

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

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on inspection tour of Eastern Shan State



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of Ministry of Defence visits a hospital in Kenglat Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and officials inspected thriving 20 acres of groundnut on sandbank in Mekong River and the plot for undertaking cultivation in Kenglat Township yesterday.

Tachilek Township PDC Chairman U Thein Myint explained progress in cultivation of seasonal crops on the sandbank.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the commander and party viewed development of the region along both sides of Mongphyat-Kenglat Road and measures to be taken to construct a bridge on Mekong River at Wankyin Village in Kenglat Township.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with departmental

officials, members of social organizations and local people at Mekong Hall in Kenglat.

At the meeting, officials reported to him on progress of economic, social, education, health and regional development in the township.

In his instructions, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win stressed the need to extend the cultivation of crops suitable for the region, systematically use fertilizers, and grow physic nut for extraction of bio-diesel and rubber to earn foreign exchange.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented consumer goods for Kenglat region through Dr Aung Aung Myo, Medical Superintendent of Kenglat People's Hospital, and TV set for Kenglat region through the chairman of Kenglat Township PDC.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected Kenglat Basic Education High School.

At Kenglat People's Hospital, they inspected patient wards, the laboratory and medical store.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected Wammiphaing Bridge near Wammiphaing Village in the township. Shan State (East) Superintending Engineer of Public Works U Thaung Htay reported on repaving of Tarlay-Palyo-Kenglat Road and progress in construction of the bridge.

The 80-foot Wammiphaing Bridge is located on the road between Myanmar and Laos.

At Kyaukse Yeiktha in Tachilek, they met with merchants and departmental personnel and heard reports on matters related to seven export items presented by officials.

Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win instructed them to grow industrial crops.

MNA

Weather Forecast for 23-11-2007

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.

Yangon and neighbouring areas
Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.

INSIDE

The government is building transport facilities throughout the nation with the aim of improving the living conditions of national people and helping national brethren equip themselves strongly with Union Spirit.

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PERSPECTIVES

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 23 November, 2007

Transport facilities improve national people's living conditions

With the concept that the transport sector lies at the heart of national development, the government has been building roads, railroads and bridges in states and divisions till they have formed themselves into a network of transport facilities for ensuring smooth transport between one region and another and forging amity among national races.

As a result, the total length of tarred roads, concrete roads, gravel roads, laterite roads and earth roads in the nation has risen from over 20,000 miles in 1988 to over 70,000 miles.

From 1988 to 12 November 2007, it constructed more than 1172 miles of railroads. Owing to the construction of the railroad that goes through Ponnya mountain range between Kyaw and Yemyetni in Magway Division, there has emerged ChaungU-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay Railroad.

The 227-mile Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay Railroad, which rises from ChaungU in Sagaing Division, passes through the towns on the western bank of the Ayeyawady River in Magway Division and links Kabaw Valley region, the entrance to northern Chin State, and Kalay, thereby cementing friendship among national races.

The railroads under construction across the nation include the 95-mile Katha-Bhamo Railroad and the 322-mile Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad.

The government is building transport facilities throughout the nation with the aim of improving the living conditions of national people and helping national brethren equip themselves strongly with Union Spirit.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော် ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၇-ခုနှစ် နိုဝင်ဘာလအတွက်

နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
(၂၅-၁၁-၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၇-ခုနှစ် ဒီဇင်ဘာလအတွက်

(၉-၁၂-၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့
နှင့်
(၃၀-၁၂-၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့

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

Cash and kind donated to nunnery in Sangyong Township

YANGON, 22 Nov — Thameindaw Daya Thukhita Rama Daw Nyanasrari Myanaung Nunnery in Sangyong Township and health care provided to the nuns this morning. YDWAO Patron Daw Mar Mar Wai supplicated on the purpose of the donations and offered the alms and cash donations to Presiding Nun Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Daw Jayavadi. Next, Daw Mar Mar Wai and party viewed the health care activities and donated medicine and nutritious food. Today's donations amounted to over K 2.4 million. — MNA

Outstanding youths of States, Divisions on study tour of Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov — Outstanding youths from the states and divisions who were awarded at the Union Solidarity and Development Association Annual General Meeting met with the students, members of the Red Cross Society and members of Auxiliary Fire Bridge from Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinana, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and Nay Pyi Taw Lewe at Mingalarkandaw Hall here and went on study tour of Nay Pyi Taw on 13-14 November.



Outstanding members of USDA visit Paunglaung Hydel Power Plant.

Joint-Secretary U Tint Zaw of Pinyinana District USDA explained facts about Nay Pyi Taw District and public welfare tasks being carried out by the association.

Next, the outstanding youths from States and Divisions recounted their ex-

periences and cordially greeted the local youths. Afterwards, they visited the ministries, staff quarters, Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market, Nay Pyi Taw Thirimingalar Market, Hotel Zone and Nay Pyi Taw Thabyegon Market on

14 November morning. They also visited Paunglaung Hydel Power Plant where factory manager U Win Doe Lyan explained the construction of the factory and generation of electric power. Later, they observed

the Paunglaung underground power station and embankment and sluice gate. They, accompanied by officials, visited Myanma Radio and Television in Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon. MNA

Sony and Inax open salesrooms in Taunggyi

YANGON, 22 Nov — An opening ceremony of Sony and Inax salesrooms and Myoma Cinema organized by TMW Enterprise Ltd was held at the cinema on Bogyoke Aung San Road in Taunggyi,

Shan State (South), at 9 am today. Director Daw Khaing Thit Lwin of TMW Enterprise Ltd, Manager Mr Spencer Low of Sony Singapore Marketing Co and Director U Myo Swe of

Excellent Creation Co Ltd cut the ribbon to open the salesrooms. High definition Bravia LCD TV, digital camera, modern TV accessories and projectors are displayed at Sony

salesroom and bath room materials and marble slabs at Inax salesroom. To mark the opening ceremony, products of Sony and Inax are being sold at special prices. MNA



Opening ceremony of Sony and Inax salesrooms and Myoma Cinema in progress in Taunggyi.

MNA

China's RCSC donates \$ 50,000 to cyclone-hit Bangladesh

BEIJING, 21 Nov—The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) announced on Monday it would provide 50,000 US dollars for the victims of cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh.

In her letter of condolences to the president of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS), Peng Peiyun, President of RCSC, expressed her sincere concern and sympathy to all the

bereaved families and victims in Bangladesh affected by the devastating storm.

She said the RCSC strongly believed the BRCS would help the affected people overcome the hardship and restore their lives to normal very soon.

According to Peng, the donation would be handed over to the BRCS by the Chinese Embassy

in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society made an appeal to the International Red Cross for four million Swiss francs (3.6 million US dollars) in relief funds.

The death toll from the deadly cyclone that hit Bangladesh's coastal district last Thursday night has risen to 2,407 people and will continue to rise.

MNA/Xinhua

Egypt says Russia agrees to provide nuclear know-how

CAIRO, 22 Nov—Russia has agreed to provide nuclear know-how and technical expertise to Egypt to help Cairo with plans to build civilian nuclear power stations to meet growing energy needs, Egyptian state media said on Tuesday.

State news agency MENA said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak had told Egypt that Moscow welcomed the planned resumption of Egypt's nuclear programme.

"Moscow is ready to give nuclear knowledge and its technical expertise to the Egyptian side in light of Russia's large experience in building nuclear power stations," MENA said, quoting a Foreign Ministry spok-

esman.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said last month Egypt would build several nuclear power stations, a year after his politician son Gamal floated the idea of a civilian nuclear programme, but did not indicate when the project would get under way.

Cairo suspended a peaceful nuclear programme after the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.

The London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies said the first 1,000-megawatt reactor could be built at Dabaa on the Mediterranean in eight to 10 years if foreign investment was secured.

Washington has said it

supports Egypt's plans to develop peaceful nuclear energy. In addition to Russia, China and Kazakhstan have offered cooperation.

Officials put Egypt's oil and gas reserves at 15.5 billion barrels of oil equivalent, enough for 34 years at current production rates.

MNA/Reuters

Women clean a street covered with mud after heavy rain flooded the streets in Utrera, southern Spain on 21 Nov, 2007. Flash floods hit the town of Utrera, near Seville, flooding homes and garages overnight, and villages around the olive oil mecca of Jaen were similarly affected. — INTERNET

Hailstorm causes cluster bomb blasts in S Lebanon

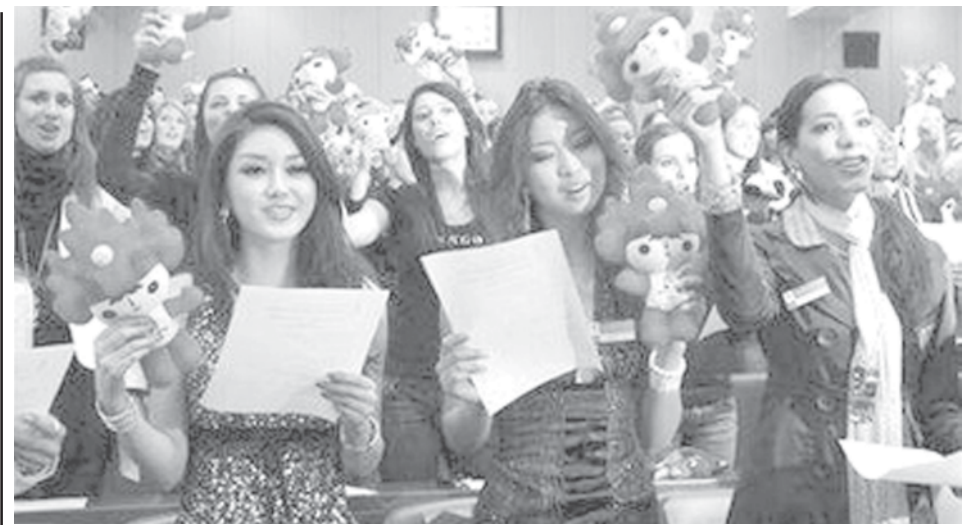
BEIRUT, 22 Nov—A hailstorm has caused hundreds of cluster bombs to explode in south Lebanon, the National News Agency said on Tuesday.

