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

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

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

Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 9 Nov — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htu Win and military officers, this morning saw off the Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team led by Col Myo Myint of the Ministry of Defence, that will take part in the 17th ASEAN Armed Forces Shooting Championship in Thailand from 9 to 12 November.

Before the departure of the team at the special lounge of Yangon International Airport, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that the Tatmadaw shooting team, having many experiences in the shooting championships year after year, are to make all-out efforts for achieving success to be able to uplift prestige of the country and the Tatmadaw. The shooters are to continuously take practices for improvement of stamina and skills, and they are to take part in the upcoming championship with diligence and perseverance.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party saw off the shooting team.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw shooting team comprises 43 members. — MNA

Minister for Relations U Aung Kyi meets Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, CEC members of NLD hold discussion

YANGON, 9 Nov — While putting energy into the democratization process, the government has been making efforts for the national reconsolidation. As part of efforts for transition to democracy by implementing the seven-step Road Map and ensuring peace and stability and bringing about development of the country in unity and cooperation, Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi was assigned duties as Minister for Relations and he met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at Seinle Kantha Guest House here from 1 pm to 1.25 pm and from 2.35 pm to 3.30 pm today.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held discussion with Chairman of the National League for Democracy U Aung Shwe, Secretary U Lwin, Central Executive Committee member of NLD U Nyunt Wai and Spokesperson of NLD U Nyan Win from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm today. — MNA

Minister for Relations U Aung Kyi meets Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at Seinle Kantha Guest House, Yangon. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
With border regions developing, more human resources emerging

The government has been building more and more socio-economic infrastructures for the development of border areas. And at the same time, it is making plans to improve human resources.

With a view to ensuring the emergence of human resources in the border regions, the State is nurturing intellectuals and intelligentsia.

Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges, training schools for development of national youths in border regions, technical training schools and vocational training schools have been opened so that the national youths can become intellectuals and intelligentsia.

Two Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges were opened in Yangon and Mandalay in 2000 and they have produced more than 500 graduates of national youths so far.

Similarly, technical training schools for national youths of border regions have been opened in Swittway, Laukikai, Pangsai and Mongla allowing the young national trainees to enjoy free meals and accommodations. As a result, those who are skillful in such areas as carpentry, masonry, mechanics and welding have emerged.

Nowadays, like towns and cities, border regions are developing in various sectors like economy, education, and health and more human resources are emerging.

Minister supervises progress of Khabaung Hydropower Project

The power plant of Khabaung Hydropower Project will be installed with 30-megawatt generator and it will generate 120 million kwh yearly. The construction of the project has completed by 88 percent and it will be complete in 2007-08 financial year.

Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe delivers an address at work coordination meeting on upgrading National Herbal Garden. — MNA

Deputy Director-General U Aung Myat Kyaw of Traditional Medicine Department reported on work done and future tasks and the meeting ended.

Five members of Sagaing Township NLD quit

YANGON, 9 Nov —Five members of Sagaing Township National League for Democracy in Sagaing Division—U Nyo, U Tha Huay, U Ar Lu, U Hla Myint and U Kyaw Myint of Kywebon Village—on 17 October sent their resignation letters of the party of their own volition.—MNA
Seven killed in northern Iraq

Mosul (Iraq), 8 Nov—Six Iraqi policemen and a civilian were killed in two separate incidents in and out Mosul City, the capital of Nineveh Province on Tuesday, a provincial police source said. “Unknown gunmen opened fire on civilian car carrying off-duty policemen and travelling in the Owiya area, 70 kilometres west of Mosul City, killing six of them,” Brigadier Muhammad al-Waga’a, deputy police chief of the province told Xinhua.

The Iraqi security forces cordoned off the scene to secure the area, while ambulances transported the victims to nearby hospitals, al-Waga’a said.

Meanwhile, at a checkpoint in the 17th July neighbourhood in western Mosul city, Iraqi soldiers opened fire on a speedy truck, which the driver beside, killing its driver instantly, al-Waga’a said. The truck was found loaded with bombs.—MNA/Xinhua

Floods kill 82 in Vietnam, typhoon likely at weekend

Hanoi, 8 Nov—Dozens of people were killed in central Vietnam trying to cross streams or salvage wood in floodwaters, raising the death toll to 82 ahead of a typhoon due to land at the weekend, government reports said on Wednesday.

Storms and floods have killed nearly 200 people since early October. The disasters caused property and crop damage of 300 million US dollars and delayed the coffee harvest in the Central Highlands coffee belt, squeezing supplies to global markets.

In the latest inundation since 26 October, at least 82 people had been killed in nine provinces and Danang City, provincial disaster management committees said.

Flooding in Quang Tri Province could help spread bird flu from its Gia Linh District, where officials confirmed the virus in ducks last month, an Agriculture Ministry official was quoted as saying.

Quang Tri is one of four provinces in Vietnam that have reported bird flu outbreaks among birds in the past month. Hanoi also asked coastal provinces to warn fishermen as Typhoon Pepah, which killed five people in the Philippines before entering the South China Sea on Monday, headed for the Vietnam coast.

Over 150 terrorist attacks happen in Pakistan in 2007

Islamabad, 8 Nov—Some 667 people were killed and 1,821 others were injured in 157 terrorist attacks this year in Pakistan, which reflects the grim picture the country has to confront, according to Interior Ministry spokesman (Retd) Brigadier Javed Iqbal Cheema.

At a weekly briefing here on Tuesday, Cheema said that the state security apparatus was not idle. Although it prevented many possible attacks with timely detection and action, he said, the enormity of the challenge posed by the planners and executors of suicide bombings was too complex and difficult to overcome completely and rapidly.

The spokesman said that the difficulties were compounded by a lack of understanding in the higher echelons of the judiciary that the law enforcement and security agencies needed a little more room and leeway to deal with the extraordinary situation.

Cheema said that the measures taken by the country’s leadership last Saturday came after thorough deliberations. He said that there was no other option but to act firmly to avert the mounting dangers to national security and integrity.—INTERNET

The Orange County Fire burns east of Irvine, recently. California Gov Arnold Schwarzenegger on 6 Nov, 2007, ordered a review of California’s response to the deadly wildfires that destroyed more than 2,000 homes last month, including whether home and business construction should be allowed in fire-prone areas.—INTERNET

FBI warns of possible US shopping mall attacks

WASHINGTON, 9 Nov—An FBI report warned that al-Qaeda may be planning to strike shopping malls in Chicago and Los Angeles during the Christmas season, but a bureau official said there was no information that it was a credible threat.

The ABC News first disclosed portions of the report that was based on intelligence received by the FBI in late September. The report said al-Qaeda hoped to disrupt the US economy and had been planning the attack for the past two years.

The document was intended for the FBI’s partners in law enforcement and the intelligence community. FBI spokesman Richard Kolko said: “In the post 9/11 era, sharing information is our top priority.”

The ABC report said the veracity of the information was uncertain.

—INTERNET

Handout picture released by the National Bureau of Investigation shows bullet holes on the first floor of the Jokela school centre in Tuusula, Finland. Normally tranquil Finland was struggling to comprehend on Thursday why a teenage gunman massaged eight people at a school in what he claimed was an attack on “humanity”. —INTERNET
Wildlife trader’s 115 cobras seized in Malaysia

KOALA LUMPUR, 8 Nov—A wildlife trader is under investigation for illegally possessing 115 Asiatic cobras which were crammed into several cages in his shop in Simpang Empat, northern Perlis State, Malaysia, local media reported on Wednesday.

