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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

LNDP, KDUP, Mro (or) Khami NSO, Shan State (North) SR-3, KDA, KNPLF issue announcements

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov — Mr Gambari, the special adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General, released a statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her behalf in Singapore on 8 November.

Political parties and national race armed groups that have returned to the legal fold are releasing announcements and statements to express their disagree-

ment and objection to the points stipulated in the statement.

Among the announcements sent to the dailies, those of Lahu National Development Party, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Shan State (North) Special Region-3 SSA, Kachin Defence Army and Karenni Nationalities People's Liberation Front are as follows:-

Lahu National Development Party (Headquarters) Announcement

Letter No. La ha/095/2007

Date: 14 November 2007

The Lahu National Development Party has learned that Mr Gambari released a statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her behalf in Singapore on 8 November. We know for whom the recent statement compiled in English was released in a foreign country and on whom she relies.

We acknowledge that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is taking interest in the affairs of national races. Starting from 1993 the party attended the National Convention from start to finish. We, upholding the interests of the Union, held discussions on the wishes of the national races. So, we object to the point that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was responsible for our party.

The National Convention is a forum of the national races because national races constituted the largest number in each of the eight delegate groups in the discussions of the NC. Therefore, the party supports the forthcoming constitution to be drafted by the Commission for Drafting State Constitution according to fundamental principles and detail basic principles laid down by the NC.

Lahu National Development Party

Kokang Democracy and Unity Party Announcement

Letter No. 01/ka-da-nya-ta/2007

Date: 14th November 2007

The Kokang Democracy and Unity Party was organized with the aim of introducing flourishing democracy to the country and securing rights of Kokang national race legally. Hence, the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party participated in the National Convention and discussed rights of all national races including Kokang national race to be guaranteed constitutionally.

At the National Convention, the delegates to the NC reached a decision unanimously and the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles were laid down. Moreover, the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution has been formed to write the constitution based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles. Our party supports the measures that will help step up efforts for implementing the seven-step Road Map.

The Kokang Democracy and Unity Party believes that the National Convention is only venue where issues of national races and people from all walks of life can be discussed. Therefore, we do not accept that a political party representing the national races to hold discussion on and to review the basic principles outside the National Convention. We announce that the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, representing Kokang national race, will participate in implementing the remaining steps of the seven-step Road Map.

Kokang Democracy and Unity Party

Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization Headquarters, Kyauktaw

Letter No. 72/Ma Kha Ma Nya Pha, Kata/07

Date: 13 November 2007

Subject : Announcement of Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization

1. Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization was established as a political party with the aim of joining hands with all the national races for flourishing of genuine democracy.

2. Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization attended the National Convention, and it had the opportunity to participate in the discussions in laying down necessary fundamental principles and detailed basic principles for the emergence of an enduring Constitution. As a result, the detailed basic principles had been adopted for enabling certain national races meeting the requirements to gain Self-administered Divisions/Zones and ethnic groups with stipulated population like Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization to participate in the Hluttaws of respective Regions/States, in addition to the national races that have already gained States.

3. Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization itself has taken part in the discussions on affairs of national races. We hereby announce that the organization disagrees the discussion of any person or organization on behalf of Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, and we support the endeavours for drafting a constitution based on fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that the National Convention has adopted.

Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization

(See page 16)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 16 November, 2007

Work hard together for emergence of new modern nation

The Union Solidarity and Development Association was established as a strong national reserve force on 15 September 1993 to shoulder national duties in the interests of the nation and the people. Now, it has turned 14 years.

Members are actively taking part in nation-building tasks under the leadership of the association in the respective regions, thereby winning trust and cooperation of local people.

The association is training and nurturing its members constantly in order to become a consolidated and capable force. It is implementing national duties through correct concept and conviction hand in hand with the people and congenial organizations.

Since its birth, the USDA has been training and nurturing young members constantly to sharpen their physical and spiritual abilities, while forming associations at different levels, organizing the people and performing community welfare services. As a result, the members of the association has reached more than 24.5 million so far.

Members are to uphold and pursue Our Three Main National Causes and to cultivate a strong spirit to be able to surmount any forms of difficulties. In addition, they have to make efforts to accomplish the future tasks the USDA Annual General Meeting lays down yearly and to maintain and promote the already-achieved good foundations the nation and the people are enjoying.

In order to see to the resolution the association has adopted, young members are to continue to work hard in concert with Union Spirit hand in hand with the people in pursuit of the State's seven-step Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation where democracy flourishes.

Cash donated to Sasana Beikman

YANGON, 15 Nov—A ceremony to donate cash to No 146 Branch of Mogok Vipassana to be spent on construction of a Sasana Beikman (religious building) was held at the building in Hlinethaya Township on 30 October.

A Sayadaw administered the Five Precepts.

At the cash donation ceremony, Chairman of Hlinethaya Township Peace and Development Council U Khin Thein Maung and Chairman of the branch U Than Myint accepted cash donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

The congregation offered provisions to the Sayadaws and shared merits gained. The religious building will be constructed at a cost of K 40 million.

MNA

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

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Ms Guna Laxmi Sharma (Bishowkarama) as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nepal to the Union of Myanmar.

Ms Guna Laxmi Sharma (Bishowkarama) was born in 1951. She obtained Bachelor Degree in Community/Public Health Nursing in 1985, Master of Public Administration in 1989 and Master of Science in Public Health in 1993 from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal respectively. She served as a district Public Health Nurse at District Office, Dolakha from 1974 to 1980. She joined Ministry of Health of Nepal in 1982 and she had served in various capacities in the Ministry. She is currently serving as Chief of Public Health Office, Kathmandu, Ministry of Health and Population.— MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Deputy Director-General U Hla Htay of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Services under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism as Managing Director of Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services under the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — MNA

Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium continues for second day

YANGON, 15 Nov — The Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium 2007 continued for the second

day at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, today.

At the emporium, foreign gem merchants bought 58 pearl lots through tender, and sales of the remaining pearl lots will continue through tender and competitive bidding system.

Gem merchants are allowed to examine 231 gems lots at Myanma Gems Mart. Gems lots will be sold through tender and competitive bidding system on 18 November.

Gem merchants are at liberty to check 5140 jade lots displayed at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township from 15 to 26 November. Jade lots will be sold through tender and competitive bidding system.

A total of 3349 gem merchants — 1217 at home and 2132 from abroad — attended the gems emporium. — MNA



Gem merchants observing jade lots at Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium 2007.—MNA

Development tasks inspected in Mogok, Singu Townships

YANGON, 15 Nov — Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe together with officials concerned went on an inspection tour of Mogok and Singu Townships today.

At the briefing hall of Mogok Township Development Affairs Committee, officials concerned briefed the deputy minister on upgrading of village-to-village roads. Upon arrival at the worksite of tarmacking Nwethagi road in Kyatkyin village, the Deputy Minister gave instructions on dredging of drains along both sides of the road.

At Mogok Town-

ship Development Affairs Committee, the Deputy Minister met with officials concerned and discussed regional development tasks with them.

After inspecting two reservoirs in Mogok Township, the Deputy Minister instructed officials to test quality of water and to carry out sanitation tasks around the reservoirs.

On arrival at Singu Township DAC, the Deputy Minister meet with officials concerned and discussed regional development tasks and gave instructions on cooperation with local people for the emergence of tarred roads and rural water supply tasks.

After inspecting progress in repairing of Myothit No 4th road in Singu Township, the Deputy Minister gave instructions on dredging of drains along both sides of the road. — MNA

Quiz for primary students organized at MRTV

YANGON, 15 Nov — Under the arrangements of Myanma Radio and Television of the Ministry of Information and No 3 Basic Education Department of the Ministry of Education, the quiz for primary students was held at the studio (c) of MRTV on Pyay Road, here, this morning. In the quiz, Maung Win Phone

Myat of Kamayut Basic Education High School No 2 stood first, Ma Hmone Chit Kyaw Nyein of Mingala Taungnyunt BEHS No 3, second, and Maung Htoo Arnt Thu of Lanmadaw BEHS No 1, third. Ma Ingyin Oo of Dagon BEHS No 2 won consolation prize. Officials presented prizes to the winners. — MNA

China says sanctions will not help Iran dispute

BEIJING, 14 Nov—Sanctions are not the way to resolve the deepening international confrontation over Iran's nuclear ambitions, China said on Tuesday, while also urging Teheran to be more compromising.

The comments came as Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi went to Teheran for talks on the dispute, and while a senior US Treasury official was in Beijing to discuss financial penalties on Iran.

"We urge Iran to respond positively to international calls and adopt a flexible stance. We hope that through dialogue and consultation we can promote progress towards resolution," ministry

spokesman Liu Jianchao told a regular news conference.

"We believe that sanctions, especially unilateral sanctions, are of no help." Washington and its allies accuse Iran of seeking to develop an atomic weapon capability but Teheran says its nuclear programme is purely for the civilian purpose of generating electricity.

Liu would not discuss details of Yang's visit and his words echoed calls for compromise that China has regularly offered.

But his comments underscored how, even as Western powers look to tighten economic pressure on Teheran, China hopes for a negotiated settlement

of the nuclear dispute.

With a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, China holds the power to pass or veto possible new sanctions on Iran. Britain, France, Germany, the United States, Russia and China are expected to meet on 19 November to assess reports on Iran from European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana and International Atomic Energy Agency head Mohamed ElBaradei.

The standoff between Iran and the West poses tough choices for Beijing, wary of sanctions and looking to Iran for more oil yet also reluctant to open rifts with the United States.—MNA/Reuters



South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun (R) walks with Vietnam's general secretary of the Communist Party, Nong Duc Manh, during a welcoming ceremony at the presidential Blue House in Seoul. Vietnam is ready to play an active role in enhancing stability on the Korean peninsula, Manh said on 14, Nov 2007.—INTERNET

FBI finds Blackwater Iraq shootings unjustified

WASHINGTON, 15 Nov — FBI agents investigating the September 16 episode in which Blackwater security guards shot and killed 17 Iraqi civilians have found that at least 14 of the shootings were unjustified, *The New York Times* reported on Tuesday.

