Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari

NAV P YI T AW, 7 Nov —Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the Government Office here today.

Also present at the call were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office and Director-General of the Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw.— MNA

If destructive elements continue to turn a blind eye to national development...

In Myanmar, per capita income of a citizen is 167,202 kyats. The poverty indication is 162,136 kyats. In Myanmar, consumption cost represents 68.2 per cent. In production of rice and fish and prawn, it has enjoyed development considerably if compared with that in the past. About 94.2 per cent of total households have own houses. Ninety-nine per cent of the households in the rural and urban areas have enjoyed life security. It has enjoyed progress at the unprecedented level in the education and health sectors. In border areas, more than 180,000 children are pursuing education in 1037 educational institutions. The nation’s literacy rate is 94.75 per cent.

PAGE 7

KYAW ZIN NYUNT (ADVOCATE)

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

Myanmar is a high quality jade-producing country in Asia. Among the various kinds of gems, Myanmar jade, the best-selling one, is very popular.

The government has been making systematic arrangements for exploring, mining, producing and trading precious stones such as jade, gems and pearl. Gem entrepreneurs are mining jade and gems in the respective blocks in accord with the Myanmar Gemstone Law.

With the development of gem mining and gem industry, precious stones are in high demand nowadays. They are natural resources of the State. It is necessary for gem miners and merchants to make efforts for serving both national and their own interests.

Gems Emporiums are being held annually for wider sale and earning foreign exchange. Moreover, arrangements for special sales of ruby, sapphire and pearl are made. More and more gem merchants come to Myanmar and purchase gems.

The government has made plans for gem entrepreneurs to undertake the gem industry widely. It is believed that systematic sales and mining of gems in accord with Myanmar Gemstone Law will lead to the development of Myanmar gems market.

USDA English proficiency contest (central level) held

NAVFY TAW, 7 Nov — The second-day programmes of the English proficiency contest (central level) organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association took place along with the prizepresentation ceremony at the City Hall here today.

After the contest, USDA Secretariat Member U Thein Zaw delivered a speech.

CEC Member U Than Htay presented first, second and third prizes for basic education level extempore talks contest; CEC Member Dr Chan Nyein, prizes for higher education level extempore talks contest; CEC Member Thura U Aye Myint, prizes for basic education and higher education level essay contests; Secretariat Member U Thein Zaw (In-Charge for Youth Affairs), prizes for basic education level round-table discussions contest; and Secretariat Member U Thaung, prizes for higher education level round-table discussions contest to the prize winners.

Myanmar media delegation arrives back from India

YANGON, 7 Nov — Under the arrangements of Myanmar-India Entrepreneurs Association and Bandoola Tours and Travels Limited, the Myanmar media delegation led by Additional Head of Pali Literature Department Dr Hla Tun of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) arrived back here by air on 5 November.

The delegation members visited Buddhist cultural heritage in Mumbai and Maharashtra State in the Republic of India. — MNA

Billboards erected in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin, NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name

(a) Dr Khin Pyone Kyi
Deputy Director-General Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar)
Ministry of Health

(b) Professor Dr Aung Khin
Pro-Rector University of Medicine (Magway)
Medical Science Department
Ministry of Health

USDA in progress in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon — MNA

Ceremony to put up billboard hailing Annual General Meeting of USDA in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon. — MNA
UN strongly condemns renewed violence in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS, 6 Nov—The United Nations General Assembly on Monday strongly condemned the renewed violence throughout Afghanistan, calling for continued international efforts to help the government to deal with the security threat.

Wrapping up its annual debate on Afghanistan, the 192-member assembly adopted a resolution which noted the political advances and improvement in building Afghanistan’s security sector.

However, it strongly condemned the renewed violence throughout Afghanistan, including the rising trend of suicide attacks, in particular in the south and east of the country, “owing to the increased violent and terrorist activity by the Taleban, al-Qaeda, other extremist groups and those involved in the narcotics trade.”

The resolution also condemned the attacks against Afghan civilians, foreign nationals and those “committed to supporting the consolidation of peace, stability and development.”

It expressed its concerns over the increased poppy cultivation and drug trafficking, noting the growing connection between the drug trade and extremist groups “had dangerous repercussions in the region and far beyond.”

It called on the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan posed by the Taleban, other extremist groups and criminal violence, in particular violence involving the drug trade.

Six killed by tropical storm “Peipah” in northern Philippines

MANILA, 6 Nov—Six people were killed by tropical storm “Peipah,” which left northern Philippines on Monday after bringing wind and rains in the night and early morning, said local radio dzMM. The radio said five people were killed in the storm hit province of Isabela in northern Luzon, while another died in the neighboring Kalinga Province.

The storm also brought about flooding to about 500 families in a village in northern town of Ilagan, while some dams are on the verge of overflow, said local officials.

Isabela Governor Grace Padace has called for help from the military to monitor flooded areas and reach families affected by flooding and storm in remote areas.

“Peipah” moved out of northern Luzon and is moving toward the South China Sea, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Moderate quake hits Sumatra, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 Nov—An earthquake with magnitude of 5.2 rocked Sumatra Island, Indonesia on Tuesday morning, no report of damage or casualty, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said here. The quake struck at 04:58 local time (2158 GMT, Monday) with epicentre at 168 kilometres southwest of Muko Muko town of Bengkulu Province and at 10 kilometres in depth, an official of the agency said.

Twenty-three people were killed and thousands of buildings were destroyed in September after a 7.9-Richter-Scale quake rocked Bengkulu Province.

In 2004, over 170,000 people were killed in Aceh Province in the northern tip of the island after a tsunami triggered by a powerful quake devastated coastal areas of the province and others countries in Southeast Asia. Indonesia lies in a vulnerable zone so-called “the Pacific Ring of Fire” where two continental plates, stretching from the Western Hemisphere through Japan and Southeast Asia, meet and cause frequent volcanic movements.

25 injured in food shop explosion in Thai south

BANGKOK, 7 Nov—About 25 people were injured when insurgents detonated a bomb at a food shop in southern Thailand’s province of Yala Tuesday afternoon.

The homemade bomb, believed to weigh about three kilogrammes, was detonated by a remote control at about 4:20 pm (0920 GMT), according to local newspaper the Nation’s website.

The explosion occurred at a shop which sells take-home meals at Muang Mai Market in Yala’s downtown.

The injured were rushed to the Yala provincial hospital. One of them was severely injured.

Yala and its neighbouring provinces of Narathiwat and Pattani have been hit by insurgents on an almost daily basis and nearly 2,600 persons have died in over three years of violence.
Indonesian fuel subsidy soars amid oil price rise

JAKARTA, 6 Nov — The fuel subsidy in the Indonesian state budget is estimated to hit 90 trillion rupiah this year (about 9.8 billion US dollars) against the initial projection of 55 trillion (6 billion dollars) due to soaring oil prices, an official said Monday.