Malaysia’s Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) officers seized the snakes, which are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, in a raid on the shop on Monday. The 55-year-old trader had obtained the snakes illegally and also flouted animal cruelty laws, the department's legal and enforcement division deputy director Celsorian Razond said at a press conference at the Perlis Perhilitan conservation centre in Sungai Batu Pahat, Perlis.

If found guilty, he could be fined 3,000 ringgit (901 US dollars) or jailed for three years under the act for illegal possession of snakes, and fined 5,000 ringgit (1,502 US dollars) or jailed for three years or both on the cruelty offense. The trader had underdeclared the number of snakes in his possession, said Razond.

China completes river damming for 2nd largest hydropower plant

XILUODU, (Sichuan), Nov 9—China successfully dammed the Jinsha River on Thursday, marking a key step in the construction of the Xiluodu hydropower plant. When completed, the dam will be the second largest of its type in the country after the massive Three Gorges Project.

Wang Shukai, deputy director of the project under the China Three Gorges Project Corporation, said it took workers 30 hours to complete the damming at 15:38 pm at Xiluodu in the southwestern Sichuan Province. At that spot, the river is 47 metres wide and runs at a speed of seven metres per second.

“This power plant will contribute to the country’s drive of developing undeveloped western regions and to the promotion of a sustainable development of society, economics and environment,” he said.

With a designed installed capacity of 12.6 million kilowatts, the Xiluodu plant will be the nation’s second largest hydropower plant following the Three Gorges Plant and the third largest of its type in the world. When finished in 2015, the dam will stand 278 metres high with a reservoir containing 11.57 billion cubic metres of water.

The annual power output of the plant is equivalent to that generated by about 41 million tons of coal and will greatly reduce pollution.

NATO says Macedonian police helicopter down

PRISTINA (Serbia), 8 Nov—NATO said on Wednesday a Macedonian police helicopter had crashed during police clashes with gunmen in the mainly ethnic Albanian west of the country, but the Skopje authorities denied there had been a crash.

“It is not a KFOR [Kosovo Force] helicopter, but a Macedonian helicopter,” he told reporters.

A spokesman for NATO peacekeepers in neighbouring Kosovo told a news conference a helicopter had crashed but there was no information on casualties.

US helicopter crashes in Italy, five dead

ROUGE, 8 Nov—Five US soldiers were killed on Thursday in a helicopter crash in northeastern Italy, according to Italian News Agency ANSA.

The US army helicopter from Aviano military base, with 11 people aboard, was on a training mission which involved embarking and disembarking on the pebbly bank of the River Piave near the village of Santa Lucia di Piave.

According to Italian rescue services, the blades of the helicopter touched the ground during a tight turning maneuver, causing the aircraft to crash and burst into flames. Four of the people aboard were killed instantly and a fifth died of his wounds in hospital. The other six people on board were all injured, two of them seriously, and are now in local hospitals.

Italian Prosecutors in Treviso cordoned off the crash site, which is at least a kilometre from the nearest houses, and have opened an inquiry to see whether anyone has responsibility for the disaster.

The US Air Force experts were also dispatched to the site to study the wreckage. —INTERNET

Six burn to death in 12-car pile-up in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 8 Nov—At least six people were burned to death and four more were seriously injured on Wednesday when leaking solvents caught fire in a 12-car pile-up in Tultitlan, a small town in Mexico state, which surrounds Mexico City.

The crash took place in the morning when an articulated truck invaded the oncoming lane and smashed head-on into a van, state police said.

This accident caused a series of other collisions near Mexico State outer ring road. Solvents in one of the vehicles escaped and caught fire, burning people, pigs and horses in the vehicles in the pile up. Two articulated trucks, four smaller trucks, a van and several private cars were involved in the pile up.

The accident caused traffic chaos on the roads linking nearby towns.

Police have not yet been able to identify the victims. —MNA/Xinhua

UK Met Office issues severe weather warning

LONDON, 9 Nov—Britain’s Met Office issued a severe weather warning on Wednesday, predicting very high winds in Britain and the North Sea on Thursday.

Concerns about bad weather have already caused the shut in of some oil and gas infrastructure and helped to drive energy prices higher.

“At sea and on land, there could be gusts in excess of 80 miles per hour,” a spokesman for the Met Office said.

MNA/Reuters
Rio de Janeiro, 8 Nov—Brazilian mining company Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD) announced on Tuesday a partnership with state-owned National Economic and Social Development Bank (BNDES) to launch a sustainable energy production project. The initial investment in the project was estimated at 220 million reais (127 million US dollars).

CVRD said it will build an Energy Technological Development Centre (CDTE) in Sao Jose dos Campos, in the state of Sao Paulo, southeastern Brazil. It is expected to start operating in the first half of 2008. According to CVRD’s statement, the facility will carry out “an extensive programme for the research and development of processes to generate energy”. The company also highlighted the project’s importance in its investment plan, which establishes investments of 59 billion US dollars in the 2008-2012 period. BNDES expected the CDTE to take advantage of the technology developed in Brazil to expand the production of environmentally sustainable energy, and to boost the country’s economic growth. The programme will include activities related to the synthesis of gas from thermal coal and to biomass, as well as research on the production of gas-empowered and multi-fuel engines, in order to advance technologies to generate “clean” energy.

CVRD said the research team will also include personnel from Brazil’s main universities and research centres.

The Marine Spill Response Corporation puts down a boon to protect the beach at Chrissy Fields from oil contamination in San Francisco, California. Authorities were scrambling to contain an oil spill on 8 Nov, 2007 after a container ship struck the San Francisco Bay Bridge, leaking 58,000 gallons of fuel into the ocean.—INTERNET

BERLIN, 9 Nov—The German Government’s economic advisers forecast on Wednesday that economic growth in Europe’s largest economy will slow down to 1.9 per cent in 2008 from 2.6 per cent this year, which underlines the need for the government to carry out structural reforms and not rolling them back.

In their annual report entitled “the gains must not be squandered”, the five-member council of government economic advisers warned German Chancellor Angela Merkel against embracing proposals that might further weaken growth, such as the plan to extend unemployment payments to older people.

“Important and groundbreaking reforms risk being foiled or rolled back,” the report said.

In reaction to the report, Merkel said her government will not squander away what has been achieved in keeping Germany’s economy fit for global competition.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian mining Co, Development Bank launch energy project

San Francisco oil spill larger than thought

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 Nov — Many beaches in the San Francisco area remained closed on Thursday as officials tried to clean up 58,000 gallons (220,000 litres) of fuel that spilled into the West Coast city’s famous bay the day before.

“This is a major spill,” said Wil Bruhns, a division chief at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. “It certainly has the potential to cause damage to birds, fish and other wildlife.”

The Cosco Busan struck a tower of the Bay Bridge on Wednesday morning in dense fog, creating a long, slash along the ship that allowed bunker fuel to spill into the water.

The Coast Guard initially called the spill minor but later realized the amount of fuel was greater than first thought. Environmentalists criticized the Coast Guard for not notifying other agencies fast enough and for being slow to put inflatable booms on the water’s surface to prevent oil from spreading.

