NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — Tazaungdine Lights Festival was held in conjunction with a hot-air balloons releasing competition in front of the City Hall here on 24 November.

The City Hall and the square were illuminated to mark the lights festival and the competition kicked off at 7 pm and altogether 21 teams participated in it.

The lights festival and the competition were organized by Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw Col Thein Nyunt and wife and Deputy Minister of PBANRDA Col Tin Ngwe and wife were present on the occasion.

A total of 25 hot-air balloons were released by the teams while cultural troupes entertained the audience with traditional songs and dances.

Employees of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and their families, invited guests, employees of ministries, their families, officers and other ranks of battalions and regiments under the Nay Pyi Taw Command visited the festival.

The prize presentation ceremony was held at 9 pm and Minister Col Thein Nyunt awarded the first prize to a team representing “Thawdarwin Company”; Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe the second prize to a team representing “Htoo Trading Company Limited”; Secretary of the Supervisory Committee for Special Development Project Col Kan Chun the third prize to a team representing “Max Myanmar Company Limited” and the secretary and officials of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee awarded consolation prizes to 18 teams.

People waiting to see the release of a hot-air balloon in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, the remaining 175.75-mile Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-Myohaung railroad section of the facility was completed. The completed dual railroad was put into commission on 24 November. Myanma Railways had to construct 490 bridges, 10 of which are 180 feet and above long, to complete the new dual track.

MNA
Yangon-Mandalay Dual Railroad improves transport sector

Today, there have been a lot of changes and advancements in the transport sector, but rail transportation still remains a reliable mode of transport all over the world. In Myanmar also, rail transportation still serves as a main tool for transporting passengers and goods.

Over 385 miles long Yangon-Mandalay Railroad plays an important role in transportation between the southern and northern parts of the nation. It links strategic towns and villages between Mandalay and Yangon, thereby serving the interests of the passengers and the people of the towns and villages.

In the past, a rail track was constructed in parallel with Yangon-Mandalay Railroad from Yangon to Kyunghon and from Mandalay to Myohaung. However, a 150-mile section of the new rail track was ravaged in the World War II. In the post-independence period, the old sections of the dual track were repaired, and some more railroad sections were constructed to extend the facility. In 1973, the dual track was completed 225 miles from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, and 2.75 miles from Mandalay to Myohaung.

In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, the remaining 175.75-mile Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-Myohaung railroad section of the facility was completed. The completed dual railroad was put into commission on 24 November. Myannya Railways had to construct 490 bridges, 10 of which are 180 feet and above long, to complete the new dual track.

Now, the 385.5-mile dual railroad has emerged linking Yangon with Mandalay, and passenger trains and freight trains are making more runs. With smooth operation of the rail services, the transport sector is making greater progress and helping national people deal with each other more.
Nepal plans for development of Lord Buddha’s birthplace

KATHMANDU, 27 NOV — Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha and one of the World Heritage Sites in Nepal, is going to have a framework for future plans in the sacred archaeological site soon, a leading website, THT Online reported on Monday.

Since the site, some 300 kilometres west of Kathmandu, is now a centre of attraction for religious pilgrims, architectural students and tourism entrepreneurs, the United Nations’ Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is going to come up with a framework, based on which all new master plans and other development works will be carried out, reported the website.

“The drafting of the framework has begun. It is going to stop the government as well as other institutions from making unwanted changes in the site,” Kai Waise, the adviser for drafting the framework for the UNESCO Kathmandu Office was quoted by the website as saying.

The Integrated Management Plan will define the significance, size and right of authorities concerned from different aspects, the UNESCO adviser further said.

More than a single plan, it is a system, process or function of the area, which will be the supreme guideline for Lumbini, once it is endorsed by the Cabinet, he said.

Though the focus of the framework is the patch of land measuring 1.92 square metres, in which Lord Buddha was born, the framework will also come up with recommendations for buffer zones and other surrounding development zones, in line with recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee to prevent the total de-listing of the site from the World Heritage Site list.— MNA/Xinhua

Cyclone loss in Bangladesh estimated at $2.31b

DHAKA, 26 NOV—The economic loss from the cyclone Sidr which hit the country’s southern and southwestern coastal areas on 15 November night, is estimated at $2.31 billion US dollars, the Financial Express reported on Monday.

A preliminary estimate puts the total loss from the cyclone at $2.31 billion US dollars, including rural infrastructure, schools, crops and livestock.

Principal Staff Officer (PSO) at the Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury told reporters Sunday after a coordination meeting between the government and business community.

The meeting urged all to operate relief activities in coordination with the local administration for proper distribution of relief materials. The cyclone Sidr, one of the fiercest cyclones that hit the country in the last 131 years, affected 30 out of the country’s 64 districts, leaving at least 3,199 dead, more than 1,000 missing and some 34,500 injured.—MNA/Xinhua

Death toll from central China landslide rises to 31

BADONG (Hubei Province), 26 NOV—Rescuers found another body of the victim from Tuesday’s landslide in central China’s Hubei Province Sunday morning, bringing the death toll of the accident to 31.

The newly-found victim was identified as a 32-year-old resident of Dagangping Village, Badong County, whose surname is Yang. He is one of the two construction workers who were reported missing after the accident, the rescue headquarters told Xinhua.

Yang’s family have arrived at the site to deal with the aftermath, said Tang Mingyi, spokesman with the rescue headquarters.

The landslide occurred at around 8:40 am on Tuesday at the entrance of the railway tunnel at Badong County. About 3,000 cubic metres of rubble buried a nearby construction site and a long-distance bus passing by, which is said to have 30 people aboard.

One construction worker was killed at the site and another 29 passengers on the bus from Shanghai to Lichuan city in Hubei were found dead later.

Rescuers are searching for the rest missing, including Yang’s colleague, a 46-year-old Dag-anping village whose surname is Li and the last passenger on the bus, said the spokesman.

Photo taken on 26 Nov, 2007 shows a pair of rat-shaped sound boxes in Mudanjiang city, northeast China’s Heilongjiang province. Many rat-shaped decorations, toys and utensils appeared in the markets as the year of 2008.—MNA/Xinhua

UK schools have no enough money to cope with migrants

LONDON, 26 NOV—The debate over immigrant children in Britain’s schools was reignited this weekend after the country’s leading head-teachers said that rising numbers of foreign pupils are putting some schools near breaking point because they do not have the resources to cope, according to a report of the Observer on Sunday.

Members of the National Association of Headteachers will this week tell the Parliament that the issue is starting to change the culture of some schools, the report said, and some heads said the issue was “out of control”.

While praising the ability of the new pupils, many of them from eastern Europe, and emphasizing that they should be welcomed into schools, headteachers are concerned they do not have the amount of money needed to cope with the issue, the report said.

