge you traditional medicine

practitioners to make sustained efforts so as to preserve the already-achieved fruitful results and enable Myanmar traditional medicine to stand firmly with high prestige in the international market.

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

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

After the opening ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party cordially greeted diplomats, the practitioners of Traditional Medicine Council and delegates to the conference.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the traditional medicine booths of traditional medicine producers. — MNA

NHC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo hosts dinner to traditional medicine practitioners

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec—Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo hosted dinner in honour of delegates to the 9th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference from States and Divisions on the lawns of Medical Research Department (Central Myanmar) of the Ministry of Health here this evening.

It was attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of the National Health Committee, the director-general of State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the ambassadors of foreign embassies in Yangon and their wives, the directors-general and medical superintendents of the Ministry of Health, members of Traditional Medicine

Council and Traditional Medicine Inspection Central Committee, responsible persons of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Association, delegates to the conference, responsible persons of social organizations and guests.

During the dinner, Cultural Troupe of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture presented the entertainment. —MNA

Industry-1 Ministry opens computer, financial courses

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

Minister receives Indian Ambassador

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



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

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



Ninth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference held

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec— The Ninth Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference was held at the Ministry of Health here, this morning.

The conference was presided over by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe with members of Traditional Medicine Council Deputy Director-General of Traditional Medicine Department U Aung Myat Kyaw and U Than Nyunt, delegate of Yangon Division Dr Khin Maung Tun and delegate from Shan State U Khun Kyaw Hsan as members of Panel of Chairmen. Deputy

Director (Medicine) U Thein Han Oo of Traditional Medicine Department acted as master of ceremonies.

Chairman Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe delivered a speech.

Delegate of Nyaunglebin Township U Aye Shwe submitted a proposal on participation with Myanmar traditional medicine in primary health care services in accord with national health policy. Daw Yin Yin Kyi of the Ministry of Forestry seconded the proposal.

U Myo Aung of Mawlamyine Township

submitted a proposal on efforts for enhancing the codes of conduct of traditional medicine practitioners. Daw Phyu Mee Hlaing of Shwebo Township seconded it.

The afternoon session was presided over by Chairman of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association U Maung Nyan with members of Traditional Medicine Association U Htay Myint and U Nyan Lwin, delegate of Yangon Division U Kyi and delegate of Mandalay Division Dr U Meik. Deputy Director (Research) of Traditional

Medicine Department Daw Thida Swe acted as master of ceremonies.

U Khin Maung Win of Mohnyin Township submitted a proposal to make efforts for systematic development of Myanmar traditional medicine. Daw Tin Tin Aung of Magway Township seconded it.

U Tin Soe of Myawady Township submitted a proposal on conducting research on wider scale and U Tin Htut of The Ministry of Energy seconded the proposal.

The conference continues tomorrow.

MNA

MIDWC meets automobile producers

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Dec— A meeting between the Myanmar Industrial Development Work Committee and automobile producers of the industrial zones took place at the Ministry of Industry-2 here yesterday morning.

It was attended by Chairman of the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Chairman of MIDWC Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, departmental officials, those from the industrial zones, industrialists who produce automobiles and guests.

Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Chairman of MIDWC Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein

made speeches.

Next, Deputy Director of Directorate of Myanmar Industrial Planning U Zaw Win Lwin presented paper on points to be followed in producing automobiles and Senior Engineer U Soe Win of the Road Administration Department paper on issues to be faced in renewal of license of automobiles.

The second day's session of the meeting continued today at the same venue where automobile producers of the industrial zones touched upon matters related to producing of automobiles and requirements, and Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw fulfilled the requirements.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman of MIDWC Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein.

MNA

Mawlamyine Market catches fire

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

Altogether 1,124 shops were lost in the fire.—MNA

Information Minister attends ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati

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

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

Secretary of MWJA Dr Tin Tun Oo (Dr Tin Tun Oo) read the message of the MWJA chairman.