The cluster bombs were dropped by Israel during its war with Hizbollah guerrillas last year. The hailstones, as big as walnuts, fell in a number of valleys in south Lebanon, the agency said.

When cluster bombs burst, they spread bomblets over the ground and vegetation. Air-or ground-launched, the bombs often fail to explode on impact.

Cluster bombs have killed 30 people since the war. Dozens more have been wounded.

MNA/Reuters



Miss World beauty contestants sing an Olympic song "Light the Passion, Share the Dream" during a media event in Beijing on 19 Nov, 2007. Beijing is seeking women presenters for medals ceremonies at the 2008 Olympics — but only those who are tall and thin need apply. — INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Turkish President approves nuclear power plant law

ANKARA, 21 Nov—Turkish President Abdullah Gul has approved a law allowing construction of the country's first nuclear power plants, his office said on Tuesday.

The law, vetoed by Gul's predecessor Ahmet Necdet Sezer, is intended

to help avert a serious energy shortfall in the fast-growing emerging economy.

Oil importer Turkey aims to build three nuclear plants with a total capacity of 5,000 megawatts. It had initially intended the first plant to come on line by 2012 but

legislative delays are seen pushing that target back.

According to the new law, approved by Parliament on 9 November, qualifications for companies bidding to build and run the power plants will be published within a month.

MNA/Reuters

PNG floods kill 163, thousands displaced

PORT MORESBY, 22 Nov—Floods in Papua New Guinea have killed 163 people, with 1,000 homes destroyed and thousands of people displaced, police said on Wednesday.

The floods in the South Pacific nation's east, caused by a tropical cyclone in the past week, have washed away roads

and tracks in the remote mountainous region hindering relief efforts.

Aid only started reaching some remote villages on Wednesday when helicopters arrived from the capital Port Moresby.

"We have 163 people dead, 10 have died of starvation," local police spokesman David Terry

told Reuters.

"We are having intermittent rains in parts of the province. In some areas the water is subsiding and in other areas there is still flooding," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Trains Collide in corsica, 24 injured

AJACCIO (France), 22 Nov — Two trains collided on the French island of Corsica on Wednesday, injuring 24 people, a local government official said.

The trains hit each other on a stretch of single track that links the island's two main towns — Ajaccio and Bastia. Some passengers suffered cuts and broken bones but the injuries were not life threatening, the official said. — MNA/Reuters



Former Press aide blames Bush in CIA leak case

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov — Former White press secretary Scott McClellan says in an upcoming book that he was misled by President George W. Bush and other high officials into misinforming the Press about a CIA leak case that fuelled debate about the Iraq war.

McClellan says he publicly exonerated former top White House aides Karl Rove and Lewis “Scooter” Libby because

Bush had called on him to help restore his credibility after the failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

“There was one problem. It was not true. I had unknowingly passed along false information. And five of the highest ranking officials in the Administration were involved in my doing so: Rove, Libby, the Vice-President, the President’s chief of staff, and the

President himself,” McClellan said in an excerpt released on Tuesday.

McClellan, a long-time Bush aide, whose job as White House Press secretary from 2003 to 2006 was to field questions from the Press, was not available for comment.

His book *Inside the Bush White House and What’s Wrong with Washington* is due out only in April, but the publisher, Public Affairs, posted the excerpt on its website as a teaser. — MNA/Reuters



Tourists ride camels on the edge of the desert that threatens to engulf the ancient Chinese city of Dunhuang in China’s northwest Gansu Province. The sands of the Kumtag desert are moving at a rate of up to four metres (13 feet) a year.—INTERNET

Roadside bomb hits US patrol in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 21 Nov—A roadside bomb went off near a US patrol in eastern Baghdad on Tuesday, wounding three people, a well-informed police source said.

The blast took place in the afternoon when a US patrol was passing through the neighbourhood of Baladiyat, damaging a US Humvee and wounding three bystanders, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

It was unclear whether the US soldiers sustained any casualty as the troops immediately cordoned off

the scene, the source said.

The US military had no immediate comment on the incident.

Earlier in the day, a roadside bomb detonated in the same neighbourhood, wounding three civilians, the police said.

Violence persists in Baghdad although the US and Iraqi officials announced a steep drop of violence in the capital as a result of a major security plan aimed at checking the insurgency and sectarian strife in Baghdad.

MNA/Xinhua



A factory is seen in Xuanhua, Hebei Province, on 21 Nov, 2007. Pollution in China’s vast countryside is threatening health, water and arable land, the government said on Wednesday, vowing to stop toxic industries shifting pollution to rural areas.

INTERNET

Japan detains 5 with new fingerprint entry checks

TOKYO, 22 Nov — Fingerprint checks on foreigners arriving in Japan matched five people to an immigration blacklist on the first day, the Justice Ministry said on Wednesday.

Biometric scanning of almost all foreigners entering Japan was introduced on Tuesday, sparking anger among long-term residents, businesspeople and human rights campaigners.

The five individuals’ fingerprints came up on a list containing around 800,000 names including Interpol suspects and people deported from Japan in the past, the ministry said.

It refused to give any details of the five people or say which countries they came from.

One of the five is set to be deported and the others are still under investigation, a ministry official said.

The new procedure, which involves electronic scanning of both index fingers as well as taking a digital photo of the face, ran into minor problems due to computer glitches and people with dry fingertips.

Domestic media reported as an immigration official in Fukuoka, southern Japan, as saying it was hard to check some older people because their fingerprints have worn smooth.

More than 6.7 million foreign visitors entered Japan last year, while around 171,000 foreigners overstayed their visas, government statistics show. — MNA/Reuters

Over 100 journalists arrested in S Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 22 Nov — Police in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi Tuesday arrested more than 100 journalists who were protesting against curbs on the media, according to local Press reports.

The journalists gathered outside the Karachi Press Club and chanted slogans against ban on two independent news television channels.

The government banned TV channel networks Geo and ARY after President General Pervez Musharraf proclaimed emergency in the country on 3 November.

The police arrested more than 100 journalists when they refused to disperse.

Journalists continued protest on Tuesday against restrictions on the media and set up camps outside Press clubs in major cities of Pakistan including the capital Islamabad.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain’s longest-serving prisoner dies

LONDON, 22 Nov — A child killer, who became Britain’s longest-serving prisoner, has died in custody after 55 years behind bars, the government said on Tuesday.

John Straffen, 77, gained notoriety in 1952 after escaping Broadmoor high-security hospital and within hours murdering a five-year-old girl, Linda Bowyer.

At his trial in 1952 he was sentenced to death, but the sentence was reduced to life imprisonment by the then home secretary, David Maxwell Fyfe, on the grounds Straffen was a “feeble-minded person”.

He was in Broadmoor because he had been deemed unfit to stand trial in 1951 for the murder of Cicely Batstone, nine, and six-year-old Brenda Goddard.

MNA/Reuters

Twelve more killed in sectarian violence in Pakistan

PARACHINAR (Pakistan), 21 Nov— At least a dozen people were killed in fighting between Sunni and Shiite Muslim tribesmen in a Pakistani region near the Afghan border on Monday, taking the death toll to more than 100 in four days of clashes.

Eight people were killed and 18 were

wounded when a mortar bomb exploded in a bazaar in the Kurram tribal region, residents said.

Army helicopter gunships pounded militant positions on the outskirts of the main town of Parachinar, killing four people. Residents said soldiers were deployed in Parachinar and nearby

areas while the government prepared to send a delegation of tribal elders and clerics to bring peace to the area.

Military officials were unavailable for comment.

Sectarian violence has bedevilled Pakistan since the 1980s and Kurram has a long history of such clashes. — MNA/Reuters

ECONOMIC NEWS

Vietnamese rice export prices forecast to rise in 2008

HANOI, 21 Nov—Export prices of Vietnamese rice are expected to increase next year, standing at 320 US dollars upwards for a ton of the 25-per-cent broken rice, and 340 dollars upwards for the 5-per-cent one.

Average export price of the local commodity now stands at 295 dollars per ton, up from 254 dollars in 2006, local newspaper *Vietnam Agriculture* reported

Tuesday.

Vietnam's paddy rice output is estimated at 35.9 million tons this year, equaling to last year, the paper quoted the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as reporting.

Vietnam, the world's second largest rice exporter, earned nearly 1.4 billion US dollars from shipping abroad nearly 4.3 million tons of rice in the first 10 months of this year,

up 12.7 per cent in value, but down 4 per cent in volume over the same period last year, according to the General Statistics Office.

The country exported over 4.7 million tons of rice worth 1.3 billion US dollars last year to nearly 100 markets, with the exports to the Philippines, Malaysia and Cuba accounting for some 60 per cent of the total.

MNA/Xinhua



Two women pick clothes after street vendors re-started their business in Bakhara market in Mogadishu on 21 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

Sinopec plans to boost output, imports to stabilize oil supplies

BEIJING, 21 Nov—China Petrochemical Corporation, better known as Sinopec Group, is planning to boost output and imports amid efforts to stabilize the domestic oil supplies.

The oil giant has ordered subsidiaries to work on their full capacities to refine 42 million tons of crude oil in the fourth quarter and also to refine 200,000 tons more as scheduled in December. To achieve this, Sinopec Group has ordered five refining subsidiaries to halt facilities maintenance on the precondition of safety, a source with the company

said. The group's oil output for October was 198,000 tons more than the target and it planned to raise diesel production for November by cutting aviation fuel output by 80,000 tons.

Despite losses making, Sinopec will continue to import 200,000 tons of diesel in December after it imports 277,000 tons of refined oil this month.

The oil firm halted imports of refined oil this September and October as the domestic oil prices were lower than the import prices.

Quite a number of oil

filling stations across the country are suffering from supply shortages. Experts believed the government should reform the oil pricing mechanism to reflect the international oil price hikes in a bid to give a boost to the oil giants.

