Among the Tazaungdine festivals across the country, Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival is the most famous. At Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival, hot-air balloons releasing ceremonies, hot-air balloons contests are held yearly.

**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

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive for integration of East Asian countries

The 3rd East Asian Summit was held in Singapore, the Republic of Singapore on 21 November, and it was attended by Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations including Myanmar, heads of State/Government as well as ministers and senior officials of East Asian nations and the ASEAN Secretary-General.

At present, it is required to prevent against environmental degradation that is triggered by global warming. All the East Asian countries are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for reducing the greenhouse gases, ensuring greening of environment and effective use of energy, for environmental degradation is every nation’s concern.

The ASEAN Summit dealt with these matters, and those present on the occasion exchanged views on cooperation in the fight against international terrorism and transnational crimes and narrowing the development gap among countries in the region.

In the meantime, leaders of ASEAN countries also discussed matters related to wider use of oil substitute fuels, prevention and preparedness against natural disasters, the establishment of East Asian Community and further promotion of friendly relations among peoples of East Asian countries.

The summit signed the Singapore Declaration on climate changes, energy and environment. Overall, continued efforts are to be made for the sooner integration of East Asian countries while striving for regional peace and stability, economic development and environmental conservation.

Ceremony to mark Depavali festival held

YANGON, 26 Nov — A ceremony to mark Depavali festival organized by Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (Central) was held at Summit Parkview Hotel on Ahlon road in Dagon Township yesterday evening, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Hlay Win.

The ceremony was opened by lighting oil lamps. Next, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung made a speech. Afterwards, officials explaining the ceremony explained matters relating to Depavali festival. Tamil traditional dances were entertained to those present. — MNA

Horizon League Basketball Tournament goes on

YANGON, 26 Nov — Horizon League Basketball Tournament, jointly organized by Myanmar Basketball Federation and Horizon Int’l Education Center continued at Kyaukkaan Gymnasium, here on 23 November.

Gyuts crashed Rabbit with 100-13 points; GB won over MOM with 65-37 points; Last Vampire defeated Project-X with 40-20 points and Shadow passed through KKS with 60-45 points.

After the first round, in the men’s event, Blue Boy, the Gyuts, GB, Last Vampire, KSS, Shadow, Filipirro, Forious, CCY, Cow Boy, Red Star and WHO have already reached the second round and so did Sky, Kandawglay, Precious and Ballababies in the women’s event.

In the second round, a total of 12 men’s teams will play round-robin matches, and the first, second and third winners will be selected.

Horizon League Basketball Tournament will be temporarily adjourned in December and resume on 5 and 6 January 2008. Horizon Streetball Tournament will be held on 1 and 2 December. — NLM

Civil Appeal cases heard

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov — The special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court Judges of Supreme Court (Yangon) Dr Tin Aung Aye and U Han Shein sitting at Court No (1) of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw), delivered judgement of (Five) special Appeal cases. And then four special Civil Appeal cases under section 7 of the Judiciary law, 2000 were heard. — MNA

Last Vampire and Project-X fighting for a ball in Horizon League Basketball Tournament. — NLM
Anglican leader launches attack on US

LONDON, 26 Nov—Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, leader of the world’s Anglicans, has launched an attack on the United States, saying it has lost the moral high ground since the 11 September attacks in 2001.

Williams, a longtime critic of the war in Iraq, said in uncharacteristically blunt language: “We have only one hegemonic power at the moment. Its not accumulating territory, it is trying to accumulate influence and control. That’s not working.”

Asked in an interview with the Muslim lifestyle magazine Emel, if he thought the United States had lost the high moral ground since the 9/11 attacks, he replied “Yes”.

Drawing comparisons between British imperialism and the 21st Century United States, Williams said: “It is one thing to take over a territory and then pour energy and resources into administering and normalising it.

“Rightly or wrongly, that is what the British Empire did—in India for example.”

“It is another thing to go in on the assumption that a quick burst of violent action will somehow clear the decks and that you can move on and other people will put things back together again—Iraq for example.”—MNA/Reuters

HIV warning as sex diseases among young rise

LONDON, 25 Nov—About 73,000 people in Britain are living with HIV, with a “continuing epidemic” among gay men, as the number of sexually transmitted diseases among the young continues to rise, a report on Friday found.

The Health Protection Agency’s survey on the UK’s sexual health said the number of new diagnosed STIs (sexually transmitted infections) had risen from 368,341 in 2005 to 376,508 last year, with people under 25 involved in many cases.

The report said that two-thirds of those diagnosed with genital chlamydia, 55 per cent of those with genital warts and 48 per cent of gonorrhoea infections had been young adults.

“Sexual health of young adults has worsened in 2006 with increases in sexually transmitted herpes and warts viruses,” said Dr Valerie Delpech, head of HIV surveillance at the HPA.

“One in 10 young adults screened through the National Chlamydia Screening Programme in 2006 tested positive for the infection.”

The HPA’s greatest concern was the growth in HIV cases. Figures showed 7,093 people had so far been diagnosed with the disease in 2006, a number expected to rise to around 7,800 when they had received all data.

—INTERNET

Bus fire kills 12 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 25 Nov—A bus burst into fire in Indonesia’s Central Kalimantan province on Saturday, killing at least 12 passengers and injuring six others.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known as police officers were deployed to the site in the town of Palangkaraya for investigation and identify the victims at hospital.

“Police officers have arrived at the scene and will inspect the Kasongan Hospital,” provincial police spokesman Sugiarto was quoted by leading news website Detikcom as saying.

The bus reportedly started to run in 2002.—MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Tourists cruise Tokyo skies in Zeppelin airship

TOKYO, 25 Nov—Tourists launched into the night skies over Tokyo in a Zeppelin airship on Friday, in a novel sightseeing service offered by a local travel company.

Daytime flights had to be cancelled because of high winds, an official at Nippon Airship Corporation said.

