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

True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Myanmar will continue to strive for the success of the FAO aims, while playing her own role as an active and cooperative participant, with her individual strength and as a member of international organizations.

Over 800 million people still facing malnutrition resulting from food shortages

Myanmar, an agro-based nation, enjoys food sufficiency

Paddy production nearly reached 1.2 billion baskets in 2004-2005

Success goes beyond local food sufficiency, contributing to global food sufficiency

YANGON, 16 Oct — Prime Minister General Soe Win delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the World Food Day at International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, this morning, and presented prizes to officials of outstanding townships and farmers.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee the Mayor, the deputy ministers, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign missions in Yangon, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, members of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fisheries Sciences, departmental heads, officials of the Central Committee and Work Committee for Organizing the 2005 World Food Day, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, journalists, representatives of outstanding townships and winners, private entrepreneurs and guests.

First, Prime Minister General Soe Win delivered an address. He said:

May I first express pleasure for having this opportunity to deliver an address at the World Food Day ceremony.

(See page 8)

The Abhidhamma means subtle or ultimate truth or doctrine. The Abhidhamma Pitaka consists of the four ultimate things: Mind (Citta), Psychoelement (Cetasikas), Matter (Rupa) and Nibbana. It is the most important and most interesting thing to a deep thinker.

PAGE 6 BA SEIN (RELIGIONS AFFAIRS)

Prime Minister General Soe Win addresses ceremony to mark World Food Day. — MNA

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

Today is the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut or the Abhidhamma Day, a day of religious significance for Buddhists all over the world, marking the end of Buddhist Lent. During the Lent, members of the Sangha go into retreat or are confined to their respective monasteries for serious meditation or study of religious scriptures.

As the Myanmar month of Thadingyut falls in the open season every year, usually, the weather is fine and pleasant in the whole country, and on the surface of lakes are the blooming lotus flowers of five different species that add extra beauty to the landscape.

After attaining seven vasas, the Buddha ascended the celestial abode of Tavatimsa, and His aim was to repay the gratitude to celestial beings. It is an occasion for joy and peace and happiness.

Buddhists read or recite the Abhidhamma verse on the day before the Fullmoon Day, on the day after the Fullmoon Day of Waso and completed on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut.

According to scriptures, after having preached at the Abhidhamma at the celestial abode of Tavatimsa, Lord Buddha returned to the human abode in the evening on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. To mark His return from the Tavatimsa, Buddhists in Myanmar offer multi-coloured lights to Him for three days—on the day after the Fullmoon Day, on the Fullmoon Day and on the day after the Fullmoon Day.

As it is the day of religious significance, Buddhists read or recite the Abhidhamma verse which teaches them to stay away from greed, anger, delusion and evil desires. It also helps them find the correct way to Nibbana, eternal peace and happiness.

They also offer flowers, lights, water and joss sticks to the pagodas, practise meditation, keep Sabbath and do meritorious deeds.

It is an age-old tradition for the young to pay respects to parents, grandparents, elders and teachers to show their reverence and it is an act of merit long recognized by Buddhists as a social asset. It is an occasion for joy and merriment for all while elderly perform deeds of merit at pagodas and monasteries on the Fullmoon Day.

Thadingyut is indeed an auspicious occasion for Buddhist devotees and each and everyone has to celebrate the occasion by upholding and preserving the fine traditions.

Oil lights offered to Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 16 Oct —Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees organized the ceremony to illuminate Shwedagon Pagoda at its north-west corner of the platform this evening.

It was attended by members of the pagoda board of trustees, office staff, members of religious associations and pilgrims.

They conveyed oil lights round the pagoda. Next, they offered flowers, water, oil lights and joss sticks to the pagoda. Later, they shared merits gained.

Paddy harvesting in Okpo Township

YANGON, 16 Oct —The harvesting of 1,354 acres of paddy was held at Myaseinyaung cultivation camp near Balar Village in Okpo Township yesterday.

A total of 1,354 acres of paddy was grown in 2005-2006 fiscal year by five companies and Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading of the Ministry of Commerce.

The five companies include Pyae Sone Win Naing Co, X Glory Co Ltd, Choe Zaw Co, Myanma Thihla Co and New Sea Wealth Co Ltd.

Leader of Supervisory Committee of Myaseinyaung cultivation camp (Balair area) Deputy General Manager of MAPT U Win Myint reported on reclamation of vacant and fallow lands, cultivation of paddy in the reclaimed farmlands and arrangements for triple cropping.

The average per acre yield is over 80 baskets. Deputy General Manager of MAPT U Win Myint and members viewed the harvesting.

UMFCCI President leaves for PRC

YANGON, 16 Oct —Executive U Myo Thant left here by air yesterday evening to attend the 2nd China-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit and the 2nd China-ASEAN Trade Fair to be held from 18 to 22 October in Nanning in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People’s Republic of China. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by General Secretary of UMFCCI U Sein Win Hlaing and officials. —MNA
Hu calls for efforts to help developing countries' development

BEIJING, 15 Oct — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday called for vigorous efforts to help developing countries accelerate development, in a speech at the opening ceremony of the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting.

Hu said that for developing countries as a whole, economic development and the improvement of people's livelihood are the most pressing issues top on their agenda, and that supporting developing countries in accelerating development is also instrumental for sustaining balanced and orderly world economic development.

"It is, therefore, imperative for us to enhance the North-South dialogue, proceed with the gradual establishment of a new type of long-term and all-inclusive North-South partnership, and achieve a win-win result through securing mutual benefits and reciprocity and drawing on one another's successful experience," he said.

Hu also urged efforts to improve the development assistance mechanism and encourage more development resources to be diverted into developing countries.

"The developed countries should earnestly honour their commitments in poverty reduction, financial assistance and debt relief, and work out and put into practice new financing mechanisms to accelerate the development of developing countries, the least developed ones in particular," he said.

The developing countries, on their part, must work even harder to improve their domestic economic climate, use development assistance more effectively and build up competitive strength through their own efforts and cooperation with others, he said.

The international community must set up an effective oversight regime, implement the agreements and achievements reached on development issues at the recent UN summit celebrating its 60th anniversary, and ensure the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals, he said.

China starts selecting women taikonauts

BEIJING, 15 Oct — China has begun to work on standards to select women taikonauts, Chinese term for astronauts, for future space missions, an official with the China Space Centre said.

Chen Shanguang, director of the China Astrostaut Research and Training Centre, or simply China Space Centre, said that women taikonauts are being trained to carry out space missions.

Studies about the impact of space flight on women have been initiated, he said. And a large number of experiments will be conducted to tell the differences between men and women in space.

As women taikonauts have different requirements about environment and life assurance in a spacecraft, Chinese researchers will have to make extensive studies, such as developing new space suits and devices to collect the excrement of women. China's Air Force Aeronautics University welcomed 35 women pilot trainees for the eighth time in July this year. Experts say the country's first group of female fighter pilots may grow out of them and the first female Chinese taikonaut may be selected.