Indonesia must cope with the global oil shocks by either increasing domestic fuel prices or launching energy conservation campaign.

“But the government would not go to the first option (price hike) because of its potential massive social effects, so we choose the second option,” Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro said in a seminar on renewable energy development here.

Purnomo said the average Indonesian crude oil price already hit 72 dollars per barrel, far above the projected 60 dollars per barrel in the state budget.

The government allocates subsidies for transport fuel products but allows market pricing for high-octane fuel products, fuel for industrial uses and for export sales.

The subsidized gasoline, for instance, sells at a mere 4.500 rupiah (49 cents) a litre.

Subsidized fuel consumption in Southeast Asia’s only OPEC member is predicted to reach 38.2 million kilolitres this year, exceeding the government’s quota of 36.1 million kilolitres.

Euro-Mediterranean Meeting focuses on M-E, Union

LISBON, 7 Nov — The ninth Euro-Mediterranean Meeting, held on Monday and Tuesday in the Portuguese capital Lisbon, will focus on peace in the Middle East and creating a Mediterranean Union.

The European Union (EU) foreign ministers, under the leadership of Portugal, holder of the six-month rotating EU presidency, will meet their Mediterranean counterparts from Algeria, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

The first day of the meeting began with a working dinner on the Middle East peace process, from which Palestinian and Israeli foreign ministers hoped to gain the impetus needed to end their long-running conflict.

The meeting will also focus on creating a Mediterranean Union, which was first proposed by France’s President Nicolas Sarkozy, who would like such an organization to be formed in France at a June 2008 Summit.

The European Commission, however, has objected to the idea, saying it risks duplicating projects currently under way as part of the Euro-Med group, which was formed in Barcelona in 1995. Portugal’s Foreign Minister Luis Amado said it would be timely for Portugal to join the Euro-Med, although it has no Mediterranean border, as its membership is essential for peace in the region and to create a new EU-Mediterranean strategic relationship.

Indonesia’s volcano “Kelud” spewing ash

GAMBAR (Indonesia), 6 Nov — Indonesia’s Mount Kelud volcano spewed ash on Sunday as clouds and fog turned daylight to dusk, sharply reducing visibility in the area.

A top official said the volcano had spewed ash about 500 metres into the air, a day after confusion over whether it had already started erupting.

An estimated 350,000 people live within 10 kilometres (six miles) of the volcano, which is about 90 kilometres southwest of Surabaya, Indonesia’s second-largest city and one of its busiest airports.

Kelud, also known as Kelut, means “sweeper” in Javanese, a reference to the fact that when it erupts, it sweeps away everything in its path.

When it last erupted in 1990 at least 30 people were killed, while about 5,000 died in 1919 when it spewed scalding water from its crater lake.

Australian town to run on solar power in two years

SYDNEY, 6 Nov — A sun-drenched town in Australia’s north hopes to use only solar power in two years after being chosen as the site for a solar thermal power station.

Remote Cloncurry, which boasts recording Australia’s hottest day, would be able to generate electricity on rare cloudy days and at night from the station, which runs off heat stored in graphite blocks.

The Queensland State government said on Sunday it would build the seven million Australian dollars (6.5 million US dollars), 10-megawatt power station as part of a push to make Cloncurry one of the first towns to rely on solar power alone.

“The town of Cloncurry has long claimed the title of having recorded Australia’s hottest day — 53 degrees (Celsius) in the shade in 1899, so I reckon we’re a winner,” Queensland Premier Anna Bligh was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press.

Solar thermal power differs from photovoltaic panels that make power directly.

Instead, 8,000 mirrors will reflect sunlight onto graphite blocks. Water will be pumped through the blocks to generate steam which generates electricity via turbines.

Heat stored in the graphite produces steam well after the sun goes down, allowing electricity generators to keep running at night.

The Queensland government said the station would deliver about 30 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year, enough to power the entire town. It is expected to be running by early 2010.

Australia and the United States have refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, which sets binding targets for carbon pollution by developed countries.

Cars crowd a road on a polluted day in Beijing on 7 Nov, 2007. China is unlikely to agree to any binding pact on greenhouse gas emissions that will replace the Kyoto Protocol.

In this photo released by the Crater of Diamonds State Park, a 4.38-carat, tea-coloured diamond found on 5 Nov, 2007, is shown in Murfreesboro, Ark.
Vietnam lures more foreign arrivals in first 10 months

HANOI, 6 Nov—Vietnam welcomed nearly 3.5 million international arrivals in the first 10 months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 17.8 per cent, according to a local tourism agency on Monday.

Among the arrivals, the number of tourists surged most, by 27.2 per cent to over 2.1 million, and that of business visitors rose 14.9 per cent to roughly 539,500, said the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

China was Vietnam’s biggest tourism market in the period with over 469,500 visitors, followed by South Korea with nearly 393,600, Japan with roughly 341,800, and the United States with some 341,500.

To lure more foreign visitors, Vietnam is intensifying investment in fostering tourism promotion abroad, training personnel, especially tourist guides, and developing tourism infrastructure nationwide. The country is tapping such traditional markets as China, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, North America, Western Europe and Eastern Europe.

Vietnam expects 4.2-4.4 million foreign visitors and 18.5 million domestic visitors, and tourism revenues of 2.3 billion US dollars in 2007, the VNAT said. It also targets 5.5-6.0 million international arrivals and 25-26 million domestic visitors, and total tourism revenues of 4.0-4.5 billion dollars in 2010.

US wants to boost trade, investment cooperation with Vietnam

HANOI, 6 Nov—The United States wants to develop the partnership relations with Vietnam, especially in the trade and investment field, US Commerce Secretary Carlos M Gutierrez said at a press briefing here Monday. Firms of the two countries should meet more frequently to seek business opportunities, said Gutierrez who visits Vietnam from 4-8 November. He said the two governments should facilitate them in doing it.

The Vietnamese side also needs to improve its business environment, and strengthen the protection of intellectual rights to lure more US investment, said the commerce secretary, accompanied by representatives from 22 American companies during the visit.

The 22 firms, operating in such fields as infrastructure construction, health, transport, aviation, and tourism, will consider which sectors in Vietnam are the most attractive to invest, he said.

As for trade between the two countries, the United States has not set a concrete target for it, but it is believed to see growth, he said, adding that the bilateral trade may reach 12 billion US dollars or more next year.