Despite its 75-metre (250-feet) length, the Zeppelin NT ship, which will fly route over Tokyo for the next few weeks, carries only about seven or eight passengers, each of whom must pay at least 126,000 yen (1,100 US dollars) for a 90-minute tour. Tourists ride in a small gondola below the main body of the ship, which is buoyed by helium gas and driven by a small engine. Organizers say travel in an airship is slower and quieter than in an ordinary aircraft, enabling tourists to enjoy the view at a relaxed pace.

Given airships’ record of high-profile accidents in the 1930s, the Nippon Airship Corporation emphasises the safety of modern airships. More than 60,000 people have ridden in similar Zeppelin NT airships in Germany since 2001, the company’s website says.

—MNA/Reuters

Suspected insurgents arrested in southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 25 Nov—Eight suspected insurgents were arrested in Thailand’s southernmost province of Narathiwat during a raid launched by police and soldiers on Friday.

According to the report of local news network The Nation, about 200 policemen and soldiers raided two villages in Takbai District before dawn and arrested six suspects after a six-hour manhunt.

Another team of 200 police and soldiers searched another village in Rusoh district and arrested two suspects after a four-hour search.—MNA/Xinhua

A woman walks past a tree, toppled by Hurricane Noel, on Quinpool road in Halifax, Nova Scotia on 4 Nov, 2007. Weather-related disasters have quadrupled over the last two decades, a leading British charity said in a report published on 25 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The revolutionary new Artis zeego(R) interventional imaging system from Siemens Medical Solutions features a multi-axis C-arm that employs robotic technology to extend imaging capabilities through virtually unrestricted C-arm positioning. This results in advanced cross-sectional imaging via its positioning flexibility, which is not achievable with traditional C-arm systems.—INTERNET

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A woman walks past a tree, toppled by Hurricane Noel, on Quinpool road in Halifax, Nova Scotia on 4 Nov, 2007. Weather-related disasters have quadrupled over the last two decades, a leading British charity said in a report published on 25 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET
Commander says Iran ready to defend itself

TEHERAN, 24 Nov — Iran is ready to defend itself if the West decides to attack it over Teheran’s nuclear programme, the commander of the Revolutionary Guards said on Friday.

Iran is in a row with the West over the Islamic state’s disputed nuclear programme. Western countries suspect Iran’s nuclear programme is a cover to build an atomic bomb but Teheran denies the charge, saying it will not give up its nuclear technology.

Washington has not ruled out military action if diplomacy fails to resolve the standoff.

“Today, our enemies should know ... that if the Supreme Leader gives orders to foil the enemies’ plots, the Iranian nation is ready to do that in any way necessary,” Revolutionary Guards Commander-in-Chief Mohammad Ali Jafari said in remarks broadcast on state radio.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is Iran’s most powerful figure and has the last say on all state matters, including the nuclear issue. The Revolutionary Guards are an ideologically driven force that has a separate command structure to the regular Iranian military, answering directly to Khamenei.

Guards commanders have previously said their forces could disrupt the vital oil shipping lanes of the Gulf waterway if pushed but have also said US forces are too bogged down in Iraq and Afghanistan to open a new front. Washington has added Iran’s Revolutionary Guards along with more Iranian banks to a list of institutions under sanctions to isolate the country.

Thai schools closed after hand-foot-mouth disease outbreak

BANGKOK, 24 Nov— Several schools in central and northern Thailand have been ordered to close after the outbreak of hand-foot-mouth disease, local media reported on Friday.

The Public Health Office in northern Lampang Province Friday ordered the Prachawit School to close its kindergarten classes after about ten kids were found to have contracted the disease, local news network The Nation reported.

On Thursday, the office has ordered Assumption School in Lampang to close its kindergarten classes following the outbreak of the disease.

Also in Lamphang, local authorities on Friday ordered a nursery to close after 16 children there contracted the hand-foot-mouth disease.

Meanwhile, in central Chon Buri Province, several schools in Sattahib District were ordered to be on alert following an outbreak of hand-foot-mouth disease at a school.

Bangladesh’s shrimp sector faces $36m loss due to cyclone

DHAKA, 24 Nov— Bangladesh’s shrimp or frozen food industry, the second largest foreign exchange earner, may suffer an estimated loss of about 2.5 billion taka (about 35.7 million US dollars) due to Cyclone Sidr, local newspaper The Daily Star reported Friday.

“As per our assessment, we will incur a loss of two to 2.5 billion taka,” Kazi Belayet Hossain, president of Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters’ Association (BFFEA) was quoted by the daily as saying.

Shrimp farms in the three southern districts — Bagerhat, Satkhira and Khulna — that were severely ravaged by Sidr, are likely to suffer more than 70 per cent or 1.75 billion taka (about 25 million US dollars) of the estimated loss.

Four bank robbery cases occur in Lagos, Osun

LAGOS, 24 Nov— Four bank robbery cases occurred in Lagos State and Osun State, local media reported on Friday.

No fewer than five people were shot dead in Lagos on Thursday when a gang of armed robbers attacked the Union Bank branch at Fagba, Iju on the outskirts of Lagos. The robbers reportedly shot the bank manager, when he allegedly refused to surrender the key to the bank’s vault to them. Two policemen were confirmed killed in the operation, which began at Fagba and extended to the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway. Three other persons, including a teenager girl, were also shot dead during the rampage.

Minutes after the robbers had shot their way through and escaped, policemen were seen removing the corpses.

Ethnic Hani people and tourists took part on the traditional long street feast in Hani-Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Honghe of southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 24 Nov, 2007.

INTERNET

Indonesia’s Adam Air to lease five planes at $3m apiece

JAKARTA, 24 Nov— Indonesia’s low-cost carrier Adam Air plans to lease five more planes next year to expand its operations and has set aside $300 million (3.2 billion US dollars) for each plane, local Press said Friday. The company has announced that the planes would consist of Boeing 737-400, which can carry up to 170 passengers.