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

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

This was followed by the respects-paying ceremony.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented K 130,000 each plus gifts to doyen literati Daw Mi Mi Gyi (Shwebo Mi Mi

Hsan (Thukhi Aung), U Maung Maung Khin (Tekkatho Maung Maung Khin), U Sao Tun Hmat Win, Col Saw Myint (Retd) (Hmuthamein), U Thaung Htut, U Hla Myaing (Paragu), U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), U Sein Win (Guardian U Sein Win), Bogale Tint Aung, U Tin Soe (Thagado), U Bala Kalay (Cartoon U Ba Kalay) and U Than Oo.

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

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

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

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

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

In 1982, he attended the Diplomacy Training Course at Postdom Institute in the German Democratic Republic. From 1979 to 1980 he served as Deputy Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia. He was posted as Counselor of the Cambodian Embassy in the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 1980 to 1986. Then he served as Deputy Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia until 1990. From 1990 to 1992, he served as Director of Asia and Oceania Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia. From 1992 to 1996, he was posted as Minister-Counselor as the rank of Ambassador of the Cambodian Embassy in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. From 1996 to 1998, he served as Director of Asia Pacific Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia. From 1998 to 2002, he was posted as the Consul General of the Royal Consulate-General of Cambodia to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He served as Deputy Inspector General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia from 2002 to 2004. He has been serving as Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia since 2004. Mr Chhong Toeun is fluent in English and French and he can also speak Lao and Vietnamese languages.

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



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

the vice-chairmen and CEC members, the chairmen of the Township Writers and Journalists Associations, executives, well-wishers and guests.

Gyi), Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan), U Chit Hlaing (Ko Ko Maung Gyi), U Tin Maung (Theikpan Hmutin), Ambassador U Thet Tun (Retd), U Kyaw

The ceremony ended with the expression of thanks by Joint-Secretary-2 of MWJA U Ko Ko (Ko Ko — Sethmu Tekkatho).—MNA

ROK Ambassador's Cup Taekwondo tournament opens

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

It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, President of Central Work Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and committee members, the

Vice-President of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation and executives, ROK Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Park Key Chong and embassy staff, Mr Cho Kwaung Golr of KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) and members, guests, managers and coaches and athletes.

Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Park Key Chong extended greetings on the occasion. Next, Vice-President of Myanmar Taekwondo

Federation Dr Mya Hlaing extended greetings on the occasion.

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

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



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



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

Cell phones biggest distraction for drivers

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

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

The research, published in the Journal

of Experimental Psychology: Applied, adds to a growing body of evidence that mobile phones can make driving dangerous.

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

They have demonstrated that chatting on a cell phone can slow the reaction times of young adult drivers to levels seen among senior citizens, and shown that drivers using

mobile telephones are as impaired as drivers who are legally drunk.

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

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

Internet



Models present cheongsam creations designed by Li Xiafang in east China's Shanghai Municipality, on 28 Nov, 2008. Li Xiafang's cheongsam show was held at the Oriental Pearl Theatre in Shanghai on Friday.—INTERNET

Death toll rises to 21 in NW China highway accident

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

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

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

with the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps..

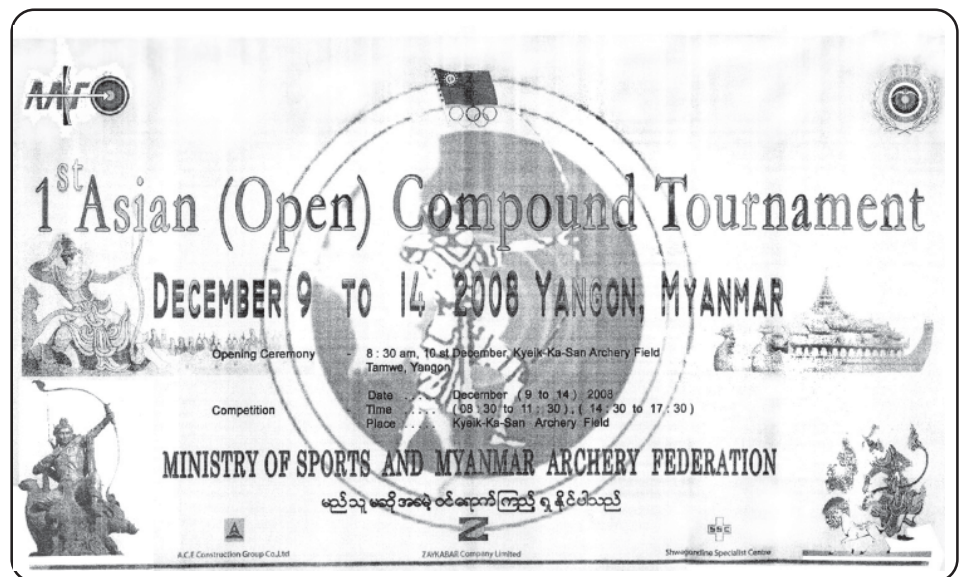
The bus, with 34 reclining seats, left Artux