On Tuesday, the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee that education budgets having not kept pace with the increase in the number of pupils for whom English is a second language, or not spoken at all, who have entered Britain since the European Union expanded three years ago, the paper said.

The ethnic minority achievement gain, the main funding stream for schools, has increased marginally from around 160 million pounds (about 320 million US dollars) to 180 million pounds since 2005, when countries from the former eastern bloc joined the EU, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Holiday lights hang from trees to illuminate Champs Elysees in Paris as rush hour traffic fills the boulevard leading up to the Arc de Triomphe, on 26 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

Workers clear debris at a landslide site of Yuji highway (Chongqing to Yichang city of Hubei Province), in southwest China’s Chongqing municipality on 26 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

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MNA/Xinhua
Baghdad car bomb kills nine, wounds 30

BAGHDAD, 27 Nov—A suicide car bomb killed nine people near the Iraqi Health Ministry in central Baghdad on Sunday, security spokesman Brigadier-General Qassim Moussawi said.

Moussawi said 30 people were wounded by the bomb, which detonated near street vendors close to the ministry building. Police had earlier put the toll at two dead and 15 wounded.

Separately, a roadside bomb wounded two civilians in the Waziriya District of northern Baghdad, police said.

A second roadside bomb exploded when Iraqi security forces arrived on the scene, killing one soldier and wounding six others, police said.

Overall attacks have dropped sharply in Baghdad in recent months after a build-up of US troops this year.

But US commanders have cautioned that militants have not been defeated, and there has been a upsurge in attacks in the past week in Baghdad.

At least 13 people were killed on Friday when a bomb exploded in a popular pet market in the capital. —MNA/Reuters

Strong earthquake strikes Indonesia

JAKARTA, 26 Nov—A strong earthquake struck off Indonesia’s Sumatra Island early Sunday morning, according to the country’s Meteorological agency.

The quake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale rocked Mukomuko District in Bengkulu Province on Sumatra Island but there was no reports of casualties or material damages. The quake occurred at 09:52 am local time, the agency said, adding that there was no risk of a tsunami.

The quake’s epicentre lies 2.82 degrees South Latitude and 101.04 degrees East Longitude, 35 kilometres under the sea bed and 28 kilometres southwest of Mukomuko District, said the agency.

One killed, 50 missing in Bangladesh boat sinking

COX’S BAZAR (Bangladesh), 27 Nov—At least one man was dead and 50 people were missing after a boat with 200 aboard sank in the Bay of Bengal, police said on Sunday.

A body was recovered from the Bay after a search had been launched for the missing. Nearly 150 others swam to safety after the boat capsized due to overloading.

The victims, mostly fishermen and labourers, were travelling to Teknaf coast from Cox’s Bazar aboard the large wooden boat. —MNA/Reuters

Seven dead in Brazilian stadium disaster

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 Nov—At least seven people died and dozens were injured on Sunday when part of a spectator stand collapsed at a stadium in northeastern Brazil during a professional soccer match, firefighters said.

Television footage from Salvador, a candidate city to host soccer World Cup matches in 2014, showed a hole in the floor of the stadium’s upper tier and the bodies of several people who had apparently fallen to the street below. Others were being treated inside the stadium.

A duty fire brigade officer in Salvador, the capital of Bahia state, said over 40 people were taken to hospital.

Some 60,000 people were in Fonte Nova stadium to watch the third division match between local side Bahia and opponents Vila Nova from Goiania.

As cheering fans jumped up and down the stands, part of the structure gave way toward the end of the game.

Hundreds of people, unaware of what had happened, charged onto the field at the end of the match to take home as souvenirs and knocked over advertising boards. A planned celebration featuring several musical bands was cancelled. —MNA/Reuters

Army says security forces kill 30 militants in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 26 Nov—Pakistani security forces killed 30 militants in an overnight operation in Swat valley in North West Frontier Province, the Army said on Sunday.

“Security forces have successfully cleared the area up to Imam Dheri and secured prominent mountain heights overlooking Bara Bande, Kuza Bande and Imam Dheri,” the Army’s Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement.

One soldier was killed and two other were injured in the operation, the Army said.

“Security forces are in complete control of all entry points and exists to these places thereby, denying all access to the militants,” the statement said.

Hundreds of armed supporters of cleric Maulana Fazulullah, who demands Islamic Shariah in the country, are fighting the security forces in Swat Valley for months.

It said that the security forces launched their operation against militants’ stronghold in village Bara Bande, Kuza Bande and Imam Dheri in Swat yesterday. —MNA/Xinhua

North Sea oil platform evacuated after fire

LONDON, 26 Nov—A North Sea oil platform was being evacuated on Sunday after a fire broke out on board the rig, rescue officials said.

Ninety of the 159 people on board the Thistle Alpha have so far been evacuated from the rig, Royal Air Force (RAF) spokesman Michael Mulford said.

There were no reports of casualties.

It is operated by Swedish-based Lundin Petroleum.

“The latest news is good. They have evacuated 90 to three surrounding platforms,” Mulford said.

“The fire is reported responding to suppression methods which are probably automatic fire-fighting together with any fire teams the rig itself has,” he told Sky News.

The scale of the rescue operation has been scaled down, with three helicopters now staying on scene to complete the evacuation.

“There are mercifully no reports of casualties. That is always good news.

It would all appear to be going well at the moment and let us hope and pray that progress continues,” Mulford said.

Seven rescue helicopters were originally sent to the scene after smoke and flames were seen on the platform, situated 120 miles (190 kilometres) northeast of Shetland in Scotland.

—MNA/Reuters

The North Sea oil platform Thistle Alpha is seen in this undated handout photograph, received in London on 25 Nov, 2007. The platform was briefly evacuated on 25 Nov after a fire broke out on board, rescue officials said. —INTERNET

A Palestinian woman waits to receive food supplies from the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) outside a warehouse in the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin, on 26 Nov, 2007. —INTERNET

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strong earthquake
**Nigeria to build $8b LNG plant**

LAGOS, 26 Nov—An eight-billion-dollar Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant would be built in Nigeria’s southeastern Akwa Ibom State, according to news reaching here on Sunday.

State governor Godswill Akpabio made the disclosure last week while speaking with local media at the Margaret Ekpo International Airport in Nigeria’s Calabar City.

He said that the LNG plant would be built at Tom Short Island in the Mbo Local Government Area of the state.

“We are in partnership with the project partners. Akpabio said that apart from boosting development in the Niger Delta region, the project would also generate employment opportunities.

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**Sinopec to import more oil products to ease domestic shortages**

BEIJING, 27 Nov—China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec Group), one of the country’s oil giants, will import another 80,000 tons of diesel oil by the end of this month to help guarantee domestic supplies. The fuel will arrive in two cargoes, one going to the southern province of Guangdong and the other to the eastern province of Zhejiang, according to the Guangdong-based New Express Daily.