MNA/Reuters

ECONOMIC NEWS

Chinese, Russian Vice-PMs sum up bilateral Business Summit

MOSCOW, 8 Nov—Visiting Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi and her Russian counterpart Alexander Zhukov attended a follow-up session on the achievements of the second China-Russia Business Summit here Wednesday.

Wu said China is willing to make concerted efforts with Russia to further promote the development of China-Russia economic and trade cooperation in five aspects.

Firstly, to take advantage of the China-Russia chamber of commerce of machinery and electronic products, speed up the optimizing of the trade structure and gradually adjust trade development mode, she said.

Secondly, to deepen bilateral cooperation in border regions, further encourage the enthusiasm of local governments and enhance coordination between revitalizing China’s former industrial bases in the northeast and developing Russia’s Far East region, she added.

To expedite consultation and the signing of inter-governmental economic and trade cooperation deals in border regions, in order to establish a legal basis for facilitating trade investment in adjacent areas and establishing new types of cooperation modes, such as cross-border processing and logistic support parks, she said. The second aspect also includes the strengthening of cooperation in preserving and utilizing cross-border water resources and regulating business activities along the border river. Thirdly, to push the overall level of China-Russia forestry cooperation to a new high by expanding cooperation in lumber intensive processing.

MNA/Reuters

German eco advisers forecast slowdown, urge reforms

In their annual report entitled “the gains must not be squandered”, the five-member council of government economic advisers warned German Chancellor Angela Merkel against embracing proposals that might further weaken growth, such as the plan to extend unemployment payments to older people.

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MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, Canada ink air transport pact

Singapore and Canada have reached a new air transport agreement that lets their airlines offer unlimited flights between the two countries, the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) said on Wednesday.

“Under the new bilateral agreement, Singapore carriers are allowed to operate passenger and all-cargo flights as frequently as desired between Singapore and Canada, via selected intermediate points,” the CAAS said in a statement.

Canadian carriers enjoy similar traffic rights, it added.

In addition, the agreement also allows code-sharing either with one another or third country airlines.

MNA/Xinhua

Japanese figure skater Fumie Suguri competes in the Ladies Short Programme at the ISU Cup of China Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Harbin, in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province on 8 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters
France announces new measures for saving energy

PARIS, 8 Nov— Rehabilitation works for existing building will from now onwards be regulated in France, in order to save energy through the use of efficient products, the French Ministry of Environment said on Tuesday.

According to the ministry, rehabilitation works affected includes partitioning, changing windows and other glazed glasses, heating systems, hot-water systems, cooling and lighting systems for tertiary buildings.

These new measures are aimed at enhancing, for the first time in France, energy saving regulations in the existing buildings, in addition to regulations applicable to new buildings which entered into force in September 2006.

“This measures translates the government’s commitment to encourage the construction of energy saving buildings, and limit the emission of green house gases,” says the ministry statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Cholera, dengue threaten Mexican flood victims

VILLAHERMOSA (Mexico), 8 Nov— Tens of thousands of Mexicans forced into makeshift shelters by massive flooding are threatened by ailments ranging from colds to cholera, health officials said on Wednesday.

About 80,000 people from the flooded city of Villahermosa have taken refuge in crammed schools, churches and a multistory parking garage.

Colds, respiratory illnesses and foot fungus have become common, and doctors in the tropical city fear outbreaks of more serious diseases like cholera due to a lack of running water.

“The risk now is infections. There could be an epidemic,” said Ramon de Jesus Velarde, the head of Tabasco state preventive health programme.

He said cholera and dengue fever were the main threats.

Standing water attracts mosquitoes, which can carry infectious diseases such as dengue. Cholera is transmitted by contaminated water.

Days of heavy rains last week put most of Tabasco State, including the capital Villahermosa, under several feet of water, in one of the largest natural disasters in recent Mexican history.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam faces most computer virus in October

HANOI, 9 Nov— Over 1,000 new computer viruses appeared in Vietnam in October, the biggest-ever number in a month, a local anti-virus center told Xinhua on Thursday.

In October, 1,014 viruses hit 3,799,000 computers in the country and 13 Vietnamese websites were attacked Thursday.

In a month, the Bach Khoa Inter-network Security Centre by local hackers and nine others by foreign hackers in the country and 13 Vietnamese websites were attacked Thursday.

The report shows that 92 per cent of software used on personal computers in Bangladesh had been pirated in 2006. This means that for every dol-lar worth of software purchased legitimately, nine dollars worth was obtained illegally.

A polar bear cub kisses his mother in Wapusk National Park on the shore of Hudson Bay near Churchill, Manitoba, Canada on 4 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

Software piracy rate in Bangladesh 4th highest in the world

DHAKA, 8 Nov— Bangladesh has been found to have a software piracy rate of 92 per cent, which is number one in the Asian Pacific Region and the fourth highest in the world, local newspaper The Daily Star reported Wednesday.

A report, Global Software Piracy Study 2006, conducted by IDC, the IT industry’s leading global market research and forecasting firm, warned that the software piracy in Bangladesh is crippling the local industry and costing local retailers 90 million US dollars a year.

The report shows that 92 per cent of software used on personal computers in Bangladesh had been pirated in 2006. This means that for every dol-lar worth of software purchased legitimately, nine dollars worth was obtained illegally.

The high software piracy rate has resulted in 90 million US dollars in retail revenue losses to the local Bangladesh software economy.

However the report says that the broader economic impact of software piracy is significantly greater.

“Among the many negative consequences of software piracy is the crippling of local software industries because of competition with pirated software, lost tax revenues and decreased business productivity from using unwarrented software,” the report said.

Bangladesh has a Copyright Act, under which piracy is a punishable with imprisonment for a term, which may be extended to five years and may be imposed a penalty of 500,000 taka about 7,143 US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua
Myanmar people are healthy and fit

Some scholars define the word ‘Myanmar’ as a quick, alert, healthy, fit and tough people. Since the time when it was named ‘Myanmar’, it has never been recorded as a spineless or notorious people. In the colonial days, the colonialists in their record admitted that they could not occupy the country easily. Had Myanmar been able to keep abreast of international affairs with technology and a wide knowledge at that time, the colonialists could not have invaded Myanmar.

Due to lack of knowledge about international affairs, Myanmar fell under the rule of the colonialists that had been colonizing other countries around the world and expanding their colonial empire. Myanmar was capable of contending with the colonialists in physical prowess and hardness. Myanmar people could make the colonialists get into difficulties considerably.

By nature, Myanmar people are honest and gentle and they lead a peaceful life. At the same time, they are capable of repulsing any alien invasion without placing reliance on any other countries and are brilliant and strong with the spirit of making sacrifices if necessary to protect and safeguard the image of own lineage. In the present time, the entire people have managed to convene the National Convention successfully, braving various forms of destructive acts created by the colonialists and national traitors. In accordance with the State’s seven-step Road Map, the constitution will be drafted and approved through a referendum.

Myanmar also managed to improve the economic, health and social sectors with self-reliant efforts, withstanding subversive acts, and so it is now reaping the fruits of its hard work. However, internal destructive elements, who are desperate to seize power through short-cut in their own interests, in collusion with neo-colonialists are disrupting the tasks for national development. The colonialists’ minions organizations released made-up stories and willfully stated Myanmar’s health standard lower than it really was.

