It is very important for people not to be misled by killers in air waves

Ceremony to support National Convention and forthcoming constitution held in Hpa-an, Kayin State

Yangon, 9 Oct—Over 60,000 people including townswelders, national race leaders, members of social organizations, representatives of peace groups, members of cultural troupes, entrepreneurs, farmers, workers, departmental personnel, students and local nationals attended the ceremony to support the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution held on a grand scale at Thiri Grounds of Hpa-an, Kayin State, this morning.

Before the ceremony, Hpa-an column led by Executive U Aung Myint Thein of Kayin State Union Solidarity and Development Association, Kawkareik column led by U Ko Ko Naing of Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Zwekabin column led by Executive U Saw Ohn Tin of Hlangbwe Township USDA and Myawady column led by U Khun Kyaw Win of State Red Cross Society marched towards Thiri Grounds and took their designated places.

Townswelder Head of Planning Department of Hpa-an University U Saw Nyunt Thaung presided over the rally together with Executive U Saw Han Aye of Kayin State USDA, Chairperson Daw Tin Sein of Kayin State Women’s Affairs Organization, Daw Nan Aye Kyi of Kayin State Maternal and Child Welfare Association, U Kyi Lin of Kayin State War Veterans Organization, Townswelders Pa-O national U Khun Than Myint and Mon national Daw Ngwe Chi as members of the Panel of Chairmen. Executive Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye of Kayin State USDA acted as master of ceremonies and Executive Daw Htar Ei Win of Hpa-an Township USDA as Co-MC. First, those attendant saluted the State Flag.

In his address Chairman U Saw Nyunt Thaung said that building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation is the national goal of the State, and that with the establishment of firm foundations in the political, economic and social sectors, efforts are being made to achieve this national goal. In doing so, the National Convention which has laid down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles was completed successfully on 3 September, 2007.

It was not a group or individual involved in holding discussions to achieve fundamental principles and detailed basic principles to draft the constitution, (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Entire people duty-bound to bring about State constitution

The Union of Myanmar is a multi-cultural country, National races live in the Union with family spirit, demonstrating mutual understanding, forbearance, help and reliance on each other.

These fine characteristics are, in reality, the essence of national solidarity and patriotic spirit. Only when these fine characteristics flourish throughout the Union, will it be possible for the people to equip themselves strongly with patriotic spirit and nationalistic spirit.

Now, the nation is in the process of transforming itself into a peaceful, modern and developed democratic country with flourishing discipline, and the people can visualize the future of the nation. At such a time, it is required to serve the national interests through the people’s brilliant lineage, high intellectual power and tenacious spirit.

The government is producing human resources, while sharpening the abilities of the youth, the future of the nation. In the meantime, it is also taking all possible measures to restore stability and peace, enhance national economic growth and improving the nation’s education standard.

Subversive elements who hate the combined efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw for democratic transition are instigating unrest and protests by driving a wedge among the people and creating public outrage.

The entire people are to be constantly vigilant against such destructive acts.

The government is now working hard for introducing democracy to Myanmar that has possessed good foundations. So, the entire people are to actively strive for the emergence of the State constitution.

Three killed, four injured in mine blasts in Ye, Kyaukkyi

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Oct — Three innocent civilians were killed and three others injured as they stepped on insurgent-planted mines in Ye Township, Mon State, and Kyaukkyi Township, Kayin State, yesterday.

Out of the four villagers who went hunting in Padaung mountain range, south-east of Hangan Village in Ye Township, U Aung Htay and U Maung Win were killed and U Ah Maung and U Kyaw Myint injured as they stepped on a mine. Likewise, out of the three villagers who were on their way home after going to Khatte Village as porters, U Aung Min Oo was killed and U Thet Lwin and U Thet Naing Oo injured as they stepped on a mine at the corner of Kyaukhet, east to Kyaukkyi Township.

The injured people are now being given medical treatment and necessary assistance at Ye Hospital and Kyaukkyi Hospital. — MNA

Special refresher course No 28 for basic education teachers concluded in PyinOoLwin

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Oct — The conclusion of special refresher course No 28 for basic education teachers was held at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township yesterday.

On behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung delivered a speech.

In his speech, Minister U Thaung said today the government is making endeavours for equal and harmonious development in every part of the Union including rural areas. It is also upgrading education sector.

The government is also creating equal learning opportunities for people in border and rural areas to narrow the gap of education and it is making arrangements for teachers in the country to enhance their qualifications.

He said new schools were opened, some schools were upgraded and more teachers were appointed. Now there are over 40,500 schools in the country. Altogether 259,000 teachers are nurturing 7.84 million students. In comparison with the figures in 1988, the number of schools, teachers and students increased by 20.2 per cent, 49.3 per cent and 49.6 per cent respectively.