in southwestern Xinjiang and was headed for Urumqi, the regional capital, more than 1,000 km north.—Internet



An actress performs during a song and dance show entitled *Butterfly Dream* in Dali, southwest China's Yunnan Province on 27 Oct, 2008. The folk show with an investment of 24 million Yuan (some 3.5 million US dollars) has been shown more than 1000 times attracting about one million audiences since it was staged in Dali in 2005. It is now regarded as a new "visiting card" of the region to many domestic and overseas tourists.

INTERNET



Study: sleep terrors partly inherited

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

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

In the study of 390 sets of twins, which appeared in the journal *Pediatrics*, the researchers found identical twins were

much more likely to both experience night terrors than fraternal twins.

Identical or monozygotic twins have nearly identical genetic makeups, while fraternal or dizygotic twins do not. Twins are often studied because their similar

genetic makeup can provide information about diseases and other issues.

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



Repa dance is shown in the Lhoka Yarlung Material & Culture Exchange Festival, on 1 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Republic of Congo reports 500 new cancer cases each year

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

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

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

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

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

Uruguay controls spread of AIDS virus

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

The reduction is a result of the country's sexual transmission diseases prevention campaign, director of the national STD program Maria Luz Osimani told the press.

Internet

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dealt with according to law.
Win Mu Tin
M.A., HGP, D.B.L
for CHANEL
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 3 December 2008

*A construction worker
walks across a section
of a crane as it hangs
high above a con-
struction site in
Singapore on 1 Dec,
2008.—INTERNET*

**Cruise ship
attacked by
pirates off
Somalia**

NAIROBI, 2 Dec—A Mi-
ami-based luxury cruise
ship has evaded an attack
from Somali pirates as it
sailed between Somalia
and Yemen, a maritime
official said on Tuesday.

Andrew Mwangura, of
the East Africa's Seafar-
ers Assistance Program
(SAP) said the Nautica,
an Oceania cruise ship,
was carrying 680 Ameri-
can, British and Austral-
ian passengers and a 400-
member crew when two
small fishing boats tried
to intercept it on Sunday.

"The cruised ship was
attacked in the Gulf of
Aden on Sunday morning
but no sailor was injured
in the attack," Mwangura
told *Xinhua* by telephone
on Tuesday. The Miami-
based Oceania Cruises
said on its website that the
MSNautica was sailing
through the Gulf on Sat-
urday when two small
skiffs tried to intercept it.

The captain, Jurica
Brajcic, increased the
Nautica's speed and took
evasive maneuvers.
Oceania said one skiff
closed to within 300 me-
ters and fired eight rifle
shots at the vessel before
giving up the chase.

Internet

**Palestinian killed by Israeli
troops in West Bank**

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

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

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

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



**S'pore launches fund to
support HIV-AIDS
affected children**

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

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

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

Last year 423 new HIV cases surfaced in Singapore,
and as of September this year, 3,482 Singaporeans
were reported to be HIV-positive.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Drive with care

**Fire on ferry in Baltic
Sea, no injuries**

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

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

"No one was hurt in the incident," Lindstrom said.
"The passengers are all OK, and the crew managed to
put out the fire and are about to be towed to safety."

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

Rescuers planned to tow the ferry to a port in the
Aland Islands, situated in the Baltic Sea between Fin-
land and Sweden.