MNA/Xinhua

White Tree Nymph butterflies at a tropical garden. A winning bid of almost 40,800 dollars bought the right to name a newly discovered rare owl butterfly species after a grandmother of five who died 35 years ago.—INTERNET



Russia may sell Iran \$1b of civilian aircraft

Moscow, 21 Nov—Iran has started talks to buy 30 Russian *Tupolev* passenger aircraft worth more than one billion US dollars a source with knowledge of the deal told *Reuters* on Monday.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said the deal for 30 *Tupolev-204* aircraft was likely to be reached by the end of the year. The deal would greatly embarrass Western powers which are trying to persuade Russia and China to join them in tightening sanctions on Iran to make it halt its uranium enrichment programme. They suspect it of trying to build nuclear weapons, but Iran says it

wants only to produce electricity. A spokesman for Ilyushin Finance, which is selling the planes, confirmed that negotiations had begun.

"We have started talks to deliver a new order of aircraft," spokesman Andrei Lipovetsky said, but declined further comment. Russia has already sold Iran military air defence systems and is building a nuclear plant in Bushehr, to the annoyance of the United States and Israel.

Russia and China, both with strong trade ties with Teheran and veto power on the UN Security Council, have argued in favour of more negotia-

tions to encourage Iran to comply with the international demand for a halt in uranium enrichment.

President Vladimir Putin, trying to revive Russia's once mighty aviation industry, has grouped companies like *Tupolev* and *Sukhoi* into one giant, state-controlled holding called the United Aviation Corporation.

The corporation has ambitious plans to sell 250 billion US dollars worth of aircraft by 2025 and overtake even Soviet-era production records to compete on the world market with giants such as Boeing and Airbus.

MNA/Reuters

WB says air pollution alone costs 3.8% of China's GDP

CHENGDU, 21 Nov—Air pollution is costing China 3.8 per cent of its gross domestic product, causing more diseases and claiming more lives, the World Bank has warned.

While it has put the combined health and non-health cost of outdoor air and water pollution for China's economy at around 100 billion US dollars a year, or about 5.8 per cent of the country's GDP, David Dollar, the World Bank country director for China and Mongolia, said air pollution poses higher costs than water pollution.

Air pollution, especially in large cities, is leading to higher incidence of lung diseases, including cancer, respiratory system pro-

blems and therefore higher levels of work and school absenteeism, Dollar said, quoting a World Bank report issued following a joint assessment with China's State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA).

He pointed to particulate matter, which measures less than 10 microns in diameter, as a major threat to health. The density of particulate matter in north

China averages 112 microgrammes and that in the south, 88 microgrammes, he said at a forum on China's investment environment in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

Particulate matter has also been a headache in Beijing, with density averaging 141 microgrammes.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia not to import rice next year

JAKARTA, 22 Nov—Indonesia would stop importing rice next year, the staple food in the agricultural country, as a high production of rice is

expected this year and the next, the country's Vice-President Jusuf Kalla said here on Tuesday.

"Indonesia's rice production has now risen to some 1.8 million tons, and our stock will hopefully be secured for this year," Kalla said at a seminar on state credits here.

The Vice-President said the production of rice is increasing this year and he expected it would continue in 2008.

He said Indonesia imports one million to 1.5 million tons of rice annually in recent years to curb the high rice price in the country.

MNA/Xinhua



Miss Vietnam Thu Thi Minh Dang, left, and Miss Thailand Kanokkorn Jaichuen pose for photos during a visit by Miss World contestants to the Great Wall of China, at Badaling, north of Beijing on 21 Nov, 2007. The Miss World final will be held in the southern resort city of Sanya on 1 Dec. —INTERNET

Scientists identify proteins key to brain function

WASHINGTON, 21 Nov— US researchers have identified a family of proteins key to the formation of the communication networks critical for normal brain function. Their research could lead to new treatments for brain injury and disease.

The team, led by MIT biology professor Frank Gertler, found that a certain family of proteins, known as the Ena/VASP proteins, is necessary to direct the formation of axons and dendrites, the cellular extensions that facilitate communication between neurons.

Their findings were reported in the November 18 online edition of *Nature Cell Biology*.

The work focuses on cellular outgrowths called

neurites, which are the precursors to axons and dendrites. Understanding how neurites form could eventually lead to therapies involving stimulation of neurite growth, said Gertler.

“You could use these insights to help repair injuries to the top of the spinal column, or treat brain injuries or neurodegenerative disorders,” he said.

The majority of neurons in the cerebral cortex have a single axon—a long, thin extension that relays information to other cells—and many shorter dendrites, which receive messages from other cells. The interconnection of these axons and dendrites is essential to create a functional neural

circuit.

In their study, the researchers found that mice without the three Ena/VASP proteins did produce brain cells, but those neurons were unable to extend any axons or dendrites.

MNA/Xinhua



A poisoned and oil covered bird lies dying in front of local volunteers removing oil pollution from the Black Sea shore in the port Kavkaz, recently. —INTERNET

Video threatens Germany, Austria over Afghanistan

VIENNA, 21 Nov — An Islamist group calling itself “Global Islamic Media Front” has sent a video demanding Germany and Austria withdraw their troops from Afghanistan, Austria’s Interior Ministry said on Tuesday. The video, published on the website of Austrian daily newspaper Oesterreich, also demands the release of two Austrians arrested in

Vienna in September on allegations they helped produce a similar video message published in March.

“The German soldiers still occupy Afghanistan and we repeat our call from the last video that Germany withdraw their troops from Afghanistan,” the video’s German subtitles say. “This only serves your own security in your

country. “The same applies to Austria too. The Mujahedin have spared you so far, therefore the number of dead soldiers is not particularly high. But this will now change...”

Germany has some 3,000 troops in Afghanistan as part of the ISAF mission. Three Austrian soldiers serve as part of ISAF in Kabul.

MNA/Reuters

Brown apologizes over lost data

LONDON, 22 Nov — Prime Minister Gordon Brown apologized on Wednesday for Britain’s tax authority losing the personal details of nearly half the population in an error which has dealt a new blow to his Labour Government.

The loss in the mail of two computer discs containing data on 25 million people exposed victims to the risk of fraud and is potentially Britain’s biggest data security lapse.

It also increased pressure on Finance Minister Alistair Darling, who was accused by the opposition conservatives of making an appalling blunder and is already under fire over a banking debacle involving mortgage lender Northern Rock.

“I profoundly regret and apologize for the inconvenience and worries that have been caused to millions of families...,” Brown told

Parliament when questioned about the data loss.

“When mistakes happen in imposing procedures we have a duty to do everything that we can to protect the public,” he said, promising a review of personal data security.

The government says there is no evidence the discs, which disappeared after being sent via Dutch mail and parcel company TNT, have fallen into criminal hands.

But Conservative leader David Cameron

said: “Millions of people today will be worrying about the safety of their bank accounts and the security of their family details ... they will be angry that the government has failed in its first duty to protect the public.”

In noisy clashes in Parliament, Cameron said the breach pointed to a systemic failure in a department overseen by Brown during his decade as Finance Minister before he replaced Tony Blair as prime minister in June. — MNA/Reuters

Britain to study carbon cuts as deep as 80%

LONDON, 21 Nov— Britain will study whether it can commit to cutting its carbon emissions by as much as 80 per cent by 2050, Prime Minister Gordon Brown said on Monday in his first major speech on the environment since taking

office this year.

Brown has been challenged to take a strong stance on global warming by an opposition Conservative Party that increasingly stresses environmentalism. His popularity has sunk in recent weeks to the lowest since he took over from Tony Blair in June.

Brown’s government published a draft Climate Change Bill a week ago committing to a 60-per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, but environmentalist groups have said it should look at even deeper cuts.

The government will set up an independent committee to study whether it should commit to even deeper cuts of 80 per cent. — MNA/Reuters

Israeli PM implies peace deal with Palestinians in 2008

CAIRO, 22 Nov — Visiting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert Tuesday said he hoped a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians could be reached in 2008.

Olmert made the remarks after his talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt’s Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, Doha-based al-Jazeera satellite TV reported.

At a joint Press conference after the meeting, Olmert said, “I

hope we can reach a definitive deal with the Palestinians in 2008.”

Earlier, he said that he hoped to make serious strides toward such a deal before the term of US President George W. Bush ends in January 2009.

However, the Israeli Prime Minister pointed out that any future peace deal would not be implemented until the Palestinian Authority retakes control of the Gaza Strip and the roadmap commitments are all implemented, which

requires the Palestinians to fight terrorism to ensure security in the areas including the Gaza Strip, which must be part of the Palestinian state.

Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip with force in June this year, while the Fatah movement led by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas controlled the West Bank, which weakens Palestinian negotiations with Israel, according to analysts.

MNA/Reuters

(from page 16)

Announcement of national race delegates from Ayeyawady Division to National Convention

Date: 22 November 2007

As the Union of Myanmar is home to over 100 national races, we firmly believe that all the national races and people are always to uphold Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty —for ensuring perpetual existence of the State.

Our delegate group attended the National Convention from start to finish, upholding the six objectives: Non-disintegration of the Union; Non-disintegration of national solidarity; Perpetuation of sovereignty; Flourishing of a genuine multi-party democracy system; Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality; and The Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the future State.

We believe that the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles formulated by the National Convention represent the wishes of all the national races.

Furthermore, it was learnt that Mr Gambari authorized by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi issued a statement in Singapore on 8 November.

In the statement in English language issued abroad, she said: "I welcome the appointment on 8 October of Minister Aung Kyi as Minister for Relations." We believe it does not reflect Myanmar customs. Nevertheless, we recognized that point is to be her constructive attitude. However, we would like to point out that the English version statement issued in a foreign country neglects the strength within the nation, and it commits an act to obtain political gain.

As such, we hereby announce that we only support and welcome the formation of the Commission for Drafting State Constitution by the government on 18-10-2007 after successfully concluding the National Convention and on-going efforts for realization of the third step of the seven-step Road Map.