He said in accord with the guidance of the Head of State the teaching methods of the teachers and syllabus and curriculum were upgraded with the use of modern teaching aids. As a result, better results have been achieved.

Every student will become good and able citizen under the great care and training of the teachers, he said.

Students are to be nurtured to be polite and outstanding ones who serve the interest of the nation, he added.

Beginning 1999-2000 academic year, a new subject on the Union spirit was added to the curriculum and lessons on patriotism are taught at grade five and above. Moreover, codes of moral conduct and public ethics are taught at the basic education level to have practice of keeping disciplines and rules and laws, he added.

Talks in commemoration of significant days are held at the school assembly for the students to possess the Union spirit, team spirit and spirit of pride. The pupils are being nurtured to become well-disciplined citizens with good moral through school activities and educational development activities.

Winners of quiz presented prizes

YANGON, 9 Oct — ASEEAN Radio Quiz, a radio programme broadcast by Myanmar Radio in September 2007, was held at Myanmar Radio and Television on 5 October.

Officials concerned presented prizes to winners Ma Yupa Htwe Hlaing of Kyimyindine Township of Yangon Division, Maung Kaung Htet Kyaw of South Okkalapa Township of Yangon Division and Ma Hnin Hnin Htwe of Kyonpyaw Township who stood first, second and third respectively.

The consolation prize was won by Maung Aung Kyaw Soe of Sangyang Township of Yangon Division.

Interested persons from states and divisions may enroll at MRTV, Pyay Road, Yangon.—MNA

Winners of ASEAN Radio Quiz pose for a group photo after accepting prizes. — U
UK Labour trails behind Conservatives in new opinion polls

London, 8 Oct—Three new opinion polls showed Sunday the ruling Labour trailing behind the opposition Conservatives after Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced there would be no General Election this year or next.

One in the News of the World gives the Conservatives a six-point lead, which puts the Conservatives on 44 percent, a score that would have seen the Brown’s Commons majority wiped out and resulted in a hung Parliament, according to Sky News Sunday.

The latest survey for the News of the World suggests the Conservatives led by David Cameron would have deposed 49 Labour MPs.

The Conservatives were also ahead in two other polls, enjoying a three-point lead in a YouGov survey for the Sunday Times and a one-point advantage in a poll for the Mail on Sunday.

As Conservative voters are more likely to go to the polls than Labour supporters, these results could be exaggerated even more at the General Election, the Sky News report said.

David Cameron has called Gordon Brown’s decision (not to hold an election) a “humiliating retreat,” which Cameron said was the result of “great weakness and indecision.”

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Menzies Campbell accused Brown of putting party politics above the national interest.


david cameron has called gordon brown’s decision (not to hold an election) a “humiliating retreat,” which cameron said was the result of “great weakness and indecision.”

Iraq President says 100,000 US troops will leave soon

Washington, 8 Oct—At least 100,000 US troops could return home from Iraq by the end of 2008, Iraq President Jalal Talabani said in an interview aired on Sunday although he proposed that several American military bases stay in Iraq. Speaking on CNN television, Talabani envisioned faster US troop reductions than US commanders have discussed in public.

But he stressed that the pace of withdrawal was up to those commanders and did not explain why he foresaw a faster pullout.

“I think it is possible at the end of the next year that a big part of the American Army will be back here,” said Talabani, who gave the interview during a trip to the United States.

“More than 100,000 (troops) can be back by the end of the next year.” But Talabani, a Kurd and former guerrilla leader who fought Saddam Hussein, said he was not pushing for an independent Kurdistan in Iraq’s North, because neighbouring countries would never agree to it.

He also expressed confidence in Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, an Arab from the Shi’ite Muslim majority, saying Maliki was not personally corrupt despite allegations of widespread corruption in his government.

“The US troops mistakenly fire kills two Afghans

Kabul, 8 Oct—US troops based in Afghanistan’s eastern Kunar Province opened fire on a civilian vehicle Saturday morning, killing two persons, spokesman of provincial government Zarghon Shah Khaliqyar said.

“The US troops mistakenly opened fire on a local car in Manogai District at around 8:00 am local time this morning, leaving two civilians dead and injuring three others,” Khaliqyar told Xinhua.

He did not give more details. The US military officials were not immediately available to make comment.

MNA/Xinhua

Police try to prevent protesters from pulling down a fence in Parliament Square during an anti-Iraq demonstration in London on 8 Oct, 2007. — Internet

Pakistani families flee Waziristan battle zone

Miranshah, Pakistan, 9 Oct — Thousands of families began fleeing a town in a Pakistani tribal region after three days of fierce clashes between pro-Taleban militants and security forces that killed nearly 200 people, witnesses said on Tuesday.