Internet

**Cholera kills
473 in
Zimbabwe**

HARARE, 2 Dec—Chol-
era has killed 473 people
in Zimbabwe since the lat-
est outbreak of the dis-
ease, the World Health
Organisation (WHO) of-
fice in Harare said in a
report, a copy of which
was received Tuesday.

"A large cholera out-
break is affecting most
regions of the country,
with more than 11,700
cases and 473 deaths re-
corded between August
and 30 November," Cus-
todia Mandlhate, of the
WHO's Zimbabwe office,
wrote in the report.

Internet

**Three
killed, 10
injured
in gas
explosion
in Turkey**

ANKARA, 2 Dec— Three people were killed and ten
others were injured in a gas explosion in a municipality
building in the northwestern Turkey on Monday,
broadcaster NTV reported.

The explosion was caused by a gas leak on a pipeline
supplying a municipality building in Alikahya Town
in Izmit Province, some 100 kilometres east of Istanbul,
according to the report.

The explosion caused major damage to the outer
wall of the building resulting in its partial collapse.

Concerned authorities said they were investigating
whether any bystanders were trapped under the
collapsed wall.

MNA/Xinhua

**China's police overseas solve crimes,
face emerging threats**

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

The officers were
stationed at embassies
including those in
Thailand, Turkey and
Kyrgyzstan. The first

officer was sent to the
United States in May
1998, the ministry said.

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

The officers had also

helped protect Chinese
citizens and institutions
abroad. The ministry cited
kidnapping cases in South
Africa in 2007, in which
all Chinese hostages were
safely released thanks to
the efforts of Chinese and
South Africa police forces.

The liaison officers
also monitored emerging
threats and strengthened
anti-terrorism coope-
ration, it said.

MNA/Xinhua



*Israeli soldiers stand near a burning Palestinian
car in the flashpoint West Bank city of Hebron. At
least 13 Palestinians were wounded overnight as
more than 1,000 ultra-nationalist Israelis hurled
rocks at residents, homes and police jeeps in
Hebron—INTERNET*

Dirty teeth reveal ancient diet

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

Dental plaque scraped from the teeth of people who lived as much as 9,200 years ago revealed traces of cultivated crops, including squash and beans, according to a report in Monday's online edition of Proceedings of

the National Academy of Sciences. These ancient people also ate peanuts and a local fruit known as pacay, according to the report by Dolores Piperno, a staff scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the National Museum of Natural History, and Tom Dillehay, professor of archaeology at Vanderbilt University.

They studied 39 teeth from six to eight individu-

als. Found in northern Peru's Nanchoc Valley, the teeth were uncovered in the remains of round house structures in a settlement dated to 9,200 to 5,500 years ago.

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

Internet

More HIV testing can save babies' lives

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

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

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

The report said there was visible progress in the fight against AIDS — some 3 million people worldwide are currently receiving treatment and the number of new infections and AIDS deaths has dropped. But negative trends remain.

The report -- prepared by UNICEF, the UN AIDS program UNAIDS, the World Health Organization, and the U.N. Population Fund — warned that pregnant women were not receiving sufficient counseling and other services necessary to teach them about contraception and safer infant feeding.

It said many children less than a year old were dying of AIDS-related illnesses before they are even tested for HIV.

Internet

Evidence growing for vitamin D-heart health link

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

While placebo-controlled, randomized trials are needed to confirm the relationship, in the meantime, "vitamin D supplementation is simple, safe and inexpensive," Dr. John H. Lee of the Mid America Heart Institute and the University of Missouri in Kansas City and colleagues say. Doctors have long known that adequate vitamin D, obtained through diet and sunlight, is required for bone health, Lee and his team note in the current issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. But more recent research is showing that vitamin D may also be important for other body functions, they add.

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



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

Researchers link C-section babies to asthma risk

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

The findings also underscore the potential risks of elective C-sections as more women in

Western countries choose to avoid a natural birth, the researchers said in the medical journal, Thorax.

"The increased rate of Caesarean section is partly due to maternal demand without medical reason," Caroline Roduit of Kinderspital Zurich medical institution and colleagues wrote.