“We want to dominate the domestic market as we realize that travelling by plane has become essential for many people in Indonesia,” he said, adding that the planes would serve the routes from Jakarta to Abom, Mataram, Kupang, Palu and Kuala Lumpur, reported English language daily The Jakarta Post.

The company’s President Adam Adhiyta Suherman said the airline preferred to lease aircraft rather than purchase new ones to save costs.

MNA/Xinhua

Four Korean movie star Jang Dong-kun attends a fans meeting in Wenzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 23 Nov, 2007.

INTERNET

South Korean movie star Jang Dong-kun attends a fans meeting in Wenzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 23 Nov, 2007. —INTERNET
Caribbean oil summit set for next month in Cuba

HAVANA, 24 Nov — Caribbean presidents will gather in Cuba next month for a meeting of Petrocaribe, which supplies Venezuelan oil to the region at preferential prices. Venezuela’s Ambassador to Cuba said on Friday.

Ali Rodriguez said the summit will coincide with the reopening of a 65,000-barrel-a-day refinery that is being overhauled by Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA and that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez plans to inaugurate in mid-December.

The Soviet-era refinery at Cienfuegos on Cuba’s south coast will serve as a Petrocaribe hub to supply import-dependent Caribbean islands with refined products such as gasoline, diesel and aviation jet fuel.

“The Petrocaribe meeting and the inauguration of the refinery will be done at the same time,” Rodriguez said at a news conference in Havana.

The exact dates of the meeting have yet to be worked out, he said.

Fifteen Caribbean nations — all but Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados — benefit from the 2005 Venezuelan initiative, which allows them to defer payment of 40 per cent of their oil bill for 20 years with a low-interest rate of 1 per cent.

MNA/Reuters

ECONOMIC NEWS

Cambodia starts building int’l seaport in Kampot Province

PHNOM PENH, 24 Nov — Cambodia has started to build an international seaport in Kampot Province and the construction will be finished before 2013, a senior official said on Thursday. The seaport will become the link between Cambodia and other countries, providing convenience for export and import of all kinds of products, deputy governor Kory Khon Hour told Xinhua by phone from Kampot.

The seaport is expected to share the burden of the kingdom’s current two seaports in Sihanoukville and one river port in Phnom Penh, he added. It will occupy 1,000 hectares of land with four million US dollars of investment in the first phase from the local Kampot Port Company.

The water in the port is eight metres deep, enough to hold container and cargo ships. The 143-kilometre-long National Road 3 links the new seaport to Phnom Penh.

MNA/Xinhua

UK GDP growth revised down to 0.7% in third quarter

LONDON, 24 Nov — Britain’s economy grew more slowly than previously thought and at its weakest pace in a year in the third quarter of 2007, even though household spending accelerated, official data showed on Friday. The Office for National Statistics said GDP rose by 0.7 per cent in the three months to September, not the 0.8 per cent it originally estimated.

That brought the annual growth rate down a tenth of a percentage point to 3.2 per cent. Analysts had predicted no revision and the figures reinforced expectations the Bank of England would cut interest rates in the coming months, pushing sterling lower on the foreign exchanges.

“The UK economy has seen the back of above-trend growth and subsequent indicators are likely to show the economy slowing to a pace below its long term sustainable rate,” said Philip Shaw, chief economist at Investec.

MNA/Reuters

Typhoon rains kill 6 in Philippines

MANILA, 26 Nov — Heavy rain from an approaching typhoon lashed the Philippines on Sunday, killing at least six people and destroying homes and rice paddies, officials said.

Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro told reporters six people were killed in the Bicol region of the central Philippines by rain from Typhoon Mitag, including two who were electrocuted.

About 1,000 hectares of rice fields and many roads were inundated and scores of houses destroyed.—MNA/Reuters

Blindfolded suspects wait to be taken away by US soldiers during a patrol in Baji, some 250km (180 miles) from Baghdad, on 24 Nov, 2007.

INTERNET
Cambodia to set up national airline with Indonesian companies

PHNOM PENH, 25 Nov — The Cambodian Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indonesian companies on Friday to establish a national airline called the National Flag Carrier.

"Today we signed the MoU to establish the National Flag Carrier with PT Rajawali Group and PT Ancora International company, which are joint ventures from Indonesia," Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Sok An told reporters after signing the MoU in Phnom Penh.

"This is our pride and victory that we have had our own national airline," he said, adding that the National Flag Carrier will start its operation in six months.

The Cambodian Government holds 51 per cent of stake and receives 30 per cent of benefit, Sok An said. The chairman of the board for this airline will be appointed by the Cambodian Government but the General Manager and CEO will come from the companies, he added.

Meanwhile, Petter Sondakh, the CEO for Rajawali Group, said that they invested in Cambodia because tourism sector here is booming. This airline will provide domestic and international flights, Petter said, adding that the first international flights will focus on China, Japan and South Korea, where many people visit Cambodia as tourists. Cambodia’s old Royal Air Cambridge went into bankruptcy in 2000.

Four dead in Shanghai gas station blast

SHANGHAI, 25 Nov — Four people are confirmed dead and several others injured in a Shanghai gas station explosion on Saturday, police and witnesses said. One of the dead was a cyclist who was passing the gas station on South Yanggao Road in the booming Pudong New District when the blast went off at around 8:00 am said a policeman at the site.

He said identities of the other three dead are not immediately known, and an investigation has been launched.

Strong vibrations caused by the blast also affected a passing bus and injured several passengers on board, police said.

One witness, who gave only his surname as Quan, said he saw thick smoke, but no flame from the site. "Several vehicles nearby were damaged," he said.

Photos posted at sina.com, a Chinese portal website, show window panes of nearby buildings have been broken.

The gas station, an outlet of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), is said to be under renovation and will open later this month.

CNPC’s Shanghai branch refused to comment.

EU, southern African states agree trade deal

BRUSSELS, 25 Nov — The European Commission and four southern African countries agreed a new trade deal on Friday, opening the way for what Brussels hopes will be a series of agree-ments with scores of former European colonies.