**Delegates from Ayeyawady Division
Delegate Group of National Races**

Thandaung Township Special Region Peaceful Association

Announcement

Letter No-027/ Peace-Management/07**Date: 20 November 2007**

Thandaung Township Special Region Peaceful Association in Kayin State with the belief in the genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw has returned to the legal fold and is energetically carrying out regional development work in accordance with the guidance of the Tatmadaw Government.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi released her statement in English through Mr Gambari, the special adviser to the UN Secretary-General, on 8 November 2007 in a foreign nation.

The usage of words in the statement are not in conformity with Myanma customs and character, and she used the words in an arrogant tone. It is not the proper time for her to release such a statement.

Members of the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution are well versed in Myanmar's history, customs and character. Therefore, we support only the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution.

**Thandaung Township Special Region Peaceful Association
Kayin State**

Announcement of Northern Thandaung Special Region Peace Group

Letter No. 001/Oak Chok-Si Man/1**Date: 20 November 2007**

Northern Thandaung Special Region Peace Group in Kayin State returned to the legal fold after realizing the government's benevolent attitude, and came to support the constructive efforts of the Tatmadaw government. The return to the legal fold helped raise political awareness and equip Union Spirit among the people of our national race.

We view the meetings between Minister for Relations U Aung Kyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as a positive move to national reconsolidation.

Now, the government is implementing the State's seven-step Road Map. However, Mr Gambari released Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's statement in English on her behalf in a foreign country. The points in the statement do not reflect the customs and traditions of the national races of Myanmar. And it implies that she places reliance on external elements, and she shows total disregard for the fundamental principles more than 1000 delegates of national races have adopted with a unanimous consent at the National Convention.

We unconditionally support the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that have been adopted through thorough and frank discussions at the National Convention in accordance with the opinions of national races. We hereby announce that we do not accept any attempts designed to harm the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles the National Convention has adopted, and we will continue to work for emergence of a new enduring State constitution.

Northern Thandaung Special Region Peace Group

Wunthanu NLD (Union of Myanmar)

Announcement

Letter No. 02/Wathana/2007**Date: 15 November 2007**

1. Always opposing outside interference in the affairs of Myanmar and sanctions, the Wunthanu NLD (Union of Myanmar) is moving forward on the national political path for the emergence of a modern developed country.
2. Ours is a group that is actively participating in the tasks for the emergence of the constitution and for the realization of the seven-step Road Map and also supporting these two points.
3. At a time when preparations are being made to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in the drive for national reconsolidation, our group warmly welcomes and supports it as a positive move.
4. The world nations, ASEAN members and the special adviser to the United Nations said that they agreed to the seven-step Road Map and said cooperative efforts should be made. However, without consulting the organizations, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi released the statement by herself and that was an attempt to disrupt the seven-step Road Map.
5. Our group broke away from NLD because of its individualistic policy.
6. Our group hereby declares that we will not accept and categorically oppose any person or organization that is attempting to undermine the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles already laid down by the National Convention by misusing preparations and efforts of the State with far-sightedness.

Central Working Committee

(See page 9)

Necessary assistance provided to personnel who participated in regional development

YANGON, 22 Nov — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win met departmental personnel, local authorities and members of social organizations who participated in the regional development at the hall of Kayan Township PDC this morning.

Chairman of Kayan Township PDC U Hla Thaug and Chairman of Yangon South District PDC U Zaw Win reported on arrangements for undertaking regional development task.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that authorities of Yangon Division are taking measures for ensuring peace and tranquillity and

prevalence of law and order and uplift of living standard of the people. In addition, the people are to be imbued with a wide range of knowledge on high thinking power and consideration. He stressed the need to organize the local people to employ technologies and follow directives in undertaking agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

The commander handed rice, edible oil, salt, gram and cash K 1.25 million for the departmental personnel through Chairman of District PDC U Zaw Win and 450 commodes, 450 footballs and 13,000 publications to officials. Later, the commander and party inspected progress of Takaw Sluice Gate in Thongwa Township. — MNA



Buddhist devotees doing Vipassana meditation at Bodh Gaya Monastery in Sangyoung Township on 8 November, 2007. Devotees went on a retreat at the monastery from 8 to 14 November, 2007. (News reported). — H

Minister calls for seeking ways to explore more oil

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 19 November met with employees of the ministry at Htauksharpin oil field in Minbu Township and called for seeking ways for more production of oil and natural gas in the field to meet the target of the ministry as the fuel price is hiking up in the international market.

He said at the meeting with employees of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise that the ministry is making efforts for exploration of oil and gas in the old oil fields while tapping the new oil deposits to satisfy domestic consumption sufficiently.

He also urged the employees to abstain from malpractice and to abide by rules and regulations of the enterprise and fulfilled the requirements of the employees. After the meeting, the minister inspected the drilling at the Myatkyi-1 Oil Well, a joint venture project of the MOGE and Focus Energy Limited, in Htauksharpin/Kanni oil field in Minbu, Magway Division.

During his inspection tour of Magway Division, the minister also visited the petrol chemical plant in Minhla Township and assisted in running the factory at full capacity. He also inspected the control room of the plant and left necessary instructions. — MNA



Officials of UMFCCI offer Kathina robes to a Sayadaw at a ceremony to donate Kathina robes to monks at UMFCCI Office Tower in Lanmadaw Township on 22 Nov, 2007. UMFCCI

Purchase of spare parts for Thakayta Gas Turbine inked

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov — A signing ceremony to purchase spare parts for F-5 Gas Turbine to be installed at Thakayta Gas Turbine between Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise and United National Oil & Gas Pte Ltd was held at Shwe Myanmar Hotel, here, on 20 November evening.

It was attended by Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Minister

Brig-Gen Win Myint, departmental heads and officials.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint delivered an opening speech. After that, General Manager Mr Lee Bang Ho of United National Oil & Gas Pte Ltd spoke words of thanks. Next, Managing Director of MEPE Dr San Oo and GM Mr Lee Bang Ho of United National Oil & Gas Pte Ltd signed the contract and exchanged notes. — MNA

Health Minister visits hospitals in Mandalay, Magway Divs

YANGON, 22 Nov — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe and officials inspected Yan Aung rural health care centre in Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Division on 17 November.

The minister and party

proceeded to Taung Nyaunggon Station Hospital and met with the health staff.

At Natmauk Township People's Hospital, the minister met township level officials, townsenders and the health staff of the hospital and inspected operation room,

delivery room, X-ray room, medical store and wards.

They went to Minbu People's Hospital and inspected construction of the two-storey ward and called for early completion of the building.

On 18 November, the minister and the deputy

minister attended the opening ceremony of new Teaching Hospital (bed-200) (Magway).

At Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) in Pyin-Oo-Lwin Township, the minister looked into herbal plant garden on 19 November.

On arrival at Pyin-Oo-Lwin People's Hospital, the minister and party inspected laboratory, X-ray room, operation theater and intensive care unit and provided medical equipment for the hospital. The minister also met the specialists, doctors and nurses of the hospital. They then visited University of Pharmacy (Mandalay).

On 20 November, the minister met with the officials of the teaching hospitals at Mandalay Hospital.

MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint inspects herbal plants at Herbal Garden in PyinOoLwin. — HEALTH



The Principal of the training school for the women of Social Welfare Department presents a certificate of honour to Gang Hwie of Indonesia at the school on 18 November, 2007. Gang Hwie donated K 1.4 million and 60 bags of rice to the school. — H

(from page 7)

Announcement of the Union of Myanmar League for National Politics

1. The Union of Myanmar League for National Politics held the first meeting to clarify matters related to opposing the economic sanction imposed on Myanmar and the emergence of the constitution at YMBA Hall in Yangon on 5 December, 2006, and similar meetings were held in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, Ayeyawady, Bago (East) and Bago (West) divisions. The league has carried out the activities as a national movement.
2. The Union of Myanmar League for National Politics has constantly worked for the emergence of a national political role in which the people, political organs and the Tatmadaw Government can join hands. We believe that when the national political role has taken shape, national reconsolidation and transition to democracy will materialize.
3. We must acknowledge that the recent visit, the fourth, to Myanmar by Mr Gambari, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, by Prof Pinheiro of the UN Human Rights Council, appointment of U Aung Kyi as Minister for Relations, the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down at the National Convention, the first step of the seven-step Road Map, and the formation of Commission for Drafting the State Constitution are the tangible results of historic efforts being made by the Tatmadaw Government for democratization and national reconsolidation.
4. But, we were very disappointed to learn that Mr Gambari released the statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her behalf in Singapore on 8 September after completion of his trip to Myanmar. We were very disappointed that as it seemed Mr Gambari and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi have irresponsibly responded to the constructive attitude of the Tatmadaw Government towards the UN. We also strongly oppose the expression in the statement that "I wish to thank all those who have stood by my side all this time, both inside and outside my country." Because, it is seen as a reference to the extension of the economic sanctions and other blockages placed on Myanmar by some big countries including the United States.
5. Besides, she released the statement in her personal interests and in the interests of the National League for Democracy and she pretends that she takes the desire and interests of all political parties, political forces and national races into considerations and she has a duty to give considerations to these issues. In the statement, she also invites political forces including the Tatmadaw Government to join her. According to her statement, it is a trickery that she represents all political forces and national races. We understand that in the statement she tries to cover up the objective conditions that she is not a legal person to represent the people and political forces and is not a representative of the national reconsolidation and democratization process. We are very disappointed with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy as she has no wish to drop her demands for imposing economic sanction on the country but takes the stance to defy all orders and makes confrontation to cause utter devastation.
6. We strongly oppose the statement because attempts to tarnish the image of the Tatmadaw Government and to review the steps of the Road Map do not serve the interests of the country and the people and can harm the democratization process and human rights.
7. We believe that only implementing the seven-step Road Map can lead to the national reconsolidation and realizing the democratization process speedily. Hence, we are resolved to joining hands with the people, political forces, and the Tatmadaw Government in implementing the seven-step Road Map.

The Union of Myanmar League for National Politics

2,728 jade lots sold at Mid-year MGE

YANGON, 22 Nov — At Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2007 organized by the Central Committee of Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium, a total of 3,604 gems merchants — 2,274 from abroad and 1,330 from home — are being

allowed to examine and buy jade lots.