Around 150 militants and 45 soldiers were killed in fighting around Mir Ali, a town in North Waziristan tribal region known as an al Qaeda haunt.

Families streamed out of the town of 50,000 people and outlying villages, making their way on foot, in tractor trailers and cars.

“Eighty to ninety percent of families of Mir Ali have gone. Just one or two people are staying behind in each house to guard their belongings,” Sher Khan, a resident, told Reuters.

“The main bazaar of Mir Ali is sealed by the Army. All shops are closed. We have nothing to eat. That’s why I have sent my family to Bannu,” he said, referring to a town in the North West Frontier Province at the gateway to the tribal region bordering Afghanistan.

Waziristan is a hotbed of support for Taleban and al Qaeda militants, who fled to the region after US-led forces drove them out of Afghanistan in late 2001.

MNA/Reuters

Young women amuse themselves during a carnival in Vaparaiso of Chile, on 5 Oct, 2007. The carnival featuring human skin paintings attracted many visitors on Friday. — Internet

Students hold banners with the image of late Argentine-born Cuba’s revolutionary leader Ernesto ‘Che’ Guevara during a ceremony in his honour at his monument in Santa Clara, on 8 Oct, 2007. — Internet

MNA/Xinhua
65 killed in fierce fighting in Pakistan’s Waziristan

Islamabad, 8 Oct—Pakistani soldiers backed by helicopter gunships and jets killed 65 pro-Taliban militants but lost 20 of their own men in fierce fighting in a tribal area on the Afghan border, officials and witnesses said on Saturday.

The fighting began when militants ambushed a military convoy near Mir Ali Town in North Waziristan on Saturday night.

Casualties mounted as the Army struck back and fresh clashes broke out in other areas close to Mir Ali, known as an al-Qaeda haunt, and the fighting continued into Sunday evening, military spokesman Major-General Waheed Arshad said.

He said fighter jets were also used in the operation. “Helicopter gunships and jets are pOUNding the area. I could see huge flames of fire rising from the area,” a resident of Mir Ali told Reuters.

Pakistan has seen a wave of violence since July, when a peace pact with militants broke down in North Waziristan and Army commandos stormed a radical mosque in the capital, Islamabad.

The violence has reinforced opposition among many Pakistanis to President Pervez Musharraf’s support for the US-led war on terrorism. Musharraf, who won most votes in a presidential election on Saturday, has said terrorism and extremism are the biggest challenges the country faces and has called for reconciliation among political parties to tackle it.

Residents had said earlier they had seen a military build-up, apparently in preparation for an offensive against the al-Qaeda-linked militants.

Waziristan is a hotbed of support for Taliban and al-Qaeda militants, who fled to the region after US-led forces drove them out of Afghanistan in late 2001. Militants in neighbouring South Waziristan are still holding about 225 soldiers captured at the end of August.

Four arrested at anti-war protest in Britain

London, 9 Oct — Police arrested four people on Monday during an anti-war protest which was given the go-ahead only at the eleventh-hour, Scotland Yard said.

The four were detained for offences including assault on police officers and obstruction.

Hundreds of protesters marched from Trafalgar Square to Parliament to call for the government to withdraw troops from Iraq as politicians gathered on the first day after the summer recess.

Police, who had earlier threatened to use a Victorian law to prevent the Stop the War Coalition demonstration, said the protesters had broken an agreement.

“It was disappointing that, after assurances from organizers that they had no intention of disrupting parliament or preventing MPs from attending, a group of demonstrators held a ‘sit-down protest’ in the road in Parliament Square,” Deputy Assistant Commissioner Chris Allison said in a statement.

“Their mind this was not about lawful protest but about those who wished to deliberately flout the law and inconvenience others.”

Permission to hold the event was given less than an hour before the start, organizers said.

Authorities had effectively banned the march under the Metropolitan Police Act of 1839, which dates from the time of the Chartist protest movement, a period when the ruling class believed they were on the brink of social revolution.

MNA/Reuters

Man charged with toddler’s murder in UK

London, 8 Oct — A 38-year-old man has been charged with murdering a two-year-old boy found dead in a house in Leicester, police said on Sunday.

The toddler had been found by officers at the house in the Beaumont Leys area of the city on Friday. The boy was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead. A post-mortem is being carried out to determine how he died.

The murder suspect will appear at Leicester Magistrates Court on Monday.

MNA/Reuters

Three killed as Syrian plane crashes near Damascus

DAMASCUS, 8 Oct — A small aircraft used by the Syrian military crashed on Sunday near Damascus killing three people, witnesses and the official news agency said.

A technical fault caused the crash of the Navajo plane, which belonged to a department linked to the Syrian military, the agency said.

“The accident killed the crew of three,” the agency said.