The FBI investigation into the shootings in Baghdad is still under way, but the findings, which indicate that the company's employees violated deadly force rules in effect for security contractors in Iraq, are already under review by the Justice Department, the newspaper said.

It cited unnamed civilian and military officials briefed on the

case.

Prosecutors have yet to decide whether to seek indictments, and some officials have expressed pessimism that adequate criminal laws exist to enable them to charge any Blackwater employee with criminal wrongdoing, the *Times* reported.

North Carolina-based Blackwater protects US diplomats and other State Department officials in Iraq.

Spokesmen for the Justice Department and the FBI declined to discuss the matter, the paper said.

The case could be one of the first thorny issues to be decided by Michael Mukasey, who was sworn in as attorney general last week.

He may be faced with a decision to turn down a prosecution on legal grounds at a time when a furor has erupted in Congress about the

administration's failure to hold security contractors accountable for their misdeeds, the *Times* said.

Investigators have concluded that as many as five of the company's guards opened fire during the shootings.

They found no evidence to support assertions by Blackwater employees that they were fired upon by Iraqi civilians. That finding sharply contradicts initial assertions by Blackwater officials, who said that company employees fired in self-defence.

Government officials said the shooting occurred in response to gunfire by other members of their unit in the mistaken belief that they were under attack. One official told the *Times*: "I wouldn't call it a massacre, but to say it was unwarranted is an understatement."

MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bush veto hits heating bill aid programme for poor

WASHINGTON, 14 Nov—Low-income US families planning to rely on a federal programme to help pay expensive heating bills this winter are in jeopardy after President George W Bush on Tuesday vetoed spending legislation that would have provided the financial assistance.

Bush rejected the compromise appropriations bill for the Departments of Labour, Health and Human Services, and Education, which also contained 2.4 billion US dollars in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programme, commonly known as LIHEAP. Bush's veto puts "the health and well-being of millions of families at risk this winter", said Representative Carolyn McCarthy, chairman of a House Education and Labour subcommittee, which held a hearing on Tuesday on the LIHEAP programme.

"With energy costs

consistently on the rise, more and more families must make the tough decision whether to heat their homes or put food on the table," McCarthy said. "We'll fight for the money."

With prices forecast to be up for all heating fuels this winter, the poor will need LIHEAP assistance more than ever.

The Energy Department

forecasts that households use heating oil will spend an average 26 per cent or 375 US dollars more this winter compared to last winter, with costs for propane expected to be 20 per cent or 273 US dollars higher, natural gas up 11 per cent or 87 US dollars and electricity 3 per cent or 22 US dollars more expensive.

MNA/Reuters



Residents wade through a flooded street in the central province of Thua Thien Hue on 13 Nov, 2007, in Vietnam. Vietnamese authorities are rushing food aid to more than 100,000 victims as the death toll from weekend floods in the country's central region climbed further Wednesday even as waters receded, disaster officials said.—INTERNET

Flood death toll rises to 28 in central Vietnam

HANOI, 15 Nov—Flooding sparked by torrential rain in Vietnam's central region has killed 28 local people, left six missing, and injured nine since 10 November, according to the country's Central Steering Committee for Flood and Storm Prevention on Wednesday.

Of the fatalities, nine were reported in Quang Nam Province, eight in Quang Ngai Province, six in Binh Dinh Province, 2 in the provinces of Thua Thien Hue and Khanh Hoa each, and one in Da Nang City. The floods have also inundated 187,800 houses, damaged 410 hectares of paddy rice, and isolated some areas in the region. — MNA/Xinhua

Philippine House blast toll climbs to four

MANILA, 15 Nov — The death toll in the blast that ripped through the Philippine Congress complex on Tuesday evening has risen to four, local media reported on Wednesday.

Junaskiri Hayudini, an aide of Basilan Representative Wahab Akbar, died Wednesday afternoon at a medical centre near the blast spot, Philippine television network ABS-CBN News reported.

Akbar, a lawmaker from the southern Philippines, himself died

late Tuesday night while being treated in another medical centre.

Besides, two other persons, a driver, Marcial Talvo, and a Congress staff member, Maan Gale Abustanillo, died because of injuries sustained in the blast.

The explosion took place at about 8:15 pm Tuesday local time (1215 GMT) while congressmen were going out of the House after the session adjournment, at the southern wing of Batasan Pambansa, the Congress complex, in Quezon City,

part of Metro Manila.

The police had said the explosion was caused by a cellphone-detonated bomb attached into a motorcycle.

“We already found parts of the bomb and it was detonated by a cellphone,” said Director Geary Barias, chief of the National Capital Region Police office.

Metro Manila, the Philippine capital region, has been placed on full alert following the blast. Security around the House of Representatives and the Senate has particularly been increased.

MNA/Xinhua

Experts find jawbone of pre-human great ape in Kenya

NAIROBI, 14 Nov — Re-searchers have discovered a 10-million-year-old jaw bone in Kenya they believe belonged to a new species of great ape that could be the last common ancestor of gorillas, chimpanzees and humans.

The Kenyan and Japanese team found the fragment in 2005 along with 11 teeth in volcanic mud flow deposits in Kenya’s northern Nakali region.

The species — somewhere between the size of a female gorilla and a female orangutan — may prove to be the “missing

link” in the evolution theory, Kenyan scientists said.

“Based on this particular discovery, we can comfortably say we are approaching the point at which we can pin down the so-called missing link,” said Frederick Manthi, Senior Research Scientist at the National Museums of Kenya.

“We have to find more fossils from a cross-section of sites to sustain that particular theory,” he told a news conference.

Christened *Nakalipithecus nakayamai*, the new species fed on nuts, seeds and fruit.

“The teeth were covered in thick enamel and the caps were low and voluminous, suggesting that the diet of this ape consisted of a considerable amount of hard objects, like nuts or seeds, and fruit,” Yutaka Kunimatsu at Kyoto University’s Primate Research Institute said in a telephone interview.

“It could be positioned before the split between gorillas, chimps and humans,” he added.

Kunimatsu said it was hard to determine what *Nakalipithecus nakayamai* looked like.

MNA/Reuters



Whooper swans swim in Qinghai Lake in Xining, capital of northwest China’s Qinghai Province, on 13 Nov, 2007. At this time of year, thousands of whooper swans migrate to Qinghai Lake in winter. — XINHUA

Poland detains seven soldiers over Afghan deaths

WARSAW, 14 Nov — Polish authorities have detained seven soldiers in connection with an incident in which Afghan civilians were killed, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

Military prosecutors ordered the detentions accusing the soldiers of breaking The Hague and Geneva Conventions, which deal with war crimes and the treatment of non-combatants and prisoners of war, the ministry said in a statement.

“Seven soldiers... who were part of the international ISAF mission in Afghanistan have been detained,” the statement said.

The prosecutor dealing with the case said charges would be presented on Wednesday. The soldiers were detained in Poland.

A spokesman for the ministry told Polish television the soldiers were involved in an incident earlier this year when Polish troops killed several Afghan citizens in a clash with insurgents. “The soldiers have been detained in connection with August’s incident,” Jaroslaw Rybak, the ministry’s spokesman, told Polish television. — MNA/Reuters

Suspect in Polish Ambassador assault seized in Iraq

WARSAW, 14 Nov — A suspect in an 3 October assault on Polish Ambassador to Iraq Edward Pietrzyk in Baghdad has been seized in Iraq, the Polish Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

No details about the suspect are disclosed. Pietrzyk was injured and a member of his security force killed in the attack. Another diplomat and several security officers guarding Pietrzyk were hurt.

Pietrzyk was released from a hospital on 9 November and said he would return to Iraq, Polish PAP news agency reported. — MNA/Xinhua

One man dies, one injured in Australian pet rescue

CANBERRA, 14 Nov — One man was killed and another was then seriously injured when they tried to climb a tree at night to recapture a pet cockatoo in Australia.

The bird’s 72-year-old owner fell as he tried to recover the pet in the country town of Bendigo in southern Victoria State. He was taken to hospital for treatment, police said.

The injured man’s neighbour, 58, then took over the rescue, but he also fell and died instantly when he hit the ground. — MNA/Reuters

Three US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 Nov — Three American soldiers were killed and four others injured in two attacks across Iraq, the US military said on Wednesday.

Two soldiers were killed by an explosion during operations in the volatile province of Diyala on Tuesday, the military said in a statement.

Four more soldiers were wounded by the blast and evacuated to a coalition hospital for treatment, it added.

Diyala Province, which stretches from the eastern edges of Baghdad to the Iranian border, has long been the hotbed of insurgency and sectarian violence since the US-led invasion in 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

London buys hydrogen-fuelled red buses

LONDON, 15 Nov — London’s mayor said on Tuesday he had signed a 10-million-pound (20.7-million-US-dollar) deal for ten hydrogen-powered buses to help reduce pollution and CO2 emissions in the UK capital.

Five of the traditional red buses, to be built by US manufacturer ISE Corp, will be powered by hydrogen fuel cells and five will burn hydrogen in conventional internal combustion engines.

“London is now the first city in Europe to commit to a hydrogen bus fleet of this size, which will match traditional diesel buses in terms of performance,” London Mayor Ken Livingstone said.