Jade lots are being sold through tender system at Myanma Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township this morning. Altogether 515 jade lots were sold today.

A total of 2,728 jade lots have been sold so far through tender.

The remaining jade lots will be sold through tender and competitive bidding systems until 26 November at the venue.

MNA



Local and foreign merchants examine jade stones at Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium-2007. — MNA

Representatives to USDA AGM visit Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Nov — Representatives from State and Division Union Solidarity and Development Association and other different level

USDA to the USDA Annual General Meeting 2007 visited ministries, staff quarters, Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone, Nay Pyi Taw Thapyaygon

Market, Nay Pyi Taw City Hall and development in Nay Pyi Taw by car on 15 November afternoon.

MNA

Legal affairs paper reading session organized

YANGON, 22 Nov — The Working Group for Legal Affairs and

Consultation of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation organized the paper-reading session on legal affairs at the meeting hall of the federation on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township this morning.

It was attended by Vice-President of MWAFF Daw Khin Thet Htay, CEC members, the patron of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization and members.

Leader of the working group Daw Ni Ni Win gave a speech.

Tutor Daw Khin Nilar Myint Naing of Law Department of Yangon University, Head of Law Department Dr Daw Tin May Tun of Yangon UDE and Professor Dr Daw Than Nwe submitted papers to the session.

Later, the resource persons replied to the queries raised by those present. —MNA



Leader of Working Group for Legal Affairs and Consultation Daw Ni Ni Win extends greetings at the paper reading session on legal affairs. — MNA

Don't smoke

Nigeria offers \$13m debt relief to Liberia

ABUJA, 22 Nov — Nigeria has proposed writing off 13 million US dollars out of 48 million US dollars it is owed by Liberia as a contribution to consolidating peace there, President Umaru Yar'Adua said in a letter read out to the Senate on Tuesday.

He said Liberia's debt burden was an obstacle to economic recovery in the small West African country, which emerged from 14 years of civil war in 2003 desperately poor

and saddled with 4.5 billion US dollars in foreign debts.

"The Liberian Government has made several passionate pleas to Nigeria to write off the debts," Yar'Adua said in his letter, seeking approval from the Senate for the write-off.

"There is a potential risk of Liberia sliding back into anarchy if progress is not made in achieving sustainable economic development, which will undermine our previous

efforts," he said.

Nigeria was the main contributor to ECOMOG, a West African peace-keeping force that was active in Liberia during the war. It also helped end the conflict by granting asylum to Liberian warlord Charles Taylor in 2003.—MNA/Reuters

Syria sticks to Golan quest before Mideast talk

DAMASCUS, 22 Nov — Syria resisted international pressure and insisted on Tuesday it would only attend a US-hosted Middle East peace conference next week if the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights are on the agenda.

"The Golan must be on the schedule for Syria

to participate. We are very interested in peace but the process should be comprehensive," Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Fayssal Mekdad said after meeting his Russian counterpart Alexander Sultanov.

Syria has come under pressure by Russia and pro-US Arab governments to attend the conference in Annapolis, Maryland, even if the Golan is not explicitly on the agenda. Arab foreign ministers are due to meet in Cairo on Thursday to discuss a common strategy at the conference.

In Teheran, Syrian

Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem told his Iranian counterpart that the Golan was Syria's condition to go to Annapolis, the same position announced by President Bashar al-Assad last month, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported.

Sultanov said Annapolis, which will focus on reviving talks on Palestinian statehood, was an "important step", adding that Russia was working on convening another Middle East conference in Moscow to discuss the Golan more fully.—MNA/Reuters

"Space Station" astronauts send Thanksgiving message

WASHINGTON, 22 Nov — Orbiting about 350 kilometres above the Earth, the crew of the International Space Station has sent home a special Thanksgiving message, broadcast on NASA TV on Wednesday.

"We wanted to say happy Thanksgiving. We feel particularly privileged and thankful to be up here on board the station this Thanksgiving," said Expedition 16 Commander Peggy Whitson.

"We're looking forward to our activities this week. We have a busy week with spacewalks, and we hope that you also are having a great Thanksgiving," she said.

Flight Engineer

Daniel Tani said "I'm thankful that I'm safely on the space station, conducting our mission successfully and having a great time doing it."

The astronauts showed some of the food for their holiday dinner, including shrimp cocktail, an astronaut favourite. Smoked turkey, cornbread dressing and "lots of hot sauce" are also on the menu.

MNA/Xinhua



Harun Bin Jalil from Malaysia carves an ice sculpture during Russia's first open cup for snow and ice sculpting in the city of Salekhard, some 2000 km (1242 miles) north east of Moscow, on 22 Nov, 2007. —INTERNET

Canada faces serious pilot shortage

OTTAWA, 22 Nov — Massive retirement, competition from the Air Force and foreign airlines, and low salaries are contributing to a serious shortage of pilots in Canada,

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reported Wednesday quoting experts.

The shortage of commercial pilots around the world is looming large

in Canada, where flight classes have T h e Inter-national Civil Aviation Organization predicts at least 15,000 new pilots will be needed every year in the next two decades around the world. Canada and the United States will need at least 60,000 new pilots by 2020, according to the CBC.

An airline in the United States last month had to cancel 4 per cent of its flights because no flight crews were available. Those problems may come to Canada soon, the report cited a flight school owner as saying.

The flight business has lost its appeal to the younger generation discouraged by low starting salaries and sky-high training costs, Stefan Corriveau of Algonquin Flight Centre in North Bay, Ontario said.

MNA/Xinhua

GCC to establish unified blood transfusion centre

ABU DHABI, 22 Nov — The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will establish a unified blood transfusion centre within five years to meet a possible surge in demand in case of a crisis, local newspaper *Gulf News* reported on Wednesday.

Health officials of GCC countries will meet next February in Riyadh to develop a strategic plan for the proposed unified blood transfusion centre, including the protocol for blood safety, the equipment to be used in blood transfusions and the

necessary laboratory tests in screening blood, said the report.

"All Gulf countries have enough stock in their blood banks, but it is important to have an agreement between them so that we can be prepared to meet any unexpected rise in demand for blood in case of a crisis," Nasser Khalifa Al Budoor, member of the Executive Board of Health Minister's Council for GCC, was quoted as saying.

GCC will introduce a unified cooperative strategy to support the safety of

blood transfusion in the bloc's six member countries, said Ameen Al Amiri, assistant under-secretary of the Ministry of Health of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Introducing efficient equipment for screening blood is vital for the proposed unified blood transfusion centre, Al Amiri said, adding "there are a few countries that focus on the quantity of blood instead of its quality.

This type of negligence creates a danger and should be stopped".

MNA/Xinhua

More people die of dengue fever in Vietnam

HANOI, 22 Nov — Vietnam has detected 78 fatalities due to dengue fever since the beginning of this year, increasing over 55 per cent compare with the same period of last year, local newspaper *Vietnam Agriculture* reported on Wednesday.

In the period, the number of dengue fever cases stood at 90,749, a year-on-year rise of 50 per cent. Most of the cases have been found in the southern Mekong Delta Region, whose weather conditions and local people's habit of storing water in containers at their houses favour the breeding of mosquitoes, the disease's transmitter.

The disease may break out in the flood-hit central region in the coming time, the Preventive Medicine Department under the Vietnamese Health Ministry said, noting that local agencies and people should take preventive measures, isolate outbreaks, and keep environmental hygiene.

In 2006, Vietnam reported over 77,800 cases of dengue fever infections, including 68 fatalities. Up to 84 per cent of the infections and 91 per cent of the deaths were found in the southern region.

MNA/Xinhua

Four killed in Thailand's restive south as violence grows

BANGKOK, 22 Nov — Suspected militants shot dead four people Wednesday in Thailand's restive far south, according to local media.

A 42-year-old Muslim man was shot dead in front of his house in Yala Province, while a bomb planted at a food stall in the province injured six people, three of whom seriously, the province's Deputy Governor Gissada Boonraj was quoted by local newspaper *The Nation's* website as saying.

In nearby province of Pattani, four gunmen on two motorbike drove up to a sedan and commenced fire at close range, killing three men.

The attacker also left a bomb inside the vehicle. It went off as forensic officials were carrying out their investigation. One officer was injured.

Thailand's three southernmost provinces — Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat have been troubled with insurgency-related violence which has claimed more than 2,600 people's lives since 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

UNSG warns against “confrontation” in Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS, 22 Nov — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned on Wednesday there was “a real possibility of a confrontation” if Lebanon fails to elect a president by the end of this week.

Deeply divided Lebanese leaders have postponed the presidential election until Friday to allow more time to agree a successor to the pro-Syrian incumbent, whose term expires that day.

The delay prolonged a political crisis that many fear could lead to rival administrations and violence in a country still rebuilding from its 1975-

1990 civil war. The Army strengthened security on Tuesday and urged people to avoid internal strife.

Parliament had been due to convene on Wednesday to elect a successor to President Emile Lahoud, but Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said in a statement the vote would be delayed until Friday, the fourth postponement since

September.

Ban visited Lebanon last week to urge political leaders to come to an agreement on a candidate.

“Should the parties fail to reach agreement by 24 November, there is a real possibility of a confrontation,” Ban told an informal meeting of the UN General Assembly on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi Army soldier searches a house during a raid operation on the outskirts of the shrine city of Karbala. At least 34 people have been killed in fierce gun battles as suspected Al-Qaeda fighters, some dressed as Iraqi soldiers, attacked three villages, officials said recently.—INTERNET

German police investigate death in Venice

BERLIN, 22 Nov — German police said on Monday they were investigating the death of a 44-year-old woman found in the boot of her boyfriend’s rental car in Venice.

The woman’s lifelong dream was to visit Venice, Germany’s top-selling newspaper *Bild* said on Tuesday.

German police said they suspect the woman was killed in her flat in the southwestern German town of Heilbronn. A police spokesman said they may seek to extradite her 29-year-old boyfriend, who was detained by police in Italy.