Economic News

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Electronic air tickets sales surge to 70% in Mideast

ABU DHABI, 6 Nov—Electronic air ticket (e-ticket) has become more effective in the Mideast market as 70 per cent people are using it to travel, surged by 50 per cent compared to the previous year, local newspaper Khaleej Times reported on Sunday.

“We’ve seen amazing progress in the Middle East on promoting e-ticket. Last year, Middle East airlines were near the bottom of the rankings at under 20 per cent. This year e-ticket levels have surged to 70 per cent and they continue to increase at 4-5 per cent per month,” said Majdi Sabri, regional representative of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Global airlines industry has made good progress on e-tickets and the target to achieve 100 per cent figures by May 2008 is possible, Sabri said.

“All airlines have hit a peak as strong US economy data reignited a rally that has added more than 40 per cent to prices since August. Oil prices hit more than 96 dollars per barrel earlier this week. French professional groups hit by higher petrol prices have called on the government to help.

Fishermen at ports in western France have gone on strike to protest against the rising cost of fuel and demand state aid.

Protesters slowed down traffic in “snail operation” in northwestern France on Saturday and the fishermen threatened on Sunday to protest at oil depots across France on Monday.

MNA/Reuters

Eco Minister tells French to walk more, drive less

PARIS, 6 Nov—Economy Minister Christine Lagarde urged French people on Sunday to walk more and drive less, given the increase in oil prices.

“From time to time, you should forget your car to the benefit of your two legs and your two wheels,” Lagarde told Le Parisien daily in an interview.

“I’m appealing to French people’s intelligence,” she said, calling on commuters to drive more slowly and to use public transport.

“Let’s try to be an example,” Lagarde said. Oil surged 2.5 per cent on Friday, nearing a fresh peak as strong US economic data reignited a
Australian researchers find hunger switch

SYDNEY, 7 Nov — Australian scientists have found how to switch hunger on and off using a molecule that targets the brain — a discovery which could stop weight loss in terminally ill patients or produce weight loss in the morbidly obese.

The molecule, known as MIC-1, is produced by common cancers and targets receptors in the brain that switch off appetite. But Australian researchers found that by using antibodies against MIC-1 they were able to switch appetite back on.

When normal and obese mice were treated with MIC-1 they ate less and lost a lot of weight, suggesting that MIC-1 may also be used to treat severe obesity, said the Sydney researchers in a statement received on Tuesday.

“This work has given us a better understanding of the part of the brain that regulates appetite,” said Herbert Herzog, director of neuroscience research at the Garvan Institute in Sydney.

“Our bodies send complex chemical signals to our brains, which interpret them and send back responses, in this case eat or don’t eat. Our research indicated that MIC-1 is a previously unrecognized molecule sending a don’t eat signal to the brain,” Herzog said.

The researchers said it was hoped that in the near future, the MIC-1 findings will prevent a sizeable proportion of advanced cancer patients from “literally wasting away”.

MNA/Reuters

S Korea to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan in mid-Dec

SEOUL, 7 Nov — The South Korean Defence Ministry said on Monday that it will complete the withdrawal of all the 210 South Korean troops in Afghanistan by mid-December.

“The soldiers will be withdrawn before the December 19 presidential election,” officials of the Defence Ministry told South Korea’s Yonhap news agency.

The South Korean Government pledged to pull out all its troops from the country earlier in return for the release of 23 South Koreans kidnapped by Taliban militants in July.

South Korea deploys about 60 medics and 150 engineers in Afghanistan.

Cambodian kids win “Postcards Across ASEAN” competition

PHNOM PENH, 7 Nov — Two Cambodian school boys have won the “Postcards Across ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations)’’ competition, Tan Yee Woan, Singapore Ambassador to Cambodia, announced here on Tuesday.

The overall top prize winner of the competition is ten-year-old Long Bo Vireak Thun, a Cambodian student from Anuwath Reatheany Primary School in Phnom Penh, who will receive a prize of 100 Singapore dollars (about 82 US dollars), and has been invited to attend an award ceremony in Singapore organized to honour the Cambodian winners.

Vireak Thun has won the top prize of 500 Singapore dollars (about 445 US dollars), and has been invited to attend an award ceremony in Singapore organized to honour the top three prize winners on 20 November, she added.

In addition to the top three winners, ten merit prize winning entries were also selected from each ASEAN country, she said, adding that the merit prize winner from Cambodia is eight-year-old Ly Kim Teing from Preah Ang Eng Primary School, who will receive a prize of 100 Singapore dollars (about 69 US dollars).

“I drew palm trees and rice fields in the countryside of Cambodia because they are the symbols of our country,” Long Bo Vireak Thun told Xinhua.

“I am so proud of my son,” his father, Long Bun Thoun, said after the ceremony.

MNA/Xinhua
If destructive elements continue to turn a blind eye to national development...

Kyaw Zin Nyunt (Advocate)

Myanmar regained independence on 4 January 1948, and joined the United Nations the same year. Being a member of the global family (the UN), Myanmar shoulders the duties assigned by the UN, independently and actively.

Since then, Myanmar has been carrying out the duties devolved by the UN such as peacekeeping and disarmament, anti-racial discrimination and decolonization, friendship and cooperation, anti-narcotic drugs, and combating trafficking in persons and transnational crimes.

Myanmar, in cooperation with regional nations and its neighbours, discharges duties as a member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other regional organizations. Simultaneously, it is working hard to regain internal peace or national reconsolidation that previous governments did not achieve. The government and the people are working together with might and main to develop the nation.

Now, many national race armed groups that have returned to the legal fold are engaged in national development tasks in cooperation with the government. As a result, the nation has enjoyed development in the agricultural, education, health and social sectors considerably, if compared with that in 1988. In addition, the government is taking measures day and night to build a large number of infrastructures necessary for the economic growth of the nation such as dams, roads, bridges, schools, universities, hospitals, health care centres, industrial zones, farm machinery factories, and electric power plants, while braving a variety of disruptions caused by internal and external elements.

For about half a century after 1948, the people could not lead a peaceful life and the nation did not achieve development despite its rich natural resources, due to internal and external instigation, and the practice of sectarianism and dogmatism among political parties along with multi-coloured armed insurgent groups. Unlike that, now the nation has achieved national unity and rapid development.

And the State’s seven-step Road Map is in the process of being implemented to build a democratic nation with flourishing discipline.

Many world nations are very pleased with peace and progress of Myanmar, and so are national brethren. Nevertheless, a handful of destructive elements with negative views at home and abroad are resorting to various means to disrupt such progress. At the same time, the colonialist bloc and national traitor axe-handles instigated mass protests in September to create disturbances like the 1988 unrest.