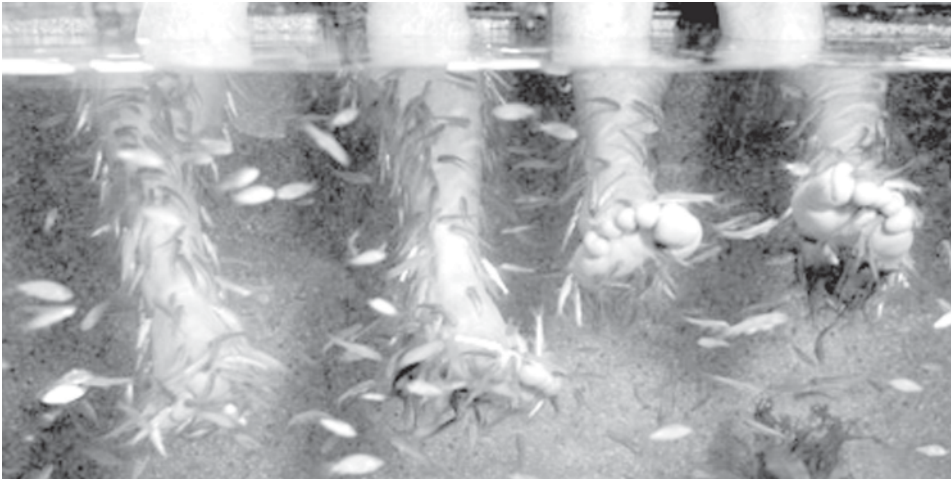
“This represents a huge step forward from the previous hydrogen trials in the capital and is an important step towards my target of having 5 per cent of all public sector fleet vehicles powered by hydrogen by 2015,” he added.

MNA/Reuters



Two competitors run on stilts during a men’s 200 meters race at the 8th Chinese Traditional Games of Ethnic Nationalities in Guangzhou, South China’s Guangdong Province on 13 Nov, 2007.

XINHUA



Toothless kangal, or "doctor" fish, nibble at the dead skin of customers' feet at Malaysia's first fish spa in Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur's main shopping area, on 13 Nov, 2007. — XINHUA

Saudi Oil Minister dismisses OPEC supply increase

LONDON, 14 Nov—OPEC members will not announce an increase in oil production at this weekend's Riyadh summit, Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister said on Tuesday, suggesting oil prices are likely to stay around 100 US dollars a barrel.

In an interview with the *Financial Times*, Ali Naimi said "there will be absolutely no discussion" of a production increase by heads of state or their oil ministers on short-term supply when the Riyadh meeting convenes.

"This is a summit that is dealing with strategic

issues and longer views. You have seen the themes. And you will get a declaration after it. OPEC ministers are not going to meet to discuss supply and prices and the heads of state definitely are not going to discuss it," Naimi said.

"There is going to be discussion among the heads of state on growth, environment, reliability of supply, investment in future supplies to guarantee the integrity of the system. They are not taking about today, they are talking about the longer term view."

Naimi said that OPEC

had nothing to do with where the oil price was, but said that it was watching the market "very carefully" and did not rule out the possibility of an increase in production after a meeting next month. I cannot answer why the prices are so high. Prices are determined by a market that is influenced by many factors.

MNA/Reuters

This undated handout photo received from Conservation International, on 13 Nov, 2007, shows a species of butterfly named "Delias Kristiani". Indonesia's First Lady Kristiani Herawati was told on 13 Nov that a rare Papuan butterfly species had been named for her as she was presented with a specimen.—INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Vietnamese top legislature approves 2008 economic plan

HANOI, 14 Nov—Vietnam's top legislature has approved socio-economic development plan of the government and budget estimates for 2008, local newspaper *People* reported on Tuesday.

Under a resolution adopted by the National Assembly on Monday, Vietnam will foster socio-economic development in 2008 to lift the country out of the status of a developing country with low income, by the end of the year.

The country has targeted economic growth of 8.5-9.0 per cent, and growth of

22 per cent in export turnovers next year. Vietnam will strive to gain gross domestic product (GDP) growth of over 9 per cent and keep its consumer price index lower than the targeted economic growth rate in 2008.

The country has also set targets of creating 1.7 million jobs, partly by sending 85,000 people to work abroad, reducing its poverty rate to 11-12 per cent from current 14.7 per cent, supplying clean water to 75 per cent of rural people and 85 per cent of urban population, and slashing the percentage of malnourished

children to below 22 per cent.

Lawmakers agreed that state budget collection in 2008 should be 323 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (20.2 billion US dollars), or 24.1 per cent of next year's GDP, and budget overspending at 66.9 trillion VND (nearly 4.2 billion dollars), or 5 per cent of the GDP.

This year, Vietnam is estimated to gain GDP growth of 8.5 per cent, 20.5 per cent growth in export turnovers, 27.5 per cent increase in import turnovers, and job creation of 1.68 million.

MNA/Xinhua



Tokyo Tower is illuminated by blue lights to mark the first United Nations World Diabetes Day in Tokyo on 14 Nov, 2007. —INTERNET

IMF completes final review on Nepal's eco performance

KATHMANDU, 14 Nov—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Monday completed the fifth and final review on Nepal's economic performance under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) arrangement, reported the *National News Agency* (RSS).

According to Nepali Finance Ministry sources, the completion of the review makes Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 10.69 million Nepali rupees (about 16.9 million US dollars) available to Nepal, which would bring the total amount drawn under the arrangement to SDR 49.9 million Nepali rupees (about 79.1 million US dollars).

The three-year PRGF arrangement with Nepal was approved on 19 November, 2003 for an amount equivalent to SDR 49.9 million. At the conclusion of the third review, the PRGF arrangement was extended to 18 November, 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

China utilizes \$54b in FDI in first 10 months

BEIJING, 14 Nov—China utilized 54 billion US dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first 10 months, up 11.2 per cent over the same period last year, the Ministry of Commerce announced here on Monday.

The country approved the establishment of 30,826 foreign-funded companies in the period, down 6.78 per cent, said the ministry.

In October, 2,620 foreign-funded companies were approved, down 14 per cent over the same period a year earlier, while the actual use of FDI rose 13.18 per cent to 6.78 billion US dollars.

During the same period, the United States recorded a drop of 15.9 per cent in the number of enterprises it established in China, and the FDI also fell 5.95 per cent.

Currently, more than 28 million people, or about 10 per cent of China's employed population in cities and towns, work in foreign-funded enterprises.

MNA/Xinhua



A staff member does some makeup for a model during Cosmoprof Asia 2007, an annual beauty fair, at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, south China, on 14 Nov, 2007. —XINHUA

Study backs ultrasound to judge ovarian malignancy

WASHINGTON, 15 Nov — Using ultrasound images may be a better way than blood tests to determine whether a woman's ovarian tumor is benign or malignant, European researchers said on Tuesday.

Higher levels of a so-called tumor marker protein called CA-125 in the blood is considered the standard way to judge if an ovarian tumor is benign or malignant, but this method sometimes can yield wrong answers, the researchers said.

Researchers led by Dr Dirk Timmerman of Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium tested whether ultrasound assessment of the tumor by an experienced examiner was a better method.

Ultrasound employs high-frequency

sound waves to create images of things inside the body.

In the study, 1,066 women with ovarian tumors were given an ultrasound examination.

Of these women, 809 provided blood samples before surgery to remove the ovarian tumors to be analyzed for CA-125, which is overproduced by ovarian tumor cells.

The ultrasound examiners accurately gauged 93 per cent of the tumors as either benign or malignant using a method called pattern recognition, according to the study.

The blood tests measuring CA-125 levels, in comparison, accurately determined the nature of 83 per cent of the tumors, the researchers said.

MNA/Reuters

OPEC set to reject calls for more oil as price falls

RIYADH, 15 Nov — OPEC looked set to resist consumer calls to pump more crude for now as oil retreated from a record high near 100 US dollars and costly prices took a toll on demand.

Leading OPEC producer Saudi Arabia, hosting OPEC heads of state this week, said on Tuesday that oil production policy will not be set at this week's summit. Oil ministers gather again on 5 December for a formal OPEC conference

in Abu Dhabi.

Ali al-Naimi, Oil Minister for top exporter Saudi Arabia and OPEC's most influential voice, also said crude prices trading above 91 US dollars did not reflect supply and demand fundamentals.

"This is not a normal OPEC meeting," Naimi told a news conference ahead of the summit of OPEC heads of state on 17-18 November.

"This is not a place to focus on price, incre-

mental production or a decrease and so forth."

Algerian Energy Minister Chakib Khelil said there was no reason for the group to agree a supply increase in Abu Dhabi. "... there is no need," he told Reuters in Rome. "There is equilibrium of supply and demand." Oil's surge this year has prompted further calls from consumers for OPEC, which pumps more than a third of the world's oil, to increase supplies.

MNA/Reuters

18 mln males at marriage age more than females in China

ZHENGZHOU, 15 Nov — The number of males in China at marriage age is 18 million more than that of females due to a long period of high sex birth ratio since the 1980s, according to the country's family planning authorities.

The sex ratio at birth in rural areas was 122.85:100, higher than the national average of 119.58:100, as compared with the normal sex ratio of 103 to 107:100,

according to Zhang Weiqing, National Population and Family Planning Commission director.

By 2020, males aged between 20 and 45 were forecast to be 30 million more than females in the country, he said at a rural population and family planning conference in the Henan Province capital.

Rural families still have a preference for boys as agricultural production currently relies mainly on laborers, according to Zhang.

China will continue to crack down on illegal prenatal sex selection and will try to help people discard traditional ideas of a preference for boys, the official said.

MNA/Xinhua

Diabetes becoming public health problem in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 14 Nov — Diabetes is becoming a significant public health problem, particularly in urban areas of Nepal, according to Nepal Diabetes Association (NDA) on Wednesday.

As the world observes World Day against diabetes on Wednesday, the NDA said in a report that its studies carried out in urban areas throughout Nepal have shown that diabetes prevalence stood at around 15 percent among people aged 20 years and above and 19 percent among people aged 40 years and above.

The NDA said that diabetes prevalence stood at 2 percent in rural areas among people aged 20 years and above.

The association said

246 million people are living with diabetes globally.

It has asked the health authorities to formulate appropriate policies to

ensure prevention of the disease.

People living sedentary lifestyles are said to be particularly vulnerable to diabetes.

Diabetes can lead to serious ailments in eye, kidney and heart if not taken care of properly, according to doctors.