MNA/Reuters

ElBaradei set to defend Iran progress at IAEA meet

VIENNA, 22 Nov — The UN nuclear watchdog chief is set to urge full backing for an Iran transparency plan at an agency governors meeting on Thursday after Western powers said Teheran must do more to allay fears about its atomic agenda.

Whether a new International Atomic Energy Agency report on Iran’s compliance with a pledge to clarify past secret nuclear work to the IAEA is cause for new hope or further scepticism will be debated by the agency’s 35-nation Board of Governors.

It will be a matter of interpretation. Western board members will dwell

on Iran’s defiant campaign to enrich uranium despite the transparency plan, diplomats said, while developing nations will highlight Iranian steps towards openness and warn against rising Western pressure they feel could undo the process.

The West fears Iran is covertly trying to build atom bombs. Iran says it wants only to produce electricity from uranium enrichment.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei, concerned by US-led criticism of the plan’s limitations and resolve to isolate Iran with harsher sanctions, is likely to stress the plan is on track and

warrants full support, a UN official said.

MNA/Reuters

US defends “AP” photographer’s detention in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Nov — The US military on Wednesday defended its 19-month detention of an award-winning *Associated Press* photographer it has accused of working with insurgents in Iraq, saying he remained a “security threat”.

Bilal Hussein, who began working with the news agency in 2004, has been in US military

custody in Iraq since he was detained in April 2006 in the city of Ramadi, 110 kilometres (68 miles) west of Baghdad, according to the AP website.

The AP has called for the immediate release of the photographer, who was part of an AP photo team that won a Pulitzer prize in 2005.

MNA/Reuters

British father, son drown off Spanish beach

MADRID, 22 Nov — A British father drowned trying in vain to save his five-year-old son from rough seas near Barcelona on Wednesday, having already rescued his older boy, aged 7.

The boys had probably jumped into the sea or been swept away by large waves on a beach at Tossa del Mar, north of Barcelona, in the morning, a Spanish emergency services spokeswoman said.

The bodies of the boy and the 32-year-old man, who were not named, were found by a coastguard boat

about 20 metres (66 feet) from the coast. The older boy, suffering from hypothermia, was taken to a local hospital with his mother, who was suffering from shock.

MNA/Reuters

Six wounded in restaurant bombing in Thai south

BANGKOK, 22 Nov — Six people were wounded in a bomb attack at a restaurant in Yala’s provincial seat in far southern Thailand on Tuesday night, media here reported Wednesday.

Among the injured, two has been released from hospital, while the other four stayed for treatment, according to a report by *Thai News Agency*.

Witnesses said the suspected bomber posed as a customer and placed the bomb under a table. He is believed to have detonated the bomb by mobile phone after leaving the restaurant.

Yala, along with neighbouring provinces Narathiwat and Pattani in Thailand’s southernmost region, has been plagued with a renewed round of insurgent violence since nearly four years ago, which killed over 2,500 people in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb in Iraq’s Ramadi kills 6

BAGHDAD, 22 Nov — A car bomb killed at least six people, including women and children, in the Iraqi city of Ramadi on Wednesday in a rare attack on a region that has become one of the safest in the country.

Major Mohammed Arak said a parked car exploded outside a courthouse being guarded by police in the middle of Ramadi, capital of western Anbar Province. A separate police source said a suicide car bomber was responsible.

“Most of the people who were killed or wounded were civilians. I saw at least six bodies, mostly women and children,” Arak told *Reuters*, adding the death toll could rise.

A third police source put the death toll at four, with 15 wounded.

The number of car bombs and other attacks in Anbar has plunged since Sunni Arab tribal sheikhs joined forces with the US military to drive al-Qaeda militants out of a region that had once been the heart of the Sunni Arab insurgency in Iraq.

US military commanders have said that some days have passed in Anbar recently without a single attack.

The Anbar model of enlisting men to join local police units organized by tribal sheikhs has been expanded to other parts of Iraq, notably around Baghdad, and has been credited with helping reduce violence in those areas.

Ramadi lies 110 kilometres (70 miles) west of Baghdad.

MNA/Reuters

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Euro.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Quantity
i.	15(T)11/MR(E) 07-08(Euro)	(i) Rail Gang Car with Tools and Accessories	20 Nos
		(ii) Ballast Dumper Wagon with Standard Tools and Accessories	40 Nos

Closing Date/Time-27-12-2007 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon starting from 23.11.2007 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 291985, 291994 (201555 Ext 601,605,613)

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botahtaung, Yangon

New York subway construction gets \$1.3b federal funding

NEW YORK, 21 Nov—The long-stalled construction of a subway along the Second Avenue in Manhattan, New York, finally got 1.3 billion US dollars in federal aid on Monday, NY1 news channel reported.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Governor Eliot Spitzer joined US Federal Transit Administrator James Simpson at Grand Central Terminal on Monday morning to celebrate the federal funding for the first phase of the project.

This phase would include stops at 92nd, 86th, 72nd and 63rd Streets. Preliminary work on the project began in April. Construction on the first phase is expected to cost more than four billion dollars. The first section of the subway line is scheduled to open in 2014. The Second Avenue subway has been a goal of transportation advocates for more than 70 years.

Originally proposed in 1929 as part of a massive expansion of the subway system, work on the line never commenced as the Great Depression crushed the economy of the state and country.—MNA/Xinhua

Swiss firm Vitol pleads guilty in UN oil/food case

NEW YORK, 22 Nov—Swiss commodities trading company Vitol pleaded guilty to involvement in a scheme to pay kickbacks to Iraq in connection with the UN oil-for-food programme, the Manhattan District Attorney said on Tuesday.

In pleading guilty to grand larceny, Vitol will pay restitution of 13 million US dollars to Iraq and pay 4.5 million US dollars to cover the cost of prosecution, prosecutor Robert Morgenthau said in a statement.

Vitol, one of the

world's largest independent physical oil trading companies, paid 13 million US dollars in kickbacks to Iraqi officials under Saddam Hussein in connection with oil purchases and allowed false representations to be made to the United Nations that no kickbacks were paid, Morgenthau said. The UN oil-for-food programme was established to help Saddam's Iraq sell oil to buy humanitarian supplies while it was otherwise under UN sanctions due to its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. It ran from 1996 to 2003. A UN-commissioned inquiry headed by former US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker found the programme was corrupted by 2,200 companies in 66 countries that paid 1.8 billion US dollars in kickbacks to Iraqi officials to win supply deals.

MNA/Reuters

Jordan inaugurates \$125m water treatment project

AMMAN, 21 Nov—A 125-million-US-dollar water treatment project has been officially inaugurated in Jordan in a bid to meet increasing water demand resulting from population growth, *The Jordan Times* reported on Monday.

The Zara-Maean Water Treatment and Conveyance Project is designed to increase potable water supplies to the capital and the Dead Sea area by 40 per cent, directly benefiting half a

million people.

According to the report, the project is now operating at full capacity and providing Jordan's capital of Amman with 45 million cubic metres of water annually.

"The Kingdom's rapid social and economic development led to an increase in water demand, necessitating decision-makers to arrive at workable and available solutions for the country's water problems and formulating strategies to properly respond to water sector needs," Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Shatnawi was quoted as saying.

The project, 74 per cent funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), includes a pretreatment system, a desalination plant, six pumping stations, and an advanced monitoring and control system.

The Zara-Maean plant is one of the country's water megaprojects intended to address water deficit, which is expected to rise to 350 million cubic metres by the year 2020.

Jordan is considered one of the 10 countries in the world with the scarcest of water resources.

MNA/Xinhua

1,800-year-old tombs found in Guangzhou

GUANGZHOU, 22 Nov—Ten tombs, some of which date back 1,800 years, have been discovered during the construction of new apartment blocks just outside the downtown area of Guangzhou, south China.

Archaeologists excavated the site and found half of the tombs were built in the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD) or Tang Dynasty (618-907). Others are believed to belong to the Jin (317-581), Yuan (1271-1368), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

All the tombs, covering an area of 1,000 square metres, had underground chambers either built from brick or wood and mud. The excavation was conducted by the Guangzhou Archaeological Research Institute from October to early November.

The archaeologists also unearthed 125 historical artifacts, including pottery utensils, China, lacquerwork, bronze and jade ornaments, said Ma Jianguo, an expert with the institute.—MNA/Xinhua



Indonesian sailors paint their boat, a traditional wooden trading ship known as a Bugis Boat on 19 Nov, 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The boats are used mainly for trading in lumber.

INTERNET

Striking screenwriters rally in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES, 22 Nov — Striking screenwriters marched down Hollywood Boulevard behind a phalanx of Teamsters trucks on Tuesday in a show of force before labour leaders resume contract talks with

major studios next week. The rally on the 16th day of the strike, which first hit television productions hardest, came as movie studios reported postponing two more films due to the walkout, one starring Johnny Depp

and another with Penelope Cruz and Sophia Loren.

Warner Bros. said Depp's adventure drama "Shantaram", which was scheduled to begin shooting in India in February, has been put on hold due to "strike-related script issues" that threatened to push production into India's monsoon season.

Another high-profile feature taking a hit was the Weinstein Co's "Nine", a musical adaptation of the Federico Fellini classic "8-1/2" to be directed by Rob Marshall and starring Cruz, Loren and Javier Bardem.—MNA/Reuters

Three dead as Colombian governor escapes bomb attack

BOGOTA, 22 Nov — A provincial Colombian governor escaped unharmed but a soldier was killed when guerillas detonated a bomb outside the politician's residence in Cauca late on Monday in a rare urban attack, authorities said.

Four soldiers were wounded and two rebels killed in combat when troops discovered the bombers outside the residential complex in Cauca, a strategic region for drug and arms smuggling to the Pacific coast and close to Ecuador's border. —MNA/Reuters

London suicide bomb plotter given 33 years in jail

LONDON, 22 Nov — A Ghanaian man was sentenced to 33 years in jail on Tuesday for helping plot botched al-Qaeda-inspired suicide attacks in London in July 2005.