Certain organizations are releasing exaggerated stories through foreign media that Myanmar people are deprived of human rights with a low health standard, the number of the people infected with HIV and suffering AIDS is high, and Myanmar’s health standard is ranked at 191 out of the 192 UN member countries.

The world knows Myanmar’s health standard and health care, and so do health staff who are shouldering duties in the health field, national races and rural people. Indeed, the stooges with negative views are manufacturing fabrications in this regard. The people understand well that Myanmar does not lag behind other countries in the health sector.

The government is building health infrastructures across the nation including border areas and rural areas, appointing more health staff, and providing medicines and medical equipment. It has constructed a 200-bed hospital each in the 24 special development regions.

It is also taking necessary measures such as upgrading the old hospitals, opening specialist hospitals including 300-bed and 200-bed ones, and installing international level medical equipment in them. As a result, the people’s health standard is improving considerably.

The UN and international organizations have recognized that Myanmar has been able to control some of the common diseases and to remove dangerous positions of some diseases and has been free from some diseases. Now, it is free from smallpox and polio and is able to control diphtheria, trismus, whooping cough, measles, trachoma and blindness. It has been able to prevent highly infectious diseases such as cholera and plague. At the third ministerial world leprosy elimination conference of WHO held in Myanmar in 2003, Myanmar was declared as a nation free from leprosy.

According to the WHO, the outbreak of TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS is on the decrease in Myanmar, less than that in neighbouring countries. According to the figures compiled by UNADIS in 2006, HIV/AIDS occurrence rate in Myanmar was 1.3 per cent, and according to UNDP, 1.2 per cent, less than that in neighbouring countries.

So, it is clear that the spread of the rumour that the outbreak of HIV/AIDS in Myanmar was shockingly alarming was associated with the political instigation. Anti-government groups at home and abroad are putting pressure on international community to cut aids and humanitarian aids to Myanmar, thereby showing their cruelty towards the people.

Myanmar is taking preventive measures against HIV/AIDS at state and division level, district level and township level with the participation of the entire people.

Now, Myanmar has 832 hospitals due to the opening of 201 more hospitals and has upgraded 149 hospitals. It has opened 16 medical institutions such as university of medicine, university of dental medicine, university of pharmacy, university of paramedical sciences, university of nursing, university of community health and traditional medicine university. Myanmar medical experts’ successful separation of conjoined twins, transplant of liver, renal transplant, replanting of broken forearm, and internal level medical science and medical operations reflect Myanmar’s high medical standard.

With better health care, Myanmar people’s life-expectancy is getting high. In 2005, the life-spans of rural men and women increased to 60.8 years and 63.3 years, up from 56.2 years, and 60.4 years in 1988. During the same period, the life-spans of urban men and women rose from 59 years and 63.2 years in 1988 to 61.5 years and 65.6 years.

According to the data the WHO released in its Golden Jubilee, Myanmar’s health standard stood in the middle of the list of that of developing countries.

Myanmar is working hard, mobilizing the strength of national doctors and health staff to be able to catch up with other countries in health care. In reality, Myanmar does not lag behind other countries in the health sector. Myanmar people have access to nutritious food and are pursuing the motto “Good health is a great blessing”.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 9-11-2007
As token of expressing gratitude to government, service personnel are to be dutiful and loyal

Information Minister addresses NPE’s Annual Award Ceremony

YANGON, 9 Nov — News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information held the Annual Award Ceremony-2007 at the meeting hall of Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Thibinbyu Road here this morning with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Present on the occasion were directors-general and managing directors, advisers, deputy directors-general, general managers, directors, chief editors, deputy directors, deputy chief editors, managers and officials of the departments and enterprises under the ministry.

The minister in his speech said there were two objectives for holding the annual ceremony. The first was to review the strong and weak points in the work of last year and to make more efforts to improve the work efficiency in the coming years. The second objective was to enable the staff to try to improve both their work efficiency and their own abilities.

The government is taking steps to enable the country to stand tall among the international community, to build a democratic system desired by the people and to practise genuine democracy.

While the government striving day in, day out in the interest of the State and the people, it is important for the service personnel to realize the gratitude of the government. So, a token of expressing gratitude towards the government, they are to be dutiful in their work, performances and to be loyal to the State.

Particularly, all the staff members of the Information Ministry are to be loyal to the State and the people as they are working in the media world.

The strong motivation and strengths gained from today’s ceremony would help the staff members to improve their work efficiency in 2006-07 due to their concerted efforts under supervision of the managing director. However, the employees are to make greater efforts for gaining more achievements. In 2007-08, the NPE is to carry out nine-point task to take part in the respective sectors for implementation of the seven-step Road Map, to improve the form and essence of the dailies, to try to increase income, to make arrangements to open more sub-printing houses and to see that newspapers reach every village to strive for publishing colour newspapers, to plan for improvement of presentation in English in the New Light of Myanmar Daily, to widely publish the newspapers on a par with that of other countries, to pay emphasis on maintenance of the presses, and to provide more assistance for the staff by undertaking two Excellent Performance in Social Field (Second Class) winners and 10 Public Good Service medal winners through U Myat Thu (Tekkatho Myat Thu) of NPE.

The minister also presented prizes to outstanding staff in training courses at Central Institute of Civil Service. He handed prizes to outstanding dailies and sub-printing houses through officials.

Managing Director U Soe Win gave prizes to outstanding personnel for their performance in publishing of newspapers. The managing director handed over the cost for uniforms of the staff to Deputy Director (Admin) U Tin Sein.

Director (Admin) U Soe Win, Chief Editor U Ye Myint Pe and Chief Editor U Kyemon Daily presented prizes to other outstanding personnel.

The association requests its members to take their seats at the venue, Mingala Hall on the first floor of UMFCCI Office Tower at 1 pm.
**Sawbwagyigon Junction** inspected repaving of Township. in front of Yuzana Plaza under ground drain progress in construction officials supervised.

**Bodh Gaya Monastery** Committee Myanmar Paradesi Sangha Nayaka Bodhgaya in India, Myanmar Monastery in Sayagyi U Than Shwe (Dalla-Arntgyi) was to deliver a sermon, and the congregation shared with the Buddha Pujaniya ceremonies in Singu of Nyaung U Township on 24 December. Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the ceremonies may contact U Sai Phone Htoo-Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt (Video-Photo), No 100, 48th Street, Tel: 292953, Daw Zin Mar Nye, Fuji Photo Studio, 165-167, at the corner of Anawrahta and 34th Streets, Tel: 700136, U Than Htak Soe, Hline Strand Road, Insein Market, Daw Ma Nge, In-charge of the oil lamps offering group, Insein, Tel: 642858, not later than 5 December. — MNA

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**Meditation course scheduled**

**8-14 November**

**YANGON, 9 Nov** — Under the patronage of Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Naninda of Myanmar Monastery in Both Gaya in India, Chairman of India Parishad Sangha Nayaka Committee Myanmar Both Gaya Monastery Sayadaw and Secretary of the Committee Sayadaw Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Ashin Sundara, meditation instructor Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Sayagyi U Than Shwe (Dalla-Arntgyi) was to conduct the meditation course in line with the method of Agga Maha Pandita late Ledi Sayadaw, at Myanmar Both Gaya Monastery at the corner of Myeongon Kyaung Street and Angdawun Street in Sangyoun Township on 8 November evening. The meditation courses will be held from 5 pm to 6.30 pm daily from 8 to 14 November. Arrangements have been made to conduct similar courses from 8th to 14th every month. Those wishing to attend the course may contact Myanmar Both Gaya Monastery, Tel: 537597. — MNA