However much they tried to instigate demonstrations, the march protests, unacceptable to the people, dwindled away in a few days. The dailies are carrying news stories that the people are expressing their desires in townships across the nation that they favour stability, they favour peace, and they oppose unrest and violence.

It is known to all that plots were made to block the National Convention. In spite of the plots, the National Convention has been convened successfully. So, they again tried to disturb the follow-up functions. Their schemes include internal and external destructive elements’ agitating the people; the airing of exaggerated broadcasts by foreign radio stations such as BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB; and the colonialists’ extension of sanctions against Myanmar. Myanmar people are well familiar with the snares of the colonialists, the conspiracies of axe-handles, and the broadcasts full of falsehood of the western media. Therefore, such political tricks did not work at all.

Now, all the attempts to instigate political unrest are futile, and peace and stability has been restored. Thus, certain anti-government groups at home and abroad are making accusations against Myanmar through their declarations.

Today, Myanmar has enjoyed tangible results of peace and development. Unless external elements had imposed blockages on Myanmar and carried out destructive acts, the remnant insurgent groups would have returned to the legal fold and the nation would have enjoyed development many times better than present.

Anti-government groups will not release any announcements based on groundless facts if they view the prevailing situations as they really are. Today, the entire nation is enjoying fruitful results of peace and development one after another.

In protest against the slanderous announcements, Myanmar people are holding mass rallies and walks in procession to express their desire.

Regarding the development rates, I would like to compare Myanmar with some of its neighbours. According to the data jointly collected by the United Nations Development Programme and Myanmar in 2004, Myanmar’s poverty indication (the rate of households that do not earn enough income to have their basic needs fulfilled) was 32 per cent. According to the Key Indication 2007 compiled by the Asian Development Bank, the poverty rate of Bangladesh was 40 per cent (2005), Cambodia, 34.7 per cent (2004) and Laos 32 per cent (2003).

In Myanmar, per capita income of a citizen is 167,202 kyats. The poverty indication is 162,136 kyats. In Myanmar, consumption cost represents 68.2 per cent. In production of rice and fish and prawn, it has enjoyed development considerably if compared with that in the past. About 94.2 per cent of total households have own houses. Ninety-nine per cent of the households in the rural and urban areas have enjoyed life security. It has enjoyed progress at the unprecedented level in the education and health sectors. In border areas, more than 180,000 children are pursuing education in 1037 educational institutions.

The nation’s literacy rate is 94.75 per cent. Now, the government is building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline. In this regard, it is implementing democratic transition processes through the State’s seven-step Road Map.

The people have enjoyed fruitful results of peace, development and better living conditions. Nonetheless, internal and external saboteurs are trying to interfere in the internal affairs, while turning a blind eye to the fine traditions and positive results. Therefore, the entire people have to make efforts hand in hand with the government to crush these destructive elements and to see to the State’s seven-step Road Map. That is a solemn vow of the entire people.

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 6-11-2007
**Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than visits Pauktabin Quality Seed Farm, Shwegyin Hydropower Project**

**NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov** — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and officials, heard reports on extension of sown acreage for perennial crops, new item crops and physic nut in Bago Division, distribution of quality strains for boosting crops production, cultivation of monsoon and arrangements for extending pulses and beans presented by Bago Division Manager U Win Maung of Myanmar Agriculture Service at Pauktabin Quality Seed Farm of MAS in DaikU Township on 5 November.

The commander gave a supplementary report. In his instructions, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that arrangements have been made for cultivation of summer paddy and pulses and beans meeting the targets, boosting production and 120 per cent sufficiency of edible oil in Bago Division. Therefore, officials are to make concerted efforts for meeting the target.

They viewed display of quality strains of paddy, beans and pulses and sunflower at the farm. They also looked into harvesting of monsoon paddy by paddy harvester. Bago Division had put over 3 million acres of land under monsoon paddy and plans to grow 400,000 acres of summer paddy and 1.6 million acres of pulses and beans.

At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of Ministry of Defence inspects Shwegyin hydropower project in Shwegyin.—MNA

**Donations invited for motion picture doyens**

**YANGON, 7 Nov** — Myanma Motion Picture Asiayon will organize a ceremony to mark the Myanmar Motion Picture Day in conjunction with the 44th respect paying ceremony to motion picture doyens at the office of Myanma Motion Picture Asiayon here on 10 November.

At the ceremony, those who attended the ceremony will pay respects to 104 motion picture doyens, and members of state/division secretaries and CEC members at the office of UMFCCI.

In his instructions, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed the tasks of the project. Shwegyin Hydropower Project site is located on Shwegyin Creek, six miles northeast of Shwegyin. On completion, the power station of the project will generate 262 millions kwh yearly. The power station will be installed with 75-megawatt generator. At present, implementation of the project has completed by 57.02 per cent. At the hall of the local station in Shwegyin, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander met servicemen and family members, and cordially greeted them. —MNA

**Respects paid at UMFCCI**

**YANGON, 7 Nov** — The first ceremony to pay respects to persons aged 75 and above who had discharged duties as advisers, presidents, general secretaries and CEC members at the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon here on 10 November.

President U Win Myint explained the purpose of holding the ceremony. Next, those present paid respects to the aged with gifts. —MNA

**Eye specialists’ conference on 19, 20 Nov**

**YANGON, 7 Nov** — The Ophthalmologists’ Society of the Myanmar Medical Association will organize the 19th Eye Specialists’ Conference at the association on Theinbyu Road here on 19 and 20 November.

Doctors wishing to attend the conference may get registered at Yangon Eye Specialist Hospital from 16 November onwards. —MNA

**Kalaw, Kyauktalon hospitals inspected**

**NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov** — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe inspected the People’s Hospital in Kalaw Township, Shan State (South), on 1 November. He comforted the patients and fulfilled the requirements of the hospital. —MNA

**No longer wish to join NLD**

**43 members of Twantay, Sagaing, Yekyi Township NLDs quit**

**YANGON, 7 Nov** — Nine members of Twantay Township National League for Democracy of Yangon Division including members U Win Myint, U San Kyi and U Hla Htay of Lakamon Village on 1 October, five members of Sagaing Township NLD including members U Yo, U Tin Win and U Thaung Shwe of Kyakhat Village and a total of 29 members of Yekyi Township NLD including U Ko Win, U Hla Myint, U Zaw Min Tun, U Thet Naing Hay and U Tin Nwe of Daungmawt Village on 2 October resigned from the NLD of their own volition. They sent letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities.

In their letters sent to Twantay, Sagaing and Yekyi Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommittees, they said that they no longer wished to participate in the tasks of the NLD, and they resigned from the party of their own accord, they said. —MNA
Gasoline, diesel prices soar by 10% in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 7 Nov — Gasoline and diesel prices have surged by around 10 per cent at the pump in Cambodia, local media reported Tuesday.