"My dream is to become China's first female fighter pilot and first female taikonaut," said Tao Jiali, a student from southwest China's Sichuan Province to the university.

Spanish police seize second ship loaded with cocaine

MADRID, 15 Oct — Spanish police have seized three tons of cocaine hidden in a Panamanian-flagged cargo ship off the Canary Islands and arrested 16 people, the government said on Friday, a day after a similar haul.

On Thursday, police detained a group of people aboard a fishing boat, named IVY 1, which was heading for Spain.

Police started investigating the Canary Island-based owner of the cargo ship, IVY 1, more than a year ago. He and his girlfriend were among 12 people arrested in Las Palmas and Madrid. The Russian captain and another nine crew members were also detained.

The government said it was rare to find a regular cargo ship being used to transport drugs. The 80-meter (260-foot) vessel was officially bringing cargo from Africa to Portugal.

Police suspect the crew planned to transfer the bundles of cocaine while still in international waters off the coast of Spain or Portugal to fast launches, which would bring it ashore.

Spain's coastline is a favourite entry point for illegal drugs into Europe, particularly the northwestern region of Galicia with its numerous caves and inlets.

Portuguese police in June seized 4.2 tons of cocaine bound for Spain in a warehouse east of the capital Lisbon, in the biggest haul of the drug in the European Union this year.

Cyprus accuses US of supporting Turkish Cypriots secessionism

NICOSIA, 15 Oct — The Cyprus Government on Friday accused the United States of promoting secessionism on the island by a planned meeting between US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat.

Government spokesman Kypros Chrysostomides told the Press that such a meeting does not enhance efforts to create a climate that will lead to reunification and the right settlement of the Cyprus problem.

Jane Zimmerman, charge d'affaires of the US Embassy in Nicosia said on Thursday that US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was prepared to meet Mehmet Ali Talat in his capacity as the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community.

Chrysostomides denounced that through their stance, the Americans promote secessionism and support Talat's "illegal ambitions" and the Turkish-Cypriot community's goals to maintain division.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said the Cyprus Government is ready to participate in a new effort to resume the dialogue on the Cyprus question, as soon as the US Secretary-General Kofi Annan extends an invitation.

Cyprus has been divided into Greek Cypriot south and Turkish Cypriot north since 1974 when Turkey sent troops to take control of the island's northern third in response to a Greek-inspired coup.

Guerrillas launch several attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 Oct — A roadside bomb exploded near a polling station in western Baghdad on Saturday morning as it opened for voting in Iraq's constitutional referendum, and one policeman was wounded, police said. No citizens were injured.

The explosion occurred just as the heavily guarded centre was opening at 7 am, and no voters were there yet, said police Lt Mohammed Kheyoun.

Violence also was reported in Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, and near the southern city of Basra, police said.

In Ramadi, fighting erupted at about 7 am between a small group of guerillas and US troops patrolling the mostly empty streets of the city, said police 1st Lt Mohammed Al-Oubidi. It was not immediately clear if anyone was wounded in the fighting.
WHO calls for stepping up moves against bird flu

GENEVA, 15 Oct — The spread of the deadly bird flu virus to poultry in new areas on the fringes of Europe has increased the chances of human cases, the World Health Organization said on Friday.

The United Nations health agency called for intensified surveillance of flocks and humans.

But in a statement posted on its web site, it said that all evidence indicated that the H5N1 virus still does not spread easily from birds to humans.

"The spread of H5N1 to poultry in new areas is of concern as it increases opportunities for further human cases to occur," the WHO said.

"The WHO advises countries experiencing outbreaks in poultry to follow certain precautions, particularly during culling operations and to monitor persons with a possible exposure history for a fever or respiratory symptoms," it said.

European bird flu experts were to hold an emergency meeting in Brussels on Friday. — MNA/Reuters

Moderate quake jolts Tokyo, no tsunami warning

TOKYO, 16 Oct — A moderate earthquake jolted Tokyo and its vicinity on Sunday afternoon, causing buildings in the capital to shake, but no tsunami warning was issued and there were no immediate reports of damage.

Tapan’s Meteorological Agency said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.1 and was centered in southern Ibaraki prefecture, north of Tokyo. The earthquake’s focus was 10 km (25 miles) underground.

The quake set off alarm in convenience stores and left displays of goods in disarray.

Trains in the Tokyo area and surrounding regions were generally running as normal, although some were running at lower speeds as a precaution, national broadcaster NHK said. There was no effect on Tokyo’s Narita Airport, the broadcaster said.

Subway services in Tokyo were halted briefly, but have now resumed at lower speeds, NHK said.

Japan is one of the world’s most earthquake-prone countries, with a tremor occurring at least every five minutes.

Located in the "Ring of Fire" are of volcanoes and oceanic trenches partly encircling the Pacific Basin, the country accounts for about 20 percent of the world’s earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater. Every year, there are up to 2,000 quakes that can be felt by people.

Baltimore firefighter dies in Iraq

BALTIMORE, 15 Oct — A Baltimore Fire Department lieutenant was killed in Iraq last week while serving with the Maryland Army National Guard, city Fire Department officials confirmed on Saturday.

Fire Lt. Brian Conner, 32, of Baltimore was in Iraq with the 243rd Infantry Division when he was killed on Thursday, said Fire Department spokesman Kevin Cartwright. No further details about Conner’s death were available on Saturday night.

Conner, who joined the Fire Department in 1993, had been an emergency vehicle driver before being promoted to lieutenant, Cartwright said. His first assignment was as a firefighter recruit with Truck Company 9. — MNA/Reuters

Vietnam wants early launch of first satellite

HANOI, 15 Oct — Vietnam is endeavoring to conclude negotiation with relevant countries on the orbit of its first communication satellite within this year, according to sources at the Vietnam Posts and Telecommunication Corporation on Friday.

Due to the orbit issue, Vietnam could not put the medium-sized satellite named Vinasat into space in 2005 as expected, the sources said, adding that after the negotiation is completed, the country will open a tender for satellite production and relevant activities. Most potential bidders come from the United States, France, Japan and Russia.

Vinasat, planned to have 25-30 transceivers with lifespan of around 15 years, will span its coverage over Vietnam, other Southeast Asian countries, and parts of China and Japan. "Vinasat may not be for rent," the sources said, noting that Vietnam now has to use satellite services provided by foreign companies from Thailand, Indonesia and Russia.

Vietnam has yet to reveal details about the time and cost for manufacturing and launching Vinasat. Some local experts said that the satellite could be produced within two years, and that the total cost might reach 270 million US dollars.

Vinasat will be Vietnam’s second space item since the country’s first astronaut took part in a Soviet space mission in 1985. — MNA/Xinhua
Hu calls for full implementation of CPC session spirit

BEIJING, 15 Oct— Chinese President Hu Jintao called on both the governments and the branches of the Communist Party of China (CPC) at various levels to study and carry out the spirit of the fifth plenary session of the 16th CPC Central Committee which closed on 11 October.