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**Three townships in Nay Pyi Taw to reach city standard**

**YANGON, 9 Nov** — Staff families of Nay Pyi Taw Col Thein Nyunt called for making plans for upgrading and systematic implementation of the tasks of the three townships in the area of Nay Pyi Taw. Speaking on the occasion at the work coordination meeting 3/2007 for development of the three townships in the area of Nay Pyi Taw held here today, the minister said that Nay Pyi Taw Pynnmana, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and Nay Pyi Taw Lewe are being upgraded to meet the standards of a city as they are located in municipal area of Nay Pyi Taw. He also stressed the need for upgrading roads and bridges and drainage system, upgrading buildings, for sufficient supply of electricity to the three townships, environmental conservation and improvement of the living standard in the three townships. At the meeting, an official of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee reported to the minister on improvement of the condition of roads and bridges and beautifying tasks in the three-townships. A director of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development reported to the minister on plans for upgrading three townships and on measures to be taken for the development of the three townships.

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**Meditation course openned**

**YANGON, 9 Nov** — The Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association and the ARHP Project jointly conducted the multiplier educative course at the drug addict counseling training hall on Kyundaw Street in Kamayut Township on 6 November. Vice-President of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association Dr Kyaw Sein delivered an opening address. A total of 20 trainees attended the three-day course. Arrangements are being made to open the similar course in Mandalay on 12 November. — MNA

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**H&T Ministry organizes Kathina**

**NAY PYI TAW, 9 Nov** — Staff members of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism held the second Kathina robes offering ceremony at the Ministry, here, this morning.

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**Donations invited to upgrading Buddha Pujaniya in Singu**

**YANGON, 9 Nov** — The Buddha Pujaniya 9,000 oil lamps offering group will hoist Seinbudaw (diamond orb) and Shwehtdaw (umbrella) atop Seintamuni, Shwegu, Wyko and Theindaw pagodas in conjunction with the Buddha Pujaniya ceremonies in Singu of Nyaung U Township on 24 December. For serving Monhingha meal to members of the Sangha and people at the ceremony, wellwishers donated K 106,450 to the patron, the chairman and the secretary of the Buddha Pujaniya 9,000 oil lamps offering group. Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the ceremonies may contact U Sai Phone Htoo-Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt (Video-Photo), No 100, 48th Street, Tel: 292953, Daw Zin Mar Nye, Fuji Photo Studio, 165-167, at the corner of Anawrahta and 34th Streets, Tel: 700136, U Than Htak Soe, Hline Strand Road, Insein Market, Daw Ma Nge, In-charge of the oil lamps offering group, Insein, Tel: 642858, not later than 5 December. — MNA

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**Blood Donors Day on 16 Dec**

**YANGON, 9 Nov** — The 31st Blood Donors Day will be held here on 16 December. Those who donated blood 50 times and above and blood donors who received Excellent Performance in Social Field may register at the National Blood Center at Yangon General Hospital from 7 November to 5 December. — MNA
Cash and kind donated for doyen literati

YANGON, 9 Nov — The Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association organized a ceremony to present cash and kind for paying respects to doyen literati at the meeting hall of the association on the second floor of Sarpay Beikman Building at the corner of Merchant Street and 37th Street, here, today.

Present at the ceremony were Vice-Chairman of the Fund-raising Work Committee Dr Tin Tun Oo, members of the work committee and wellwishers.

The Ministry of Information presented K 300,000, Dr Tin Tun Oo of Awesome Media Group and wife K 300,000, Printing and Publishing Enterprise K 100,000, MWJA CEC member Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Aung Nyein and family K 50,000, and other wellwishers also donated cash and kind through officials concerned.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind may contact No 529/531, the second floor of Sarpay Beikman Building, Ph-385273 and 252417.

MNA

Dr Tin Tun Oo, Vice-Chairman of Fund-raising Work Committee, accepts cash donation from wellwishers.—WJA

Scientists decode whale sounds

SYDNEY, 9 Nov — Australian scientists studying humpback whale sounds say they have begun to decode the whale’s mysterious communication system, identifying male pick-up lines and motherly warnings.

Wops, thwops, grumbles and squeaks are part of the extensive whale repertoire recorded by scientists from the University of Queensland working on the Humpback Whale Acoustic Research Collaboration (HARC) project. Recording whale sounds over a three-year period, scientists discovered at least 34 different types of whale calls, with data published in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America.

“I was expecting to find maybe 10 different vocalisations, but in actual fact found 34. It’s just such a wide, varied repertoire,” University of Queensland researcher Rebecca Dunlop told Reuters.

The researchers studied migrating east humpback whales, as they travelled up and down Australia’s east coast, and recorded 660 sounds from 61 different groups.

Researchers attached audio trans-mitters to buoys near the whales and monitored the whale interaction from the shore.

“Many of the whale sounds could overlap in meaning,” said Dunlop, but some had clear meanings.

A purr by males appeared to signify the male was trying his luck to mate a desirable female. High frequency cries and screams were associated with disagreements, when males jostled to escort females during migration, she said.

A wop sound was common when mothers were together with their young. “The wop was probably one of the most common sounds I heard, probably signifying a mum calf contact call,” said Dunlop. — MNA/Reuters

Hun Sen says Chinese economic growth good for world

PHNOM PENH, 9 Nov — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Wednesday the Chinese economic growth is good for the region and the world, and it is not a threat to other countries.

Chinese economic growth has helped to push the economic growth for other countries like Cambodia, Hun Sen told Cambodia’s Investment, Trade, and Infrastructure 2007 Roundtable Forum attended by about 600 local and foreign business people.

“I disagreed with some people who said they are concerned about Chinese influences in the region and the world,” he said, adding that Cambodia needs more investors from China.

Hun Sen said that if possible, Cambodia needs about one million Chinese tourists to come and visit the country, adding that about one million Chinese tourists visited Singapore last year.

Cambodia is likely to attract two million tourists this year, increasing 19 per cent compared with last year, he said. The Cambodian economic growth depends on garment, construction, tourism and agriculture sectors, Hun Sen said, adding that the service sector also plays a key role. — MNA/Phnom Penh

Study says ship emissions causing 60,000 deaths a year

BEIJING, 9 Nov — Emissions from ocean-going ships are responsible for about 60,000 deaths a year from heart- and lung-related cancers, according to research published on Wednesday that calls for tougher fuel standards.

MNA

Scientists said the fact that shipping takes place on the high seas — away from populations who can readily see impacts of emissions — was part of the reason the industry’s fuel standards lagged those of the auto industry.

But sulphur emissions from international shipping represent about 8 per cent of sulphur emissions from all fossil fuels, said James Corbett, one of the authors of the study.

Most ships run on bunker fuel, which is cheaper than distillate, but also more polluting. Corbett said it was also getting dirtier over time as distillate fuels become cleaner, since the sulphur driven out of distillates ends up in the residuals used by ships. — MNA/Reuters
**Indonesia needs additional 35,000 MW of power**

JAKARTA, 9 Nov — Indonesia needs up to 360 trillion rupiah (39 billion US dollars) in fresh funds to build new power plants capable of producing 35,000 megawatts of power by 2015, a senior official has said.