Manfo Kwaku Asiedu was sentenced by a court in the British capital after earlier admitting a charge of conspiracy to cause explosions over the failed bombings.

The attacks were attempted two weeks after British Islamist suicide bombers killed 52 people on three

underground trains and a bus in London in early July.

Four men linked to Asiedu — Muktah Said Ibrahim, Yassin Hassan Omar, Ramzi Mohammed and Hussein Osman — tried to detonate hydrogen peroxide-based bombs on July 21, but their homemade devices failed to explode and no one was killed.

They were jailed for a minimum of 40 years each but a jury failed to reach a verdict against Asiedu and another man, Adel Yahya. Yahya was

jailed for nearly seven years earlier this month after pleading guilty to a lesser offence.

Asiedu had been due to face a re-trial but pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey, London's main criminal court, on November 9.

He was supposed to be carrying a fifth bomb on the day but ended up dumping the rucksack with the device in a park in north London. He denied losing his nerve and said he just wanted

to get rid of the bomb.

A few days after the failed attacks he handed himself in to police. He said in court he had then lied to detectives on an "epic scale".

During the trial he turned on his co-conspirators, contradicting their defence that the plot was a hoax designed as a publicity stunt, meaning he had to be seated separately from the other accused in the dock.

MNA/Reuters

EU urges Japan to stop whale hunt

BRUSSELS, 21 Nov — The European Commission urged Japan on Tuesday to stop a hunt it said could kill up to 1,000 minke, fin and humpback whales.

"There is no need to use lethal means to obtain scientific information about whales," the European Union executive said in a statement, noting that fin and humpback whales were classified as endangered by the World Conservation Union.

"The European Commission urges Japan to reconsider its decision and stop the hunt," it said.

A Japanese whaling fleet left on Sunday for an expedition that activists say will for the first time target humpbacks.

The United States has also urged Japan to "refrain" from the trip. Japan says whaling is a cherished cultural tradition and says the hunt is for research purposes.

Whale meat ends up in Japanese supermarkets and restaurants.— MNA/Reuters

Bird flu found in market near Saudi capital

RIYADH, 22 Nov — Bird flu has been found in birds at a poultry market on the outskirts of the Saudi capital Riyadh, newspapers reported on Tuesday.

Al-Watan newspaper carried photographs of an Agriculture Ministry team in masks and white coats in the Aziziya market south of Riyadh, saying bird flu cases had been found there. It was not clear what strain of bird flu had been detected.

The discovery comes just a few weeks before nearly two million faithful arrive for the annual haj pilgrimage season in Mecca.

Arab News said birds had been culled in the area after four cases of bird flu were found during a random inspection.

Agriculture and Health Ministry officials were not available for comment.

Saudi authorities last week culled 50,000 birds at a poultry farm in al-Kharj, 150 kilometres (94 miles) south of Riyadh, after 1,500 birds died of unspecified causes.

Officials said this week 220,000 birds have been culled so far, as teams combed other areas near the capital which has a population of around four million.

MNA/Reuters



Residents and government biologists inspect the corpse of a 12-tonne minke whale that was found dead on a beach of the Arapiuns River at Sao Jose do Arapixuna, near Santarem in the heart of Brazil's Amazon region, on 20 Nov, 2007. INTERNET

Underground coal seam fire put out after 50 years in N-W China

URUMQI, 22 Nov — An underground fire that has consumed more than 12.43 million tons of coal in northwest China has been extinguished after more than 50 years.

The Coalfield Fire Fighting Project Office of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region announced the fire in the Terak field was finally out, saving an

estimated 651 million tons of coal from burning.

Officials would closely monitor the coal seam for several years and submit a final report in 2009 to regional and national authorities, said Cai Zhongyong, deputy head of the office.

The fire, covering

923,500 square metres, was fuelled by coal more than 100 metres underground.

It released more than 70,000 tons of toxic gas, including sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide each year since it started in the early 1950s, Cai said.

The project office took

more than three years to fight the fire at a cost of more than 89 million yuan.

"First, we drilled into the burning coal bed and then poured water and slurry into it to lower the temperature," said Miao Pu, head of the fire fighting team.—MNA/Xinhua

South Korea eyes moon orbiter in 2020, landing 2025

SEOUL, 22 Nov — South Korea plans to launch a lunar probe in 2020 and make a moon landing by 2025 under a new space project that will develop indigenous rockets to put satellites into orbit, the Science

Ministry said on Tuesday.

The lunar probe programme will be based on a rocket South Korea is developing at a cost of 3.6 trillion won (3.9 billion US dollars) in the next decade.

South Korea is behind regional powers Japan and China in the space race.

China became only the third country to launch a man into space on its own rocket in 2003 and put its first lunar probe into orbit in early November.

Japan's first lunar probe began orbiting the moon in October, four years behind schedule due to technical glitches.

MNA/Reuters

The Soyuz-FG space rocket in October 2007 file photo. South Korea on Tuesday announced an ambitious plan to join Asia's space race by launching a lunar orbiter by 2020 and sending a probe to the moon five years after that.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Liverpool striker latest player to be burgled

LONDON, 21 Nov — Dutch striker Dirk Kuyt has become the latest Liverpool player to be burgled, police said on Tuesday.

Thieves broke into the 27-year-old's home in the Liverpool suburb of Woolton last Thursday while he was on international duty.

Merseyside Police confirmed they were investigating a burglary in Woolton, but would not comment on what had been taken.

Earlier this year, the home of Liverpool's goalkeeper Pepe Reina was burgled as he helped the club reach the Champi-

ons League final.

The Spanish international, who saved two spot kicks in the semifinal shootout against Chelsea, had a number of items stolen from his home in Woolton.

The player's Porsche Cayenne was taken and later found burnt out. Also taken was a Bang & Olufsen entertainment system, paperwork and jewellery.

Team mates Jerzy Dudek, Daniel Agger, Peter Crouch and Florent Sinama-Pongolle, as well as Everton's Andy van der Meyde, were all burgled last year.

MNA/Reuters

England Euro hopes ended in 3-2 loss to Croatia

LONDON, 22 Nov — England's hopes of a place in the Euro 2008 finals disappeared at Wembley on Wednesday when they lost 3-2 to Croatia after fighting back from conceding two early goals to pull level at 2-2.

Instead of hanging on to the point that would have secured their place in Austria and Switzerland, they conceded a third goal 13 minutes from time, allowing Russia to steal into second place in Group E and qualify with Croatia.

It will be the first time since 1984 that England miss out on the European Championship finals and the first time since the 1994 World Cup that they have failed to qualify for a major tournament — putting the future of coach

Steve McClaren in doubt.

Former England captain David Beckham, a second-half substitute, said: "This is a big setback, not just for the players but the nation... We have to show the English way which is to fight back."

Croatia coach Slaven Bilic said: "We are simply a much better team, tonight we were the better team."

The home crowd was stunned after eight minutes when Scott Carson, controversially chosen in goal after making his debut in a friendly only last week, allowed a speculative shot by Niko Kranjcar to skid off him and into the net, and it looked all over when Ivica Olic doubled the lead six minutes later.



England's Peter Crouch (L) stretches to score his sides second goal during their Euro 2008 Group E qualifying soccer match against Croatia at Wembley stadium in London

on 21 Nov, 2007. — INTERNET

England pulled level with a 56th-minute Frank Lampard penalty followed by a great goal by striker Peter Crouch, who expertly controlled a cross from halftime substitute Beckham before volleying the equalizer.

Croatia, though, continued to look dangerous

and won it in the 77th-minute when substitute Mladen Petric lashed in a shot from the edge of the box.

The Croatians will be among the second seeds when the draw for the finals is made in Lucerne, Switzerland on December 2.—MNA/Reuters

Portugal qualify for Euro 2008 after draw

PORTO (Portugal), 22 Nov — Portugal clinched a place at the Euro 2008 finals with a 0-0 draw against Finland on Wednesday.

Portugal, runners-up on home soil in 2004, needed a point to go through behind Poland in Group A.

"We did not expect many difficulties (in qualifying) but we had many injuries during the campaign," said Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, who returned to the bench after completing his three-match ban for an assault on Serbian player Ivica Dragutinovic in September.

"As for the future, we have to improve with the return of our injured players and prepare a good team for the finals." In a rainy match, neither side had many scoring opportunities in the first half.

Brazilian-born defender Pepe, making his debut after being granted Portuguese citizenship, headed the ball into Finland's net from a cross by Ricardo Quaresma after 19 minutes but the goal was disallowed for a foul on keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen.— MNA/Reuters



Saudi Arabia's Abdulaziz Saeed Al Dawsari (C) fights for the ball with Japan's Koki Mizuno (L) and Toshihiro Aoyama during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games qualifying soccer match in Tokyo on 21 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

Survey shows S Africans ready for 2010 World Cup

JOHANNESBURG, 21 Nov — The majority of South Africans believe their country will be ready for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, according to a survey result released on Tuesday.

TNS Research Surveys conducted a study in May and June this year on 2,000 adults to determine what their views on the 2010 World Cup were. TNS spokesman Neil Higgs said on Tuesday that 63 per cent of South Africans showed optimism about "our readiness for the World Cup", the SAPA news agency reported.

This was an increase from August last year when only 59 per cent of

people thought that South Africa would be ready.

"There has been an increasingly positive trend over the past 21 months. In September 2005, only 40 per cent felt we would be ready," said Higgs. The results were released on the eve of the FIFA's 2010 World Cup Preliminary Draw in Durban on Sunday, which will determine the pairings and groups for the football showpiece for the first time in Africa. TNS urged the 2010 World Cup Local Organizing Committee (LOC) to dispel negativity around South Africa hosting the soccer event.

MNA/Xinhua

Donadoni says Italy door still open for Del Piero

ROME (Italy), 21 Nov — Italy coach Roberto Donadoni said on Tuesday that he has not permanently closed the door on Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero.

Donadoni dropped Del Piero in the latter stages of the Euro 2008 qualification campaign and put his faith in Udinese's Antonio Di Natale, who made a difference with his tricky runs and ability to play on the left.