Prices at Phnom Penh’s Chevron (former Caltex), Sokimex, Total and Tela stations jumped to 4,450 riel (about 1.1 US dollar) per litre for “premium” gasoline, the Cambodia Daily newspaper said.

Diesel prices also increased from 3,300 riel (about 0.81 US dollar) to 3,650 (about 0.9 US dollar) riel per litre, it added.

Cambodia would not join the ranks of other nations using subsidies to stabilize petroleum prices, Men Den, director of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Division for the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority, was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

When oil prices go up they tend to stay up, Men Den said, adding that Cambodia’s as yet untapped offshore oil reserves are the best chance for bringing down costs. — MNA/Xinhua

Special Adviser meets with heads of missions, resident representatives of UN agencies

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Nov — Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari met with heads of missions and resident representatives of UN agencies at Shwenandaw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone, here, today.

At 11 am, Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari met with Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hul Phany, foreign ambassadors, Charges d’Affaires and embassy staff.

At 2 pm, he met with resident representatives from UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNODC. — MNA

Exam schedule for 2007 academic year of UDE announced

YANGON, 7 Nov — Examinations for the first batch of the University of Distance Education for the 2007 academic year will be held at branches of the UDE from 21 to 29 November.

Examination centres for first, second and third year (science) students will be set up at branches of UDE at universities and colleges where they have registered for the examination.

Intensive lectures will be given to the second batch students of the UDE for the 2007 academic year from 3 to 13 December and they will sit the examination at branches of UDE at universities and colleges from 17 to 24 December.

Intensive lectures will be given to first, second and third year students who specialized in Geography, Philosophy, Psychology, English, Oriental Studies, Law, and fourth year students who specialized in Law except Myanmar, Myanmar Culture, Aesthetics and History and they will sit the examination at branches of UDE at universities and colleges.

More information is available at branches of UDE at universities and colleges.

Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, meeting with ambassadors led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Cambodia Mr Hul Phany. — MNA
Syria says new US sanctions “pitiful”

DAMASCUS, 7 Nov — Syria on Tuesday condemned US sanctions against two influential officials accused by Washington for involvement in ordering the torture of prisoners at a Baghdad printing workshop.

Muhammad Nasif Khayrbik, a general dealing with security, and Colonel Hafiz Makkhus, a cousin of President Bashar al-Assad, were the latest Syrian officials targeted by the US Treasury Department on Monday.

Washington said the two were linked to Syrian efforts to “undermine Lebanon’s democratic process” and support what it termed international terrorism. Two Lebanese were blacklisted for the same reason.

“The pitiful decision is not targeted against individuals as much as it is aimed at exerting pressure on Syria and Lebanon to bow to the US project,” a statement from the office of Vice-President Farouq al-Shara said.

“It shows the failure of the US Administration in the Middle East and its inability to score a single achievement in Iraq, Palestine or Lebanon,” the statement said.

The new sanctions prohibit American nationals from doing business with Khayrbik and Makkhus and freeze any US assets they may have.

Khayrbik, an adviser to Shara with close ties to Assad, worked on strengthening Syria’s alliance with the Shiite movement Hizbollah in the period when Damascus managed Lebanese politics and maintained an armed presence in Lebanon.

By the US Treasury said Khayrbik met regularly with Hizbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah last year.

Language study at GCSE level slumps

LONDON, 7 Nov — The number of students studying a European language at GCSE level has slumped, government figures revealed on Monday.

Less than half now study a language such as French or German to secondary school-leaving age, down from more than 80 per cent in 2000.

The number of students studying other languages such as Mandarin Chinese or Japanese has also fallen, by 20 per cent.

The government scrapped compulsory language teaching and staffing,” he told the BBC’s Today programme.

Survey says women check the mirror every half-hour

LONDON, 7 Nov — Women look at themselves in the mirror every 80 minutes on average, according to a survey.

People aged 27 are the most image conscious — they scrutinize their looks an average 52 times a day. Over 60s check just five times a day on average.

Males across the country stand in front of the mirror an average 27 times a day.

EIA said in its monthly report.

The EIA added that the primary threat to sustained oil demand growth was the possibility that high energy prices and continued turmoil in the financial markets could undermine the economy.

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Suicide bomber kills 90 in northern Afghanistan

Mazar-i-Sharif (Afghanistan), 7 Nov — A suicide bomber killed some 90 people and wounded 50 on Tuesday in an attack on a group of visiting Afghan parliamentarians in northern Afghanistan, the director of the local hospital said.

The suicide attack, in the northern town of Baghlan, is the worst in Afghanistan's history. "The bodies of 90 people have been brought to the hospital so far and 50 people have been wounded," Baghlan hospital director Dr. Khalilullah told Reuters.

He said there might well be dead and wounded on the streets who had yet to be brought to the hospital.

NATO air raid kills dozens of Taleban

Herat (Afghanistan), 7 Nov — An air strike by NATO-led forces has killed dozens of Taleban insurgents in northwestern Afghanistan, the Afghan Army said on Tuesday.

Since relaunching their insurgency against the Afghan Government and foreign troops two years ago, the hardline Islamist Taleban have expanded their operations northwards from the Pashtun-dominated south and east where they are strongest.

Monday night's air-strike, backed by Afghan and NATO ground forces, targeted Taleban positions in Badghis Province, Defence Ministry spokesman Zahir Azimi said. He said a senior Taleban commander was among those killed.

Azimi and a spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) denied reports there had been civilian casualties in the fighting.

Acute diarrhoea spreads in Vietnam

Hanoi, 7 Nov — Acute diarrhoea has spread to 11 localities in Vietnam’s northern and central regions, affecting 1,011 people since 23 October, local newspaper Pioneer reported Tuesday.

On Monday alone, 115 people were admitted to hospitals due to infecting the disease, the paper quoted a report of the country’s Health Ministry.

Of the localities, including Hanoi capital city, northern Hai Phong City, the northern provinces of Hai Duong, Ha Tay, Hung Yen, Thai Binh and Bac Ninh, and central Nghe An Province, Hanoi sees the biggest number of acute diarrhoea cases.

Most of the patients ate unsafe food such as raw shrimp paste and seafood salad.

To prevent the disease’s spread, the ministry has asked relevant agencies and people to focus on monitoring food hygiene, disinfecting areas housing patients, and suspending use of raw shrimp paste in processing food.

Earlier, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung required local relevant agencies and people to take drastic measures to eliminate acute diarrhoea as soon as possible.

China, Russia pledge to broaden strategic cooperation

MOSCOW, 7 Nov — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his Russian counterpart Viktor Zubkov signed here Tuesday a joint communique at the 12th regular prime ministers’ talks between China and Russia, pledging to broaden strategic and political cooperation between the two nations.