The plan was part of a government effort to help realize its ambitious plan to have 15% of power by 2015, a senior official has said. The plan was already included in the government’s long-term power sector policy, and that the fund would come from the state budget, state electricity firm PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN), investors and loans from private lenders.

**Sri Lanka to curb mobile phone use by children**

COLOMBO, 9 Nov — A legislation is being framed in Sri Lanka aimed at banning the use of mobile phones by children under 18 years old, a government minister said here on Wednesday.

“The laws are being drafted right now,” Mrs. Sumedha Jayasena, Minister of Child Development and Women Empowerment told reporters.

She said there had been complaints of children being abused through the mobile phone technology. “There are even cases of pornography through multimedia messages on mobile phones leading to sexual abuse of children,” Jayasena said.

She urged parents to be more aware on the usage of mobile phones by children.

Sri Lanka has over six million mobile phone users among its 20 million population. — MNA/Xinhua

**Vietnamese leader will visit South Korea**

HANOI, 9 Nov — The leader of Vietnam’s ruling Communist Party is to visit South Korea next week, a month after he made a rare trip to North Korea, as Hanoi boosts ties on both sides of the divided Korean Peninsula.

A Vietnam Government spokesman said on Thursday that Communist Party General Secretary Nong Duc Manh, Vietnam’s most senior politician, will visit Seoul from 14-16 November, the first party chief to visit in 12 years.

South Korean news agency Yonhap quoted South Korean presidential spokesman Cheon Ho-seon as saying that “Notably, Manh will explain the outcome of his visit to North Korea in October”.

Vietnam has diplomatic ties with both Koreas and Manh, a former forestry engineer who has been Party chief since 2001, received a red-carpet welcome in Pyongyang from leader Kim Jong-il on October 16.

MNA/Reuters

**Chinese Ming painting sells for record $10m**

BEIJING, 9 Nov — A Ming Dynasty painting has been sold in China for 79.5 million yuan (10.68 million US dollars), smashing the record for Chinese artwork, Xinhua news agency said on Wednesday.

The work, the Red Cliff Handscroll, painted by Qiu Ying (1494-1552) was sold on Tuesday to a private buyer at an auction in Beijing.

“The Red Cliff Handscroll is the first Chinese painting to have been sold at more than 10 million US dollars. It is a fair price for the masterpiece considering its invaluable artistic and historical worth,” auction organizer Wang Yannan was quoted as saying.

The bidding for Qiu’s masterpiece started at 40 million yuan.

“It marks the status of Chinese painting in the international market, which has been raised to a new level,” Wang said.

Chinese art prices have boomed in recent years, fuelled by a robust global economy and nouveau-riche buyers from China drawn to their cultural heritage and those who see art as a solid investment.

Qiu, one of the four Great Masters of the Ming Dynasty, is highly regarded for his distinctive style of incorporating different techniques and varied palette. — Xinhua

**Macedonian police in shootout in Albanian region**

SKEPOE, 9 Nov — Macedonian special police were involved in a shootout during a dawn raid to arrest a “criminal group” in the mainly Albanian area of Tetovo near neighbour Kosovo, a police source said.

Macedonian media reported casualties, but there was no confirmation from police. “The operation started before dawn and is still going on,” the police source said.

Tensions between the Macedonian Government and the country’s 25 per cent ethnic Albanian minority have risen in recent weeks as the West squares off against Russia over the fate of Serbia’s Albanian majority Kosovo Province.

MNA/Reuters

**Six die in two gas blasts in Tajikistan**

DUSHANBE, 9 Nov — At least six people including a baby died in two separate gas blasts on Thursday in the Central Asian state of Tajikistan, police said.

The blasts were unrelated and were caused by safety violations, police said.

The first explosion, in the capital Dushanbe, flattened part of an apartment building and killed two people, one of whom was an Iranian citizen.

“Violation of gas safety rules is the most likely cause,” said Nazarbai Zhangiyev, a police fire department official.

The other blast, at a sawmill in the north of the mountainous nation, killed two workers and a woman with a baby who were passing by, the emergencies ministry said. — MNA/Reuters

**$515,397 worth of smuggled hard disks seized in HK**

HONG KONG, 9 Nov — Hong Kong Customs and police officers on Thursday seized 144,000 smuggling computer hard disks valued at four million Hong Kong dollars (about $515,397 US dollars).

Police arrested a 26-year-old driver at Sai Wan Tsui in Sai Kung in the New Territories.

According to a Press release from the Information Services Department of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government, customs and police officers laid an ambush at Sai Wan Tsui at about 3:00 am on Thursday, and arrested a 26-year-old man as he loaded goods from his truck onto a speedboat.

Officials believe a syndicate was attempting to smuggle computer equipment to the Chinese Mainland. — MNA/Xinhua

**School shooting puts harsh focus on Finland gun policy**

HELSEINKI, 9 Nov — Finland’s accommodating gun laws are likely to attract criticism after an 18-year-old gunman killed two workers and a woman with a baby who were passing by, the emergencies ministry said.

About 56 of every 100 Finns own a gun, according to a study by the Geneva-based Graduate Institute of International Studies this year, putting the rate of firearm ownership in Finland third after the United States and Yemen.

The government has said Finland’s low crime rate meant there was little need for harsher gun regulations.

But Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen said that perception might change after the student, who obtained a licence for a 22 calibre handgun from a shooting club last month, opened fire on his fellow students in the south of Finland.

MNA/Reuters

**Taleban kill 3 Pakistani soldiers**

MIRANSHAH (Pakistani), 9 Nov — Pakistani tribesmen have found the corpses of three abducted soldiers in the North Waziristan region where al-Qaeda and Taleban-linked militants have mounted an insurgency, a security official said on Thursday.

Four security personnel were kidnapped from Razmak, south of the region’s main town, Miranshah, on Tuesday.

MNA/Reuters

**End of the line for Sri Lankan fighter jet**

COLOMBO, 9 Nov — The air force of the island nation had retired its last fighter jet, the MiG-29 Freedom, a top official said.

The military had ordered the purchase of 6 new fighter jets — MiG-29 Fulcrum, about $80 million each, in the last six months.

The freedom, from Russia, was deployed at the base city of Trincomalee.

MNA/Reuters

**China sends 2nd batch of aid to Pakistan**

BEIJING, 9 Nov — The Chinese government on Wednesday sent its second batch of aid to Pakistan under the Sino-Pakistan joint humanitarian relief project.

China provided more than $10 million in goods such as emergency tents, medical supplies and food and water.

MNA/Xinhua

**Italian envoy visited Pakistan on official visit**

ISLAMABAD, 9 Nov — Italian Foreign Minister Anna Finocchiaro, on a two-day official visit, met with Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of the recent controversy over the alleged death in custody of a Pakistani prisoner by Italian soldiers.

MNA/Reuters

10-11-07 New Light  11
30% of Bangladesh’s teachers at private schools must be women

DHAKA, 8 Nov—At least 30 per cent of teachers in non-governmental educational institutions must be women, the government has said in an order, local newspaper The Financial Express reported on Wednesday.

The order dated 1 November by the country’s Ministry of Education said if the institutions failed to go by the order they would not be listed under the government’s monthly pay order.