Internet



Parents and relatives watch over 8-day-old triplets — two conjoined boys and one girl — at a hospital in north China's Tianjin municipality on 13 Nov, 2007. The hospital will separate the conjoined boys after they reach three months old, local media reported. — INTERNET

Pakistani helicopter gunships kill four militants

ISLAMABAD, 14 Nov — Pakistani helicopter gunships killed four militants and destroyed bunkers and ammunition dumps at a village in a northwestern region where a pro-Taliban rebel has led an insurrection, the military said on Tuesday.

More than 200 people have been killed in clashes between fighters commanded by Maulana Fazlullah and security forces over the past few weeks in Swat, a picturesque, mountainous district of North West Frontier Province (NWFP) that was formerly a tourist haven.

The focus came off the violence in Swat after President Pervez Musharraf declared emergency rule and suspended the Constitution on 3 November, but military spokesman Major-General Waheed Arshad said security forces were keeping up pressure on Fazlullah's followers. "We have used helicopter gunships in the last few days to target militant positions and their bunkers," he said.

Tuesday's raid targeted militant positions at the village of Sambit, according to another military official.

Five more militants were wounded in another clash in the area, while paramilitary troops captured five fighters, along with arms and explosives, at a third village. Lieutenant-General Mohammad Masood Aslam, the top military commander in NWFP, said there were between 500 and 800 foreign militants based in Swat, but did not say whether there was any well known figure among them. — MNA/Reuters

From the first step to the set goal

Tin Tin Win

Bagyi Phyo, a retired teacher, is strongly equipped with nationalistic fervour and patriotic spirit. Silence ruled in the classroom when he taught history. He also equipped his pupils with nationalistic spirit and patriotic spirit and nurtured them in order to become reliable ones. In that way, he enthusiastically helped the nation produce human resources.

He is convinced that "The constitution is of vital importance for a nation. Only with an appropriate constitution will it be possible for the nation to enjoy political, economic and social progress". He believed that a human body can stand firmly only with the backbone. In like manner, a nation can enjoy development and economic growth only with a suitable constitution.

The nation is now in pursuit of the State's seven-step Road Map, which was brought into force in 2003. Now, the National Convention, the first and the most important step, has been convened, and plans are under way to draft a constitution. The Tatmadaw government is striving steadfastly for emergence of a new enduring State constitution as a national duty. It reconvened and completed the National Convention, that had been adjourned temporarily since 1996, between 2004 and 2007. Bagyi Phyo believed that the National Convention will go down in history owing to the National Convention delegates' qualifications such as taking lessons from past historic events and prevailing situations, and capability of visualizing the future of the nation, applying experiences, knowledge and views in combination, being loyal to the nation and the people, imbuing themselves strongly with Union Spirit and foresight.

Therefore, Bagyi Phyo had taken a great interest in the Union Solidarity and Development Association

that is made up of younger generation that will help create a prosperous future of the motherland. He had a conversation with his niece Htwe Nge who completed the Advanced Management (Special) Course for USDA executives.

"I am interested in the USDA that has been formed with younger generation who are patriotic with correct conviction and concept to restore stability of the State and carry out nation-building tasks in cooperation with the people. Would you explain facts about the Association to me?"

"Yes, Grandpa. The Association is formed with youths who are patriotic with correct conviction and concept to restore stability of the State and carry out nation-building tasks in cooperation with the people. It came into existence with five objectives, five principles, four oaths, eleven points of code of conduct, and fourteen duties and responsibilities based on Our Three Main National Causes the entire people practise as the national policy.

"Over 14 years after the Association was established, members have been taking part in social welfare services together with the people in respective regions in accordance with the future plans the Association lays down annually.

"In fact, they are also public members born of the people in respective regions. So, they are participating in the regional development tasks with genuine goodwill. They have a social welfare spirit and contribute towards social occasions and tasks for community peace, and improvement in the social, economic and education sectors of local people. They also take part in precautionary measures against such natural disasters as floods and strong winds.

"In the process, they cooperate with local authorities, Tatmadaw members, service personnel

and other social organizations. Local people of respective regions have recognized their contribution towards community welfare services. So, the membership of the Association has reached more than 24.5 million.

"The Association opens various courses for the growing number of the members to enable them to serve the interests of their respective regions better. In this regard, the member trainees should combine the knowledge they have gained from the courses and their experiences.

"Now, the government is building a new nation systematically to fulfil the wishes of the people. So, it is needed to take into consideration the past experiences, present situations and possible future of the nation. And it is also needed to transform the nation from the old system to the new one in a smooth way. I understand that all members have to serve as a reserve force to achieve the goal. **The Head of State on one occasion gave guidance that the nation had to deal with a variety of destructive acts and blockages to carry out national development tasks. USDA members were to have correct concepts to overcome such hindrances. The four points of People's Desire have been laid down to crush the destructive elements who are disrupting the national development tasks. It was required to inculcate People's Desire not only into the Association but also into the people, he said.**

"So, we, USDA members, are to work hard together with the people to perform the duties ranging from successful completion of the National Convention, the first step of the Road Map, to the drafting of the constitution. Now, some groups outside the nation are criticizing the nation with negative views. Moreover, they are airing distorted news stories and exaggerated news stories to instigate protests in the nation. We, members, understand well that their activities are not designed to serve the interests of the nation and the people."

After the long clarification of Htwe Nge, Bagyi Phyo nodded his head smiling.

He said, "Then, I am assured of the good future of the nation and the activities of younger generation".

At the end of Bagyi Phyo's remark, Htwe Nge smiled pleased with her heart filled with satisfaction, visualizing the accomplishments ranging from the first step of the State's seven-step Road Map to the set goal.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin: 14-11-2007

The nation is now in pursuit of the State's seven-step Road Map, which was brought into force in 2003. Now, the National Convention, the first and the most important step, has been convened, and plans are under way to draft a constitution. The Tatmadaw government is striving steadfastly for emergence of a new enduring State constitution as a national duty. It reconvened and completed the National Convention, that had been adjourned temporarily since 1996, between 2004 and 2007.

Prizes awarded to winners in shooting championship

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov — The prize presentation ceremony for the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander's Shield Shooting Championship was held at the shooting range in Taungnyo Station, here, this

morning.

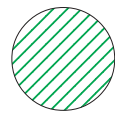
Staff officers of the command headquarters, station commanders and officials presented prizes to the respective winners in the women's and men's events.

Later, Commander of

Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin awarded championship shield to Taungnyo Station (A) team.

A total of 16 shooting teams participated in the championship.

MNA



Commander

Maj-Gen

Wai Lwin

awards

champion-

ship

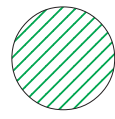
shield to

Taungnyo

Station (A)

Team.

MNA



Minister calls for cooperation in fight against diabetes

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint stressed the need for cooperation of Ministry of Health, diabetes patients and their families and people in the fight against the diabetes.

Speaking on the occasion at the celebration of the World Diabetes Day-2007 here today, the minister said the ceremony was organized with the aim of raising awareness of diabetes among the people as the incidence of diabetes is escalating around the world.

According to the report of World Health Organization, there are 246 million people who are suffering from diabetes around the world

and without concerted action to fight the diabetes epidemic, the figure will reach 380 million within 20 years, the minister said.

He also said that World Diabetes Day-2007 aims to raise awareness of the rising prevalence of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes in children and emphasize the importance of early diagnosis and education to reduce complications and save lives and promote healthy lifestyles to help prevent type 2 diabetes in children.

After the opening ceremony, an educative talks on diabetes followed. Dr Ko Ko of North Okkalapa Hospital gave talks on celebration of

World Diabetes Day, Dr Myat Kaung of Thingangyun Model Hospital on the diabetes disease and Prof Dr Tint Swe Latt of Yangon Medical University-2 on prevention and controlling the disease. They also replied to the queries raised by those present.

After the talks, staff of the Ministry of Health provided free screenings for diabetes and distributed pamphlets and posters to those present.

Also present on the occasion were deputy ministers for health, the directors-general of the

departments under the ministry, personnel of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, officials of the Ministry of Health, members of social organizations in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and Nay Pyi Taw Lewe districts and guests. — MNA

Commandant's Cup Volleyball

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov — A ceremony to open the Camp Commandant's Cup Office/Department of Ministry of Defence Winter Volleyball Tournament 2007 was held at the sports ground, here, this afternoon.

Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence delivered an opening address. Next, contending teams participated in the debut.

MNA

Training courses closing ceremony held at PBANRDA Ministry

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov — The concluding ceremony of the Advanced Management Course No 15, the International Relations Course No 5 and the Computer Course No 1 was held at the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, here, yesterday morning.

PBANRDA Minister Col Thein Nyunt made an opening speech at the

ceremony.

Next, the minister awarded the outstanding staff who attended the courses. Later, he presented completion certificates for the trainees through officials and greeted the trainees.

A total of 83 trainees from departments under the ministry and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee attended the 12-week courses.

MNA

Pyapon Township Association to hold Kathina

YANGON, 15 Nov — The Pyapon Township Association will hold Kathina robes offering ceremony at Aungzabu Chanmyay (Kanbawza) Monastery in Ward-7 of Pyapon on 24 November in conjunction with the prize-presentation ceremony for outstanding students.

Those wishing to attend the ceremonies are to come to the Pyapon bus terminal in Dala at 3 pm on 23 November. And they are to contact U Than Hlaing, Vice-Chairman of the association Tel; 379231, Treasurers U Khin Oo Tel; 514879 and association office Tel;

392176 not later than 22 November.

MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt delivers an address at concluding ceremony of Advanced Management Course No 15, International Relations Course No 5 and Computer Course No 1 in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA



Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro of the UN Human Rights Council and party meeting with Sayadaw of Ngwe Kyar Yan Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Revata and members of the Sangha. — MNA

Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro meets with national race representatives, WAOs, MCWAs

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Nov — Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro of UN Human Rights Council met with national race leaders of Kayin State, representatives from Thabyaynyunt Village, representatives from Kachin, Chin and Shan State Women's Affairs Organizations and Chin, Shan State (East) and Shan

State (North) Maternal and Child Welfare Associations at the City Hall, here, this morning.

Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro and party left Nay Pyi Taw by air for Yangon at 1 pm.

Next, Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro arrived at Insein Central Jail and met with inmates and Ma Su Su Nway, U

Win Tin, U Min Zeya, U Kyi Than and U Maung Kan who are being detained there.

Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro paid homage to members of the Sangha led by Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Revata, Presiding Sayadaw of Ngwe Kyar Yan Pariyatti Monastery on Kaba Aye Hill lock in the afternoon.

Afterwards, Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro met with journalists from foreign and local news agencies and journals, and

held a press conference on his visit to Myanmar.

In the evening, Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro and party were seen off at

Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA

Outstanding students from Kyimyindine School for the Blind honoured

YANGON, 15 Nov—A ceremony to honour the students from the training schools under the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement who passed matriculation examination for 2006-2007 academic year took place along with a cash presentation ceremony at Kyimyindine Township School for the Blind here at 2 pm on 12 November.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and heads of department, wellwishers, teachers and outstanding students.

The minister delivered a speech on the occasion.

Wellwishers made cash donations of 1.57 million kyats in total to the outstanding students. The minister presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Deputy Director-General of the Social Welfare Department U Aung Tun Khaing presented a gift to U Mya Khaing who represented the Social Welfare Department and bagged three gold in the swimming events, one gold in the badminton event and one bronze in the table tennis event of the 19th Myanmar

disabled's sports events (2007), and gifts to the teachers from No 5 and 4 Basic Education High Schools in Kyimyindine Township who helped teach students of the training schools through respective school-mistresses.

On behalf of the students, student Ma Ya Min Ohnmar expressed thanks. Five students, two of whom won two distinctions, from Kyimyindine Township School for the Blind and one student from Lashio Youths Training School passed the matriculation examination (2006-2007).

MNA



Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro of the UN Human Rights Council holds a press conference at Yangon International Airport. — MNA



Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro of the UN Human Rights Council meeting with national race leaders of Kayin State and representatives from Thabyaynyunt Village. — MNA

EU lawmakers to reopen inquiry into CIA prisons

STRASBOURG (France), 15 Nov — European Union lawmakers will reopen an inquiry into secret CIA flights and prisons in Europe after lacklustre cooperation from EU capitals and new evidence of such activities in Ukraine, deputies said.

EU lawmakers closed a first probe in February by accusing European governments and secret services of accepting and concealing secret US flights carrying terrorism suspects across Europe.

Critics said they had produced no conclusive proof.

European Parliament members Giulietto Chiesa and Claudio Fava said on Wednesday the assembly's civil liberties committee would try to get further answers from EU governments accused of allowing the US Central Intelligence Agency to house, interrogate and

transport prisoners on European soil.

They cited a documentary by a Russian television journalist, Arkadij Mamontov, as showing new evidence of a secret prison and flights in Ukraine, a neighbour of the 27-nation EU.

Chiesa said he did not have independent evidence to back up the documentary by the pro-Kremlin public broadcasting station RTR, which he said showed footage of a secret prison and interviews with people who helped build it.

MNA/Reuters



A visitor looks at an artwork during a preview of the 2007 Shanghai Art Fair on 14 Nov, 2007. The 2007 Shanghai Art Fair starts on Thursday. — INTERNET

Explosive device kills guard in Tajik capital

DUSHANBE, 15 Nov — An explosion killed a security guard in the Tajik capital Dushanbe on Wednesday outside a building where the country's Prime Minister

had been due to make a speech, officials and witnesses said.

Police were investigating a possible terrorist link, officials said. Prime Minister Akil

Akilov had been due to attend a conference organized by the European Commission in a building 300 metres (yards) from the presidential palace.

Dushanbe, a city of about one million people in the mostly Muslim former Soviet country, was at the centre of a bloody civil war in the 1990s which pitted Moscow-backed secular forces against an alliance of Islamists and opposition-minded liberals.

Dushanbe Mayor Kurbonali Mukhabbatov said the KNB security service, the successor agency to the Soviet-era KGB, believed the blast could be a terrorist act.

"KNB are leading the investigation," he told reporters. — MNA/Reuters

Many people do not think AIDS is fatal

NEW YORK, 15 Nov — In a nine-country survey released today, more than 40 per cent of respondents did not understand that AIDS is always a fatal disease.

The survey from the MAC AIDS Fund, a philanthropy set up by Estee Lauder-owned MAC cosmetics, involved 4,510 interviews conducted in the US, UK, Russia, France, China, India, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa. The release of the findings coincides with a Fund board meeting and comes in

advance of World AIDS Day on December 1.

"The strength of the survey lies in its exclusive focus on issues related to AIDS, its span of nine countries and the fact that it poses frank, specific questions at a time when we need frank, specific answers to increase the effectiveness of our global response to the epidemic," Nancy Mahon, Executive Director of the MAC AIDS Fund, told Reuters Health.

MNA/Reuters



Shi'ite worshippers, draped in Iraqi flags, step on US and British flags printed on the ground during a parade commemorating the anniversary of the assassination of Shi'ite cleric Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr in Basra on 14 Nov, 2007. — INTERNET

Baghdad faces struggle to rebuild

BAGHDAD, 15 Nov — Baghdad, the epicentre of Iraq's sectarian bloodshed, is starting to rebuild its shattered infrastructure, but political feuds and the threat of renewed attacks could reverse progress, officials said on Wednesday.

"Baghdad, God willing, will emerge after suffering from despotism, explosions and car bombs," Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih told a conference on rebuilding the Baghdad region.

While the state of basic services like water, electricity, and sewerage has been dismal across Iraq since the US-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003, conditions in the capital Baghdad have been particularly grim.

This August, residents of the Baghdad region had an average of 9.2 hours of electricity a day, the second lowest in Iraq. Insufficient power and sabotage also contributed to a major water shortage in recent months.

MNA/Reuters

Brazil says offshore oil reserves far larger than expected

ROME, 15 Nov — Brazil's oil giant Petrobras announced here Tuesday that its recent offshore oil discovery in Brazil contains between 5-8 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

Petrobras made the statement after attending the World Energy Congress, which began here Sunday to debate sustainable development and prospects of the energy industry.

Speaking to a Press conference, Petrobras President Jose Sergio Gabrielli de Azevedo said his company "has high confidence" in the oil reserves.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain set to ease airport bag restrictions

LONDON, 15 Nov — Baggage restrictions at British airports will be relaxed in the New Year, Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly is expected to announce on Wednesday.

According to the *Financial Times*, Kelly will announce at a speech to the Airport Operators Association that travellers will be allowed to take two items of baggage on

board from next year.

Since August 2006, passengers boarding at British airports have been limited to one item of hand luggage each.

The measures were introduced after the discovery of a suspected plot to use liquid explosives to launch an attack.

The EU-wide restrictions on carrying liquids on board are,

however, expected to remain in place.

The Department of Transport said it could not comment on the reports before Kelly's speech.

In the immediate weeks after detectives said they had foiled the plot, all hand luggage had to be checked into the hold, with only passports and travel documents allowed on board. — MNA/Reuters

Family feared dead in Northern Ireland fire

BELFAST, 15 Nov — A family was believed to have been killed in a fire on Tuesday, which engulfed their home in the town of Omagh in Northern Ireland, police said. The blaze broke out around 0500 am (0500 GMT) at the terrace house.

“There are fatalities. We can’t confirm how many,” a police spokeswoman said. Paddy McGowan, a local councillor who was at the scene of the fire, said seven members of the family including an infant were feared dead. “It is a scene of sheer devastation,” he told

public broadcaster RTE. “Four black walls are all that remains of the house.” “It would be nearly impossible for anyone to come out of the house alive,” he said. Local fire brigade commander Louis Jones said they were still searching for bodies. *MNA/Reuters*



Snow blankets houses in a neighbourhood in Beijing on 31 Dec, 2006 file photo. A Chinese residential community has issued a list of acceptable behavior for its inhabitants, a newspaper said on Thursday.
INTERNET

Nepal’s intra-SAARC trade grows by 8.2%

KATHMANDU, 15 Nov — Nepal’s trade with the seven other South Asian countries grew by 8.2 per cent to 161.22 billion Nepali rupees (some 2.5 billion US dollars) in 2006/07, a government report stated on Wednesday. The annual report of the Trade and Export Promotion Centre (TEPC), however, noted that the country’s trade

growth in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region for the year was much slower compared to the previous fiscal year. In 2005/06, the trade volume had swelled by about 16 per cent. “This situation emerged mainly because of internal reasons, such as deterioration in the security situation, erosion of industrial environment, labour stir and the tarai unrest,” executive director of TEPC Dinesh Chandra Gupta said. He further said that

the failure of the government to update its industrial and commerce policies and poor state of economic diplomacy also caused trade to slow down during the year. According to the report, Nepal’s total exports to the SAARC region grew by a mere 3.56 per cent and reached 42.85 billion rupees (some 680 million dollars) during the year, whereas imports from SAARC grew by 10 per cent to 118.37 billion rupees (some 1.8 billion dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

Study shows Britons as hardest travellers

LONDON, 15 Nov — A report unveiled on Tuesday shows that British travellers are the hardest travellers in the world. “Britons are the hardest and most terrorist resistant travellers in the world,” said Dr Auliana Poon, managing director of Tourism Intelligence International during the ongoing World Travel Market in east London,

which is an annual trade event drawing some 55,000 professionals from over 200 countries and regions. “We did an investigation into how the Japanese, the Germans and the Americans and British responded to terrorism. We did a study on the impact on tourism in the build up to the outbreak of the Gulf War,” she said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Cluster bomb talks not ambitious enough

GENEVA, 15 Nov — United Nations arms talks ended on Tuesday without firm pledges to seek a ban on cluster bombs, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said. The annual meeting of states party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons resulted in only a vague promise to start negotiating a treaty next year on the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, the Swiss-based agency said. Cluster bombs, munitions that disperse into bomblets scattered over a wide area, kill or maim thousands of civilians every year. Many bomblets fail to detonate but remain dangerous for decades after they were dropped. “It is regrettable that the mandate adopted today does not reflect a collective commitment either to the adoption of a legally binding instrument or to the prohibition of those cluster munitions

which have caused such a serious humanitarian problem,” said Peter Herby, head of the ICRC’s arms unit. Without a clear timeframe to complete the negotiations, Herby said the talks risked becoming drawn out, without an effective solution. Nearly 70 countries have voiced support for a ban on cluster bombs, but the United States, Russia and China have not. US officials have backed the idea of a treaty to reduce civilian casualties from the weapon without a full ban on its use. The Cluster Munition Coalition, an international group campaigning against the weapons, said the focus of efforts to ban cluster bombs would now move to Vienna from December 4-7, when more than 80 countries would meet to discuss the problem. The Vienna meeting is part of a series launched in Oslo in February earlier this year where countries are working on a treaty on

cluster munitions. “The decision here (in Geneva) is a road to nowhere on cluster munitions that will never lead to a ban. Fortunately the real work to develop a ban treaty is well advanced and will stride forward in Vienna next month,” said Thomas Nash, coordinator of the coalition.