Wen and Russian President Vladimir Putin had an indepth exchange of views on major international and regional issues as well as broadening strategic cooperation and deepening strategic cooperation. The two leaders expressed their satisfaction over the success of “the Year of China” in Russia, saying that the Chinese and Russian national years are unprecedented events in the history of China-Russia relations.

US Congress negotiators omit war from Pentagon funds

WASHINGTON, 7 Nov — Democrats in the US Congress on Tuesday set in motion another showdown with President George W Bush over the Iraq war when they advanced a military spending bill without extra funds for the conflict.

Republicans had hoped this year would be no different.

Instead, majority Democrats said they would bring up a separate proposal with additional cash for the war — perhaps as much as 50 billion US dollars — later this week. But they said they would tie restrictions to the money, such as troop withdrawal timelines that have drawn a veto from Bush in the past.

Negotiators in the US House of Representatives and Senate approved a 460-billion-US-dollar-Pentagon-funding bill for fiscal 2008 that both chambers are expected to approve soon.

They also added a stopgap provision that would keep the rest of the government going until 14 December, Senate aide said. With most of the legislation to fund the go-vernment still unfinished, the government currently is operating on a stopgap funding measure that lasts until 16 November.

Last year’s Pentagon funding bill contained 70 billion US dollars for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which was intended to keep combat operations running until a larger “emergency” spending bill was approved.

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Russian Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov (R) shakes hands with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao after they signed a joint communique at the 12th regular prime ministers’ talks between China and Russia in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 6 Nov, 2007. — Internet

INTERNET

A shopper looks at decorative items for the Hindu celebration Deepavali in Singapore’s Little India neighbourhood on 6 Nov, 2007. — Internet
DEEPAWALI GREETINGS

May Deepawali (8-11-2007), the holy Festival Lights, brighten with the glow of wisdom and dispel the darkness of ignorance. May the Lights of Deepawali bring lasting peace, happiness and prosperity to all the people of our Motherland Myanmar Naiangngandaw. May all the Human Beings be Healthy, Wealthy and Happy.

For All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (H.Q) Yangon.
(Zaw Zaw Naing-President)

US asks Vietnam to open market economy faster

HANOI, 6 Nov—US companies want Vietnam’s fledgling market economy to move faster and Washington will not restrict Hanoi’s exports to narrow a trade deficit, US Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said on Monday.

Gutierrez, leading the first US trade mission of 22 companies to Hanoi since Vietnam joined the World Trade Organization in January, met Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, President Nguyen Minh Triet and Americans doing business in the Communist-ruled country.

“The big thing that companies have brought forward is that they would like things to move faster, that they want to invest and that sometimes things do not move as quickly as they would like,” Gutierrez said at a news conference.

Vietnam has one of the world’s fastest-growing economies after its giant neighbour China, expanding at more than 8 per cent a year and attracting investors from around the globe.

Trade between Vietnam and the United States was forecast to reach 12 billion US dollars this year, six years after the first trade agreement between the former enemies came into effect.

US imports from Vietnam account for about 10.5 billion US dollars and Vietnam imports from the US have been stuck at around one billion US dollars since 2003. — MNA/Reuters

Chinese consumers increasingly shifting to credit card

BEIJING, 6 Nov—China has seen the use of credit cards spread quickly and reshape its people’s shopping habits in the last few years, especially in cities, according to the Nielsen Company.

While cash is still the main form of payment, most credit card holders prefer to use their credit cards for payment as a convenient substitute to carrying piles of banknotes around, according to the Nielsen’s China’s annual Personal Finance Monitor (PFM) released on Sunday.

The report, based on 11,500 Chinese consumers in 18 cities, highlighted Xiamen, a second-rank city less famous than Beijing and Shanghai, in east China’s Fujian Province, as a good example.

The report said four out of 10 Xiamen consumers now own at least one credit card, and half of bankcard holders in Xiamen own at least two or more credit cards.

Credit card holders in Xiamen put an average of 50 per cent of their monthly income in their credit card account to indulge themselves with cashless shopping, said the Nielsen’s PFM report.

Consumers aged between 18 and 24 are the most active users of credit cards in the city, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Death toll from Algeria violence falls in October

ALGIERS, 6 Nov—The death toll from political violence in Algeria fell last month but casualties among rebels grew as government forces stepped up raids on al-Qaeda hideouts, according to a Reuters report based on newspaper reports.

Sixty people — 51 rebels, seven soldiers and two civilians — were killed in October, bringing the number of people killed in clashes between government forces and Islamic militants in 2007. In September 60 civilians and soldiers and 15 rebels died.

Most of the killings in October took place in eastern provinces where the Army and security forces launched a counter-offensive on al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb after a failed assassination attempt on President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in September in Batna town east of Algiers.

Bouteflika called the rebel attacks “purely criminal” and said the killings were not politically motivated, vowing to press ahead with his reconciliation policy. Last year the government freed more than 2,000 former Islamist guerrillas under a amnesty designed to put an end to a conflict that cost the lives of an estimated 200,000 people since 1992.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia’s INKA to build locomotives with GE

JAKARTA, 6 Nov—Indonesia’s railway industry PT Kereta Api (INKA) is preparing an agreement on the manufacture of three locomotives worth 5.5 million US dollars with US-based General Electric (GE), local Press said on Monday.

Apart from the three locomotives, INKA is pursuing to become a long-term subcontractor of GE for domestic needs, aiming for 200 locomotives in the next 10 years, reported leading economic daily Bisnis Indonesia.

“The draft of the agreement is awaiting approval from GE and us,” INKA president director Roos Diatmoko was quoted as saying.

Roos said INKA and local partner PT Barata would become GE’s subcontractors to build 20 locomotives with electronic fuel injection technology a year for a decade ordered by the Ministry of Transportation.

CHEX

Tin Ohnmar Tun
B.A (Law), LL.B, LLM (UK)
P.O Box 3434, Yangon
(For Donnern Somgjat & Boonma Attorney at Law, Thailand)
Dated. 8 November 2007

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 8 November 2007

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
**Study shows marijuana chemical may treat depression**

**WASHINGTON, 6 Nov —** A drug that boosts levels of the brain’s own “bliss” chemical can help reverse symptoms of depression in rats, US and Italian researchers reported on Monday.

The drug helps maintain high levels of a compound called anan-damide, named after the Sanskrit word for “bliss”, which is chemically similar to the active ingredient in marijuana. “These findings raise the hope that the mood-elevating properties of marijuana can be harnessed to treat depression,” said Daniele Piemelli, director of the Centre for Drug Discovery at the University of California, Irvine, who led the study.