The company has imported 383,000 tons of refined products, including 90,000 tons of gasoline and 298,000 tons of diesel oil, since September, said the report.

The company will still import another 316,000 tons of refined products next month to ease domestic shortages. Sinopec was also likely to purchase stockpiles from private domestic companies at international prices, the report said.

The government has ordered oil companies to increase production and imports to avoid emergency fuel shortages. Shortages have eased since price hikes earlier this month, but many regions still face a tight diesel market and many filling stations are experiencing shortages.

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**Chinese automaker Geely plans joint venture in Russia**

BEIJING, 26 Nov—China’s homegrown private automobile manufacturer Geely Automobile said it was planning to set up a joint venture in Russia amid its efforts of going global.

“We are considering a joint venture in Russia, however, details of the production are yet to be decided,” Hong Shaolun, a high-ranking executive of Geely, told Shanghai Securities Journal.

Geely expects the joint venture to kick off production in 2008 with a target output of 10,000 vehicles for the first year, Hong said.

Hong said the company also plans to set up assembly plants in Central America and Africa, and is currently in talks with partners in both locations about selling cars there, which could be secured in 2008.

The Zhejiang-based company has earlier sealed a plans joint venture in Russia with the Rolf Group of Moscow to try to sell 10,000 vehicles there, which could be secured in 2008. Geely expects the joint venture to kick off production in 2008 with a target output of 10,000 vehicles for the first year, Hong said.

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France’s Areva seals $11.86b China nuclear deal

BEIJING, 27 Nov—French state-owned nuclear energy group, Areva, has signed an 8 billion euro (11.86-billion-US-dollar) deal with China for two nuclear reactors and more than a decade of fuel, the firm’s head told reporters on Monday.

President and CEO Anne Lauvergeon said French utility EDF would finance 30 per cent of the deal, which will be partly paid in euros, in return for a stake in the plant.

The agreement with China Guangdong Nuclear Power Corp, which is worth more than had been expected, covers 3.4 gigawatts of capacity.

The reactors are expected to start generating power in 2014 and Areva will provide fuel to run them through 2026.

The contract was part of a raft of deals agreed upon during Nicolas Sarkozy’s first visit to China as president of France, accompanied by a delegation of industry leaders.

It follows a similar Chinese deal with US-based rival Westinghouse Electric, now owned by Japan’s Toshiba. The firm last year looked to have beaten Areva in a two-year battle for the right to build China’s third generation of nuclear power plants, winning a contract estimated in the past at 8 billion US dollars.

But Beijing surprised both sides by expanding the original tender from four plants to six and giving France a slice of its growing nuclear pie.

An official of France’s Areva said Monday it would boost its share of China’s nuclear market, whose second-largest plant is scheduled to start running by the end of this year.

“Areva’s Chinese business is growing and diversifying, and we are very pleased with the progress we are making,” said Anne Lauvergeon, Areva’s CEO and EDF’s executive vice president.

Iran says IAEA closes more files over atomic work

TEHRAN, 26 Nov—Iran said on Sunday the UN nuclear watchdog had closed two major issues relating to the scope of its nuclear programme, which the West suspects is aimed at acquiring atomic bombs.

Teheran agreed with the International Atomic Energy Agency in August to answer outstanding questions by December about its atomic work, which it insists is purely for civilian purposes.

“We have received two formal letters from the IAEA informing us that the case of P-1 and P-2 (centrifuges) and also the case of uranium metal are closed,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini said.

There was no immediate official IAEA comment.

A 15 November IAEA report said Iran had provided “consistent” answers clarifying past centrifuge development work, although the answers were still being checked for completeness.

It said Iran had also turned over a nuclear black-market document describing how to mould uranium metal into spheres for atom bombs.

The IAEA was consulting with Pakistan, the apparent provenance of the document, for more information.

The report did not say either issue was “closed”, but that the IAEA was moving on to focus on other outstanding questions on a list it hopes Iran will answer by the end of the year.

“Our letters would not differ from the words in the board report, but Iran may use their own wording in their statements,” said one senior UN official familiar with Iran-IAEA contacts.

Iran uses a 1970s’ vintage centrifuge, called the P-1, prone to breakdown but is researching an advanced P-2 model, which could enrich uranium faster.

Enrichment can yield either fuel for nuclear power plants, Iran’s stated goal, or warheads.

Los Angeles, 26 Nov — The famous coastal city of Malibu near Los Angeles on Sunday began to tally the damages from its worst fire in 15 years.

The fire, which started on Saturday, scorched 4,720 acres of land and caused damages that might near 100 million US dollars, authorities said. Fifty homes were destroyed Saturday by the fast-moving wildfire, pushed by Santa Ana winds.

As the fire died down, evacuations orders were lifted last night for most of Malibu, allowing most of the 20,000 or so coastal residents to stay put. But some areas north of Pacific Coast Highway still remain closed to residents. Firefighters said critical fire dangers caused by dry, warm winds would diminish during the day. But the National Weather Service extended Red Flag warnings through 6 p.m.

Iron mine tailings dam collapse kills at least six

Haicheng (Liaoning), 26 Nov—Six people were confirmed dead and seven others were reported missing after an iron tailings dam collapsed early Sunday morning in northeast China’s Liaoning Province.

Another 17 people were injured in the accident, which happened at around 6 a.m. at Shiqiaozi Village, Anshan City in central Liaoning, according to the local rescue headquarters.

The dead include two men, three women and one person who has yet to be identified. They are 54-year-old Du Xuekui, 24-year-old Yang Sumei, 32-year-old Jin Peidong, Wang Yuzhen and Wu Yuzhen, said local sources. They suffocated when their homes were buried in debris from the dam. The injured have all been hospitalized, one in critical condition. Three others were seriously hurt with crushing injuries, the side-effects of choking and abrasions, but all were expected to survive.

More than 200 rescuers were searching for the missing on Sunday evening in the rain, with bulldozers clearing mud and ore. The earthen dam, about 100 metres long and more than 10 metres high, was constructed on a hillside.
**Cash awarded to winner artists in Yangon Div**

YANGON, 27 Nov — A ceremony to honour the outstanding artists who represented Yangon Division and participated in the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions in Nay Pyi Taw was held at Yangon Command this evening. At the ceremony, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai awarded the outstanding artists. First, Chairman of Committee for Organizing the Yangon Division Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition Lt-Col Khin Maung Tun handed over two gold trophies won at drama and amateur level (first class) marionette contests to Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win.