The studying and implementing of the spirit is one of the country’s key political tasks and will remain to be so in the upcoming future, said Hu, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

The governments and Party branches should substantively lift their capabilities on implementing the scientific concept of development, handling the overall situation, balancing the relations between different interest groups and being creative and pragmatic, said Hu.

All such efforts, he said, should be made according to the general requirements of promoting scientific development, lifting innovation capabilities, improving related systems and push forward harmony in the whole society.

“We should seize and make full use of the current strategic opportunity period to promote China’s economic and social development, which will play a decisive role in laying a sound basis for China’s development in the next decade,” he said.

One of the key points in implementing the session’s spirit lies with introducing advanced development concepts, making clear development ideas, innovating development modes and improving development quality so as to move China’s development into a people-centred and comprehensively sustainable track, said Hu.

The governments and branches of the Communist Party of China (CPC) at various levels should study and implement the session’s spirit in line with the CPC’s new mission and their missions and tasks during the period of the 11th Five-Year Plan,” he stated.

He called on both the governments and branches of the CPC to make a clear decision to suspend “unconstructive disputes and contentious issues which may lead to mutual losses,” and to work for the overall interest of the whole society.

“With larger hearts and more open minds, the CPC should take make the move to a comprehensive sustainable development,” he said.

It was the first time in the CPC’s history that Hu had extolled the concept of comprehensive sustainable development.

The concept was proposed by Hu during a meeting on the 11th Five-Year Plan held on 5 October, and was also mentioned in Hu’s signature address, “Upholding and Developing the CPC’s Theory and Spirit.”

The concept was also extolled by Hu during the plenary meeting theme session of the fifth session of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) on 10 October.

Explosives seized from rebel group hideout in northern Philippines

MANILA, 15 Oct— About 100 kilos of explosive chemicals were discovered from a hideout of the New People’s Army (NPA) rebels in the northern Philippines, the military said on Friday.

Army spokesman Major Bartolome Bacarro said that military intelligence operatives and bomb experts on Thursday seized the “black powder granules” in two boxes from the house in Tanay Town of Rizal Province, but he did not disclosed what the rebels might attempt to do with the explosive materials.

However, he said the NPA has been assembling improvised explosives to ambush the troops and topple military and civilian facilities.

The clashes between the NPA and the government troops became increasingly frequent after the rebel group ordered more attacks against the military facilities, as the retaliation to the government’s decision to suspend an immunity agreement between two sides, subjecting scores of NPA members to the arrests and prosecutions.

Rocket fired at prefecture in Corsican City

BASTIA (France), 15 Oct— A rocket was fired at the offices of the top French representative in the Corsican City of Bastia in the early hours of Friday, causing limited damage.

It came two weeks after a rocket was fired at the Ajaccio prefecture amid protests over a government plan to privatize a loss-making ferry company linking Corsica to mainland France.

Those protests stirred nationalist sentiment on the island where there is a history of political tension with the French Government.

“Certain small groups of clandestine separatists could carry out even more irresponsible attacks,” Sarkozy warned.

At least 27 killed in India boat capsize

LUCKNOW, India, 16 Oct— At least 27 people drowned and 15 were missing when an overcrowded boat capsized in the Ganges River in northern India, authorities said on Sunday.

The accident happened on Saturday in Ballia District in the densely populated state of Uttar Pradesh.

“The boat was overloaded with more than 70 people in it. Passengers panicked when water started seeping in and some people jumped into the river shaking the boat which toppled and capsized,” district administrator Alii Kumar said.

He said 27 bodies had been recovered while 32 people managed to swim to safety. Rescue workers were still hunting for the rest.

Peru Machu Picchu mudslides strand 3,200 tourists

LIMA (Peru), 15 Oct— Mudslides caused by heavy rains in Peru’s southern Andes stranded 3,200 tourists at the Machu Picchu Incalca citadel on Thursday as mud and rocks blocked the railway line and out of the site, train operators said.

The nationalities of the tourists were not immediately known, but no one was thought to be injured, Peru Rail spokeswoman Joanna Boyen said.

Peru Rail said it was working to clear the railway line and planned to return tourists to the nearby city of Cuzco via a minor road on Thursday.

Mudslides are relatively common in Peru’s rainy season, which runs from September to February.

Six people were killed in April last year by mudslides caused by unusually intense rains in Machu Picchu Pueblo, the village which is the starting point for the 500,000 tourists who visit the Inca citadel every year.

A medical clinic set up at Houston’s Reliant Park treated more than 1,000 people with diarrhea, vomiting or both symptoms between 2 September and 12 September, according to a report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Virus blamed for stomach flu in Houston shelters

NEW ORLEANS, 15 Oct— A virus that thrives in crowded, unsanitary environments may have caused an outbreak of stomach flu among Hurricane Katrina survivors and relief workers in Houston, health officials said on Thursday.

A medical clinic set up at Houston’s Reliant Park treated more than 1,000 people with diarrhea, vomiting or both symptoms between 2 September and 12 September, according to a report released by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.


INTERNET

1,970 US troops killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 Oct— As of Saturday, 15 Oct, 2005, at least 1,970 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,531 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

Since 1, May 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,831 US military members have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according an Associated Press count. That includes at least 1,422 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.
The Significant and Noble Day of Abhidhamma (The Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, Mahapavarana Day)  

**Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)**

The Significant and Noble Day of Abhidhamma (the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, Mahapavarana Day) falls on 17th October in 2005.

In the fourth week, after attaining the enlightenment, the Buddha began to contemplate and review the Dhamma (the truth) he had realized near the Bodhi tree.

On his seventh Vasa (Seven Years) of enlightenment, the Buddha, out of compassion for the devas and Brahmas, went to the Tavatimsa Devaloka (Celestial abode) where He preached the Abhidhamma Pitaka (Basket of Ultimate things) for a full three months to His deceased mother who was reborn as Santusita Deva and other devas and Brahmas assembled there, hoping to make them realize the four ultimate things for which a Knowledge of Abhidhamma is absolutely necessary because it deals with the highest and ultimate sense of things springing into being as facts as distinct from mere names.

After preaching Abhidhamma (Ultimate Truth) to His deceased mother, Santusita Deva and other Devas and Brahmas for a full three months, the Buddha returned to the human abode on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. According to the Pali Text, there were three decorated stairways of silver, gold and ruby beginning from the top of the great Mount Meru to the gate of Sankassa town on earth that were clearly visible without any blockage and can be viewed more than hundreds of thousands of miles.