“Marijuana itself has shown no clinical use for depression. However, specific drugs that amplify the actions of natural marijuana-like transmitters in the brain are showing great promise,” he added in a statement.

Piomelli’s team used a drug patented this year, called URB597. It interferes with another compound called fatty acid amide hydrolase or FAAH, which in turn breaks down anandamide. Dialing back FAAH makes more anandamide available in the brain, Piomelli said.

Writing in the journal Biological Psychiatry, Piomelli and colleagues said they gave URB597 to chronically stressed rats, which act in a way similar to depressed people.

After five weeks of treatment, treated rats acted more like unstressed rats, Piomelli’s team said.

“Biological Psychiatry is the right place to publish this work,” said study leader Susan Cheng, a former medicine resident at Hopkins.

The researchers reported on Monday that they have discovered a fifth planet circling 55 Cancri, a star beyond our solar system.

**BEIJING, 6 Nov—** Astronomers announced here on Tuesday that they have discovered a fifth planet circling 55 Cancri, a star beyond our solar system.

The newly discovered planet weighs about 45 times the mass of Earth and is the fourth from 55 Cancri and completes one orbit every 260 days. Its temperature would permit liquid water to pool on solid surfaces.

This artist’s concept shows four of the five planets that orbit 55 Cancri, a star much like our own.

**Scientists discover record 5th planet orbiting nearby star**

**BEIJING, 6 Nov—** Astronomers announced here on Tuesday that they have discovered a fifth planet circling 55 Cancri, a star beyond our solar system.

The star now holds the record for number of confirmed extra solar planets orbiting around it in a planetary system. 55 Cancri is located 41 light-years to pool on solid surfaces.

The distance from its star is approximately 72.5 million miles, slightly closer than Earth to our sun, but it orbits a star that is slightly fainter. The gas-giant planets in our solar system all have large moons, said Debra Fischer, an astronomer at San Francisco State University and lead author of a paper that will appear in a future issue of the Astrophysical Journal. “If there is a moon orbiting this new, massive planet, it might have pools of liquid water on a rocky surface.” Fischer and a team of collaborators discovered this planet after careful observation of 2,000 nearby stars with the Shane telescope at Lick Observatory located on Mt Hamilton, east of San Jose, Calif, and the WM Keck Observatory on Mauna Kea, Hawaii. “This is the first quintuple-planet system,” Fischer said. “This system has a dominant gas giant planet in an orbit similar to our Jupiter. Like the planets orbiting our sun, most of these planets reside in nearly circular orbits.”

**Zimbabwe buys trucks from China**

**HARARE, 6 Nov—** The National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) has acquired 78 trucks from China, which are now ready for shipment, as it moves to resuscitate its subsidiary, the Road Motor Services, local media reported on Monday.

NRZ acquired 68, 30-ton trucks and 10 fixed body trucks from Chinese company Camco, to complement its train fleet, in a deal sealed last week, according to The Herald.

The trucks have since been certified fit for use on Zimbabwe’s roads by a team of government compliance inspectors, the newspaper said. On Sunday, Zimbabwe’s Ambassador to China Frederick Shava confirmed the deal, saying the trucks would be shipped via Beira, Mozambique.

He said he was now working out the shipment modalities with the Chinese companies.

This artist's concept shows four of the five planets that orbit 55 Cancri, a star much like our own.
Liverpool hand out record 8-0 thrashing

LIVERPOOL, 7 NOV — Israel international Yossi Benayoun scored a hat-trick as Liverpool, winners of the Champions League in 2005 and runners-up last season, handed out an 8-0 thrashing to Besiktas at Anfield on Tuesday. The scoreline was a Champions League record, beating the 7-0 by Arsenal against Slavia Prague last month and Juventus against Olympiakos in December 2003.

After failing to win any of their opening three games in Group A, Liverpool could not afford to drop more points against the Turkish club, who beat them 2-1 in Istanbul last month. But that never looked likely once Peter Crouch and Benayoun had scored in the first half to pave the way for a torrent of goals after the break.

Benayoun added two more and Besiktas crumbled, further goals from captain Steven Gerrard, substitute Ryan Babel, with two, and Crouch again emphatically revived Liverpool’s chances of catching Porto or Marseille for a top two place in the group. Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez had played down the pressure on his position and the financial implications of failing to emerge from the group stages. But Besiktas have only won once away from home in 10 Champions League fixtures and defeat for Liverpool could have had serious implications for a club which earlier had received planning permission for a new 400-million-pound stadium. — MNA/Reuters

Olympiakos goalkeeper denies Real Madrid

ATHENS, 7 NOV — A fine performance by veteran Olympiakos goalkeeper Antonis Nikopolidis on Tuesday denied Real Madrid the win that would have effectively put them through to the knockout stage of this season’s Champions League. The 36-year-old produced three top-class saves to thwart Roohinbo and Wesley Sneijder twice to hold Real to a 0-0 draw.

Real also struck the woodwork twice with Mamadou Diarra hitting the post and Rurud van Nistelrooy the bar. Real still top Group C with eight points while Olympiakos, who now have five points, also retain realistic hopes of reaching the next phase.

Olympiakos coach Takis Lemonis said: “From now on we will start calculating. This point is very important for our future in the group. The remaining two encounters are very important. Real coach Bernd Schuster told: “We would have liked to have sealed our qualification tonight. We dropped two points here and I think that we deserved all three because we created many chances and were very patient.” — Reuters

Porto beat Marseille 2-1 to move top of Group A

PORTO (Portugal), 7 NOV — A late header by Argentine striker Lisandro Lopez gave Porto a 2-1 win over Olympiase Marseille and sent them top of Champions League Group A on Tuesday. The Portuguese league leaders have eight points from four matches, one point more than Marseille.

Moroccan winger Tarik Sektioui put Porto in front with a brilliant individual effort in the 27th minute, taking the ball from beyond the halfway line, dribbling and accelerating past three defenders and rounding the goalkeeper to slot calmly home.

Marseille looked sharper after the break and on 47 minutes levelled the score through Mamadou Niang, who headed in from a cross by Laurent Bonnart.

Marseille striker Djibril Cisse, who substituted Niang in the 62nd minute, had a goal ruled offside by German referee Wolfgang Stark. Lopez clinched victory for Porto 12 minutes from time with a glancing header after a neat cross from the right by Ricardo Quaresma.