At the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, a troupe led by Maung Nyan Win and a troupe led by Maung Aung Ko Win won the first prize and third prize in drama contest respectively; Tawwin Troupe won the first prize in the marionette contest and a troupe led by Han Zar Moe Win won the second prize in the play contest. The commander and wife hosted a dinner in honour of the artists. — MNA

**Western Command Commander inspects agricultural undertakings**

NAI PYI TAW, 27 Nov — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein, accompanied by officials, on 19 November met with departmental personnel and local farmers at the 3-acre rubber plantation of Farmer Maung Hla Kyaw near Mile Post 86/6 of Yangon-Sittway main road. At the briefing hall, the minister heard a report presented by officials on thriving rubber plants, tapping of rubber latex and arrangements for extended growing of rubber and necessary instructions.

Next, the minister looked into the tapping of rubber latex and producing of rubber raw materials. Land preparations are being carried out in the rubber plantation of Farmer Maung Hla Kyaw for further growing of 50 acres of rubber.

At 1 pm, the minister proceeded to the officer of the MraukU Township Development Affairs Department and heard a report presented by an official on formation and appointment of staff, budget, work being carried out for construction of roads and water supply and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the commander and party looked into the tarring of Mintagyi-Shweban Road in MraukU Township being undertaken by MraukU Township DAD and left necessary instructions. The Mintagyi-Shweban Road is 2100 feet long and 12 feet wide. The tared road was constructed by MraukU Township DAD at a cost of over K 11 million.— MNA

**DAD official inspects road gravelling**

NAI PYI TAW, 26 Nov — Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, accompanied by officials on 26 November inspected No 2 Koekwayt-Pauglaung Chaung road section being constructed by the Mandalay Division Development Department.

At the briefing hall, Director U Hla Myo of Mandalay Division Development Affairs Department reported on measures taken for building seven-mile and two-furlong the gravel on road section in 2007-2008 fiscal year and plans for construction of gravel roads in Mandalay Division. Afterwards, the director-general inspected the laying of gravel and fulfilled the requirements. And he inspected the site chosen for construction of bridge. — MNA

**Appointment of ambassador agreed on**

NAI PYI TAW, 28 Nov — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of HE Mr Lennart Linner as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sweden to the Union of Myanmar in succession to HE Mr Jonas Hastrup.

HE Mr Lennart Linner was born in Stockholm, Sweden in 1948. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, History and National Economics from the University of Stockholm in 1972 and a Master of Arts in United States Foreign and Security Policy and International Economics from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University in 1974. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1977 and served in various capacities at Swedish Foreign Ministry, Defence Ministry and also at Swedish embassies in Beirut, Pretoria and Ottawa from 1978 to 2003. He served as Ambassador of Sweden to the Republic of Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of East Timor from 2003 to 2007. Since 2007, he has been serving as Ambassador of Sweden to the Kingdom of Thailand, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Mr Lennart Linner will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok, Thailand. He is married and has two children. — MNA

**Commander inspects regional development tasks**

NAI PYI TAW, 26 Nov — Chairman of the Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of Northern Command, accompanied by officials inspected No 3 district-to-district road in Akye village and junction of Miyitkyina, Shwe Bo and Manadalay on 23 November.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspected the district-to-district road linking Phawr-Inphangmale village in Akye Village-tract using heavy machinery, proper flow of drains and maintenance of earth on the road. The project in charge explained works being carried out to the commander who fulfilled the needs.

Afterwards, the commander inspected road sections and bridges along the road and left necessary instructions on extension of the roads. — MNA

**Minister looks into Auto Manufacturing Factories**

NAI PYI TAW, 27 Nov — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, accompanied by officials concerned, inspected No 2 Automobile Manufacturing Factory (Htonebo) in Padaung Township, Bago Division on 23 November.

At the Assembly Workshop, General Manager U Tin Lwin briefed the minister on assembling of Marada Jeeps, test-run of Station Wagons and manufacturing of DS 70 diesel engines to be installed in TE heavy trucks and engine parts.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on efforts to be made for meeting the production target, manufacturing of Station Wagons at reasonable price and efficient use of power and fuel.

At No 3 Automobile Manufacturing factory in Htaw Kyaung Township on 25 November, the minister and party inspected preparations for manufacturing of Double Cab autos. Next, the minister urged officials to make arrangements mass production of Double Cab autos and appoint more skilled workers and then fulfilled the needs. — MNA

**Minister Col Thet Naung presents cash award to responsible personnel of a team representing Thawdarwin Company.** (News on page 1) — MNA
**Myanmar starts with gold in SEA Games**

**YANGON, 27 Nov** — The shooting events of the XXIV SEA Games commenced in Bangkok, Thailand today. Than Saw of Myanmar selected women’s shooting team lifted a gold medal in 50-m rifle prone women’s single event with 587 points, followed by the Malaysian with silver medal on 585 points and the Indonesian with bronze medal on 586 points.

![Than Saw](image1)

Myanmar selected women’s shooting team comprising Khin Soe Thaik, Wint May Thu Maung and Lay Zar Hlaung Myint secured a bronze medal with 1687 points in 25-m sports pistol women’s team event. Vietnam clinched a gold medal with 1702 points and Thailand a silver medal with 1693 points in the 25-m sports pistol women’s team event.

![Khin Soe Thaik](image2)

![Wint May Thu Maung](image3)

![Lay Zar Hlaung Myint](image4)

**3,413 jade lots sold at Mid-year MGE**

**NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov** — A total sales of jade lots reached 3,413 yesterday at the Mid-year MGE Gems Emporium in Yangon. A total of 207 pearl lots were sold from 14 to 16 November and 27 gem lots on 18 November at the emporium.

Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2007 completed successfully yesterday and the last sales attracted 3616 gem merchants — 2285 from 1,584 companies abroad and 1331 from 510 local companies.

![Jade Lots](image5)

**Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament continues**

**NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov** — The First Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament-2007 continued for the second day at the Nay Pyi Taw Volleyball Ground today.

Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Team beat Ministry of Commerce 3-0 at Group-C. Similarly, the Ministry of Education suppressed Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development with 3-0 at Group-G. Likewise, Ministry of Information defeated Ministry of Industry-2 with 3-0 at Group-H and Ministry of Electric Power No-2 beat Ministry of Defence 3-2 at Group-D.

**Preparatory tasks for organizing ICT Exhibition inspected**

**YANGON, 26 Nov** — Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Maj-Gen Thein Tun and party went on an inspection tour of Yatanabon Cyber City under construction near Pyin Oo Lwin village.

Next, the deputy minister inspected progress of work of the main teleport building and incubation centres and gave instructions on installation of machines for ICT Exhibition and timely completion of the buildings.

He also visited Kyaukse Auto-Exchange on 24 November, and Meiktila Auto-Exchange.