The Buddha took the middle stairway accompanied by Devas and Brahmas who took right stairway and left stairway. All Devas and Brahmas from the Tavatimsa Devaloka (Celestial abode) paid deep homage to the Omniscient Buddha for a full three months from 1st Waning of Waso to Fullmoon of Thadingyut. According to the Vinaya rules of the Buddha, the period of a full three months from 1st Waning of Waso to Fullmoon of Thadingyut (round about from mid-July to mid-October) is retreat-period of Buddhists. During retreat-period, all Buddhist monks must have to go away from their residences (monasteries, temples) not more than seven days. Especially, they have to fulfill their religious duties (Ganadhura and Vipassanadhura) during the retreat-period more than before. All Buddhist monks have followed and practised the said Vinaya rules since over 2500 years ago.

When the Buddha descended from Tavatimsa (Celestial abode), the Devas and Brahmas accompanied Him putting up white sacred umbrellas and fanning Him. At that time, because of unlimited miraculous powers, supernormal powers and glory of the Buddha, the whole earth could see the most surpassing splendour and significant event of the Omniscient Buddha descending to the human abode.

The Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut (Mahapavarana Day) has been marked by Buddhists as the significant and noble day of Abhidhamma since then (over 2500 years ago). On the auspicious occasion of the Abhidhamma (Mahapavarana Day), in remembrance of the Buddha, members of the Sangha recite Abhidhamma discourses and meritorious deeds dedicating to the attainment of noble stage of Nibbana (supreme bliss).

The Pali term **Abhidhamma** is composed of **Abhi** which means subtle or ultimate, and **Dhamma** which means truth or doctrine. The Abhidhamma, therefore, means subtle or ultimate truth or doctrine. The Abhidhamma Pitaka consists of the four ultimate things; Mind (Citta), Psychifactor (Cetasikas), Matter (Rupa) and Nibbana. It is the most important and most interesting thing to a deep thinker. It is subdivided into seven books.

When the Buddha had preached Abhidhamma for a full three months to His deceased mother who was reborn as Santusita Deva and to other Devas and Brahmas at the celestial abode, He said to the king of the celestials that He would return to the human abode. Therefore, the king of the celestials created and arranged three stairways of silver, gold and rubies beginning from the top of the great Mount Meru to the gate of Sankassa Town of the human abode.

Sending forth the six coloured rays emanated from His body, the Buddha descended by the middle stairway of ruby to the gate of Sankassa Town of the human abode (on earth). The Devas (Celestial beings) accompanied the Buddha from the right side stairway of gold playing musical instruments and fanning the Buddha. The Brahmas (higher celestial beings) accompanied the Buddha from the left side stairway of silver putting up white umbrellas.

At the time, when the Buddha returned from the celestial abode to the human abode, the highest Brahma realm, Ekamanta, the lowest Aviiti (Apaya planes of miserable existences), the four cardinal points, the ten directions and thousands of worlds were clearly visible without any blockage and barrier because of unlimited miraculous powers, supernormal powers and glory of the Buddha.

People could see the whole celestial abode of Devas and Brahmas, and all celestial beings in turn viewed more than hundreds of thousands of millions of people who were welcoming and paying deep homage to the Buddha. There was no one that did not wish and pray to become a Buddha, the most noble wish after witnessing the most surpassing splendour.

Up to this day we can visualize the most surpassing splendour and significant event of the Omniscient Buddha descending to the earth from the great Mount Meru accompanied by Devas and Brahmas to the gate of Sankassa Town of the human abode.

On the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, we all Buddhists generously offer lights, water, flowers, scents, fruits, food and other various kinds of offerings to pagodas and monasteries and also pay respect to teachers, parents and elders. These meritorious deeds dedicate to the attainment of the noble stage of Nibbana through the most surpassing splendour and significant event of the Omniscient Buddha descending to the human abode from the celestial abode on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut.
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR    Monday, 17 October, 2005

Objectives of 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalize patriotism and nationalism;
— To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage;
— To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts;
— To preserve Myanmar national character;
— To nurture spiritual development of the youths;
— To prevent influence of alien culture; and
— To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

Vidhura Drama Contest continues

YANGON, 16 Oct —
The Vidhura Drama Contest of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the third day at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyauk Street this evening.

Ngamyiya Tin Thein Drama Troupe represented Mandalay Division participated in the Drama Contest. Among the spectators were members of the panel of patrons of the Organizing Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, members of the work committee and sub-committees, maestros and enthusiasts.

Leader of the panel of judges U Chit Oo Nyo and party supervised the contest.

The competition of the Vidhura Drama Contest scheduled tomorrow is postponed to 18 October evening. Maung Moe Min and troupe representing Yangon Division will take part in the contest on that day.

Performing Arts Competitions continue...

(from page 16)

(aged 15-20) girls' dancing contest. Chairman of the Panel of Judges Maung Pyi Sone Tun (a) Thar Chaw and members of the panel of judges supervised the contest.

Likewise, seven persons participated in the amateur level men’s dobat contest at Padonma Theatre, and seven in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boys’ dobat contest. U Sein Ba Maw and members of the panel of judges supervised the contest.

At Kanbawza Theatre, 13 contestants competed in the amateur level men’s xylophone contest, and nine girls in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ xylophone contest. Today’s music contest was supervised by Chairman of the panel of judges Gitalulin U Ko Ko and party.

The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions scheduled on 17 October, Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, are postponed to 18 October.

Culture Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and party at Vidhura drama contest at the National Theatre. — MNA

Coord meeting for performing arts competitions held

YANGON, 16 Oct —
The work coordination meeting of the Chairman of the Working Committee of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and members, Sub-Committee members and team managers of States and Divisions was held at No 1 Transit Centre (Bayintnaung) in Hlinye Township this evening, with an address by Chairman of Working Committee Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan.

Next, the Work Committee Chairman Col Tint Hsan fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Maung Pyi Sone Tun (a) Thar Chaw of Kayin State participates in men’s higher education level dancing contest. — MNA

Ma Pan Ei Phyu of Taninthayi Division participates in girls’ basic education level religious song contest (aged 10-15). — MNA

Members of Working Committee and Sub-Committees of 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions meet. — MNA
Government has been launching conservation programme according to the law to prevent prawn and fish depletion and biodiversity deterioration

(From page 1)

As Myanmar is a UN member, she has been firmly supporting and adhering to the aims and policies of the UN Principles. It is a common knowledge that the nation lays down the principle “cooperation with the UN” as the cornerstone of her foreign policy according to her sincere belief in the UN that the global body has the ability to ensure international peace and security.

At the same time, Myanmar has been actively and conscientiously cooperating with the UN subordinate bodies — the UNDP, the UNICEF, the FAO, the WHO and the UNODC and UN High Commission for Refugees — in the service of the entire global peoples’ interest.

All in all, Myanmar has been a nation making utmost efforts with goodwill to further improve and cement her friendly relations and cooperation with all the nations of the planet, friendly neighbours and regional countries, in addition to her active participation in the international and regional organizations.

Today commemorates the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization, which has turned 60 years as the United Nations itself, and which has become matured with various kinds of experiences and different situations it has witnessed during the period. Every year, the world nations including Myanmar observe the World Food Day on 16 October, the day on which the FAO was founded.