“We did not have a very good first half. Marseille deserved their equalizer but afterwards we got stronger and we managed to score again,” Porto coach Jesualdo Ferreira said. “We need three points. We have a game in Liverpool to play next and we will do all we can to win it,” Ferreira added.— MNA/Reuters

Inzaghi steers AC Milan towards last 16

DONETSK (Ukraine), 7 NOV — Striker Filippo Inzaghi came off the bench to score two goals and line up the other as holders AC Milan beat Shakhtar Donetsk 3-0 on Tuesday to stay on course for the last 16 of the Champions League. The Italian’s two goals bring his European club football score to 62 goals, putting him level with record-holder Gerd Muller, Germany’s veteran 1970s footballer.

Inzaghi provided his trademark poacher’s finish to a through ball from Andrea Poli in the 66th minute and then laid the ball off for Brazil playmaker Kaka to drive home the second in the 72nd minute.

Kaka returned the favour deep in stoppage time, bearing down on goal on the break and slipping the ball to Inzaghi for a simple finish from close range.

The victory put the defending champions top of Group D, with a three-point lead. Milan beat Shakhtar 4-1 at home two weeks ago but are having a tough time domestically and have not won in Serie A at San Siro this season.

“7-1 (over two games) against Shakhtar, who are top of their league, is superb,” AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani told Sky television. — MNA/Reuters

Chelsea escape with draw against Schalke

GELSENKIRCHEN (Germany), 7 NOV — Group B leaders Chelsea rode their luck to escape with a goalless draw against Schalke 04 in the Champions League on Tuesday. Schalke, who had dominated throughout, came within a whisker of taking all three points when Peter Lovenkrands raced clear on the left and smashed a shot against the left-hand post of substitute keeper Peter Cech but Chelsea rode their luck to escape with a goalless draw.

“We didn’t let them get forward and we had a lot of chances.” Chelsea went into the game on a run of seven successive victories but they needed two fine saves from Petr Cech in the first half and Schalke came even closer after the break as珺 ed Lovenkrands scored with his heart-stopping late chance it would have been deserved.

“Luck was not on our side,” Schalke coach Mirko Slomka said. “We were a constant threat to Chelsea, we didn’t let them get forward and we had a lot of chances.”

The best of the bunch was the Schalke full back Westermann, who caused Chelsea no end of problems.
Year 2007 deadliest for US troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Nov — Five US soldiers were killed in two separate roadside bomb attacks in Iraq on Monday, the US military said, making 2007 the deadliest year for US forces in the country.

The deaths took the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq this year to 851, according to ICasualties.org, an independent website that monitors US troop deaths. The worst previous year was 2004, when 849 deaths were recorded.

In total, 3,854 US soldiers have been killed since the US-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003.

“We lost five soldiers yesterday in two unfortunate incidents, both involving IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices),” US military spokesman Rear Admiral Greg Smith told reporters in Baghdad on Tuesday.

He gave no details of the attacks.

US forces in Iraq, however, say that a major build-up of troops since February has helped stem sectarian violence and reduced the number of insurgent attacks on coalition forces.

Lieutenant-General Raymond Odierno, the second-ranking US commander in Iraq, told a Pentagon briefing last week that there had been a five-month decline in combat deaths.

Odierno said insurgent attacks had been on a steady downward trend since June, with roadside bomb blasts in particular sharply down in the last four months.

Casualties said 38 US soldiers were killed in October, the lowest death toll since March 2006. The deadliest month so far in 2007 was in May, when 126 US soldiers were killed, and the deadliest quarter was April to June, when 331 died.

US forces completed their build-up of an extra 30,000 troops in mid-June and began launching offensive operations against Al-Qaeda in Iraq and Shiite militia groups around Baghdad to deny them safe havens from which to launch attacks.

Troops were also moved out of their large bases into smaller combat outposts in neighbourhoods. Soldiers went into areas previously declared no-go zones, exposing them to frequent roadside bomb and sniper attacks that took a deadly toll. — MNA/Reuters

Top S Korea tax officer arrested for alleged bribery

SEOUL, 7 Nov — South Korea’s top tax officer was on Tuesday accused on suspicion of receiving bribes in return for helping a land developer evade taxes, a court official said.

Jeon Goon-pyo, the first incumbent tax chief to be arrested, has denied the charges.

“We issued an arrest warrant this evening,” the official of the Busan District Court said by telephone. “We judged this was a serious case and he could manipulate evidence.”

Jeon was called in by the Busan District Public Prosecutor’s Office last week for questioning.

The arrest will likely deal a blow to President Roh Moo-hyun, who is already battling low public support levels.

— MNA/Reuters

Asleep in Jesus

Mr. Dominic D’Souza
Age (73) Years

Signal and Telegraph (Retd) Myanma Railways.

Mr. Dominic D’Souza, son of (John D’Souza and Josephine D’Souza), beloved husband of Jessie D’Souza, dearly beloved father of Patrick-M Phyu Phyu Mar, Jennifer and Helen, grandfather of John Gabriel and Maria, fell asleep peacefully in Jesus at 7:30 am on 6th November 2007 at Y.G.H.

Funeral Service will be held at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, No.24, Upper Pasodan Street on 8th Nov, 2007 at 10:00 am and thence to Yay Way Christian Cemetery for entombment. Buses will leave St. Anthony’s Church after funeral Service.

Bereaved family

WEATHER

Wednesday, 7 November, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Shan and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (4°C) to (5°C) below November average temperatures in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above November average temperatures in Kachin and Mon States, Magway and Bago Divisions and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Tandwe (1.42) inches, Hkamti (0.67) inch and Machanaw (0.39) inch. The significant night temperatures was Hakha (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 6-11-2007 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 7-11-2007 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 7-11-2007 was 72%. Total sunshine hours on 6-11-2007 was (4.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 7-11-2007 (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kabu-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mingaladon, (140.75) inches at Kabu-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mps from Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 6-11-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 8-11-2007: Likelyhood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions, isolated in Mon and Rakhine States, Yangon, Mandalay and lower Sagaing Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (90%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.


Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-11-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-11-2007: Partly cloudy.
People’s Desire

☆ We favour stability.

☆ We favour peace.

☆ We oppose unrest and violence.

☆ RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies

☆ RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!

☆ The public be warned of killers in the air waves — RFA, VOA and BBC

☆ Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation

☆ BBC lying

☆ VOA deceiving

☆ RFA setting up hostilities

☆ Beware! Don’t be bought by those ill-wishers

Who are the winners, and who, the losers from recent violent protests?

☆ Due to the violent protests,

The people are in a state of panic
Artless persons get into bad company and run into trouble
Trade and commerce hit hard
Vendors and shopkeepers have hard times
Tourism industry in bad shape

☆ Due to the violent protests,

Colonialists’ lackey expatriates earn dollars
Touts were provided with funds
Criminals and opportunists are happy with the unrest
National traitors from agitator media gained a lot of dollars