Three people wearing military uniforms were pulled out of the wreckage among olive trees in the Muadamiat al-Sham District, 7 kilometres (four miles) west of Damascus. “The plane was swaying violently before it hit the ground,” said a resident of the area. — MNA/Reuters

Train-bus collision in Cuba kills 28

HAVANA, 8 Oct — A train slammed into a bus in southeastern Cuba on Saturday, killing at least 28 people and injuring 73 others in one of the deadliest such crashes in years, Cuban state television reported.

Railway sources told Reuters that the train dragged the bus until it fell over a bridge. The train travelling from Cuba’s second city Santiago to Manzanillo collided with the bus at a level crossing in Yara, in Granma Province about 500 miles (800 kilometres) southeast of Havana.

At least 15 people were in critical condition in nearby hospitals, according to a government statement read on the nightly newscast, which showed images of a derailed train.

MNA/Reuters
**India, Sri Lanka sign pact on import quota for textiles**

New Delhi, 7 Oct—India and Sri Lanka Friday signed an agreement as part of their moves to put in place a tariff rate quota (TRQ) for duty-free textile trade. The agreement covered three million pieces of apparel articles under an India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA) of 2000.

It was signed in New Delhi by Qaiser Shamim, a joint secretary in India’s Textiles Ministry, and W D Jayasinghe, additional secretary with Sri Lanka’s Textile Industry Ministry. In 2000, both countries decided that Sri Lanka could export to India, in one calendar year, three million pieces of apparel articles covered under the ISLFTA on a duty free-basis and without any restriction on entry points and sourcing of fabric.

Friday, Sri Lanka’s textile quota board and department of commerce was designated as authority for issuing quotas and certificates of origin for the export of apparel articles from Sri Lanka to India.

**Message from the Director General of the Universal Postal Union**

Universal postal service and its economic benefits

Each year, 9 October, World Post Day, serves as a reminder, for people the world over, of the social and economic importance of a public service dating back 2,000 years.

Based on a global network of more than 660,000 post offices and five million employees, it is a public service which continues to grow and to improve. Each year, postal services all over the world handle and deliver around 436 billion letter-post items, in their domestic and international services and six billion parcels not to mention the millions of money transfers performed through postal financial networks, which provide millions of people with ready access to financial services wherever they are and most notably in unbanked areas.

We no longer need to be reminded of the importance of universal service, which is at the heart of the UPU mission. Providing high quality, affordable postal services in all territories brings a number of often unexpected benefits. If postal deliveries, or access to postal financial services, were to be restricted to the main urban centres, this would leave millions of people and businesses dangerously sidelined and unable to participate in the economic activity of their country.

World post Day 2007 comes at a time when universal postal service is a hot political topic, and I would like to focus on the relevance of universal service from an economic perspective.

If we take account of all the positive effects of stable, lasting universal postal coverage, maintaining such coverage will be seen as a must. It is true that it comes at a price, but we must not overlook the ability of universal service to contribute to the economic efficiency of a country, and of the whole world, at a time when new technologies and the Internet are helping postal operators to improve existing services or develop new ones.

Universal service too is adapting, thanks to the possibilities opened up by new technologies. Recently, a seemingly mundane event — the release of a new book — provided us with a striking example of what universal service means in the Internet age, with the worldwide distribution of the epic Harry Potter novel. Over 2.5 million copies of the book, all ordered via the Internet, were delivered by various postal services as soon as it was launched in July. This is thought to be the biggest ever postal delivery, on a single day, of identical articles ordered over the Internet.

Could this endeavour have been possible without universal postal coverage?

Providing a universal postal service across borders to all businesses and all citizens also helps to promote the integration of markets in a highly competitive international environment, it provides companies and individuals with ready access to both domestic and international markets. It is a key facilitator of trade between countries, or between regional economic blocks. Without postal services, commercial sites like Amazon or eBay, which benefit millions of people, might never have had the success they enjoy today.

Today, on World Post Day, I call upon all UPU member countries to renew their commitment to one of the founding principles of our organization and to continue developing and improving the efficiency of the universal postal service, for the benefit of all.

**Mexican, Canadian oil companies sign cooperation accord**

Mexico City, 7 Oct—Mexican state oil company Pemex and Canadian oil firm Nexen Friday signed an accord on technology and training cooperation.

Pemex stated in a communique that the accord will expire after five years.

Pemex inked another deal Thursday with Royal Dutch Shell, a specialist in natural gas and petrochemicals.

Nexen, with 36 years in the oil industry, has exploration and production activities in Canada, Colombia, Nigeria, Britain and Yemen, as well as in the Gulf of Mexico’s deep waters.

Nexen focuses its operations in the crude-oil sector and obtained a total crude oil production of 212,000 barrels per day in 2006.