This work on a treaty in what is known as the Oslo process is similar to the creation of a treaty banning landmines in 1997 that followed the failure to agree a total ban on landmines under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. *MNA/Reuters*



Soldiers and militia carry a crocodile shot dead in Vietnam’s central Khanh Hoa Province, on 11 Nov, 2007. — INTERNET

Soldiers nab runaway crocodiles in Vietnam, extend hunt

HANOI, 15 Nov — Soldiers and rangers have captured 65 crocodiles which escaped from a breeding farm in a central Vietnam Province, but hundreds more are still on the loose, officials said on Wednesday. He said soldiers shot dead eight fresh water crocodiles and returned those captured to the breeding farm in Khanh Hoa Province where raging floodwaters broke cages on Saturday, allowing the crocodiles to escape. “We have the Army, rangers and local militia joining this search,” said Tran Minh Thu, head of the provincial Ranger department’s inspection unit.

Local people joined the hunt and slaughtered seven crocodiles themselves, Thu added. Officials said they do not know exactly how many crocodiles escaped, but estimate the number could be in the hundreds. The farm run by a Vietnamese firm, Khanh Viet Corp, was registered to raise 5,544 crocodiles. The farm is legal and breeds crocodiles to supply the skin and meat. Officials said the fresh water crocodiles can attack people and animals while inland but they cannot survive in sea water, making it unlikely they would appear on sandy beaches popular among tourists. *MNA/Reuters*

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (7061)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (7061) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.11.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316 /376797

Zambian tour operators attend World Travel Market

LUSAKA, 14 Nov—Twenty-six Zambian tour operators led by Minister of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources Michael Kaingu are among international tourism experts attending this year's World Travel Market (WTM) in London this week, *Times of Zambia* reported on Tuesday.

Zambia National Tourist Board (ZNTB) public relations officer Doris Kofi said in an

interview in Lusaka Monday that this year's WTM would tackle issues on responsible tourism and climate change and how climate change would affect tourism.

She said the WTM opened on Monday and would run up to 15 November.

She said the event organizers, Reed Exhibitions, expected more than 200 tourism ministers and 30,000 visitors at this year's event which

was one of the world's biggest annual tourism exhibitions.

She said the exhibition provides a platform for countries to market their tourism to both the travel trade and the consumers during the four-day event whose first two days were strictly reserved for business-to-business meetings.

Kofi said the Zambian

stand of 105 square metres, would be occupied by operators representing three airlines, 17 accommodation operators and six tour operators.

During the event, Zambia will host a networking cocktail at the stand to be attended by the international travel trade representatives and the media.

MNA/Xinhua

Illegal shipment of endangered animals seized in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 14 Nov—Hong Kong law enforcement personnel have foiled an attempt to import animals, including endangered species, into Hong Kong illegally from Indonesia.

A spokesman for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of Hong Kong said Tuesday that a consignment of animals destined for the Chinese Mainland was seized at the Hong Kong International Airport Mon-

day, including 15 snakes and 22 lizards. They were tightly packed inside nylon stockings and cigarette cartons.

The spokesman said that among the seized animals, 13 pythons and 12 monitor lizards were identified as endangered species. All of the seized animals will be sent to the department's Animal Management Centre in Sheung Shui.

A man was arrested after being found hiding

the animals inside his luggage without any permit or health certification. He was charged under relative laws in Hong Kong,

and a local court on Tuesday handed down a fine of 2,000 Hong Kong dollars and three months' imprisonment.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkey, Israel, Palestine sign on J-V industrial zone

ANKARA, 14 Nov—Turkish, Israeli and Palestinian Presidents Abdullah Gul, Shimon Peres and Mahmoud Abbas signed here on Tuesday an agreement on building a joint industrial zone in the West Bank, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

The agreement was signed in a tripartite meeting at the Cankaya Presidential Palace within the scope of the Ankara Forum which kicked off early in the day.

Under the agreement, a joint industrial zone will be established in the West Bank, to house more than 200 factories and provide working opportunities for Palestinians.

Implementation of Turkey's "Organized Industrial Zone" model in the countries of the Middle East was expected to contribute remarkably to the development of private sector in these countries, *Anatolia* said.

It will also help create employment opportunities for the Palestinians, attract

investments to the region and develop the region's economy in the medium and long-term, the report added.

The three-way meeting came weeks before Israeli and Palestinians are set to sit down at a US-sponsored peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland later this month.—MNA/Xinhua

China invites exiled "Spiderman" to climb mountain

BEIJING, 15 Nov—China has invited French "Spiderman" Alain Robert back to scale a mountain, despite banning him from the country for five years after he climbed a Shanghai skyscraper without permission.

The 45-year-old free-climber, renowned for climbing the world's tallest buildings, was jailed briefly and then deported after making a bare-handed ascent of the 88-storey Jin Mao Tower wearing a Spiderman suit in May.

Robert had been invited by a local government, who at first did not know he had been banned, to climb the 1,518-metre (4,980-foot) Tianmen mountain in Zhangjiajie, a scenic region in the southern province of Hunan, the *Shanghai Daily* quoted him as saying.

"It took two months to convince seven different departments of the Chinese Government of the advantages of letting him back in to climb (the mountain)," the paper said.

The local government hoped the climb, to be made without any mountaineering gear and broadcast across China, would boost the profile of the region and bring in tourists, the paper said.

MNA/Reuters

Central Vietnam struggles with new flood disaster

HANOI, 14 Nov—Tens of thousands of homes were submerged in central Vietnam, the fifth major floods since August in which hundreds of people have died, roads and railways inundated, crops damaged and water-borne diseases spread. Relief workers delivered emergency supplies of household kits, clean water containers and mosquito nets in the coastal cities of Hue and Danang and the provinces of Quang Tri, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh.

"The water is at very dangerous levels and we are not very clear on what all the needs are," said spokesman Tao Van Dang of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Hanoi. "Some people need help for disease prevention."

Parts of Vietnam have suffered an

outbreak of acute diarrhoea, including cholera, in the past three weeks. Dengue and bird flu are also present in the Southeast Asian country.

Rains have disrupted the coffee harvest in the Central Highlands in the past two weeks. A government report said 61,500 houses were submerged in Quang Ngai Province and in Danang. Meteorologists estimated water levels were higher than in October in several northern and central provinces, which were some of the highest in two decades.

This week, the main north-south railway and roads were flooded, confining about 2,500 foreigners among 3,000 tourists to hotels in Hue and other popular destinations. Nearly 150 old houses have been submerged in Hoi An, a World Heritage site.—MNA/Reuters



Hundreds of employees at the Korea Yakult make Kimchi to donate them to the needy at an event in Seoul on 13 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

Big earthquake kills two in Chile, hits mining

SANTIAGO, 15 Nov — A powerful earthquake hit mineral-rich northern Chile on Wednesday, killing at least two people, injuring more than 100 and halting output at some of the world's largest copper mines.

Two people were confirmed dead and 117 were injured in the magnitude 7.7 quake, which raised massive dust clouds in Chile's mountainous north and shook buildings in isolated cities up and down the Pacific coast.

Dozens of road workers were reported trapped in and around a coastal highway tunnel that collapsed in the hardest-hit area and government spokesman Ricardo Lagos Weber said rescuers would try to reach them early on Thursday.

"They will be evacuated by the Navy via the ocean tomorrow ... As far as we know there are no injured or dead (among them)," Lagos said.

Hundreds of miles away in the Chilean capital Santiago, buildings swayed and unnerved even the earthquake-

hardened.

The worst damage occurred in Tocopilla, 75 miles (120 kilometres) north of coastal mining city Antofagasta, where people were caught under rubble from crumbling rooftops and balconies. Tocopilla's mayor, Luis Moyano, said at least 1,200 houses had been flattened, leaving 4,000 residents homeless.

"Today, the people of Tocopilla are going to have to sleep in the streets," he told local radio. Among the injured in Tocopilla were 19 men, 89 women and seven children.

Aid group World Vision International, which sits on a disaster relief committee for the Chilean Government, said it had information suggesting the situation in Tocopilla could be far worse than reported so far.

Authorities said an 88-year-old woman was killed when a wall fell on top of her and a 54-year-old woman also died, although the cause of her death was not clear.

Television images showed cars crushed under the concrete awning of a hotel in Antofagasta, where the quake knocked out power and phone services. —MNA/Reuters



A resident of Tocopilla walks through the rubble of her damaged home a day after a 7.7 magnitude quake hit Chile, on 15 Nov, 2007. The powerful earthquake hammered the country's north on Wednesday, killing at least two people and injuring more than 150. — INTERNET

First "Robot" electric guitar tunes itself

LOS ANGELES, 15 Nov — Ever get mad trying to figure out why your version of "Voodoo Child" does not sound like Jimi Hendrix?

Help is at hand from what is described as the world's first robot guitar — an electric guitar that not only keeps itself in tune even after string

changes but also allows players to access six nonstandard tunings at the push of a button.