**Matho Thingan offered to Maha Muni Image**

**NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov** — The 18th Matho Thingan offering of Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay was held at Maha Muni Pagoda on 24 November. It was attended by Maha Muni Yadaw Sayadaw Agga Maha Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Panñavamsa, the commander and officials offered Mathothingan to the Buddha image. Being the Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon, the Buddha image was packed with pilgrims and devotes.

The 11th Communal Kathina offering sponsored by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council was held at Atumashi Kyaung in Aungmyethazan Township.

The commander and officials presented Kathina robes to Sayadaws from monasteries.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Saddhamma-jotikadhaja Myaunthaik Shweawatin Kyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sasanabhiwanva delivered a sermon followed by sharing of merits gained.

**Biography of doyen literati available**

**YANGON, 27 Nov** — The Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association will organize a ceremony to pay respects to 120 doyen literati aged 80 and above to mark the Sarsodaw Day (Literati’s Day) in the second week of December this year.

The sale of woodfree copies of the book will be launched at reasonable price during the ceremony.

**Information Ministry Team plays against Industry-2 Ministry Team in Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament.**

**Ministry of Electric Power No 2 Team plays against Ministry of Defence Team in Inter-Ministry Men’s Volleyball Tournament.**
Intranet System Course concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — Ministry of Industry-1 held a ceremony to conclude the Intranet System Course No 4/2007 at the ministry here today.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung delivered an address at the ceremony and honoured outstanding trainees and presented certificates to trainees. Daw Phyu Phyu Khine won the first prize; Daw Hnin Le Le Khine the second and U Moe Tun the third at the intranet course. The minister also presented cash award to a trainee who won a model trainee award at the training course No 39 at the Central Institute of Civil Services in Phayagyi. — MNA

Minister inspects upgrading of Yangon-Pathein Road

YANGON, 27 Nov—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun yesterday inspected the upgrading of Yangon-Pathein motor road here yesterday. At the camp of the construction group-16 at the mile post No 4, Deputy Chief Engineer U Soe Tin reported to the minister on road works being carried out by four construction groups. During his tour, the minister inspected upgrading tasks along the road between Bo Myat Tun Bridge and Daka Bridge.

Afterwards, the minister called for timely completion of works and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Communication stations in Bago Division (West) inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov—Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw yesterday inspected the communication stations in Bago Division (West) and heard a report on communication functions. On arrival at the post office in Okpo and the digital auto exchange in Gyobingauk, the minister viewed the communication measures and attended to the needs.

After that, the minister inspected the Natain auto exchange and the postal, telegraphs and telephone station in Paungde and attended to the needs. In meeting with departmental officials and town elders of Pyay Township at the digital auto-exchange in Pyay, the minister fulfilled the requirements.

At the USDA Office in Aunglan, the minister met with the township executives of Thayet, Aunglan and Sinaungwe townships and organizers and attended to the needs.

Next, he inspected Chaukmat auto exchange in Taung-dwingyi and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Fire-fighting processes demonstrated

YANGON, 27 Nov—Educative talks on fire safety were given and fire-fighting processes demonstrated at the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise on Shwe-taunggya Street in Bahan Township here this afternoon.

Deputy Head of the Fire Services Zone of Mingala Taungnyunt, Tamwray and Bahan Townships U Aung Lin Oo gave officials and staff of the MMPE educative talks on fire prevention measures. Fire-fighting steps were then demonstrated.—MNA

Employees of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise watch fire-fighting drill at the office of MMPE in Bahan Township. — MNA

IT Caravan 2007 opens in Taunggyi

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Nov—Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Thaug Aye addressed IT Caravan 2007 which was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Taunggyi on 16 November.

At the school hall, secretary U Nyi Eo of Myanmar Computer Scientists Association, executive member U Zaw Lin of Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association, Joint-secretary U Maung Maung Tha of Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association gave talks on ICT.

Over 600 persons including headmasters, students, and enthusiasts attended the talks. ICT Companies presented books, CDs and K100,000 to the Education College there.—MNA

Free eye treatment given at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Hospital

Heads of department and leaders of working groups under MWAF comfort elder persons waiting for free treatment for their eye complaints at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Hospital. — SOCIAL WELFARE

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Nov — Under the project of door-to-door providing medical services to elder people jointly implemented by the Social Welfare Department and the Republic of Korea, eye specialists provided free medical treatment to 76 elder persons at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Hospital yesterday.

In coordination with the Social Welfare Department and the Health Department, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation arranged the plan to provide free treatment to 76 local people with eye complaints—47 from Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District and 29 from Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon. Head of the International Relations Department under MWAF Daw Mioint Mioint Soe, Leader of the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Working Group Daw Tin Tin Nwe and Head of the Legal Affairs Department Daw Ni Ni Win, eye specialists, chairmen of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District and Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and township Peace and Development Councils and members of social organizations attended the ceremony to provide medical care to those with eye complaints at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Hospital.

Social Welfare Department, MWAF, the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Working Group donated K 280,000 through Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr U Aye Ko Ko to be spent on providing free medical treatment.

Members of MWAF comforted the elder persons with eye disorders. — MNA

Computer, accessories for PyinOolwin Hospital

YANGON, 27 Nov — A ceremony to donate computer and accessories to PyinOolwin 300-bed Hospital was held at the meeting hall of the hospital on 15 November.

Present at the ceremony were Medical Superintendent Dr Tin Nyo Nyo Latt, specialists, health staff and wellwisher Major Maung Latt (Retd) and families. The wellwisher explained the purpose of the donation. Major Maung Latt (Retd) and wife Daw Nunn Yin Yin and family donated computer and accessories worth K 538,800 for the hospital through the Medical Superintendent. The Medical Superintendent spoke words of thanks.

The wellwishers presented gifts to the Medical Superintendent and health staff.—H

Free eye treatment given at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Hospital.

Computer, accessories for PyinOolwin Hospital.

Fire-fighting processes demonstrated.

Minister inspects upgrading of Yangon-Pathein Road.

Communication stations in Bago Division (West) inspected.

IT Caravan 2007 opens in Taunggyi.

Intranet System Course concludes.
Images of the Day

Emit, a four week old southern three banded armadillo, eats banana off the hand of keeper Dawn Strasser at the Cincinnati Zoo, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2007, in Cincinnati. This is the first time in 11 years the Cincinnati Zoo has successfully bred this rare species of armadillo, which lives in the open grassy areas, forests and marshes of Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. —INTERNET

Twendy-One, a robot designed to help the elderly and disabled people around the house, demonstrates carrying a food tray at Waseda University in Tokyo November 27, 2007. Twendy-one was designed by robotics researchers at Waseda University to have human-sized four-fingered hands capable of picking up and holding delicate objects without crushing. —INTERNET

Construction workers are seen atop scaffolding during restoration work at the ancient temple of Parthenon on the hill of Athens’ Acropolis November 27, 2007. —INTERNET

Brazilian Indians from the Assurini tribe compete against another tribe during a tug-of-war competition at the IX Indigenous Nations’ Games in Olinda, northeastern Brazil, Nov. 26, 2007. —INTERNET

Two tourists ride camels past the Treasury, al-Khazneh in Arabic, the famous Petra monument that is carved out of solid rock from the side of a mountain and stands over 40 meters high the first monument seen at end of the Siq, a 1.5 kilometers path that narrows to about five meters (16 feet) with walls towering over 200 meters (656 feet) overhead. —INTERNET
Putin blames US for vote monitor pullout

St Petersburg, 27 Nov — President Vladimir Putin said on Monday Russia had information suggesting the United States influenced a decision by OSCE international observers not to monitor the December 2 parliamentary election.