In a breakthrough after five years of talks on so-called Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), negotiators from the EU and Botswana, Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho initialled deals covering trade in goods and development, the Commission said.

“This is an historic step forward in the relationship between the European Union and southern Africa,” EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson — who has faced stiff criticism from aid campaigners over the EPAs — said in a statement.

“I welcome the commitment shown by both sides and the leadership shown by SADC (the Southern African Development Community) in completing these essential nego-tiations.” Angola wanted to join the agree-ment “as soon as possible” while Namibia and the region’s economically heavy-weight South Africa “will determine their participa-tion in the agree-ment in the coming days”, the Commission said in a statement.

South Africa has a separate trade deal with the EU. The European Com-mission wants to formally sign EPAs with the six regions of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP) of countries before 31 December.
First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament 2007 commences

YANGON, 26 Nov — Organized by the Ministry of Sports, the First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament 2007 was launched at Nay Pyi Taw Volleyball sports ground this afternoon.

First, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint made an opening speech.

In his speech, the minister said that today’s inter-ministry volleyball tournament was held for the first time in Nay Pyi Taw. Under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the tournament was organized with three national objectives — to support the National Fitness, to make all the employees of ministries relax, happy, united and friendly, and to enable them carry out their duties actively. All participants in the tournament were to do their bit to fulfill these objectives, he said.

He added that the government laid down and is implementing the short-term and the long-term projects to promote the standard of sports.

K-6.5-million thief arrested

YANGON, 26 Nov — After K 6.5 million was found missing at Tun Tun Store at Room-1 of Building 18 on Sabe Street in Tharyargon Ward of Mingala Taung Nyunt Township on 23 November, the culprit was arrested with stolen money in Letpankon village in Twantay Township at 11 pm that night under the supervision of Mingala Taung Nyunt Township Police Station.

After the theft, it was suspected that employee Htet Ko Win had stolen the money. Therefore, Mingala Taung Nyunt Township Sub-Inspector of Police Than Win Naing and members searched his house on Padanyar street in Dalla Township. Even though the suspect was not at his house, over K 0.4 million buried at the back of the house was found. Then, it was informed that the suspect went out to Paitswe village in Twantay Township riding a brand new motor-cycle. Finding Htet Ko Win with his cycle on Ahlon street in Paitswe Township, police tried to stop him. However, the suspect rode away. Finally, he was arrested at the entrance to Letpankon village.

He admitted that he bought the motor cycle from Thanylin for K 0.8 million and kept K 455,000 at the hut of Daw Hla Mae of Ywathit Village. Police seized the money and a Japan-made black bicycle bought at K 110,000 from one of his friends.

It is learned that arrangements are being made to put Htet Ko Win to court according to law.

10th ceremony to present donation organized

YANGON, 25 Nov — The 10th ceremony to present donation for World Vipassana Stupa in Mumbai, India, was organized at Dhamma Jotika Vipassana Yeiktha on Ngathatkyi Pagoda road in Bahan Township, here, this morning.

First, Patron of Dhamma Jotika Vipassana Yeiktha Writer Paragu presented cash and jewels to the Ministry of Forestry beat Ministry of Construction with 3-1 in Group-A at Nay Pyi Taw Volleyball Gymnasium No 1 and Ministry of Cooperatives defeated Ministry of Labour with 3-0 in Group-C at the Gymnasium No 3.

Altogether 32 ministry teams and the Supreme Court, Civil Service Selection and Training Board and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee teams took part in the tournament which was divided into eight groups.

The 10th ceremony to present donation organized...
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye...
(from page 1)
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife went to Awaiya Konthayamyay where they watched the releasing of hot-air balloons. On 17 November evening, Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye formally opened the Tazaungdine Festival.

Among the Tazaungdine festivals across the country, Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival is the most famous. At Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival, hot-air balloons releasing ceremonies, hot-air balloons contests are held yearly. The local nationals have been upholding their tradition, and their techniques to release the hot-air balloons has improved year after year.

The teams from the wards of Taunggyi, companies and government departments participated in the hot-air balloon contest. The very first contest started in 1955 near Myoma Market. Beginning 2007, the ceremonies and contests were held in 30-acre Awaiya Konthayamyay, south of Taunggyi University. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife attended the Taunggyi Tazaungdine Festival prize-presentation ceremony and the conclusion of the festival. On that occasion, nationals such as Shan, PaO, Taungyo, Intha and Palaung entertained the audience with traditional dances. Then, the Secretary-1, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and Shan State PDC Secretary U Khin Maung Gyi awarded the prize winners.

Afterwards, vocalists sang songs and Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye released two hot-air balloons to conclude the festival.

Later, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and party greeted those present and the traditional cultural troupes.

This morning, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and party left Taunggyi and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw.

Vinaya examination at Kyakhatwaing

Yangon, 26 Nov—The 137th Vinaya examination sponsored by Mahanayaka Phaungtawthi Thawkamyaing Sayadaw and Kyakhatwaing Sayadaw is being held in Kyakhatwaing Pariyatti Monastery. It will last 7 days until 2 December.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander’s Shield Volleyball Tournament opened

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 Nov—Commander’s Shield of Nay Pyi Taw Command 2007 Volleyball Tournament was opened at Paunglaung Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana here today.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife, senior military officers and others were present on the occasion.

First, the commander delivered an address and then he and spectators viewed the tournaments.

Altogether, twenty men’s volleyball teams and 16 women’s volleyball teams are participating in the competition and it will last till 5 December.—MNA

Donations for MWJA

Yangon, 26 Nov—As a gesture of hailing Sarsodaw day, wellwishers donated K993,000 and 345 various kind of books to Myanmar Writers and Journalist Association to pay respect to literary doyens.

Vice President of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Than Maung accepted cash and books donated by wellwishers and gave certificate of honour to them.

MWJA organizes a ceremony to pay respect to literary doyens every year.