After 15 years of research, Gibson Guitar is launching a limited edition Les Paul Robot Guitar next month that has set players abuzz with both enthusiasm and skepticism. "It will not make you a better guitar

player but it will allow the average player to access some very sophisticated tunings," Gibson Guitar Chief Executive Henry Juszkiewicz told Reuters on Tuesday.

The six nonstandard preset tunings were used on hits ranging from "Honky Tonk Women" by The Rolling Stones and

Hendrix's "Voodoo Child" to Led Zeppelin's "Going to California" and Joni Mitchell's "The Circle Game".

Gibson says the robot guitar is aimed at amateurs who have a hard time keeping their guitars in tune, as well as professionals who now use technicians during concerts to keep about 100 guitars tuned to different keys. "Professional guitar players use a lot of different tuning and people who listen to the stars wonder why they can't reproduce the same sound themselves," Juszkiewicz said.

Temperature variations, changing strings and simply playing the instrument have long been tuning challenges for guitarists with even the best musical ear.

But some have already poured scorn on the robot guitar. — MNA/Reuters

Smoking suitcase prompts airplane evacuation in US airport

WASHINGTON, 15 Nov — Passengers were evacuated from a plane after a smoking suitcase was found Tuesday in the cargo area at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport in Ariz, Arizona, but did not contain explosives, said a TV report.

Citing airport spokeswoman Julie Rodriguez, the CNN report said that a gate area for boarding was also evacuated after a suitcase that was ready to board on a US Airways plane began to smoke in the morning.

A baggage handler noticed the suitcase was hot and set it aside without loading it on the plane, she said.

A hazard materials team from the Phoenix Fire Department responded as a precaution and passengers who were boarding the San Antonio-bound Flight 200 were taken off the plane, she added.

"When the bomb squad arrived, everything was melted in the bag," said Victor Rangel, a spokesman for the Phoenix Fire Department.

Rangel said, however, there were contents including hairspray and other toiletries in the suitcase but no explosives. The owner of the suitcase, who was on the flight at the time of the incident, was being questioned.

MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb detonates near Baghdad's Green Zone, kills one

BAGHDAD, 15 Nov — A roadside bomb detonated near a US patrol outside the heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad on Wednesday, killing a civilian and wounding two other, an Interior Ministry source said.

The attack took place in the morning near a police station close to a main entrance to the Green Zone that houses the Iraqi Government offices and foreign embassies, including the US and British, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The powerful blast killed a passerby and wounded two others, said the source, adding that a US Humvee was also damaged.

It was unknown whether the US soldiers sustained any casualty as the troops sealed off the area, preventing the Iraqi

police from approaching the scene, he said.

US and Iraqi officials said that violence has dropped sharply in Baghdad in recent months following a big increase of US and Iraqi troops as part of a major offensive against insurgency and sectarian violence in the capital since early in the year.

MNA/Xinhua



An artist's rendering of what the environment around Pleiades star HD 23514 might look like as two planets collide. Small, rocky planets that could resemble the Earth or Mars may be forming around a star in the Pleiades star cluster, astronomers reported on Wednesday.

INTERNET

Karaoke fire leaves 11 dead in north China

SHIJIAZHUANG, 15 Nov — Eleven people are dead after a karaoke hall fire in Chengde, north China's Hebei Province, early on Wednesday.

All the dead were in their 20s, and 10 were waitresses of the venue, while the other fatality was a man, said a source with Hebei Provincial Administration of Work Safety, correcting earlier reports that 10 of the dead were men.

The blaze occurred at Gedu Love Song Hall in Chengde County, about 230 kilometres northeast of Beijing, at about 4:47 am. The building was used both for commercial and residential purposes.

A local pedlar alerted the police after he saw smoke coming out from all sides of the building.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Spain out to set record straight in final two qualifiers

MADRID, 15 Nov—Spain are out to prove last year's Euro 2008 qualifier defeats to Sweden and Northern Ireland were simply a blip when the sides meet again for their final Group F encounters, striker David Villa said on Wednesday.

Spain surprisingly lost 3-2 in Belfast in September 2006 and then 2-0 in Solna the following month, leaving coach Luis Aragones under intense pressure to step down. The setbacks came soon after a disappointing World Cup campaign in Germany.

It was the first time in 15 years Spain had lost two qualifiers in a row. "The reason everything seemed so bad after the World Cup was because of those two games. We should take these games as a chance for some healthy revenge," Valencia striker Villa told reporters.— *MNA/Reuters*



Forward Damien Wilkens of the Seattle Supersonics is defended by Rickey Davis (R) of the Miami Heat in the second half during NBA basketball action in Miami, Florida, on Nov, 2007.
INTERNET

Urawa Reds win Asian Champions League

SAITAMA (Japan), 15 Nov—Japan's Urawa Reds clinched the AFC Champions League title when they beat Iran's Sepahan 2-0 in the second leg on Wednesday for a 3-1 aggregate victory in the final.

Yuichiro Nagai took advantage of a defensive lapse in the 22nd minute and Yuki Abe headed in their second in the 71st minute to the delight of more than 60,000 singing and dancing fans at Saitama Stadium.

The teams drew 1-1 in the first leg in Esfahan last week.

After the competition was revamped in 2003, Japan's highly rated clubs failed to even progress past the preliminary rounds for the first four years.

Urawa and Kawasaki Frontale ended that poor record this season by reaching the quarterfinals, with the Reds going all the way to the title without losing a match.—*MNA/Reuters*

Bellamy named Wales' Footballer of the Year

LONDON, 15 Nov—Craig Bellamy of West Ham United has been named as Wales' Footballer of the Year, with Tottenham Hotspur's Gareth Bale winning the Young Player of the Year award.

Bellamy, who took over as Wales skipper when Ryan Giggs retired from international football last season, was unable to attend the presentation dinner at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff as he is undergoing treatment for a hernia injury.
MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Javier Yacuzzi (R) and River Plate's Rene Lima fight for the ball during their Copa Sudamericana second leg semi-final soccer match in Buenos Aires on 14 Nov, 2007.
INTERNET

Gerrard, Owen back McClaren even if England miss out

WATFORD (England), 15 Nov—England's stand-in skipper Steven Gerrard said on Wednesday that head coach Steve McClaren should remain in his job even if England fail to qualify for next year's European Championship.

Gerrard, who will captain the team in the absence of the injured John Terry in Friday's friendly international against Austria in Vienna and probably in England's last Euro 2008 qualifier against Croatia next week, told reporters he believed McClaren was still the right man for the job.

"Whether we qualify or not, he is still the best manager for England," said Gerrard.

"He is a top coach with the right credentials and I don't see the point of changing your man-

ager every six months or every year. "We have a good young squad and the players have to take responsibility if we do not qualify for the finals.

"We had five 3-0 wins in a row in the qualifiers, and the team has been moving in the right direction apart from a few mad minutes against Russia when we lost. "As a result of that 2-1 defeat in Moscow last month, England's fate is now out of their own hands.

Group E leaders Croatia will seal their almost-certain place in the finals if they take at least a point from their match against Macedonia on Saturday while Russia will effectively seal their place if they beat Israel in Tel Aviv on Saturday because a win over tiny Andorra in their final match is virtually certain.— *MNA/Reuters*



Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee hits at the 15th hole during the Hong Kong Open Golf Tournament on 15 Nov, 2007. —INTERNET

Cagliari sack coach Giampaolo

MILAN, 14 Nov—Serie A strugglers Cagliari have sacked coach Marco Giampaolo, the club said on their website (www.cagliaricalcio.net) on Tuesday. The Sardinians are hovering above the relegation zone but are on the same points as bottom club Empoli after winning just two games this term. Former coach Nedo Sonetti has been linked in Italian media with a return to the hotseat.

Cagliari's match at AS Roma on Sunday was postponed after a policeman shot dead a Lazio fan and riots followed. Siena also parted company with coach Andrea Mandorlini and brought in former manager Mario Beretta on Monday while fellow relegation candidates Livorno and Reggina have already changed coaches this season.— *MNA/Reuters*

Russia's Davydenko wins appeal against ATP fine

SHANGHAI, 14 Nov—Russian Nikolay Davydenko has won his appeal against a 2,000-US-dollar fine for not trying hard enough during a match, the men's ATP Tour said on Tuesday.

The men's ATP have agreed to overturn the fine which was imposed on the world number four following a loss to Croatia's Marin Cilic in St. Petersburg last month.

"Following an extensive review of the match... that included a full video analysis, it was decided that Davydenko's appeal should be upheld and the 2,000-US-dollar fine rescinded," the ATP's rule chief Gayle Bradshaw said in a statement.

Davydenko, taking part in the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup in Shanghai this week, was already at the centre of a betting investigation.

A match in August involving the Russian was voided by British online betting exchange Betfair because of unusual betting patterns.—*NA/Reuters*



Jenny Barazza of Italy spikes the ball against Fabiana Claudino of Brazil during their fourth round match of women's World Cup Volleyball in Nagoya central Japan on 14 Nov, 2007. — INTERNET

Federer honoured as top player of 2007

SHANGHAI, 14 Nov— Roger Federer was honoured in Shanghai on Tuesday after finishing the year as the world's top player for the fourth season in a row.

The Swiss was assured of finishing 2007 ahead of Spanish rival Rafael Nadal in the ATP Tour's Champions Race after winning his hometown title in Basel at the end of last month.

Federer, still licking his wounds after Monday's shock defeat by Chile's Fernando Gonzalez in his opening round-robin match at the year-ending Tennis Masters Cup, paid tribute to Nadal.

"This year was very special because I was behind Nadal and won it back," said Federer in an on-court ceremony before the Spaniard's match against compatriot David Ferrer.

"It's the fourth consecutive year for me to finish as number one. It's an amazing run I'm on and I'll try my best to maintain it in 2008."

MNA/Reuters

Bomb parts get by US airport security in tests

WASHINGTON, 15 Nov — Undercover Government investigators were able to pass through US airport security carrying liquids and other materials that could be used to make explosive devices, exposing vulnerabilities in the screening process, said a congressional report released on Wednesday.