**China’s handset output hits 348 mln units in first eight months**

Beijing, 8 Oct—China’s output of mobile phones soared 27.9 per cent year-on-year in the first eight months of 2007, boosted by expanding rural markets.

The handset output reached 347.6 million units in the eight-month period, according to the department of the economic system reform and economic operations under the Ministry of Information Industry (MII). The huge increase came as the companies designed low-priced handsets to cash in on the rising demand of more rich rural residents, the MII said.

It forecast the country’s output would account for 40 per cent of the more than one billion units of global handset shipments this year.

The handset producers need to boost research and development, improve products quality and after-sale services to nurture their brands as the poor performers will be finally eliminated in the industry’s restructuring, the ministry warned.

China’s phone subscribers hit 885 million by the end of August, with more than 515 million of them, or 58 per cent, were mobile phone users, according to statistics from the MII.

**Car advertising in Hanoi, Vietnamese car sales rocketed 83 percent in the first nine months of the year.**
When the National Convention approved and included the expression “a genuine discipline-flourishing democracy” in fundamental principles and detailed basic principles, internal and external anti-government elements strongly criticized that expression. They said that the expression “discipline-flourishing” means in Myanmar politics the Tatmadaw will continue grasping the State power. Why was the expression “a genuine discipline-flourishing democracy” prescribed? Frankly speaking, in our Myanmar history there were no political parties which practised democracy system properly and systematically. In the period from 1948 to 1962 in which parliamentary democracy system was practised not only the ruling party AFPFL but also the opposition party applied various ways for their parties to come to power. The region-wise leaders and MPs of the ruling party formed their own pocket army in their region to wield enormous influence. Such armies as Lewe Thakhin Kyi Shenei, Pynnmana Bo Taik Hein, Aung Gyi army of Yedashe and Meiktila Saya Hti were some pocket armies of the then noted politicians. Even the government departments were at the mercy of those pocket armies. The opposition party also tried to wield its influence. Relying on the insurgents, they bullied local people. They killed the ones whom they assumed the men of the government. Likewise, the political parties organized monks, students, workers, peasants, and business. Unions and organizations representing political parties emerged from various strata of life. Those unions and organizations were just the ones to organize the people for the parties they favoured to win the election rather than representing people from all walks of life. Therefore, it was seen in the newspapers that during the election there occurred conflicts and quarrels among them as they were canvassing for votes. After the election, the organizations that were in favour of the winning party enjoyed privileges while the organizations that favoured the opposition party were subjected to bullying. This is the political formula in the Parliamentary democracy period. Even the service personnel who had to stay away from party politics were often subject to all forms of bullying by the then politicians who struggled for power. When the election was drawing near, the reliable governmental officials were assigned duties to the important constituencies for the ruling party to win the election. The governmental officials who remained neutral and fair had been neglected. When the AFPFL was split into two the ‘clean’ party got all the government officials supposed to be close to the ‘stable’ party resign or transfer to trivial departments. Even periodicals were at the mercy of political parties. The presses that criticized the government were attacked by those who supported the government. The attackers destroyed printing machines and printing materials of the presses. The reporters who criticized the opposition party were kidnapped or killed by those who supported the opposition party with the help of the insurgents. Frankly speaking, the number of politicians and journalists who were taken action according to the law was much greater than that in the time of the (Myanma Socialist) Programme Party and the Tatmadaw government. Even Sayagyi Shwe Oo Daung who was morally upright was arrested by the AFPFL government. Those who were arrested were sent up to Coco Island instead of Insein Jail. As the then politics was mere the power politics both the government and the opposition party did what should be done or what should not be done legally or illegally to gain power. Finally, they breached the provisions stipulated in the constitution as to prohibiting the use of religion in politics and were engaged in politics in the name of religion. At last, the complication of religion extended to politics harmed the national unity. When the ruling AFPFL party was split into two the party problems were not addressed in a democratic way within the party. They were submitted to the Hluttaw instead. They gave promises to Pa-Ma-Nya-Ta who had been oppressed for years and state MPs organized them to win votes. Their promises were that new states were to be formed, the Burma communist party is to be granted the right to be able to exist as a lawful organization and to grant more authority to the states after reviewing the constitution. When the general election was drawing near, the issue of State religion came to be emphasized. The Tatmadaw acting as Caretaker Government because of the split of AFPFL warned against any act to put the nation in danger for political purposes so as to ensure a free and fair election. However, the then political parties did not pay heed to the warning and even tried to persuade the Tatmadaw to get involved in the political confusion. The ‘Clean’ and Pa-Ma-Nya-Ta attacked the Tatmadaw as their enemy. The ‘Stable’ group organized the Tatmadaw to favour them and steal votes. That was why the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services had to issue a directive for servicemen to remain neutral. After the election, some commanding officers who threatened the voters to vote for the ‘Stable’ party were forced to retire. Most of the former commanding officers, also members of NLD today, were forced to retire because of their involvement in the electoral malpractice. Take a look at the period of election before 1990. The majority of political parties were constantly critical of the Tatmadaw. At the time, the Tatmadaw did not run for candidates in the election but acted as a judge. Most of the parties were only criticizing the judge and inciting grudges, extremism and confrontation among the public instead of educating the people to understand the democratic practices in transition period from one-party system into multi-party system. There were some parties that canvassed in a fair and just way but it was found that they could not influence the extremist parties.
collections of electoral funds and expenditures for the prevention against political malpractice and corruption. After the elections, those facts and figures are to be submitted for inspection. The same applies in the 1990 election law. However, most of the Hluttaw representatives refused to present reports of their electoral expenditures by adhering to the policy of defying all orders. It would be hard to believe that the party representatives who failed to follow a principle being practised in every democratic country would practise democratic system.