Throughout its long existence, the FAO has already striven together with its member nations to realize the body’s lofty aims of freeing the entire mankind from hunger, ensuring adequacy of sustenance and improving the rural living standard. We all should continue to work harder to achieve greater success year after year, while reviewing and measuring the extent of success we have achieved so far in realizing the aims.

Myanmar will continue to strive for the success of the FAO aims, while playing her own role as an active and cooperative participant, with her individual strength and as a member of international organizations.

Of the over six billion peoples of the planet, over 800 million are still facing malnutrition resulting from food shortages. And the global rich and poor gap is still wide. We on our part will have to narrow the large gap between the rich and the poor as possible as we can.

Moreover, we believe that owing to the above-mentioned reasons, this year’s motto for the World Food Day 2005 has been designated “Agriculture and Intercultural Dialogue”. And it is with close friendship and goodwill, the FAO and other international organizations will have to coordinate to find a way for implementing practical development programmes.

Myanmar, an agro-based nation, enjoys food sufficiency. The nation’s agricultural industry is the most basic economic sector that has opened opportunities for socio-economic development of the citizens and rural progress in addition to providing food for the people of Myanmar.

It is true that we will be able to strengthen peace and stability of the State only if there is economic progress. Moreover, only with the prevalence of internal peace and stability, we will be able to strengthen and uplift the national economy, the socio-economy and other development undertakings.

As Myanmar is a UN member, she has been firmly supporting and adhering to the aims and policies of the UN Principles. It is a common knowledge that the nation lays down the principle “cooperation with the UN” as the cornerstone of her foreign policy according to her sincere belief in the UN that the global body has the ability to ensure international peace and security and speed up the development pace of all member nations.

Prime Minister General Soe Win presents award for Ayeyawady Division for its best performance in production of monsoon paddy to an official. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win views the booths opened at the celebration of World Food Day. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win awards U Khin Maung Win of Zaukthin village-tract, Kyaukdaw township for his best performance in production of monsoon paddy. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win greets diplomats of foreign embassies at the World Food Day celebration. — MNA
Government has set up peaceful and sound environment and foundation for future generations

(from page 8)

Hence, Myanmar is giving priority to development of the agricultural sector in conjunction with the long-term progress of fish and meat sector and forestry sector that are related to agricultural industry. Seventy per cent of the nation’s population of 54 million are relying mainly on agricultural sector, livestock breeding sector or forestry sector to earn their living. We see the efforts to develop the roles of the sectors and their production capacity as practical endeavours for development of rural areas where the majority of people live.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe once said, “As we are an agro-based nation, and the majority of people living in rural areas are poor, the nation will witness progress only if we can carry out the rural development task effectively. We will have to encourage the rural people to run farming business in addition to their agricultural work in ensure Reduction of Rural Poverty.” With this guidance, he has laid down the five rural development tasks.

Now, we have been in the fifth year of carrying out rural development undertakings, seeing it as a part of the project for national progress. The five rural development tasks have interactions between one another, and harmony is required in implementing them. The essence of our rural development tasks is the same as the global poverty alleviation programmes.

We would like to reiterate that the giving of priority to the rural development tasks is the right choice politically and economically. As the tasks serve the majority’s interest, our nation is witnessing tangible results as well as the narrowing gap between the rural and the urban. In the sector of producing rice, the staple food of Myanmar, the nation saw her paddy production exceeding one billion baskets in 2000-2001, and nearly touched 1.2 billion mark in 2004-2005. According to estimates, the nation’s paddy output will pass more than 1.2 billion baskets in the very near future. It is a great success for the nation in her history of agriculture to set a record after the record paddy output.

The success goes beyond our local food sufficiency to the degree of contributing to global food sufficiency to a certain extent, because of the rise in the volume of surplus rice.

The government on its part has been laying down and implementing systematic programmes to increase crop per acre yield, to extend sown acreage, to reclaim more land, and to win markets where the nation’s new agricultural products find a competitive edge.

Similarly, the meat and fish sector that is related to agriculture, is also enjoying rapid development with the government’s assistance. The government is distributing quality strains and exerting efforts with added momentum for well-rounded development and advancement of the fish and meat sector. It is also paying special attention to increasing investment in fish and meat sector and the upgrading the manageable-scale farms at villages to advanced commercial-scale farms.

Thanks to the government’s endeavours, the nation can now export its surplus fish and meat in addition to satisfying local sufficiency. We would like to pledge that we will work harder for our nation to stand firmly as a global food supplier.

While striving to develop the fish and meat sector, the government has been launching a conservation programme according to the law to prevent prawn and fish depletion and bio-diversity deterioration. In the forestry sector, the government has been systematically extracting timber, with priority given to ecologically conserving and afforestation, ensuring a balanced nature and climate, and the protection of diverse flora and fauna species. It is also systematically carrying out forest development projects covering the task of conserving and generating forests, establishing and protecting natural parks and forest plantations and conserving and protecting watershed areas in addition to implementing the dry region greening project in all parts of the central regions of Myanmar.

Because of the national strength, systematic self-reliant efforts and correct aims, all the citizens are enjoying food sufficiency, and the rural areas are witnessing annual improvement in health, education and social standards. Furthermore, the government has set up a peaceful and sound environment and foundation for the future generations. In the international field, Myanmar has been joining hands with her neighbours, the ASEAN family, regional countries and UN agencies and extending her constructive cooperation in the global affairs to produce more food, conserve the environment, ensure regional peace, stability, security and progress, and boost economic cooperation.

In this age, the emergence of a peaceful, stable and united world rest on constructive coordination and cooperation of global countries and fair assistance for the developing countries.

Only if there are international coordination and cooperation, mutual understanding and sympathy and assistance, will injustice and disunity the world is seeing resulting from poverty and hunger, rich and poor gap, technological divide and status discrimination disappear. Consequently, a world of plenty, equality, harmony and tranquility will also emerge.

(see page 10)
Government has set up peaceful and... (from page 9)

In conclusion, I would like to urge all the global countries and international organizations concerned to make practical efforts through constructive coordination and cooperation to ensure greater food sufficiency and regional development for emergence of a hunger-free world in accordance with the motto of the World Food Day.

UNFAO Resident Representative Mr Yang Zhengping read out the message sent by the FAO Director-General.

Next, a video documentary was shown to the audience.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Soe Win presented prizes for outstanding performance in monsoon paddy production prizes to the representatives of Hinthada Township and farmer U Khin Maung Win of Kyaukdaing Township, prize for fish breeding through cage system to U Hlay Myint of Yuzana Co Ltd of Pathein Township, and the first prize for establishment of special teak plantation to Kyangin Township.