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

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

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

Internet

150 whales die in stranding off Australian coast

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

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

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

Department of Primary Industries



Stranded long-finned pilot whales on a beach near Sandy Cape, Tasmania are seen in this handout photograph obtained on 1 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

and Water spokesman Warwick Brennan was quoted in Australian media said rescuers in a boat managed to steer about 30 whales out of the bay.

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

Bridgestone tires for use at the Japanese Formula One Grand Prix. Japan's Bridgestone said Tuesday it would stop producing tyres for passenger cars and light trucks at a plant in the United States next year with the loss of up to 500 jobs.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Record breaking Del Piero eyes 300 goals



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

ROME, 2 Dec — Evergreen Alessandro Del Piero struck his 250th goal in Juventus colours at the weekend, bagging a penalty in a 4-0 rout of woeful Reggina.

It was the latest episode in a glittering career that began back in 1993 as a substitute for Fabrizio Ravanelli and has now seen the 34-year-old take third place in the all-time list of goalscorers at a single Italian club.

Only Giuseppe Meazza, who hit 282 for Inter Milan, and Angelo Schiavio, with 253 goals for Bologna, have managed more goals for one team.

But it surely won't be long before Del Piero takes second place in that list and he may even claim top spot, if Juventus keep faith with him for long enough.

Internet

Wigan set for Heskey sale in January



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

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

The 30-year-old's current

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

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

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

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

Internet

Chelsea reach agreement over Mikel transfer deal

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

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

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

Internet



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

Ronaldo wins European footballer of the year award

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

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



Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder Cristiano Ronaldo during a match against Villarreal in Spain in late November. Ronaldo has won the European Footballer of the Year Award.—INTERNET

However, Spaniard Fernando Torres can feel hard done by as he scored a lot of great goals for Liverpool in the Premiership and the only goal in the Euro 2008 final against Germany.—*Internet*

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

"If we had scored the first goal we would have scored a lot of goals."—*Internet*

Real's Pepe sidelined for a month due to injury

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

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

The 25-year-old was

one of three Real players who were injured during the reigning Spanish champions 3-1 defeat on Saturday away to Getafe.

Dutch international midfielder Wesley Sneijder, 24, picked up a hamstring strain while Spanish defender Miguel Torres strained a thigh muscle.—*Internet*



Real Madrid's Brazilian-born Portuguese defender Pepe, seen here in October 2008, will be sidelined for up to a month due to the left leg muscle strain which he picked up during a weekend Spanish league match, the club said Monday.

INTERNET

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

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

The win in the Chilean capital set up a mouthwatering last-four date with France, who beat Nigeria 3-2 on Sunday.

The Japanese, who have many fans in Chile with their stylish and highly technical brand of soccer, started the brighter side. Kie Koyama made three fine runs in the first quarter-hour, but failed to find the mark, steering her shots wide.

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

Ven. U Kawthanla

B.A, M.A (Sri Lanka), Dip. in English
(Gold Medallist, Dhammacariya Exam (Hons)
(Siripavara Dhammacariya)

Aged (68) yrs
Vassa (47) yrs

Head monk of Thakari Mon Monastery (Bago) Professor (Suttanta Studies), DEA, Faculty of Pariyatti, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Yangon, Myanmar, passed away at 6:30 am on 27.11.2008 and will be cremated at the monastery compound on 28.12.2008 (Sunday) at 2:00 pm.

Bereaved disciples

Obama adviser warns US recession may be worsening

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

"While the economy has already lost 1.2 million jobs this year, recent economic evidence suggests that the pace of this downturn is accelerating. That is why President-elect Obama has set as his top priority passing an economic recovery plan," Summers said in a statement.

The US arbiter of recessions said on Monday the economy slipped into recession in December 2007 and that the downturn

could be the worst since World War II. "I think that we've got a ways to go, that this is going to be probably a deep and long recession," Jeffrey Frankel, a Harvard University economist who sits on the National Bureau of Economic Research business cycle dating committee.