The order, however, said the decision would not be applicable to some specific posts such as principal, vice principal, headmaster, assistant headmaster, superintendent and assistant superintendent in non-governmental schools, colleges, madrasahs and technical institutions.

The decision was made in 1999 to give a good share of the teaching posts to women candidates but did not get through. The ministry also said the order would not apply to the teachers of mathematics, physical education, Arabic, the Quran and the Hadith until 31 December, 2009 for now.

To implement the decision, the institutions have been asked to recruit only women candidates to any vacant post after a teacher resigns, dies or retires.

MNA/Xinhua

Two charged with smuggling tiger products in E China

QINGDAO, 8 Nov—Customs officers in east China have arrested an Indonesian man and a Chinese man on charges of trafficking tiger parts products.

Officers arrested the Indonesian man, surname Ander, as he was collecting his baggage at Huangdao Island Ferry port, Shandong Province.

He was found to be carrying a complete tiger pelt hidden in coffee powder, said Yu Jia, a publicity official with the Customs office in Qingdao City.

He confessed to smuggling the pelt of a Bengal tiger, an endangered subspecies of tiger, from Indonesia, said Yu.

The Indonesian man also allegedly admitted trafficking a tiger’s gallbladder, teeth, bone and penis products in July and August this year through two separate ports in southern China.

Customs police searched the Indonesian man’s temporary residence in Yantai City, near Qingdao, where they seized the products and arrested the Chinese man surnamed Qu.

The seized tiger products are estimated to be worth one million yuan (13.3 million US dollars).

The two men will be charged with trafficking rare animal products.

Under Chinese law, the smuggling of rare animal products valued at 200,000 yuan or more carries a sentence of up to life imprisonment or death in some cases.

MNA/Xinhua

Landslide kills five sleeping villagers in N-W China

LANZHOU, 8 Nov—Five members of the same family in northwest China were killed on Tuesday after a landslide buried their house in which they were sleeping.

Debris from a nearby hill buried the house of Wang Yuping and his family at 5:20 am on Tuesday in Niwan Village, near Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province, according to Wang Linbang, a neighbour of the family.

Wang said his fellow villagers managed to enter the house after clearing the debris two hours after the landslide, but found five people — Wang Yuping and his wife, Wang’s elder brother’s wife and her two children — all dead.

Police have evacuated dozens of households under threat. Villagers have blamed continuous rain for the landslide.

MNA/Xinhua

Ancient Chinese coins unearthed in central Vietnam

HANOI, 9 Nov—A jar containing Chinese ancient coins dating back to the 10th or 11th Century has been unearthed in Vietnam’s central Quang Tri Province, local newspaper Sauong Liberation reported on Thursday.

A metal scrap collector from Trieu Phong district found the bronze coins weighing some 34 kilos one metre below the earth surface. One side of many coins has four Chinese characters.— MNA/Xinhua

Big fire burns down dozens of houses in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 8 Nov—More than 30 houses in one of Bangkok’s central blocks were burnt down after one house inside caught fire late Wednesday.

The flame was finally put down at about 8:20 pm (1320 GMT) after dozens of fire trucks fought with the fire for nearly one hour.

However, more than 30 houses in the block were completely burnt down since most residences inside were wood buildings, the FM 100 Traffic Radio reported.

The block was between Sathorn Road and Rama 4 Road, both main streets of Bangkok. Witnesses told the radio that several wounded residents have been rescued while the rescuers are continuing their search and rescue effort.

Most of the streets near the block were closed off. From a high building nearby, a black smoke column still could be seen clearly despite of the dark.

The reason of the fire is still under investigation.

But, the cool weather from November to January, generally, is a high-risk fire period for the Bangkokians who live in wood buildings since they usually torch needfires near their houses to get warm.— MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

A man stands on a flooded street in Guama in Cuba’s eastern province Santiago de Cuba on 8 Nov, 2007. Heavy rains and flooding in the wake of Tropical Storm Noel caused $500 million in damages to crops, roads and houses, the Cuban government said on Thursday.—INTERNET
Bill Gates tops list of IT influencers

BEIJING, 9 Nov — Chairman and co-founder Bill Gates ranks No 1 in a list of the most influential people in IT over the past 25 years, media reported Friday.

Gates was selected by 84 percent of the participants. Steve Jobs, CEO and co-founder of Apple, was selected by 73 percent of those taking the poll. Michael Dell, CEO and founder of Dell, got the nod from 53 percent of CompTIA voters.

Linus Torvalds, creator of the Linux operating system, made the list with 47 percent of the vote, tying for fourth place with Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page. Coincidentally, Google’s vast server infrastructure relies on Linux.

Guido Sacconi, chairman and CEO of Cisco Systems, came in fifth (44 percent). Larry Ellison, CEO of Oracle ranked sixth (36 percent). Vinton Cerf, who (with Bob Kahn) co-designed the TCP/IP protocol upon which the Internet is built, placed seventh (35 percent). Steve Ballmer, Microsoft’s CEO, came in eighth (35 percent).

And Meg Whitman, president and CEO of eBay, was ninth (30 percent).

Marc Andreesen, co-creator of the Mosaic Web browser (with Eric Bina) and the co-founder of Netscape, didn’t make the list. Adding insult to that omission, CompTIA voters rated Internet Explorer (66 percent) as most influential technology product in the past 25 years, followed by Microsoft Word (56 percent) and Windows 95 (50 percent).

Apple’s iPod and Microsoft Excel tied for fourth place among products (49 percent). Steve Jobs was selected by 73 percent of those taking the poll. Michael Dell, CEO and founder of Dell, got the nod from 53 percent of CompTIA voters.

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World Pie Championship judges smell a “bride style” pie during the judging of the competition in Dunfermline, Scotland on 7 Nov, 2007. The competition, now in its ninth year, has five former world champions and over seventy bakers and butchers taking part.—INTERNET

Mexico flood damage almost $700m

MEXICO CITY, 9 Nov — Huge floods that forced tens of thousands of Mexicans from their homes will cost insurers 700 million US dollars the most costly disaster since a storm devastated beach resort Cancun, an industry group said on Thursday.

The Mexican Insurers Association said the floods were the most expensive insurance payout in Mexico since Hurricane Wilma, the strongest Atlantic storm ever recorded, tore through Cancun in 2005.

“The magnitude of this catastrophe — could be compared to the dimension of what happened in New Orleans,” said president of the group Jose Morales, referring to Hurricane Katrina, which flooded the Louisiana city in 2005.

The flood waters in the banana growing state of Tabasco have begun to recede, but tens of thousands of residents are still in shelters.

Three people died when the waters rose and the government is now worried about possible outbreaks of cholera and dengue fever.

US magician

David Copperfield used by show promoters

LOS ANGELES, 8 Nov — American magician David Copperfield has been sued in Los Angeles by two companies that allege the entertainer pulled out shows in Southeast Asia and the Persian Gulf and seek 2.2 million US dollars in damages, according to court sources on Wednesday.

Viva Art International Ltd, a Los Angeles-based company, and Maz Concerts Inc of Ontario, Canada, both professional promoters, filed suit Tuesday against Copperfield in a court here, alleging breach of contract and other causes of action.

The two companies allege that Copperfield, who is under sexual misconduct allegations in a separate case, did not go ahead with the promised performances because of the ongoing criminal investigation.

The magician did not want to make public appearances after the allegations surfaced against him because he would have had to face questions from overseas news outlets, they contend.