The Prime Minister cordially greeted the ambassadors and charges d'affaires, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials. They viewed agricultural equipment and booths opened by Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, FAO, Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries in the hall.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Major Gen Hay Uo gave away prizes to Kyakklat Township and U Ba Aye of Namkhin Township for summer paddy production, and Taunggyi Township and U Saw Maung of Hlheseung Township for maize production.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presented outstanding performance livestock and fisheries prizes to U Mahn Kyaw Shein of Thawawng Village in Kangyidaunt Township, U Than Lwin of Ngwese Pale Co Ltd of Kyimyindotine Township, U Zaw Lay of Fisheries and Marine Products-2000 Ltd of Botataung Township, U Tun Aye of Shwe Yamon Co Ltd of Hline Township, U Aung Naing of Asia Winner Co Ltd of Botataung Town- ship, Dr Thein Sein of Taunggyi Township, U Sai Lin of Yangon Division, U Win Maung of Kyaukse Township and U Khin Maung Win of Myektila Township.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung awarded second and third prizes to Natton and Inpaga Townships for establishment of special teak plantation.

FAO Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhenping gave away prizes to winners in the essay contest.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Then Lin also presented prizes to winner persons and townships for their outstanding performance in production of groundnut and sesame.

Deputy Minister for A&I U Ohn Myint presented prizes to winner persons and townships for production of sunflower.

Likewise, President of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fisheries Sciences U Tin Hlaing, Vice-President (Agriculture) Dr Thein Myint, Vice-President (Livestock & Fisheries) Dr Min Soe and Vice-President (Forestry) Dr Nyan Tun, Secretary U Tin Htut Oo, Joint-Secretary (Livestock & Fisheries) Dr San Aung, and Joint-Secretary (Forestry) U Soe Win Hlaing gave away prizes to the outstanding townships and persons. — MNA

Because of the national strength, systematic self-reliant efforts and correct aims, all the citizens are enjoying food sufficiency, and the rural areas are witnessing annual improvement in health, education and social standards.

Multimedia classrooms opened at BEHS No 1, North Oakkalapa Township

YANGON, 16 Oct — Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and also Commander of Yangon Command, this morning attended the opening of multimedia classrooms of Basic Education High School No 1 in North Oakkalapa Township.

Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and departmental heads under the ministry, No 2 Military Region Commander Col Tin Tun, Yangon Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi, Yangon East District PDC Chairman Li-Col Maung Maung Shein, Secretary of Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association U Aye Myint, the township education officer, the school head, teachers, members of social organizations and donors were also present.

The deputy minister, headmaster U Aung Moe and Patron of the school board of trustees U Ba Myint formally opened the classrooms, and the commander formally unveiled the signboard of the classrooms. Next, the commander and party were conducted round the video room, language-lab, computer aided instruction section, domestic science room and documentary photo room.

Addressing the ceremony to hand over the multimedia classrooms donated by wellwishers, Maj-Gen Myint Swe said the government is taking measures to promote national education for the emergence of human resources that will help to shape a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Now is the time when the world’s nations with the advancement in technologies are paying emphasis on education sector. That is why students are required to learn and know modern technologies in order to catch up with the developing world. Only then will they become intellectuals and intel- ligentsia.

In addition, students should be trained to be equipped with the sense of preserving Myanmar traditional customs, national character and patriotism, he said. Then the commander thanked the wellwishers for donating the multimedia classrooms.

Afterwards, donors presented K 1.9 million for the purchase of teaching aids to be used in classrooms to the commander, the deputy commander and Director General U Bo Win of the Education Planning and Training Department.

Later, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min expressed thanks to the wellwishers. — MNA

All this needs to be known
- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appealed
**Commander, CEC member attend AGM of Bago Division USDA**

**YANGON, 16 Oct —**

Patron of Bago Division Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and CEC member Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, together with Bago Division (East) USDA Secretary U Saw Maw Tun, executives and representatives of social organizations, attended the ceremony to unveil the signboard bearing genuine patriotism in front of the Bago Township USDA Office in Bago this morning.

CEC member Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min unveiled the signboard.

At Thiri Hantha Hall in Bago, the commander and the minister attended the Annual General Meeting 2005 of Bago Division USDA. First, USDA member students of Bago BEHS No 3 sang songs.

The commander and the CEC member gave speeches.

Next, Bago Division (East) USDA Secretary U Saw Maw Tun submitted the annual report.

The commander presented prizes to the winners. The CEC member gave away prizes to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2004-05 academic year. Afterwards, the commander and the CEC member gave encouragement to USDA members who donated blood at Bago General Hospital and presented gifts to them.

**Mandalay Division WAO Chairperson makes field trip to Meiktila**

**YANGON, 16 Oct —**

Chairperson of Mandalay Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Than Than Nyunt and members donated medicines and nutritious food to 20 older persons in Shwe Ku Village and Hsinchedine Village in Wundwin Township, Meiktila District on 9 October. They provided stationery for 20 students and presented books to village library. They also accepted the membership applications of She Ku Village WAO.

Chairperson Daw Than Than Nyunt gave talks on facts about WAO; In-charge of Organizational Department Daw Thanda Phone Win on its tasks; and IP Thida Shein on matters related to prevention against human trafficking.

They also held round-table discussion with local people.

Mandalay Division WAO Chairperson Daw Than Than Nyunt visited a team of specialists providing medical treatment to locals and offered pairs of glasses to those with eye disorder. At Nabe Kan Model Village, they donated books, stationery, medicine and nutritious refreshments to students and older persons and accepted membership applications.

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.**
Young people become mainstay for China’s space programme

BEIJING, 15 Oct— Young scientists and engineers are playing an increasingly important role in China’s space programme, and behind China’s successful launch of its second manned spacecraft are a group of them 48.7 years of age on average.

Wang Yongzhi, 73, chief designer of China’s manned space programme, said these young people grew up along with the progress of the programme and have become the mainstay of the undertakings.

From 1955 when Qian Xuesem, father of China’s space programme also known as Tsien Hsue-sen, returned to China from the United States till 2005 when China launched its second manned spacecraft Wednesday morning, five generations of space scientists and engineers have contributed to the realization of Chinese people’s centuries-old dream of flying in space.

Ninety-four-year-old Qian, the leader of China’s rocketry programme, belongs to the first generation of space scientists, and Wang Yongzhi, who once studied in the former Soviet Union, is representative of the second generation space scientists. Wang has witnessed the development of the country’s space programme from the launch of Shenzhou-1 to Shenzhou-6 spacecrafts.

Qi Faren, former chief designer of the country’s manned spacecraft, and Huang Chunping, former commander-in-chief of the rocket system, are regarded as representatives of the third generation developed by China itself. They placed their places to Zhang Biaixun and Lu Yu in 2004, both in their forties and some 30 years younger than Ri and Huang.

One of the major achievements of China’s manned space programme over the past dozen years is a group of young space scientists who have grown up, said Wang. Among members of the fifth generation, who contributed to the development Shenzhou-6 spacecraft, are aged below 35 years, and some of them are only 32 years old.

“Give them another 20 years, you can’t imagine what miracle they will have made,” said Wang.