Those wishing to donate cash and provisions to MWJA may contact No-529/531 at the corner of Merchant Road and 37th Street and the second floor of Sarpaybeikman (ph; 383273, 252417).—MNA

Cultural Troupes perform traditional dances at closing of Tazungdine Festival and Traditional hot-air balloons releasing ceremony.—MNA
Prize presenting ceremony of 38th Defence Services C-in-C’s Shield Track and Field Tournament 2007 held

YANGON, 26 Nov—The prize presenting ceremony of the 38th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Shield Track and Field Tournament 2007 was held at Aung San Stadium here, this afternoon.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presented the shields to winners in the tournaments at the ceremony.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai and guests enjoyed the final track and field events. Next, Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Brig-Gen Zin Zaw awarded first, second and third prize winners in men’s 100-meter relay event, Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters Commandor Win Shem first, second, and third prize winners in women’s 100-meter relay event, Brig-Gen Thoe Htein of Mingaladon Station first, second and third prize winners in men’s 400-meter relay event and Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun first, second, and third prize winners in women’s 400-meter relay event.

Then, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presented championship shields to Yangon Command men’s team in Men’s Team Championship and Yangon Command women’s team in Women’s Team Championship, and the ceremony ended.

MNA

Minister honours jade lots highest bidder

YANGON, 26 Nov—Patron of Central Committee Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2007 Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint presented an honorary prize to Mr Ma Chun-An, the highest bidder of jade lots, at Myanmar Convention Center this afternoon.

A review meeting of the Central Committee Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium was held at Malikha Hall of Myanmar Convention Center, with an address by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint. Jade, gems, pearl, management, finance, security and information subcommittees respectively reviewed the accomplishment of the tasks and submitted the reports to the meeting.

Next, officials concerned put forward reports on preparations for 2008 Myanmar Gems Emporium in advance. The minister fulfilled the requirements. Present at the meeting were Patron of Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice Chairman of the Committee Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Secretary of the Committee Managing Director U Thein Swe of Myanma Gems Enterprise, members of the Central Committee and executives of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs’ Association.

MNA

Forestry Minister inspects standardization of logs to be sold

YANGON, 26 Nov—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, accompanied by departmental heads, on 25 November inspected the standardization of logs to be sold through tender at Sethsan Timber Jetty in Thakaya Township, and Kan-3 Timber Jetty in Ahlon Township.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports presented by officials and gave necessary instructions.

The sale of timber logs was held at the tender hall of Myanmar Timber Enterprise (head Office) this morning, attended by the minister who cordially greeted entrepreneurs at home and abroad.

The sale was also attended by 29 foreign entrepreneurs and 85 local entrepreneurs from 63 local and foreign companies.

Accompanied by officials, the minister proceeded to the finished wood factory of MTI Co Ltd in Dagon (East) Industrial Zone and looked into functions of the factory and packaging for export. Teak and Pinyang sawn timber are being exported to China, Singapore, India and European countries.

MNA

MMA to meet on 1 Dec

YANGON, 26 Nov — The 3rd meeting of central body of Myanmar Medical Association will be held at meeting hall of the Association at No 249, Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyant Township, here, on 1 December. All central body members from states and divisions are invited to attend the meeting without fail.

— MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint awards Mr Ma Chun-An, the highest bidder of jade lots.— MNA

Secretary-

I Lt-Gen

Thiha

Thura Tin

Aung

Myint Oo

presents prize to an outstanding team at Taunggyi

Festival

and
traditional

hot-air

balloons

releasing

ceremony.

(News on Page 1) MNA

Communal Kathina and light offering ceremony in progress in Taunggyi.

(News on Page 1) MNA
China’s Three Gorges Airport approved for Int’l flights

YICHANG, 26 Nov—The Three Gorges (Sanxia) Airport has received regulatory approval from several agencies for regularly scheduled international flights, confirmed local sources on Sunday.

The General Customs Administration, the Ministry of Public Security, the General Administration of Civil Aviation, the General Administration for Quality Supervision and the General Staff Headquarters gave their permission for the flights.

The airport has invested about 100 million yuan (about 13.3 million US dollars) to upgrade its infrastructure. An international hall measuring 3,600 square metres and runways have been completed.

Offices and staff dormitories to be finished by the end of this year.

Regular flights to the Republic of Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan are planned to start in 2008.

The Three Gorges Airport opened in 1997, with 26 passenger routes to various cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Xi’an, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Guangzhou and Shenzhen launched to date.

The airport is estimated to receive about 600,000 passengers this year, of whom 50,000 would be foreign nationals, up 15 per cent from last year, said Wang Hong, deputy general manager of the airport.

Overseas charter flights started on December 31, 2006, and there have been 67 such flights with 7,303 arriving and departing passengers. The average load factor of the flights was 70 per cent, said Wang.

Bridge collapse kills 3 storm survivors in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 26 Nov—At least three people were killed and nearly 100 injured in Bangladesh on Saturday when a road bridge packed with hundreds of cyclone survivors waiting for food aid collapsed into a river, police and witnesses said.

A further 20 people were missing.

The cyclone-battered bridge in Kalapara village in Patuakhali district gave way beneath a crowd of people who were hoping for the arrival of vehicles with food and other relief aid collapsed into a river, police and witnesses said.

The bridge is located on the Madhupur-Bhola highway, which is one of the main roads connecting the coastal area.

The Bridge, which was built in 1977, had been damaged by Cyclone Sidr in 2007 and had been repaired.

But the bridge collapsed again on Saturday, killing three people and injuring nearly 100 others.

The bridge connects the coastal areas of Patuakhali and Bhola with the rest of the country and is a vital link for the passage of aid to cyclone-affected areas.

The bridge collapse has highlighted the need for better infrastructure and better planning in disaster-prone areas.

Three dead after cabin cruiser capsizes in N-E England

LONDON, 26 Nov—Three people have died after a cabin cruiser capsized in rough seas near Whitby in northeast England, a police spokesman said on Saturday.