The main election monitoring unit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) pulled out of Russia’s parliamentary vote earlier this month, accusing Russian authorities of obstruction.

A spokesman for the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutes and Human Rights (ODIHR), which was running the aborted election observation mission, said Putin’s remarks were “simply not true”.

Putin said the United States wanted to present the Russian parliamentary election as illegal, citing the fact that it was not properly monitored.

ODIHR spokeswoman Urdur Gunnars- sdottir said by telephone: “This (decision) was not made at the recommendation of any state but was simply made, and only made, on the basis of our inability to do a long-term observation. “It did not have an aim to influence the Russian election in any way.”

Putin said the United States influenced a decision by OSCE international observers not to monitor the Chinese-language film, state media reported. The United States had ties with this state.”

According to some statistics released by the Vietnamese Health Ministry in late 2005, over 50 per cent of local men and around 3 per cent of local women smoke.

Over 30,000 Vietnamese die from smoking annually

HANOI, 27 Nov — Between 30,000 and 40,000 people in Vietnam die of diseases caused by smoking each year, according to local newspaper Youth on Monday.

Some 56 per cent of local men aged 15 upwards are cigarette smokers, the newspaper quoted the Vietnam Tobacco Control Programme as reporting. In recent years, smokers in Vietnam have spent over 8.2 trillion Vietnamese dong ($125.5 million US dollars) on smoking, said the programme’s secretary, Phan Thi Hai.

Actor Jet Li breaks record with $13m paycheque

BEIJING, 27 Nov — Chinese action star Jet Li is set to rake in 100 million yuan (13 million US dollars ) for his latest movie, a record for an actor in a Chinese-language film, state media reported on Sunday.

Nearly half of the 40 million US dollars budget for “The Warlords” went to the cast, among whom were Hong Kong heartthrob Andy Lau, Takeshi Kaneshiro and Beijing-based actress and director Xu Jinglei, in addition to Li.

“Without Jet Li, we would not dare to invest 40 million US dollars in a Chinese-language film,” Xinhua news agency quoted director Peter Chan as saying. Li was a “guarantee” for global sales, Chan said.

Chinese-language movies have registered a string of hits in the past few years, from Ang Lee’s martial arts tale “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”, to Zhang Yimou’s ancient history epic “Hero”.

The earlier salary record was held by Li himself for his role in “Hero”, for which he earned 70 million yuan.

Li, 44, a childhood martial arts champion, has also broken into English-language films, featuring in action pictures such as “Romeo Must Die” and “Lethal Weapon 4”.

“The Warlords”, a war epic based on a Qing Dynasty story, is slated for release in Asia in mid-December and in North America from next March.

OPEC oil prices soar above $90 per barrel

VIENNA, 27 Nov — The weekly average oil prices of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) soared to 90.71 US dollars per barrel last week, the Vienna-based cartel said on Monday.

After a five-week consecutive rise, OPEC oil prices had dropped to 87.35 dollars per barrel in the third week of November, but jumped again last week by 3.36 dollars.

OPEC daily average oil prices have risen continuously since last Monday, hitting a new record of 91.91 dollars per barrel last Wednesday before the average daily price, and in spite of a drop of 55 cents last Thursday, rebounded to 91.52 dollars last Friday.

Iranian jet crashes in Gulf of Oman

TEHERAN, 27 Nov — An Iranian F-4 fighter jet crashed into the Gulf of Oman during a maneuver on Monday, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The Iranian Air Force plane crashed at 12:45 pm local time (0915 GMT) in waters of Chabahar Bay in the Gulf of Oman, near the southeastern Iranian port city of Konarak, the report said.

The fate of the pilot and the reason of the crash were still unknown, it added.

Iran had a good relationship with the United States and was equipped with some advanced US-made fighter jets during the period of Shah Reza Pahlavi.

However, after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Washington cut off the military assistance to Teheran and US-made warplanes like F-14s, F-4s and F-5s lacked sufficient accessories to keep their battle effectiveness.

Iran has tried to produce its home-made fighter jets in the past years. On September 20, Iran successfully test-flew the new model of Saegheh (Thunder) fighter jet, which apparently was based on the old American F-5.

Earthquake hits off Hongshu, Japan

HONG KONG, 27 Nov — An earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale occurred near east coast of Hongshu, Japan, at 1338 GMT Monday, the Hong Kong Observatory said in a bulletin released here.

The magnitude was initially determined by the Hong Kong Observatory at 37.4 degrees north latitude and 141.6 degrees east longitude, about 120 kilometres south-southeast of Sendai, Japan.

There is no immediate casualty report.

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Abandoned firecracker factory explosion kills five in China

TAIYUAN, 27 Nov—Five children were killed and another was injured on Sunday after a blast at an abandoned firecracker factory in Yuncheng City in north China's Shanxi Province.

The six, all about 10 years old, were playing inside the factory near Wangjia Village of Nanzhang Township, Wanzong County, when the explosion occurred.

A small amount of expired explosives stored in the factory went off at about 1 pm, killing five instantly and seriously injuring the other, local sources said.

MNA/Xinhua

Airspace control ends in east China

SHANGHAI, 26 Nov—The five-day airspace control that disrupted the travel plans of thousands of air passengers to and from Shanghai since Tuesday ended at midnight on Saturday, said an official with the General Administration of Civil Aviation (CAAC) on Sunday. More than 30 flights were postponed on Sunday, according to Li Jingao, an official with the market management office of the Shanghai-based CAAC East China Air Traffic Management Bureau. About 20 of the flights were domestic, mainly from Shanghai to Shenyang, Wuhan and Chongqing.

"The delay was resulted from a backlog caused by the control in previous days," Li said. "We have worked overtime at the two airports, otherwise more flights would be affected." More than 100 flights were delayed on Saturday, according to Li, who estimated that the knock-on effect would last until Monday, when about a dozen flights are to be affected.

"The airspaces control time is long," Li said. "Situation would return to normal by Tuesday."