The coach said he will not make any big changes to the squad that qualified for Euro 2008 with a game to spare after a 2-1 win over Scotland in Glasgow on Saturday.

But he also stressed there is still hope for Del

Piero and for 25-year-old forward Antonio Cassano, who is trying to revive his career during a loan stint at Sampdoria after failing to make an impression at Real Madrid.

"It depends on Cassano and Del Piero, on their heads first of all and then on their legs," Donadoni told Rai radio.

"My bad luck, if you like, is that I have so many good players at my disposal."

With Euro 2008 qualification in the bag, Donadoni is expected to rotate his squad for Wednesday's Group B game at home to the Faroe Islands.

The Azzurri coach betrayed some nerves about

the group Italy will be handed in the draw for June's finals in Austria and Switzerland.

"We could be very unlucky and get a really hard group," he said. "With France (probably) in seedings pot four, you can see that luck will play a big role."

MNA/Reuters

Germany close out campaign with 0-0 draw against Wales

FRANKFURT, 22 Nov — Germany and Wales played out a tame goalless draw in their final Euro 2008 qualifier on Wednesday. Germany, long since assured of qualifying for the finals along with Group D winners Czech Republic, created a handful of good chances in the first half but the match petered out after the break.

Wales, with nothing riding on the game, competed well enough but rarely threatened Jens Lehmann's goal. The closest they came was in the 35th minute when Carl Fletcher flashed a shot wide from outside the area. Germany had already wasted the game's best opportunities by that stage.

MNA/Reuters



Paraguay's Enrique Vera (R) fights for the ball with Chile's Hugo Droguett during their 2010 World Cup qualifying soccer match at Nacional stadium in Santiago on 21 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

Alarm triggered at Los Angeles Int'l Airport

LOS ANGELES, 22 Nov — Cosmetics in a passenger's luggage triggered an alarm, delaying check-in service at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) for about 45 minutes, authorities said Wednesday.

Airport police received a call from the Transportation Security Administration around 10:30 pm last night about a suspicious item found in a female passenger's suitcase, said LAX spokeswoman Nancy Castles.

Just before 11 p.m. police located the passenger through her luggage i.d. tag. The woman was waiting at a boarding gate for a flight leaving at midnight for Central America, Castles said.

The passenger was brought to the TSA office

and explained what was in her luggage. The suspicious item turned out to be cosmetics, Castles said.

During the investigation, passengers in the terminal remained where they were and arriving travellers were asked to stay outside, she

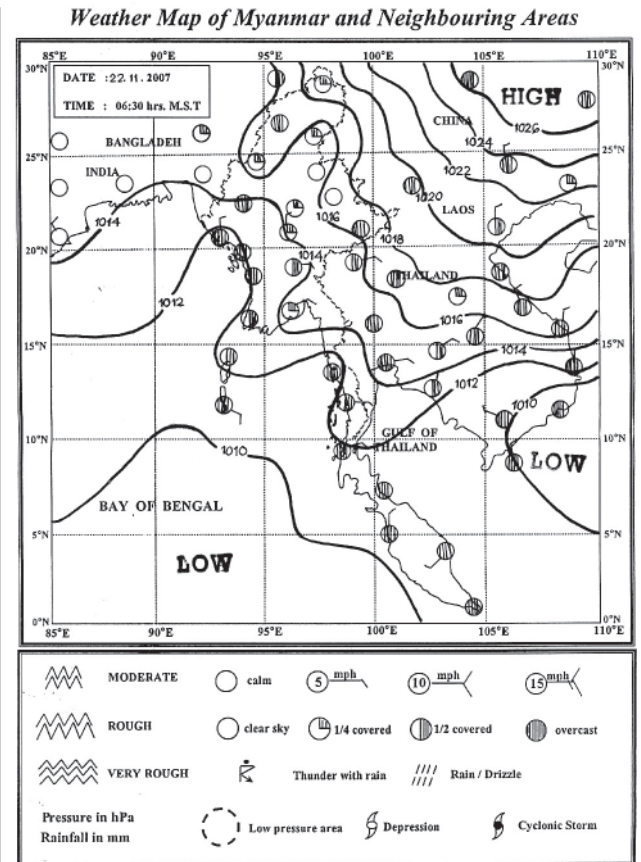
said.

One side of the terminal 2 continued to allow check-in, but ticket counters and machines on the other side experienced delays of about 45 minutes, Castles said, adding that at no time was the terminal shut down.

Service throughout the entire terminal was back to normal by 11:15 pm Castles said.

Terminal 2 services international flights from 14 airlines, including Air Canada, Air Canada Jazz, Air China, Air France, Air New Zealand, Aviacsa Airline, Avianca Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, LACSA Airlines, Northwest Airlines, TACA International Airlines, Virgin Atlantic and West Jet.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Thursday, 22 November, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Rakhine State and Bago Division, isolated in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (4°C) below November average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above November average temperatures in Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Sittwe (1.06) inches, Thayawady (0.95) inch and Heho (0.24) inch. The significant night temperatures was Hakha (6°C).

Maximum temperature on 21-11-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 22-11-2007 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 22-11-2007 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 21-11-2007 was (7.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 22-11-2007 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mingaladon, (140.94) inches at Kaba-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from South at (13:00) hours MST on 21-11-2007.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea, South and East Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-11-2007: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthayi Division, isolated in Shan, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60)%.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Southern and Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 23-11-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-11-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40)%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-11-2007: Partly cloudy.

S Africa sees 2010 World Cup costs rise up to 20%

PRETORIA, 22 Nov — Projected costs for South Africa's preparations to host the 2010 soccer World Cup could be up to 20 per cent higher due to factors such as rising steel and cement prices, the Deputy Finance Minister said on Tuesday.

In a briefing in the capital Pretoria, Deputy Minister of Finance Jabu Moleketi said officials in the nine host cities had delivered cost escalations between 2.8 billion rand (418 million US dollars)

and 3.4 billion rand above what had been budgeted.

"These are some of the projections that are coming in," he said.

Moleketi added that the government planned to question and verify the cost escalations and it would have a clearer idea of the World Cup cost by the time Finance Minister Trevor Manuel presents the country's budget in February 2008.

The South African Government has bud-

geted about 17.5 billion rand for the construction and refurbishment of soccer stadiums and other infrastructure for the tournament.

Moleketi added that the government was confident that organized labour and workers who have been demanding higher wages and concessions at stadium work sites would not "sabotage" the preparations.

MNA/Reuters



Friday, 23 November
View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်း ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇာတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 8:00 am**
5. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်
- 8:15 am**
6. အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:20 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. Demonstration exercise for correct pronunciation
- 4:40 pm**
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (မြန်မာစာအထူးပြု) (မြန်မာစာ)
- 4:55 pm**
5. Song of national races
- 5:10 pm**
6. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား

- 5:25 pm**
7. တန်ဆောင်တိုင်တေးများ
- 5:35 pm**
8. Song of yesteryear
- 5:45 pm**
9. "လက်တွေ့ပြချင်လို့" (ဖျိုဇွန်စိုး၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)
- 6:00 pm**
10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
12. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်
- 7:00 pm**
13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရေသူမလေး တတိယချစ်ပုံပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၂၂)
- 8:00 pm**
14. News
15. International news
16. Weather report
17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူများ" (အပိုင်း-၄)
18. The next day's programme



Friday, 23 November
Tune in today

- 8:30 am** Brief news
8:35 am Music
-True to you heart
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music
-I want you to want me
8:50 am National news/Slogan
9:00 am Music
-Love of my life
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music
-Radio
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
-Because of you
-The one you love
9:00 pm WOM
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Music at your request
-More than words
-Summer wine
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

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Myanmar delegation, Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team arrive back

YANGON, 22 Nov — Myanmar delegation led by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence that had attended the 8th Meeting of Heads of ASEAN Armed Forces arrived back at Yangon International Airport this afternoon and so did Myanmar shooting team led by Col Myo Myint that had participated in the 17th ASEAN Armed Forces Shooting Championship held in Thailand from 9 to 22 November.

Lt-Gen Myint

Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and senior Military Officers welcomed back Myanmar delegation and victorious Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team at the airport. Families of Defence Services from Yangon and Mingaladon Stations accorded a rousing welcome to the victorious Myanmar shooting team.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win welcome the shooting team of Defence Services at Yangon International Airport. — MNA



Kayah State and Ayeyawady Division national race delegates to NC, Thandaung Township Special Region Peaceful Assoc, Northern Thandaung Special Region Peace Group, Wunthanu NLD (Union of Myanmar), Union of Myanmar League for National Politics issue announcements

NAY PYI TAW, 22 NOV — Mr Gambari, the special adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General, released the statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her behalf in Singapore on 8 November.

Political parties, national race armed groups, which have returned to the legal fold, and State/Division delegates of the national race delegate group to the National Convention are releasing announcements to express their disagreement and objection to the points in the statement.

Among the announcements sent to the dailies, those of Kayah State delegates and Ayeyawady Division delegates of the Delegate Group of National Races to the National Convention, Thandaung Township Special Region Peaceful Association, Northern Thandaung Special Region Peace Group, Wunthanu NLD (Union of Myanmar) and Union of Myanmar League for National Politics are as follows:-

Announcement of national race delegates from Kayah State to National Convention

Date: 22 November 2007

Kayah State delegates of the Delegate Group of National Races to the National Convention believe that the National Convention is the only forum where political parties, national race organizations and all strata of the people can hold extensive discussions. We also believe that the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles the National Convention has adopted reflect the wishes of all the national races. Our delegate group welcomes the formation of the Commission for Drafting State Constitution and efforts to draft a constitution based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles.

It was learnt that Mr Gambari authorized by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi issued a statement in Singapore on 8 November.

As it is against our wishes, we cannot accept Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's statement designed to seek political gains, and we hereby announce that we support the process of realizing the seven-step Road Map in line with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that the National Convention has already adopted through discussions.

Delegates from Kayah State
Delegate Group of National Races

(See page 7)