Obama has instructed his economic team to come up with recommendations for a stimulus package that would include a mix of middle-class tax cuts and spending on infrastructure projects like roads and bridges and investments in renewable energy. Obama has not offered a price tag yet for his proposed stimulus but indicated it would be large. House of Representatives Democrats, meanwhile, are talking of a package in the range of 500 billion US dollars. — MNA/Reuters

EU calls for reinforced training in nuclear fields

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

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

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

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

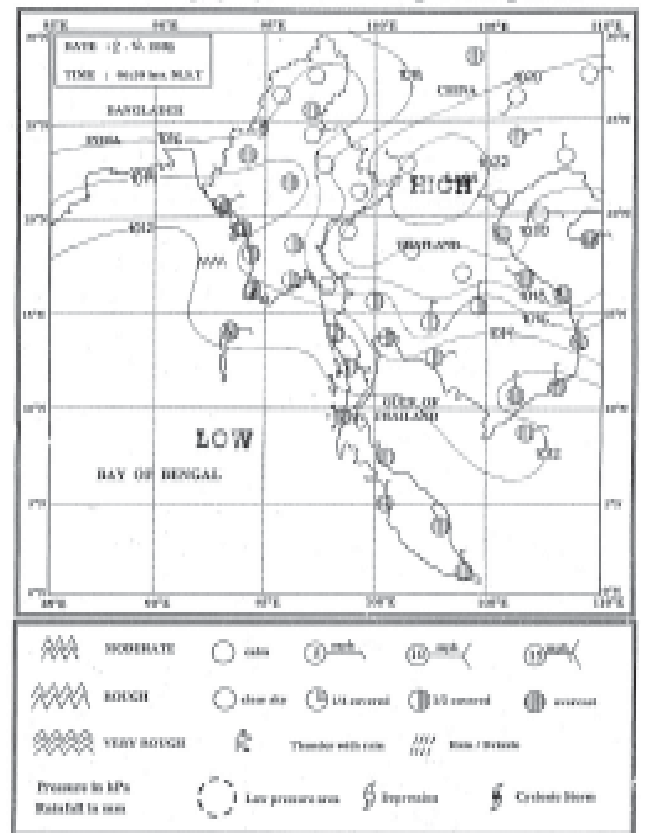
The ministers said that appropriate conditions must be created for mutual recognition of nuclear professional qualifications throughout the EU.

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



Pasang from Chanang County of Lhoka sells home-made pulu (woolen fabric) in the Lhoka Yarlung Material & Culture Exchange Festival, on 1 Dec, 2008. On 1 Dec, Lhoka Yarlung Material & Culture Exchange Festival, which aims to boost Lhoka's economic growth, was held in Nedong County with dozens of farm and sideline products, folk handicrafts and commodities on show. — Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 2 December, 2008

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

Maximum temperature on 1-12-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 2-12-2008 was 58°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 2-12-2008 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 1-12-2008 was (9.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 2-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southeast at (14:30) hours MST on 1-12-2008.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-12-2008: Partly cloudy.



Wednesday, 3 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုရေးတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲ

7:45 am

5. “ငွေကြေးကိစ္စမှန်သမျှတက်ကို
သာအားကိုးကြ”
(ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ဖိုးငွေစိုး၊ ဝိယံ၊
ပုလဲဝင်း၊ ဖူးစို၊ သဇင်)
[ဒါရိုက်တာ-မြင့်စိုး(ဝ/သ)]

8:20 am

6. အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာမသန်စွမ်း
သူများနေ့တေးများ

8:30 am

7. Classical song

8:45 am

8. International news

8:50 am

9. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Dance of national races

4:25 pm

3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ

တတိယနှစ် (မြန်မာစာအထူးပြု)
(မြန်မာစာ)

4:40 pm

4. Songs to uphold
national spirit

4:50 pm

5. အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာမသန်စွမ်း
သူများနေ့တေးများ

5:05 pm

6. အရည်အသွေးမြင့်အထွက်နှုန်း
ကောင်းစပါးရွှေချယ်စိုက်ပျိုးထား

5:15 pm

7. ရွှေယံစုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

5:20 pm

8. သက်တံရောင်စဉ်

5:35 pm

9. ရာသီလွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. “ဆိုလိုက်ကြစို့.”