More than 150 flights were delayed in Shanghai and about 7,000 passengers were affected during the first two days of the airspace controls. Most flights were bound for domestic destinations including Guangzhou, Xiamen, Shenzhen, Beijing and Dalian.

Sources at the Baiyun Airport in Guangzhou, where 1,600 passengers suffered delays on Tuesday, said several flights were affected, but only for brief periods, with no large-scale passenger delays.—MNA/Xinhua

Japan to test “PAC-3” missile defence in Tokyo

TOKYO, 26 Nov—Japan is to test the deployment of high-tech PAC-3 missile interceptors next month at about 10 locations in Tokyo, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper reported on Sunday.

Japan’s first Patriot Advanced Capability-3 interceptors were deployed in March at Iruma Air Base in Saitama, north of Tokyo, as part of a shield introduced in response to missile tests by North Korea.

But given their limited range, the interceptors would need to be moved closer to the political and financial hub of Tokyo to provide optimal protection if a ballistic missile attack was believed likely.

The exercises next month will determine where the best locations for re-deployment would be, with checks to be conducted into the quality of communications and whether there are any obstacles such as skyscrapers in the areas, the Yomiuri said, quoting sources.

PAC-3 equipment will be moved from Iruma to test locations including a national garden in Shinjuku, central Tokyo, and a military camp next to the Defence Ministry.

The ministry plans to hold similar exercises in other parts of the country from the fiscal year starting next April, the Yomiuri added.—MNA/Reuters

EU strikes trade deal with four African countries

BRUSSELS, 26 Nov—The European Union (EU) has initialed a interim trade agreement with four Southern African countries, the European Commission announced on Sunday.

The agreement will apply initially to Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique, with Angola ready to join as soon as possible.

The EU’s executive arm said South Africa and Namibia will also determine their participation in the agreement in the coming days, adding the agreement is open to other parties in the region to join when they wished. “This is an historic step forward in the relationship between the EU and Southern Africa,” said EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, who is now on a six-day trip to China.

The initial agreement includes a WTO-compatible market access schedule and provisions on development cooperation and other issues.

Small change shortage a big problem in urban China

BEIJING, 26 Nov—Generations of Chinese children have been taught to practice thrift by putting their pocket change into piggy banks.

However, many continue the habit as adults, which—combined with rising prices in China’s richer regions—has caused severe shortages of coins and small-denomination notes. In hundreds of millions of these home banks, Chinese are hoarding a big percentage of the nation’s small change. As a result, stores, peddlers, restaurant and even banks are short of coins, according to a southern Chinese weekly newspaper report.

The shortages are particularly severe in the more prosperous cities of southern China, where prices have been rising fast, the newspaper reported.

The shortages have given rise to an underground trade of “professional exchangers” who supply coins and low-denomination notes, at a commission of about 2 per cent.

But with the shortages worsening, especially in the booming southern province of Guangzhou, the unofficial price of 100 one-yuan coins can be as high as 125 yuan, according to the report in the Workers’ Daily.

MNA/Xinhua

A pair of 100-day-old panda twins are seen at the Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Center, capital of southwest China’s Sichuan province on 23 Nov, 2007. The twins were born on this August 13 by a 12-year old giant panda “Jiaozi”, local media reported.—INTERNET
Novel MRI technique shows secondhand smoke damages lungs

WASHINGTON, 26 Nov — For the first time, researchers have identified structural damage to the lungs caused by secondhand cigarette smoke.

The results of the study, conducted by researchers at the University of Virginia and The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, were presented Monday at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) in Chicago. “It’s long been hypothesized that in prolonged exposure to secondhand smoke may cause physical damage to the lungs, but previous methods of analyzing lung changes were not sensitive enough to detect it,” said Chengbo Wang, magnetic resonance physicist at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Wang and colleagues used helium-3 diffusion magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to study the lungs of 43 volunteers, including seven current and former smokers and 36 people who had never smoked, 18 of whom had a high level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Patients inhales a specially prepared helium gas prior to imaging, and the scanner is adjusted to collect images showing this helium gas in tissue. Magnetic resonance measures how far the helium atoms move, or diffuse, inside the lungs during a specific time period — 1.5 seconds in this study. Using this method, radiologists can detect changes deep in the small airways and sacs in the lung, which can break down, become enlarged and develop holes after prolonged exposure to cigarette smoke. Helium-3 diffusion MRI identifies this damage by measuring the increased distance the helium atoms move.

“With this technique, we are able to assess lung structure on a microscopic level,” Dr. Wang said.

Study:ozone may have greater impact on heavier people

WASHINGTON, 26 Nov — A new study released Monday provides the first evidence that people with higher body mass index (BMI) may have a greater response to ozone than leaner people.

Short-term exposure to atmospheric ozone has long been known to cause a temporary drop in lung function in many people. This is the first study in humans to look at whether body weight influenced lung function after acute ozone exposure.

A team of US researchers analyzed data on young (aged 1835), healthy, non-smoking men and women to see if body mass index (BMI) — a measure of fatness based on an individual’s height and weight — had an effect on lung response to acute ozone exposure.

The study published in the November issue of journal Inhalation Toxicology found that ozone response was greater with increasing BMI. “There has recently been interest in why some people’s lung function drops more than others (after short-term exposure to ozone) — age and perhaps genetics, as well as diet may play a role,” said co-author Stephanie London.

“We were intrigued by recent mouse studies that showed obesity increases lung responses to ozone and wanted to see whether this applied in humans,” he said.

Based on former studies, the research team studied 197 people who had been exposed to ozone for 90 minutes, during which they alternated 20 minutes of exercise with 10 minutes of rest.

The subjects’ lung capacity and function were tested immediately before and after the exposure period.

In general, the higher the BMI, the greater the ozone response, providing one more reason why maintaining a healthy body weight is important to people’s health, said the study.

Scientists urge $2-3 billion study of ocean health

OSLO, 26 Nov — Marine scientists called on Sunday for a 2-3 billion US dollars study of threats such as overfishing and climate change to the oceans, saying they were as little understood as the sky… it can be done,” said Tony Haymet, director of the US Scripps Institution of Oceanography and chairman of the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO).

He told Reuters that a further 2-3 billion US dollars would roughly match amounts already invested in nocean research, excluding more costly satellites. New technologies were cheaper and meant worldwide monitoring could now be possible.

“Silicon Valley has come to the oceans,” said Jesse Ausubel, a director of the Census of Marine Life that is trying to describe life in the seas.

Final group from shipwrecked Antarctic cruiser reaches land

SANTIAGO, 26 Nov — The second and final group of 77 people rescued from the Explorer, a cruiser that sank Friday after hitting an iceberg in the Antarctic Ocean, landed in the Chilean city of Punta Arenas aboard a military aircraft Sunday, local media said.