Two men and a woman were recovered from the water by a lifeboat and a helicopter rescue team after the cruiser capsized soon after leaving Whitby Harbour on Friday.

But one of the men and the woman died soon after being rescued and the second man died after several hours in hospital.

Witnesses have commented on the brave actions of the lifeboat crew and the rescue helicopter,” a North Yorkshire police spokesman said.—MNA/Reuters

Indonesia lifts tsunami warning after strong quake

JAKARTA, 26 Nov—Indonesia lifted tsunami warning after a strong quake with magnitude of 6.8 struck West Nusa Tenggara Province in eastern part of Indonesia on Monday morning, the country’s Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said.

“The tsunami warning has been lifted,” said a text message from the agency received by Xinhua.

The quake jolted at 02:53 local time (1953 GMT) with epicentre at 48 kilometres southwest of Raba Town of the province and at 45 kilometres under sea bed, an official of the agency Ali Amran said.

The quake was felt at 4 to 5 MMI (modified mercally intensity), a scale that is enable to shake things and cracks building.

The quake was also felt at Denpasar, the capital of Bali Province, Indonesia’s tourist resort, at 3 MMI, said Amran.

One 5-year-old toddler was killed, 17 other people were wounded and buildings collapsed in the quake-hit area, local television reported early Monday.

Indonesia is laid at a vulnerable zone called “the Pacific Ring of Fire” where two continental plates, stretching from the Western Hemisphere through Japan and Southeast Asia, meet that cause frequent volcanic movements.

Romanian film wins top award at Stockholm Int’l Film Festival

STOCKHOLM, 26 Nov—The Romanian film “4 months, 3 weeks and 2 days” won the top prize at the 18th Stockholm International Film Festival earlier this year, was awarded the Bronze Horse for Best Film 2007 at this year’s 10-day Stockholm film festival ending Sunday.

The film, directed by Romanian director Cristian Mungiu, depicts how a girl, accompanied by her female companion, sought an abortion by visiting illegal doctors and ended up in trouble.

“The film expresses the impact of societal repression on its characters with honesty and devastating humanity,” a member of the jury said. “With its outspoken use of long takes and off-screen space, Cristian Mungiu understands the power of simplicity.”

Anamaria Marinca also received the best actress prize for her role in the film.

MNA/Xinhua
Images of the Day

Kites fly during the Wind Fiesta, the fourth edition of the international kites festival in Buenos Aires, on 24 Nov, 2007. [INTERNET]

The undated photo shows that a raiser feeds the South China Tiger cub with milk in Laohu Valley Res about 600 km south of Johannesburg of South Africa. [XINHUA]

Fruity, a trained dolphin from Indonesia, kisses a girl during the ‘Wounderful World of Dolphins’ show in Manila on 25 Nov, 2007. — [INTERNET]

Cambodian boat racers row their boats in front of Royal Palace during a first day of annual water festival along the Tonle Sap River in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, recently. — [INTERNET]

The ice sculpture “The Winged Swing” by Andrey Molokov and Alexey Isaev from Tcheboksary is seen after the closing of Russia’s first open competition for snow and ice sculpturing in the Arctic city of Salekhard, about 2000km (1242 miles) northeast of Moscow, on 25 Nov, 2007. [INTERNET]
France wants to expand business, investment in Vietnam

HANOI, 25 Nov.—The French Government and companies want to make a stronger presence in Vietnam, whose economy is growing drastically, in various fields, including construction of metros and nuclear power plants, a French official said here on Friday.

The French Development Agency will offer Vietnam financial assistance of over 280 million euros (some 415 million US dollars) to construct a metro route in Hanoi capital in the coming time, and France would like to help build a nuclear power plant in the country by 2020, Herve Novelli, visiting French Secretary of State for Enterprises and Foreign Trade, said at a Press briefing after the conclusion of the 8th ASEAN Forum.

An affiliate to the French National Railway Company signed a metro consultancy surveillance contract with the Vietnamese side on Thursday, he said, adding that during the two-day forum and some 300 business-to-business meetings between 50 French companies and 230 Vietnamese enterprises in Hanoi from 22-23 November, the firms inked a number of cooperative deals.—MNA/Xinhua

Ukraine mine blast death toll reaches 100

KIEV, 26 Nov.—Ukraine’s worst mining accident, when a methane blast triggered underground fires at a colliery in the east of the country last Sunday, killed 100 miners, officials said on Saturday.

“We can officially say that 100 miners died at the Zasyadko mine,” Serhiy Storchak, a member of a commission of inquiry into the explosion, told Interfax Ukraine news agency.

Thirty-eight miners remained in hospital after the explosion, he said, adding that during the two-day forum and some 300 business-to-business meetings between 50 French companies and 230 Vietnamese enterprises in Hanoi from 22-23 November, the firms inked a number of cooperative deals.—MNA/Xinhua

Iran sanctions talk may hit cooperation with IAEA

VIENNA, 25 Nov.—Iran on Friday accused Western nations seeking harsher UN sanctions against it of “fuelling the flame” and said this could halt its steps to clarify nuclear activity to UN inspectors.

The head of the UN nuclear watchdog said on Thursday that Iran was making good progress towards resolving questions by the end of the year — only for Western powers to say Tehran had not done enough to win trust in its atomic ambitions and the United Nations should consider biting sanctions.

The West fears Iran is secretly trying to build atom bombs. Iran says it wants only electricity from uranium enrichment, and a 15 November International Atomic Energy Agency report showed it never set out to “weaponise” enrichment — though the agency says it does not know the scope of Iran’s current activity.—MNA/Reuters
Philippines braces for 3 typhoons as Govt speeds up evacuations

MANILA, 26 Nov — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on Sunday ordered more evacuation of residents in typhoon-prone areas as the country could face three typhoons in a short period of time like last year.

Hundreds of people were killed when three strong typhoons hit the country in the last quarter of 2006, bringing serious damages to Metro Manila and the central Bicol region.