Space technologies closely related to human life

BEIJING, 15 Oct—Space technologies developed in decades-long research are closely related to human life as many have been used or will be used to improve our life, said a leading Chinese space scientist here Saturday.

Many space technologies have been used in our daily life, said Hu Wensui, an acamdemian with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

For example, meteorological satellite helps human forecast natural disasters in advance and communications satellite connects the whole world into a “global village”.

“Space astronomy, purely scientific part of space sciences, works to discover how universe operates and evolves, to help humans understand basic concepts about universe. Such findings will directly change our knowledge system. It’s closely linked with everyone,” said Hu.

Space sciences fall into five categories, namely, space astronomy, space physics, moon and broader space exploration, geoscience, life science and micro-gravity science. Life science and micro-gravity science, seemingly far away from daily life, has profound impact on once-relevant technologies are applied, said Hu, who is also an academician with the International Academy of Astronautics.

He said that protein, basic substance to form life, is barely understood by humans, who only know its function in a certain type of protein, but not its structure. Less than one hundredth of millions of proteins in a human body have been found out.

In a micro-gravity space environment, protein can develop large crystal for structural analysis. Successful analysis of one protein, if applied to medicine development, can greatly shorten a new medicine R&D time and improve its quality.

In making alloy, space material science is highly helpful. Drops blending two liquids are found to move according to the law of capillary traction, which can be controlled under micro-gravity circumstances to produce highly-even alloy.

Noting that three men went to space as tourists, Hu said: “Our exploration of the space has dual purposes.”

Russian tackle town’s last rebel holdout

NALCHIK (Russia), 15 Oct—Russian security forces said on Friday they had all but wiped out the remnants of a rebel force that tried to storm a Caucasus Town in an attack that raised doubts about the Kremlin’s control in the region.

One small group of rebels was still holed up in a prison administration building in Nalchik about 30 hours after militants attacked police and government offices in Nalchik in a string of simultaneous assaults on Thursday morning. Police said it was an isolated incident. They were now moving down any gumm who may have ditched their arms and tried to sneak out of the city, set in the foothills of the towering Mount Elbrus, by melting into the local population.

Separatists from nearby Chechnya, who have been fighting against Moscow rule for a decade, said they staged the raid with support from local sympathizers.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who came to power in 2000 by taking tough on Chechnya, ordered his security forces to crush any remaining rebel resistance.

The two astronauts, Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng, had carried out a series of anti-disturbance experiments in the capsules since Thursday morning, including closing and reopening the internal capsule door, moving between the orbital and re-entry capsules, taking on and off space suits, and testing the condensation water extraction system.

These experiments were conducted with exacting movements in a bid to test the effects of their actions to the spacecraft.

The results proved that the spacecraft was fully capable of enduring all the disturbance, and then astronauts would be allowed to move in a relatively free way, said Zheng Songhui, consultant of the spacecraft.

Chinese first astronaut Yang Liwei, who piloted the first Chinese manned spacecraft, Shenzhou-5, two years ago, flew about 600,000 kilometres in space, in 21 hours and 23 minutes.

CIA to manage all US human spying

WASHINGTON, 15 Oct— The White House has approved a plan to name Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Porter Goss as the manager of all US human intelligence-gathering, John D Negroponte, director of national intelligence, announced Thursday.

Negroponte also announced the formation of a new National Clandes- tine Services (NCS) group within the CIA to coordinate and evaluate intelligence.

“I am confident that with the creation of the NCS, the US Government will have a more cohesive and truly national human intelligence capability,” said Negronponte, whose office would retain over-sight of US human intelligence but not be involved in day-to-day manage- ment decisions.

Human intelligence refers to information collected from people, rather than from technical sources such as electronic intercepts.

The CIA reached separate agreements earlier this year on coordinating for- eign intelligence with the Federal Bureau of Investi- tigation and the Pentagon, which have intensified their intelligence activities abroad since the 11 Sep- tember, 2001, terror att- acks. —MNA/Reuters

Turkish PM eats chicken to help avert bird flu panic

ANKARA, 15 Oct— Anybody for chicken salad? Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has joined a campaign to reassure public that poultry is still safe to eat despite the outbreak of a deadly strain of bird flu on a farm in western Turkey.

Friday’s newspaper showed Erdogan breaking his Ramadan fast on Thursday by tucking into a chicken salad and even offering some to a pho- tographer recording the scene. “(I hope) you will now change your headlines,” the Sabah newspaper quoted Erdogan saying as other officials, including the speaker of Turkey’s Parliament, Bulent Arinc, also ate chicken.

The Muslim world is currently marking the holy month of Ramadan, which in- volves abstaining from all food and drink from sunrise to sundown. Erdogan is a Muslim whose ruling Jus- tice and Development Party has its roots in polit- ical Islam.

MNA/Reuters
Gene may be linked to Tourette's Syndrome
WASHINGTON, 15 Oct—Researchers said on Thursday they have found a gene that helps cause Tourette's Syndrome, but that many other genes are also likely to be involved in the complex disorder.

Tourette's may affect as many as one in 100 people and is marked by muscle and vocal tics including repeated sudden movements or vocalizations. Children with Tourette's also often have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder or depression.

In a report published in Friday's issue of the journal Science, Dr Matthew State of the Yale University School of Medicine and colleagues at several other institutions said a gene called SLITRK1 appeared to contribute to some cases of Tourette's.

"This finding could provide an important clue in understanding Tourette's on a molecular and cellular level," State said in a statement. "Confirming this in even a small number of additional TS patients will pave the way for a deeper understanding of the disease process."

State and colleagues looked for unusual patients with a clear genetic anomaly. They found a boy who was the only member of his family with Tourette's, and who had a gene inversion on chromosome 13. A gene inversion occurs when a section of chromosome appears to have broken off and flipped before being reinserted.

Digital music player sales up sharply by 2009
NEW YORK, 15 Oct—Global sales of digital music players are expected to jump to nearly one billion units a year in 2009, driven by consumers' desire for the pocket-sized devices and falling costs for flash memory components, research firm IDC said on Thursday.

IDC predicted that annual sales of compressed audio players would reach 945.5 million units worth $145.4 billion in 2009, up from 224.9 units worth $46.7 billion in 2004. IDC defines these devices as everything from portable MP3 players to DVD devices and phones that can play music compressed by software.

The portable flash player category, which includes products such as Apple Computer Inc's iPod Nano and Dell Inc's DJ Ditty, is expected to grow to some 124 million units in 2009 from 26.4 million in 2004.

"The portable MP3 player category has seen the most growth in popularity and Apple has been a very important driver of that," said IDC analyst Susan Kevorkian.
Juventus beat Messina to maintain perfect start

**ROUPE A 10 OCT — Serie A leaders Juventus maintained their 100 per cent winning start to the season with a 1-0 victory at home to Messina in Serie A on Saturday.**

The result, which made it seven straight league wins for the champions, consolidated their position at the top on 21 points. EIGHTEETH of their nearest rivals AC Milan and Fiorentina who visit Cagliari and Lazio respectively on Sunday.