The tests “clearly demonstrated that a terrorist using these devices could cause severe damage to an airplane and threaten the safety of passengers,” said the report by the General Accountability Office, the investigative arm of

Congress.

Investigators found instructions on the Internet for creating the devices and purchased the components over the Internet and from a local store for less than 150, US dollars the report said.

In most cases,

Transportation Security Administration officers followed proper procedure but the investigators managed to get the concealed material onto airplanes by taking advantage of weaknesses in the system, the report

said.

The tests were requested by the House of Representatives’ government oversight committee to determine whether there were security gaps in the passenger screening process after more stringent policies were implemented in August 2006.

“The TSA needs to explain how after spending billions of dollars over six years, it still is failing to stop dangerous materials from making it onto airplanes. This is unacceptable and has to be fixed,” said chairman Representative Henry Waxman, a California Democrat.

MNA/Reuters

British troops face dismissal over drugs

LONDON, 15 Nov — Seventeen British soldiers face dismissal from the Armed Forces after testing positive for drugs following a holiday in Mexico, the Ministry of Defence said on Tuesday.

The soldiers, from the 5th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland, tested positive after returning to barracks following exercises in Belize and a “rest and recuperation” break at a Mexican seaside resort.

“All that they’ve done so far is test positive for a Class A drug,” a ministry spokesman said. They have not yet been discharged but face that threat.

“Only in exceptional circumstances are soldiers

retained after testing positive for drugs,” he said.

The BBC reported that the soldiers had taken heroine and cocaine but that could not be independently confirmed.

The MoD spokesman said drug taking was

“incompatible” with life in the Armed Forces and pointed out that while around 7 per cent of civilians in the workforce test positive for drugs, the figure is only 0.7 per cent in the military.

MNA/Reuters

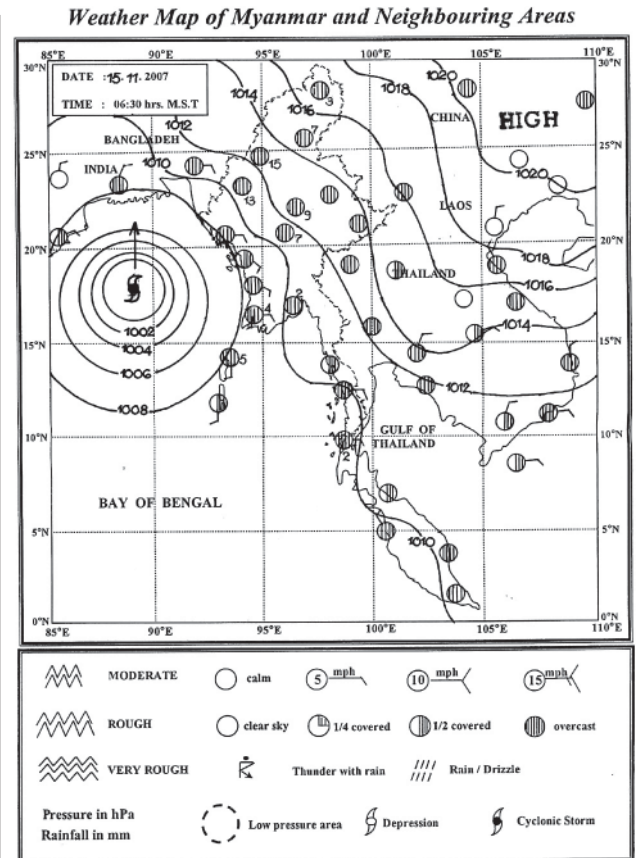
“Special Storm news”

(Issued at 15:00 hrs MST on 15-11-2007)

During the past 3 hours, the very severe cyclonic storm “SIDR” over the Central Bay has moved rapidly to North Bay and it is centered at about (250) miles West of Sittwe according to the observations at (15:00) hours MST today.

It is still intensify further and move northward. It is forecast to cross the west coast of Bangladesh during today evening.

Under the influence of this storm, occasional squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Deltaic and Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (50) mph.



WEATHER

Thursday, 15 November, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Rakhine State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Magway Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below November average temperatures in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above temperatures in Mandalay Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above temperatures in Mandalay Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above November average temperatures in Rakhine and Mon States, (5°C) to (6°C) above November average temperatures in Shan and Kayah States and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.20) inch, Pinyinana (0.83) inches, Moekok (0.79) inch, Thipaw (0.71) inch, Myingyan (0.63) inch and Homalin (0.59) inch. The significant night temperatures was Haka (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 14-11-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 15-11-2007 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 15-11-2007 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 14-11-2007 was (7.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 15-11-2007 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (0.08) inch at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mingaladon, (140.83) inches at Kaba-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 14-11-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:30) hours MST today, the very severe Cyclonic storm “SIDR” over the Central Bay is centered at about (250) miles Westnorthwest of Sittwe. It is intensify further and move Northward. Is forecast to cross west Coast of Bangladesh near (SAGAR) Island, India from the evening of 15-11-2007 Weather is cloudy in the Central and North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-11-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Shan State, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions, isolated in Shan State, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts, Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) to (50) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in the Chin State and upper Sagaing Division.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-11-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-11-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-11-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Friday, 16 November

Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
-Play that funny music
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
-Going back to my roots
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music
-Good times
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
-Best of my love
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music
-Star way to heaven
-To love somebody
- 9:00 pm WOM
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Musci at your request
-Girl you are my love
-Now and forever
- 9:45 pm News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Friday, 16 November
View on today

- 7:00 am
1. Recitation of parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercises
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
5. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်
- 8:05 am
6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am
7. The mirror images of musical oldies

- 8:30 am
8. International news
- 8:45 am
9. English for everyday use
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. I practice in reading
- 4:40 pm
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဥပဒေပညာအထူးပြု) (ဥပဒေပညာ)
- 5:55 pm
5. Song of national races
- 5:10 pm
6. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:20 pm
7. “ပျော်ရွှင်ကျန်းမာ သန့်စင်သောအစာ” (ဆုပန်ထွာ၊ ပွင့်၊ ဝမ်းပုံကြီး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုးထွန်း)

- 5:30 pm
8. Song of yesteryears
- 5:45 pm
9. “ပျော်ပျော်ရွှင်ရွှင်ဝင်ကာနဲ့ တောင်ကြီးမြို့ရဲ့ တန်ဆောင်တိုင်ပွဲ”
- 6:00 pm
10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
12. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်
- 7:10 pm
13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရေသူမလေးတတ်ယချစ်ပုံပြင်” (အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 8:00 pm
14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်သူများ” (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 18. The next day’s programme

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*(from page 1)***Announcement of Shan State (North) Special Region (3) SSA**Letter No. Hta Na 1/2007 (Hta Pa Ka) (664)
Date: 15 November 2007

Shan State (North) Special Region (3) SSA made peace with the government on 24-9-1989. We attended the National Convention and participated in the discussions on affairs of national races together with other delegates.

The entire people support the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that have been laid down based on their desires and objective conditions. We welcome the formation of the Commission for Drafting State Constitution that is going to draft a constitution based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles.

In a statement issued in Singapore on 8 November by Mr Gambari on behalf of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, she said that it was her duty to focus on firm and continuous considerations for the desires and interests of the national races. Shan State (North) Special Region (3) SSA will not accept the organizing of any person, party and organization as the above-mentioned announcement is not in conformity with our desire. And, we believe that only the National Convention is the right venue for holding discussions on affairs of national races.

Therefore, we hereby announce that we cannot accept any offers that can harm the already-adopted fundamental principles and detailed basic principles, and we will steadfastly continue joining hands with the government in the realization of the seven-step Road Map.

Shan State (North) Special Region (3) SSA

Kachin Defence Army
Shan State (North) Special Region-5 KDA
Announcement

Letter No. 35/U-1/Htoo 5 (2007)
Date: 15 November 2007

Shan State (North) Special Region-5 KDA made peace with the government on 15 January 1991. It attended the National Convention participating in the other invited persons delegate group and held discussions to lay down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles necessary for writing an enduring constitution. Fundamental principles and detailed basic principles were laid down in order that not only the national races who have already got the respective states but also the national races who meet the necessary requirements and the ethnic groups who have the required number of population could represent the state/division hluttaws and self-administered area leading bodies.

As our organization had already discussed the issue of our own national races, we cannot accept an individual or a party to represent us. With our own commitment, we support the measures being taken for emergence of a constitution based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention and we will steadfastly continue participating in the drive.

Shan State (North) Special Region-5 KDA

KNPLF
Karenni Nationalities People's Liberation Front

Letter No Ba-ta-ya-053/sa/07
Date: 15 November 2007**Announcement**

Our Kayah State Special Region-2 Karenni Nationalities People's Liberation Front (Ka-la-la-ta) returned to the legal fold and made peace with the Government on 9 May 1994. Since then, joining hands with the Government, it has been actively carrying out regional peace and development tasks with might and main.

Over 100 national races have been residing in the Union of Myanmar from time immemorial. Therefore, every citizen is to uphold Our Three Main National Causes— Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of the sovereignty— for perpetual existence of the State.

The national races are close relatives living together in all parts of the country. We attended the successfully-completed National Convention and discussed matters upholding Our Three Main National Causes with Union Spirit.

We support formation of the Commission for Drafting State Constitution comprising national legal experts.

In addition, we welcome the meeting between Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Aung Kyi, who has been appointed as Minister for Relations. However, we cannot accept the fact that the affairs of national races and parties will be handled by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as a duty, as implied in a statement, released by Mr Gambari, special adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on her behalf in Singapore.

We attended the National Convention and thus we hereby announce that we support only fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that have already been adopted at the National Convention regarding the affairs of the parties and national races.

Karenni Nationalities People's Liberation Front (Ka-la-la-ta)

- ☆ **RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies**
- ☆ **RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!**
- ☆ **The public be warned of
killers in the air waves —
RFA, VOA and BBC**