Copperfield has been under investigation since mid-October, when a woman who was in his audience claimed he flew her to the Bahamas and raped her. He has denied the woman’s claim.
Sports

Napoli fans banned from Palermo game

MILAN, 8 Nov — Napoli fans have been banned from Saturday’s Serie A game at Palermo because of concerns over the recent conduct of their fans, authorities said on Wednesday.

The body which monitors Italian soccer hooliganism said in a statement that events at games with Juventus, Reggina and Fiorentina had prompted the decision, which took into account Napoli fans’ “propensity for illegal acts”.

The Naples club have an avid fanbase but the supporters’ joy at doing well in their first season back in the top flight since 2001 has become overzealous.

Napoli were already forced to play September’s home game with Genoa behind closed doors after fans displayed offensive banners and threw bottles and smoke bombs at a previous match.

Their supporters were also banned from going to last month’s league match at champions Inter Milan but around 1,000 managed to buy tickets and make a mockery of the measure. — MNA/Reuters

Bayern held by Bolton in UEFA Cup

LONDON, 9 Nov — Struggling Bolton Wanderers held European soccer aristocrats Bayern Munich to a 2-2 draw in UEFA Cup Group F on Thursday.

Bolton, second from bottom in the English Premier League, shocked Bayern with an eighth minute opener in Munich, the first goal in five years for defender Ricardo Gardner.

Bayern, past winners of four European Cups, a Cup Winners’ Cup and a UEFA Cup, replied with goals from German striker Lukas Podolski and defender Ars-Shnau Jonas, second from bottom in the English Premier League, shocked Bayern Munich to a 2-2 draw in their Group D second round UEFA Cup match in Munich, southern Germany, on 8 Nov, 2007.

Paul Casey of England hits the ball at 8th hole during the first round of the 2007 HSBC Champions golf tournament at Shanghai she Shan International Golf Club on 8 Nov, 2007, in Shanghai, China. Casey finished the first day with the score of 4 under. — INTERNET

Chelsea lose keeper Cech with torn calf muscle

LONDON, 8 Nov — Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech will miss Sunday’s Premier League match at home to Everton and could be out for longer with a calf muscle injury, missing the Czech Republic’s last two Euro 2008 qualifiers.

Cech came off at halftime in Chelsea’s Champions League match away to Schalke 04 on Tuesday with Thursday’s early editions of British newspapers saying he would be out for a month.

Chelsea said on their website (www.chelseafc.com) that Cech “looks set to miss Sunday’s game against Everton. A scan today (Wednesday) revealed the 2014 World Cup it was fantastic,” he told a press conference in Sheffield.

Five times champions Brazil, who staged the World Cup in 1950, were handed the tournament last week under the continental rotation system, which is now no longer in force, after South Africa hosted it in 2012.

Pele backed England’s bid to hold the tournament for the second time in 2018.

“England is always prepared for a World Cup,” said Pele, who played at the third of his four World Cups in England in 1966.

Chelsea’s Kevin Davies scores his sides second goal, during their Group F UEFA Cup soccer match between Bayern Munich and Bolton Wanderers in Munich, southern Germany, on 8 Nov, 2007. — INTERNET

River hold Arsenal to scoreless draw in Sudamericana

BUENOS AIRES, 9 Nov — River Plate held Arsenal to a scoreless draw in the first leg of their all-Argentine semi-final tie in the Copa Sudamericana on Thursday.

The Reds are hoping to become the first team from Japan to win Asia’s premier club competition while Sepahan are aiming to do the same for Iran.

Chelsea’s Petr Cech looks dejected as his side are held by Bolton Wanderers during their Group F UEFA Cup soccer match in Munich, southern Germany, on 8 Nov, 2007. — INTERNET

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Brazilian legend Pele.

INTERNET

Sheffield (England), 8 Nov — Brazil can stage a good World Cup in 2014 and England should have the tournament four years later, Pele said on Wednesday.

Brazil isn’t ready to stage the World Cup now, but there’s no doubt Brazil will be prepared to stage it in seven years time,” the Brazilian great said.

“Brazilians live football and when Brazil was handed the 2014 World Cup it was fantastic,” he told a press conference in Sheffield.

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**Schools in southernmost Thailand closed following violence**

**Bangkok, 9 Nov** — A total of 61 schools in several districts of Thailand’s southernmost Narathiwat Province closed on Wednesday without schedule of reopening after two teachers were gunned down by insurgents on Tuesday.

Most of these schools situated in the Rueso and Si Sakhol districts, local media group The Nation reported.

“The schools were closed so that the teachers would attend the two’s funeral services,” The Nation said.

On Wednesday, local teachers’ representatives also attended a meeting with security officials to discuss security measures. They said they would resume teaching only after they are pleased with new security measures.

On Tuesday, two teachers in Narathiwat were attacked by insurgents’ shooting attack and they are on the spot, according to The Nation.

On the same day, in the neighbouring Yala Province, insurgents ambushed a group of patrol soldiers, killing one and wounding three others. Two villagers nearby also received minor injuries.

Also in Yala, insurgents shot a vocational student when he was going to school on Tuesday. The 21-year-old man died from wounds at hospital.

Thailand’s three southernmost provinces — Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani have been troubled with insurgency-related violence which has claimed more than 2,500 people’s lives since 2004.

**NZ police, Customs seize drugs worth $38m**

**Wellington, 9 Nov** — New Zealand police and Customs have seized more than 150 kilos of methamphetamine and pseudoephedrine and found both shipments of drugs were intercepted by officials in commercial consignments destined for the New Zealand drug market.

In Operation Ponch, police and Customs found around 32 litres or 32 kilos of methamphetamine in liquid with an estimated street value of up to 35 million NZ dollars (26 million US dollars) in a shipment imported through the Port of Tauranga.

In Operation Silver, 127 kilos of Contac NT, a precursor for the manufacture of methamphetamine, was seized in a second shipment.

The drugs were concealed in roof tiles and were discovered after customs and police stopped the container, and used extensive physical examination techniques and X-ray screening equipment.

One man has been arrested and charged with possession for supply of a Class C controlled drug, pseudoephedrine and importing the Class C controlled drug, pseudoephedrine.

**Weather**

Friday, 9 November, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below November average temperatures in Chin, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) above November average temperatures in Shan State and Bago Division, (5°C) above November average temperatures in Kachin State and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kathu (0.43 inch). The significant night temperatures was Haka (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 8-11-2007 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 9-11-2007 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 9-11-2007 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 8-11-2007 was (8.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 9-11-2007 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kabay-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mingaladon, (140.75) inches at Kabay-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (15:30) hours MST on 8-11-2007.

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 10-11-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Kayin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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 Southern Myanmar areas.


Weather outlook for second weekend of November 2007: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Divisions.
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

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

☆ Due to violence and unrest
  Only ordinary people have to suffer
  Daily wage earners become jobless
  Poor business for shopkeepers and vendors
  Taxi drivers and trishaw men have hard times
  Stores and restaurants have to be kept closed

☆ Due to violence and unrest
  Only the notorious neo-colonialists benefited
  Colonialist-funded media and expatriates earning dollar rewards
  Only saboteurs reap the benefits

☆ Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation
☆ BBC lying
☆ VOA deceiving
☆ RFA setting up hostilities
☆ Beware! Don’t be bought by those ill-wishers