Even without injured midfield partner Patrick Vieira, Juve were strong favourites to beat Messina.

The Sicilians had not won all season and had conceded eight goals in their last two games.

Juventus took the lead in the 14th minute thanks to a superb solo effort by Alessandro Del Piero.

The striker, who also performed impressively during Italy’s 1-0 win over Moldova in a World Cup qualifier in midweek, received the ball just inside Messina’s half.

He held off a challenge by midfield partner Andrea Zoro and dodged past a defender before curling a shot round goalkeeper Marco Storari.

The visiting keeper did better in the second half, blockiing a long-range effort by Pavel Nedved and Mauro Camoranesi, though the woodwork came to his rescue when David Trezeguet hit the post shortly after replacing Del Piero.

Messina’s best chance came when striker Arturo Di Napoli forced goalkeeper Christian Abbiati to save at his near post with an angled shot 20 minutes from time. Juve’s victory took them to within one win of equaling the record for the best-ever start to a Serie A season, which stands at eight consecutive wins held jointly by the Juventuses sides of the 1930s-31 and 1985-86 seasons.

They will match that record if they beat Lecce away on 23 October.

Earlier on Saturday, a hat-trick by Italian striker David Di Michele gave Udinese a nervy 3-2 Serie A win over Siena as they finished the match with 10 men. Udinese dominated the first half but slowly lost control of the contest and midfielder Christian Obodo was sent off in the 88th minute for apparently lashing out at a member of the medical staff sent onto the field to help him.

**MNA/Reuters**

**English Premier League match reports**

**LONDON, 16 OCT — Brief reports of English Premier League matches played on Saturday:**

**Liverpool 1 Blackburn Rovers 0**

Liverpool claimed their first win in five league games but had to work hard against a Blackburn side who played the last hour with 10 men after Gerard international defender Zurab Khizanishvili was sent off for a professional foul.

Liverpool had all the possession after that but were unable to make it pay against some spirited Blackburn defending until 15 minutes from the end when striker Djibril Cisse drove home a free kick.

**Sunderland 1 Manchester United 3**

Sunderland’s mini-revival came to an end but United were a little fortunate to take all the points.

Sunderland made most of the running until Park Ji-sung fed Wayne Rooney to score five minutes before halftime.

United gradually took control after the break and Ruud van Nistelrooy got the second in the 76th minute. They suffered a few scares after Sunderland’s Stephen Elliot drilled home eight minutes from time but Italian teenage substitute Giuseppe Rossi got the third.

**Tottenham Hotspur 2 Everton 0**

Tottenham’s best start in the Premier League continued against a toothless Everton side who remained rooted to the bottom after their worst.

Egypt striker Mido broke the deadlock after 58 minutes with a glancing header and Jermaine Jenas scored his first goal for the club as Tottenham climed to second.

Everton rarely looked capable of adding to their solitary goal in eight league games that have produced just three points.

**West Bromwich Albion 2 Arsenal 1**

West Brom celebrated a famous victory as they came from behind to beat an Arsenal team struggling to click.

Still without injured striker Thierry Henry, Arsenal took the lead from an unfamiliar source when Swiss defender Philippe Senderos volleyed in after 17 minutes for his first goal for the Gunners.
Top Bush aide questioned for hours in leak probe

WASHINGTON, 16 Oct—US President George W Bush’s top political adviser, Karl Rove, testified at length on Friday for a fourth time before a grand jury investigating the leak of a covert CIA operative’s identity, as prosecutors neared a decision on whether to bring charges.

Rove spent 4-1/2 hours at the federal courthouse and was told by prosecutors they had yet to decide whether he should face charges, Rove’s attorney, Robert Luskin, said. Legal sources said that could soon change.

Friday’s testimony appeared to be Rove’s last opportunity to convince grand jurors that he did nothing illegal following the disclosure that he had spoken to two reporters about CIA operative Valerie Plame and her diplomat husband, Joseph Wilson, despite earlier White House denials. Prosecutors have told Rove, the most powerful and controversial political strategist in Washington, that they cannot guarantee that he would not be indicted.

Two years ago, the White House assured the public that Rove and Vice President Dick Cheney’s chief of staff, Lewis Libby, had no role in the Plame leak. Since then, reporters have identified Rove and Libby as their sources.

Judith Miller, a New York Times reporter who was jailed for 85 days before reaching an agreement to reveal her sources, testified twice before the grand jury about three conversations she had with Libby.

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division and Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Shan, Chin States and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin State and lower Sagang Division and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in upper Sagang Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Homalin (3.50) inches, Kawthong (1.93) inches, Meiktila (1.34) inches and Mogok (1.18) inches. Maximum temperature on 15-10-2005 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 16-10-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 16-10-2005 was 85%.

Total sunshine hours on 15-10-2005 was (6.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 16-10-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, (0.27) inch at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (96.77) inches at Mngaladon, (96.81) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.67) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Northeast at (15:30) hours MST on 15-10-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over Southwest Bay become unimportant. Weather is partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

 Forecast valid until evening of 17-10-2005: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Chin States, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of light rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar waters.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-10-2005: Generally fair weather.
Performing Arts Competitions continue

Contestants from states, divisions exhibit skills

YANGON, 16 Oct — The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the designated venues for the fourth day today.

It was attended by member of the panel of patrons for organizing the competitions Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Performing Arts Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, member of the Panel of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan and members, officials of the sub-committees, maestros and people.

At the multi-purpose hall of the National Museum, Chairperson of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya of Myanma Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members supervised the singing contest.

Altogether 16 contestants from States and Divisions took part in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ religious song contest, 14 persons in the professional level men’s classical and modern song contest.

At the National Theatre, 10 contestants participated in the higher education level men’s dancing contest and 16 girls in the basic education level (See page 7)

Maung Ye Tun Aung and troupe taking part in basic education level (aged 10-15) boys’ dobat contest. — MNA

Ma Shun Yupa Toe of Chin State participates in basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ xylophone contest.— MNA

Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium concludes

YANGON, 16 Oct — Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium 2005 organized by Leading Committee for Myanma Gems Emporium continued sale of jade lots through competitive bidding at the Myanma Gems Mart starting 3 pm yesterday. At 10.45 pm, a total of 100 jade lots were sold. Altogether 155 jade lots were sold yesterday. Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium successfully concluded.

A total of 205 pearl lots and a total of 45 gems lots were sold on 8 and 9 October, and a total of 1,534 jade lots were sold from 11 to 15 October through competitive bidding and tender system.

Altogether 2,053 gems merchants — 1,236 of 343 companies from 13 countries and 817 of 327 local companies purchased jade, gems and pearl lots at the emporium.

2005 Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium had sold more jade, gems and pearl lots than those in previous years and a greater number of gem merchants from abroad attended it. —MNA

Sales of jade lots at Mid-year Myanma Gems Emporium in progress on final day.— MNA