It is natural that the Tatmadaw leaders who had to spend their lifetime during the periods of fake democratic systems would like to see forthcoming democratic system to be a discipline-flourishing one. In addition, to be able to avoid the situation in which every time the country faced problems due to power struggle of political parties, the Tatmadaw had to solve those problems by taking over State power, only a discipline-flourishing democratic system must be practised. The concept that Myanmar needs a discipline-flourishing democratic system is based on the past historical lessons and the nation’s prevailing conditions.

It seems that critics of a word ‘discipline-flourishing’ forget that the word ‘genuine’ precedes the former. The word expresses the people are aimed at practising a genuine democratic system.

In order to practise the very essence of genuine democratic system, the political parties are required to be qualified and the people are also to have wider knowledge. Looking back to the past history of Myanmar, in parliamentary democracy period, most of the voters cast their votes based on personality cult. At the time, the candidates got votes for their incentives and gifts. Sometimes, villagers cast their votes as asked by reverend monks and influential elder people in their village. In some cases, some people voted under the threat of authorities, pocket armies and insurgents.

In the time of the Socialist Programme Party, according to the socialist democratic practices, voters had the right to vote for whom they liked in nominating candidates at different levels of People’s Council in line with the constitution or party’s rules and regulations. However, most of the general public were ignorant of and uninterested in their rights and they voted as hidden by the party concerned.

So, these events showed how much important was a wide knowledge of the electorate in the democratic transition process. Having a look at the activities of the government one can notice that it is pouring a great deal of energy into the drive for improving economic growth and broadening the horizons of the people especially of rural folks who constitute the majority of the electorate. Apparently, the measures it is taking unremittingly for extensive construction of education infrastructures in special development zones, achievement of the five rural development tasks and the establishment of self-reliant libraries are particularly designed for building capacity of the whole society of the nation.

What were political parties doing for democratic transition while the Tatmadaw government was building infrastructures for transforming the nation into a democratic one? It is regrettable that some political parties have not been able yet to get out of the political intention of seizing power. A certain political party is found still resorting to all possible ways to grab power, considering that democracy can be practised in the nation only when it has come to power. It is not strange that trust cannot be built between such political parties and the Tatmadaw government that prefers systematic transition to democracy.

It seems that since 1988 NLD and its ally parties have been pleased with being called opposition parties by west media. They are on the political trend of opposing whatever the government does. In fact, there should be no opposition parties in the nation now. The Tatmadaw government formed political parties to introduce democracy to the nation. So, what the political parties should do in this regard is just to compete each other to find out whose policy is likely to serve the national interests more than the others’. The Tatmadaw government is, indeed, just the referee of the competition. The Tatmadaw government will have to supervise their activities so that the competition will be a fair and disciplined one. At such a time, it is totally wrong that a political party under the name of the opposition party is against whatever the government does and tries to topple the government to seize power through short cut. In the democracies, not all the activities of opposition parties are designed to oppose whatever the ruling government does. And the winning party and the opposition party work together whenever they have to pursue the common goal of serving national interests. In the US, for example, the Democratic Party is criticizing Bush’s policy over Iraq war, but all internal forces are found pursuing the common goal of serving the interests of their motherland—to enable the US to remain the world’s super power. In our country, many parties, since the Parliamentary democracy period, have taken a wrong view that their coming to power was to serve national interests. Up to now, some parties have raised heightened political actions that they will have to devastate everything in the nation if they do not come to power.

Now, the National Convention, the first step of the seven-step Road Map, has been over successfully. A lot of measures have yet to be accomplished one after another for the democratic system to shape a genuine discipline-flourishing democracy. The speech delivered at the conclusion of the National Convention official’s conference of the National Convention Convening Commission said that the NC was over but there were still many follow-up programmes to put into action for the emergence of a democratic nation; and that it was required to consider that what they had accomplished was just the very first step.