7:05 pm

13. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ

7:20 pm

14. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:45 pm

15. အနုပညာကြေးမုံတချုပ်ကိုခံစား
ကြည့်ခြင်း

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. လောကနီတိ (အပိုင်း-၃)

“အမေ့သား”

(မင်းမောင်ကုန်း၊ ပြေတီဦး၊

စိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ၊ စန်းစန်းဝင်း)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်ဇော်)

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

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

YANGON, 2 Dec — Lt-Gen Tin Aye and Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence together with Minister for Electric Power No-2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint visited ACSR Cable Wire Factory and Meter Factory in Inndagaw Industrial Region in Bago Division yesterday. They inspected samples of A.C.S.C cable wires and samples of other cable wires which are being manufactured. Factory Manager U Kyaw Win and offi-

cials reported on production of A.C.S.R cable wires and other power lines and arrangements being made for meeting the set standards and preventive measures being taken for safety of electricity.

Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint looked into production process of various kinds of A.C.S.R cable wires and meter assembly section, testing section,

packing section of the Meter Factory.

At the briefing hall of the factory, Lt-Gen Tin Aye heard reports on availability of raw materials and production of electrical equipment at the factory by Managing Director U Sein One of the factory and he stressed the need for production of electrical appliances meeting with the set standards and fulfilled the requirements. —MNA

Id Day falls on 9 December

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

Inzaghi: “I cannot see Kaka wearing another jersey”

MILAN, 1 Dec— AC Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi has claimed that Brazilian international Kaka would not be leaving Milan despite strong interest from Premiership



club Manchester City.

City have made no secret of their desire to bring the Rossoneri playmaker to the Eastlands Stadium, with money no object following the summer takeover by the ADUG at the Manchester club. However, Inzaghi believes that Kaka will not leave the San Siro and hopes that the Brazilian will follow his lead and end his career with the Serie A giants.

Internet

Kungyangon Township on verge of mechanized farming

Article and photos: Kyaw Khaing Thein (Energy)

It was pleasant to view yellowish paddy fields stretching along Kungyangon-Dedaye Road in the morning sun. The harvesting of monsoon paddy grown under mutual interest system by local farmers

and Green Luck Trading Co Ltd took place at Tawkyang Village-tract, Kungyangon Township, Yangon Division, recently.

(See page 7)



Farmers harvesting monsoon paddy with a combine harvester in a paddy field.

Using invisibility to increase visibility

SINGAPORE, 2 Dec — Research into the development of invisibility devices has spurred two physicists' thought on the

behaviour of light to overcome the seemingly intractable problem of optical singularities which could soon lead to the manufac-



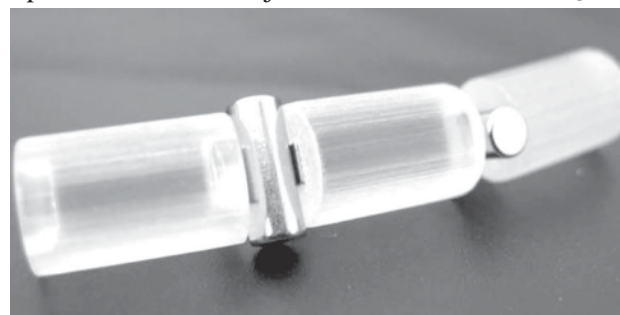
turing of a perfect cat's eye.

A research paper published in a New Journal of Physics' focus issue 'Cloaking and Transformation Optics' called 'The Transmutation of Singularities in Optical Instruments', written by Thomas Tyc, Masaryk University, and Ulf Leonhardt, the University of St. Andrews and Singapore National University, shows that it is possible to reflect light from all directions. —Internet

A surgeon you can swallow

SCIENCEDAILY, 2 Dec— In the future, tablet-shaped robots could perform some surgical operations without injur-

ing the body. A new publication by the Institute of Robotics and Intelligent Systems of ETH Zurich shows how such surgical



A model of a self-assembling stomach robot: a magnetic mechanism connects three modules together via intermediate linkages.

bio-microbots might function.

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