The Chilean Air Force Hercules touched down just after 1:10 pm local time (1610 GMT) carrying among its passengers the 54 crew of the boat, which now lies 1,100 metres deep in the Bransfield Strait, 76 kilometres east of King George Island, which is also known as 25 May Island.
**UEFA probes Bulgarian match-fixing allegations**

**SOFIA, 27 Nov —** Bulgarian club Cherno More Varna are facing a UEFA investigation into alleged match-fixing during an Intertoto Cup game against Macedonia’s Makedonija Skopje in July.

UEFA’s Disciplinary Chief Inspector Gerhard Kapl told Bulgarian media on Monday that European soccer’s governing body had been alerted to heavy and unusual betting on the first leg of the second round tie.

A UEFA spokesman said an investigation had been opened with initial hearings into the bribery charge due to take place on Thursday.

Kapl told Bulgarian Dark radio that Cherno More could face a ban from European competition if the allegations proved to be true. He said no action was being planned against Makedonija.

The match in question saw Cherno More win 4-0 away on July 7 with all the goals coming in the second half.

**FC Barcelona soccer players run during a team training session in Lyon, central France, 26 Nov, 2007.** FC Barcelona will face Olympique Lyon in a Champion’s League Group E match on Tuesday. —Internet

**Baddeley holds nerve to win Masters in playoff**

**MELBOURNE, 27 Nov —** Local favourite Aaron Baddeley held his nerve to seal his first Australian Masters title after a marathon sudden-death playoff win over Sweden’s Daniel Chopra on Sunday.

Baddeley recovered from heavy rough at the fourth attempt to separate the pair to par the 18th hole, while Chopra’s five-foot par putt slid just wide to give the 26-year-old Australian the gold jacket.

Both players finished regulation on 13-under 275 after Baddeley, the world No. 18, had shot a closing two-under 70. Overnight leader Chopra finished with a one-under 71.

“After that I thought I was swinging the club really well. I just kept hitting the same shots and felt that I’d wear him down,” Baddeley, who learnt his game at the Huntingdale Golf Club course in suburban Melbourne, told reporters.

“Every playoff hole I had the chance to win and it was Dan who was saving it to keep it going but I really had to grab it to win that final playoff hole.”

“And it really feels great to win at home. It’s fantastic.” —MNA/Reuters

**FIFA to implement tour operator scheme**

**JOHANNESBURG, 27 Nov —** FIFA are to implement a tour operator programme to offer customised travel packages for spectators wanting to watch the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa.

Tour operators are being invited to register for the programme, to which FIFA have allocated 350,000 tickets, world football’s governing body said on Monday.

FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke said the organization hoped to facilitate travel to the matches for tourists by combining transportation, accommodation and tickets into a single package.

—MNA/Reuters
UAE police seize over 6 mln counterfeit USD bills

ABU DHABI, 27 Nov—Police of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has cracked a counterfeit money racket and seized more than six million fake US dollar bills, local newspaper Gulf News reported on Monday.

Police seized eight men and their equipment and chemicals to make fake dollar bills in a series of sting operations in Ras Al Khaimah, an emirate in the northern part of the country, the report said.

“The suspects, five Africans and three Arabs, were involved in illegal activities. They tried to sell their counterfeit money to their victims,” Lieutenant Colonel Salem Bin Sultan Al Darmaki from Ras Al Khaimah Police was quoted as saying.

“We received a tip-off from one of our sources about some Africans involved in fraud and ‘black magic’ turning counterfeit dollars to real and selling them to clients with the help of some UAE residents,” he added.

Three separate gangs were arrested in the operations. The first group of suspects were detained while delivering 1,000 fake dollar bills to one of the undercover agents.

An hour later a police team detained more suspects when they were delivering one million dollars in fake 100-dollar bills.

In the third operation, fake dollar bills worth more than five million dollars were seized.

One more Vietnamese province reports chickens dying en masse

HANOI, 27 Nov—Chickens have died en mass with unidentified causes in Vietnam’s southern Long An Province since early October, while bird flu is hitting three provinces in the country’s northern and central regions, local newspaper Pioneer reported on Monday.

Specimens from 800 dead chickens of a household in the province’s Tan An Town are being tested, the paper quoted head of the provincial Veterinary Bureau, Dinh Van The, as saying.

Earlier, the southern Tien Giang province reported that over 50,000 chickens raised in more than 10 farms in its Cho Gao District died after suddenly stopping eating.

ASLEEP IN JESUS

U Sein Than
Age 77
S.G.S (Myanmar) Ltd (Redt)

U Sein Than of Hlinethaya Township, Yangon, son of (U Wilson Tun and Daw Htwe), beloved husband of Daw Kyin Hone, loving father of U Kenneth (MFSL), U Arthur (U Wilson Tun and Daw Htwe), beloved husband of Daw Htwe, son of (Paw Sein and Daw Myo), grandfather of six grandchildren was called to his heavenly home at Insein General Hospital on 26.11.07 funeral service will be held at Yay Way Christian cemetery on 28.11.07at 1:00 pm.

Bereaved family,

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Tuesday, 27 November, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below November average temperatures in Kachin, Chin, Southern and Kayah States, (5°C) below November average temperatures in upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperature was Hakha (2°C).

Maximum temperature on 26-11-2007 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 27-11-2007 was 64°F. Relatively humidity was (40)%.

Rainfall on 27-11-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kabu-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.57) inches at Mingaladon, (141.38) inches at Kabu-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabu-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (14:30) hours MST on 26-11-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-11-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40)%.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Possibility of rain or thundershowers in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.


Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-11-2007: Generally fair weather.


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People’s Desire

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

Upgrading of Myaungdagar (Hmawby) Main Power Station in progress

YANGON, 27 Nov—Minister for Electric Power (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected progress of upgrading the main power station and the switch yard, 230KV input power feeder and 33-KV output feeder, and distribution of power at 230/33/11 KV (60 MVA) main power station near Yangon-Pyay Road in Hmawby Township yesterday morning.

At the control room of the station, Manager U Saw Win Maung and Director U Thein Hlaing of the Power Supply (South) Project of the Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, Chief Engineer U Tin Maung Tun, Managing Director U Tin Aung of the of Electric Power Supply Enterprise and Head U Kyaw Myint of Myaungdagar Main Power Station reported on arrangements for upgrading of the power station.

In response to the report, the minister said that Myaungdagar Main Power Station was an important facility supplying power to Myaungdagar Steel Industrial Zone out of the industrial zones in Yangon Division and to Hmawby region. He called for harmonious cooperation and greater efforts for successful realization of objectives.

After inspecting the power station, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs of the facility.

Weather Forecast for
(28-11-2007)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area
Fair weather.

Yangon and neighbouring area
Generally fair weather.

Mandalay and neighbouring area
Fair weather.

☆ 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