Arroyo ordered the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), government agencies and local government units to take preparedness measures in areas that would be hit by the storms, particularly central region of Visayas, according to the official Philippines News Agency.

Six people have been killed in typhoon-related rains over the past few days in the country, said the government.

Tropical storm Hagibis, which was earlier forecast to be heading towards Vietnam, was making a U-turn comeback and was forecast to reenter the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Monday.

— MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian scientists discover fuel from egusi melon seeds

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Nov— Malaysian scientists have discovered an alternative fuel to fossil petrol and diesel from the seeds of the egusi melon, the national news agency Bernama reported on Friday.

The fuel source from the egusi seeds could reduce petrol cost by 20 per cent and diesel cost by 10 per cent, said Nor Mariah Adam, head of the Alternative Renewable Energy Laboratory at Institute of Advanced Technology, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Serdang, central state of Selangor.

“The difference in costs will even be greater with the rising costs of fossil fuels like petrol and diesel.

“The egusi seed oil has the potential to be processed into petrol and diesel for commercial use as it is lighter, harvesting of the seeds is easy and more economical compared to palm oil and jatropha, among the sources of biodiesel,” Bernama quoted Mariah as saying.

The research has also found the egusi oil to be low in fatty acid, melts easily and increases combustion.

According to Mariah, before the egusi seed oil is processed into biodiesel, it has to be mixed with suitable catalysts to obtain stability.

“If the egusi seed oil is processed into petrol, the size of the vehicle carburettor needs to be modified,” she added.

The research had good potential as the egusi melon could easily be grown in Malaysia, reaching maturity within three months, she said.

“It all started when I read in the Internet about how the Africans process the egusi seeds into cooking oil.

— MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian Indians dance and sing during the opening ceremony of the Indigenous Nations’ Games in Olinda, north-eastern Brazil on 24 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

China to build sanitary toilets for fishermen

BEIJING, 25 Nov— China will build sanitary toilets to reduce the incidence among the fishing population of schistosomiasis, a water-borne parasitic worm disease.

The toilets will mainly be built in five provinces: Jiangsu, Anhui, Jiangxi, Hubei and Hunan.

These are places with a high incidence of the disease, according to a circular jointly released by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health.

The central government will provide up to 6,000 yuan (800 US dollars) per toilet, and any additional cost must be covered by local governments, said the circular.

The siting and construction will be carried out according to the local incidence of the disease, reasonable distribution and convenience of users.

Schistosomiasis, a wasting disease that causes blood loss and tissue damage, afflicted many Chinese before the 1960s owing to widespread poor waste treatment in rural latrines, fishing boats and water.

— MNA/Xinhua

HK campaigns to promote traditional Chinese medicine

HONG KONG, 25 Nov— Hong Kong health authorities launched a month-long educational and publicity programme here Saturday to enhance public understanding of traditional Chinese medicine.

Speaking at Peshawar, capital city of North West Frontier Province, on the occasion of Universal Children’s Day, Martin said that UNICEF had been working in Pakistan since 1948 to help children especially those belonging to the marginalized community.

— MNA/Xinhua

UNICEF says polio cases significantly reduced in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 25 Nov — Polio cases have been significantly reduced in Pakistan, United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Country Representative in Pakistan Martin Mawanja was quoted by Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) as saying Friday.

“As per my information last year about 42 polio cases had been reported while in 2007 only 17 cases were reported in Pakistan,” Martin said, adding that Pakistan would be polio free country shortly.

The UNICEF is working together with the World Health Organization (WHO), government of Pakistan and other international agencies to eliminate polio, he said, adding that it was the responsibility of every community member to work together against the disease which had no boundary and border.

The UNICEF is closely working together with other donor agencies in the quake-affected areas of Mauzerah and Batagra to help the victims.

— MNA/Xinhua

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— MNA/Xinhua
Celtic stay top in Scotland with 3-0 win
GLASGOW, 26 Nov — Champions Celtic eased to a
3-0 win over Aberdeen to remain top of the Scottish
Premiership (SPL) on Saturday.
Dutch striker Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink flicked
home the opener in 14 minutes after latching on to a
header from Czech midfielder Jiri Jarosik.
Celtic took a 2-0 lead before half an hour had been
played when midfielder Aiden McGeady launched a
fierce, left-footed drive beyond keeper Jamie Langfield.
Australian striker Scott McDonald added the third in
49 minutes.
They now have 31 points from 13 games and have
yet to concede a goal in the league this season.
Rangers won 3-1 at Falkirk in wet, windy conditions
earlier on Saturday, thanks to goals from Spanish
defender Carlos Cueller, French striker Jean-Claude
Darcheville and forward Kris Boyd, and remain sec-
ond on 29 points.
“We should have been comfortable (winners) but
we managed a third near the end,” Rangers manager
Walter Smith told BBC Radio. “Certainly, in the
second half of the game, Falkirk were the better side.”
Hibernian drew 2-2 at home with Dundee United
who had Sean Dillon sent off.

Kleber’s 10-minute hat-trick takes
Santos to Libertadores
RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 Nov — Striker Kleber Pereira scored a hat-trick in 10
minutes on Sunday as Santos came from
two goals down to win 3-2 at Parana and
qualify for next year’s Libertadores Cup.
Flamengo also made sure of a place in the
South American equivalent of the
Champions League with a 2-0 win over
Atletico Paranaense.
The top four teams in the Brazilian
championship, which has already been
won by Sao Paulo, qualify for the
Libertadores.
Santos coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo
said that a colourful half-time team talk
had breathed some life into his side.