Right. A large number of follow-up programmes are yet to be realized in the process. The government alone is unable to achieve the goal, so political parties, social organizations, the people and service personnel are to work whatever role they are in. Here, what is necessary is that each of the contributors have to respect the law in doing their bit in the process. Present parties need to have discipline and a sense of responsibility if they wish to participate in the process of transforming the nation into a democratic one. So do those who have planned to stand for election in future. Moreover, they are required to abandon all the extreme opinions, underground methods, political attacks, and violent acts they have practised in the past and to carry out politics with refreshed mind and renewed vigour.

For the entire people, there is no choice but to build discipline-flourishing democracy if they want to build a modern and developed nation and hand it over to the posterity. Myanmar faced evil consequences of practicing democracy in an undisciplined way in the Parliamentary democracy period, and the too-strict Centralized Policy and weaknesses of the one-party system, in the time of the Myanma Socialist Programme Party. Taking these invaluable lessons from the historic events and taking consideration into the prevailing conditions of the nation, the National Convention has chosen the genuine discipline-flourishing democracy. The nation has seen the State’s seven-step Road Map that has paved the way towards the goal. So, golden opportunities through which the people can march towards the goal in harmony and discipline are awaiting the entire people. We should all grab such unique opportunities to perform a harmonious activity.
It is very important for people...

Chairman and Members of Panel of Chairmen and the attendees chanting slogans at the ceremony to support the National Convention and the constitution. — MNA

(From page 1)

but representatives of political parties, representatives-elect, national races, peasants, workers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, state service personnel and other invited persons actively participated in the discussions.

The 1947 constitution practised in the period of parliamentary democracy system was drafted under the rule of colonialists. The 1974 constitution also was based on one party system and socialist economic system. So, these constitutions were not in line with present condition. It can be found that the forthcoming constitution is more comprehensive than those of the past.

He continued to say that it is found that saboteurs, instigation and making political gains were made to harm the efforts for emergence of the constitution and undermine the prevailing results in the political, economic and social sectors. Especially, some big powers incited civil unrest in the country.

At a time when majority of people support the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution, some foreign broadcasting stations and the media sow discord among the government and monks and people inventing fabricated news. The government is like a parent. It is a wish of every parent to see his or her family’s prosperity.

Parents will be happy only if they see their children happy. Love, attachment and unity are important for family members. Moreover, it is very important for the people not to be misled by killers in the air waves from some countries. A handful of internal destructive elements are to be exposed. Those attendants are the strength of the State and those who are endeavouring for development of Kayin State, he said.

Axe-handles and lackeys of the colonialist are now in the state of losing everything and they are disturbing everything. Taking dollars as a bribe and thus they became puppets. Now is the time to unite and this ceremony is to show the wish and support of 1.7 million people of Kayin State, he said.

In conclusion, he said, emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation with discipline-flourishing democracy which the entire people long for, is based on the objective conditions of the country and urged the people to strive for emergence of the constitution in accord with the good results of the principles laid down by the National Convention.

Next, Executive U Saw Htoo Ka Paw of Kayin State USDA tabled a motion calling for the support of the National Convention and the State Constitution. He said that the ultimate goal of the State is to build a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

It is very important to the entire people to cultivate patriotic spirit and Union spirit. The Constitution should not be drawn by anyone, any organization and any government and moreover it cannot be made itself into a carbon copy of laws of other countries. The constitution should be drawn based on prevailing situations of the country. Fifteen general provisions have been laid down during the sessions of the National Convention. Basic principles and detailed basic principles to be included in the Constitution have been drawn firmly.

In support of the National Convention and the State Constitution, I would like to present that it is known to all that Tatmadaw is making all out efforts to build a modern developed opening ceremony of Thawln Bridge (Hpa-an) on 3 August in 1997 that the purpose of building Thawln Bridge was that all Kayin nationals living in Kayin State would make progress.

There are over 500,000 sown acres, over 15,000 acres of edible oil crops and 400 acres of fish farm in Kayin State. The government built 271 miles of motor road, 190 bridges, three universities and one college in Kayin State. A total of 1,480 libraries were opened in Kayin State. Every country in the world has its conflict. The present government managed to address such conflict. I table the motion calling for the support of the National Convention and the upcoming State Constitution and warmly welcome it.

Next, member of Kayin State Women’s Affairs Organization Principal of Hpa-an University of Computer Studies continued to second the motion, saying that it is common knowledge that the National Convention, a prerequisite for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, was successfully completed. The expressions stipulated in fundamental principles and detailed basic principles stated that all citizens regardless of male and female have to enjoy the right on equal terms. This reflects Myanmar culture and customs.

Some western nations that are superior to the country in science and technology drove a wedge among Myanmar people. Applying a spate of the media, they launched propaganda to be deeply impressed by developing countries. But their wicked plots and interior motives cannot be covered. The whole world realized their schemes by viewing the incident in Iraq.