FIFA 2010 football World Cup qualifying draws for the African zone at a
ceremony in Durban. Australia, China and Asian champions Iraq were drawn
together in a ‘group of death’ for the 2010 World Cup on Sunday, meaning at
least one will not get through qualifying.—INTERNET

Rioting fans arrested at Steaua-Dinamo derby
BUCHAREST, 26 Nov — At least two dozen Steaua
Bucharest supporters were arrested before kickoff in the
Romanian derby against Dinamo Bucharest on Saturday.
The match at Ghencea Stadium, which ended in
a 1-0 victory for Steaua,
was interrupted three
times in the opening 12
minutes when fans of both
teams threw flares at each
other and smoke bombs
onto the pitch.
Television footage
showed police handcuff-
ing rioters outside the
stands.
A riot policeman told
Realitatea TV that two
people had been injured
during the clashes.
Inside, the two teams
had to suspend their warm-
ups on the pitch for several
minutes after police used
teargas to stop fans from
destroying plastic seats in
the stands.

FIFA to spend $70m on African projects
DURBAN, 26 Nov — FIFA is to spend 70 mil-
lion US dollars on projects to improve Afri-
can soccer while the con-
tinent prepares to host the
2010 World Cup finals.
The installation of arti-
ficial pitches, introduc-
tion of professional
leagues and administra-
tion and training of coaches and doctors form part of the ‘Win with Af-
rica in Africa’ initiative launched last year.
“There is a strong feel-
ing that this World Cup
should leave a legacy
throughout the African
continent, not only for
2010 hosts South Africa,”
FIFA’s director for inter-
national relations Jerome
Champagne told report-
ers on Saturday. “We aim
to create better facilities,
increase management
skills and access to foot-
ball,” he added.
An artificial pitch is to be
installed in all but one of
Africa’s 53 member
countries, the only excep-
tion being World Cup
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total of 21 have already
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them in national stadiums.

Wenger says England job like
manager-eating crocodile
LONDON, 26 Nov — Being coach of England’s
soccer team is like putting your head in the mouth of a
crocodile, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said
on Saturday.
The Frenchman has said he is not interested in
succeeding Steve McClaren who was sacked on
Thursday after England failed to qualify for Euro
2008.
“It’s like a crocodile,” said Wenger, forming his
hands into a pair of jaws. “When four or five have
jumped in and been eaten, the sixth one says ‘I’m not
gonna jump in there’.” —MNA/Reuters

Kaka wins Ballon D’Or award
ROME, 26 Nov — AC Milan’s Brazil playmaker
Kaka has won the 2007 Ballon D’Or, the former
European Footballer of the
Year award now extended
to players in other coun-
tries around world, Italian
media reported on Sat-
urday.
Corriere della Sera
said the Ballon D’Or jury
had told the 25-year-old
midfielder to prepare for the awards ceremony on 2
December.
Kaka joined Milan from
Brazilian club Sao Paulo
in 2003.
He was the driving
force behind their victori-
ous Champions League
campaign last season,
scooping 10 goals on the
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Jorge Valdano has said.

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Luiz Felipe Scolari, Portugal’s soccer coach, speaks to the media during the preliminary draw
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Uganda announces first LPA in Lake Victoria

KAMPALA, 26 NOV — Uganda on Saturday announced its first lacustrine protected area (LPA) in Lake Victoria being established by statutory instrument.

The LPA initiative is as a result of the concern the ministry has over the depletion of the wild Nile Perch and other valuable fish stock in Lake Victoria, according to Hilary Onek, the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries.

Onek said, protection of species within the LPA will not be allowed while sport fishing will be protected and commercial fishing will not be allowed while sport fishing will be permitted with strict conditions.

The area of the LPA is approximately 80 square miles (about 208 square kilometres) in Lake Victoria.

‘The LPA will help a great deal in creating a sustainable fishery in Uganda for the long term,’ he said.

Minister of State for Fisheries Fred Mukisa also said that the establishment of the protected area is a concrete and meaningful step in the long term management of the wild fishery on Lake Victoria which is considered as a national asset.

Lake Victoria, the second largest fresh water lake in the World, is shared by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Austrian national shot dead in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 26 NOV — An Austrian national was shot dead at a golf estate on the east coast town of Durban, South African Press Association (SAPA) reported on Saturday.

Superintendent Zandra Hechter said the 46-year-old man from Austria booked into the estate on Friday and went to play a round of golf. His body was discovered about three hours later by a security guard. He had been shot in the chest.

Police said no arrest had been made. Hechter said all his personal belongings were later found in his room.

Members of the Austrian Embassy had visited the estate and steps had been taken to inform the man’s family, SAPA said.

Selborne chief executive Alan Vels said no link had been established between the man and a FIFA delegation currently visiting the province.

South Africa’s crime levels remain among the highest in the world, casting a shadow over the country’s preparations to host the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

SAPA said in July showed that murders and violent robberies rose in the province.

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People’s Desire

☆ We favour stability.
☆ We favour peace.
☆ We oppose unrest and violence.

Mid-year Empo sells 3618 gem, jade, pearl lots

YANGON, 26 Nov — The Mid-year Myanmar Gem Emporium 2007 organized by the Central Committee for Organizing Myanmar Gem Emporium 2007 continued for the last day at Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangon Township here this morning.

Jade lots were sold through competitive bidding in which gem merchants at home and abroad bought 54 jade lots.

A total of 3,618 jade, gem and pearl lots have been sold up to date. Altogether 207 pearl lots were bought by national and foreign merchants from 14 to 16 November, 27 gems lots on 18 November and 3,384 jade lots from 17 to 26 November.

A total of 3,616 local and foreign merchants—2,285 foreign merchants from 1,584 companies of 16 countries and 1,331 local merchants from 510 companies—purchased jade, gem and pearls at the emporium.

The Empo continued to sell jade lots until evening.—MNA

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

Weather Forecast for (27-11-2007)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area
Fair weather.

Yangon and neighbouring area
Partly cloudy.

Mandalay and neighbouring area
Fair weather.

INSIDE

At present, it is required to prevent environmental degradation that is triggered by global warming. All the East Asian countries are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for reducing the greenhouse gas, ensuring greening of environment and effective use of energy, for environmental degradation is every nation’s concern.