Local people participating in the ceremony to support National Convention and the constitution. — MNA

(See page 9)
It is very important for people...

(from page 8)

The US looking down upon others but thinking highly of itself received a string of hatred and anger. We would like to say that the US should stop its subversive acts.

Colonialists used to be deceptive. They often create unrest and violence in the nations they dislike. We strongly oppose and condemn those who create unrest in synchronisation and those who rely on alien nations. Frankly speaking, we want to get rid of those who incited disturbances in the nation in the name of religion, using even monks and nuns.

Internal problems

should be addressed in the nation. In this regard, it has

a modern and developed

situation of Myanmar.

However, some

should be stated in the

principles of the

forthcoming constitution that will emerge in line with fundamental principles and detailed basic principles will be able to formulate a democratic nation.

In conclusion, she said that she seconded the motion since the forthcoming constitution will emerge in line with fundamental principles and detailed basic principles will be able to formulate a democratic nation.

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We, national races in

Kayin State, also favour peace and development. The number of intellectuals and intelligentsia has increased as roads and bridges and universities have mushroomed in the state and higher education is now within the reach of the residents.

According to the detailed basic principles laid down at the National Convention, the forthcoming constitution guarantees that the State

Kayin State constitution that will come into force. Phado Aung San of Phayagon Peace Group seconded the motion in support of the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution. He said: The National Convention was participated by over 1,000 delegates and was successfully completed on 25 of Chapter-1 of basic principles.

We strongly oppose and create unrest and violence subversive acts.

The fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down at the National Convention are valuable to the forthcoming constitution. Neo-colonialists have tried to control Myanmar, and it was a shame that internal elements, stooges of foreign countries, ignoring the people, their own religion and the patriotic spirit, staged protests crying and apologizing to neo-colonialists. Myanmar people realise their own religion and are gentle. There is also freedom of worship in Myanmar. Western media men supported that peace and

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Thousands of people participate in mass rallies to denounce violent acts

Participants of the mass rallies chanted slogans “We don’t want terrorists” and “We don’t want internal and external destructive elements” and hold State flags and placards that say “We favour peace and stability”, “We oppose violent acts”, “We must guard against violent acts”, “Those who do violent acts are our enemies”, “We don’t want provocation of foreign countries”, “We want unity of monks and laypersons”, “The Seven-step Road Map must be successful”, “We support Our Three Main National Causes, the National Convention and the forthcoming Constitution”, “Violence is the opposite of democracy”, “We don’t accept neo-colonialism”, “Beware of rumours of BBC and VOA” and “RFA setting up hostilities”.

They organized the mass rallies after seeking permission from the authorities concerned in accord with the law.

Mass rallies were held in Taungtha and Myingyan in Myingyan District, Mandalay Division on 27 September, in Kyaukpaduang, Ngazu, Natogyi and NyaungU on 28 September, in Kyaukse on 30 September, PyinOoLwin, Natmauk in Magway Division, Shwebo and Wetlet in Wetlet District, Sagaing Division, on 1 October, Meiktila, Mahlaing, Thazi, Wundwin, Thabeikkyin and Madaya in Mandalay Division, Taungdwingyi and Ayadaw in Sagaing Division on 2 October, Pyawbwe in Mandalay Division and Dabayin in Sagaing Division on 3 October, YeU and Salingyi in Sagaing Division and Singu and Yamethin in Mandalay Division on 4 October, Htiyaing and Butalin in Sagaing Division on 5 October, Kanbaw and Yinnabin in Sagaing Division on 6 October and Katha in Sagaing Division on 7 October respectively.

(See page 11)
More than 5,700 people who favour stability of the State, prevalence of law and order, and community peace hold a mass rally in Taungtha Township, Myingyan District, Mandalay Division. — MNA

Local people marching to the mass rally in Shwebo. — MNA

Local people marching to the mass rally in Shwebo. — MNA

Local people marching to the mass rally in Kanbalu. — MNA

Local residents participating in the mass rally in Yamethin. — MNA

Mass rallies were held for the second time in Taungtha and Myingyan in Myingyan District, Mandalay Division, on 28 September and Kyaukpadaung, Ngazun, Natogyi and NyaungU in Mandalay Division on 29 September.

Participants of the mass rallies chanted slogans “We don’t want terrorists” and “We don’t want internal and external destructive elements” and hold State flags and placards that say “We favour peace and stability”, “We oppose violent acts”, “We must guard against violent acts”, “Those who do violent acts are our enemies”, “We don’t want provocation of foreign countries”, “We want unity of monks and laypersons”, “The Seven-step Road Map must be successful”, “We support Our Three Main National Causes, the National Convention and the forthcoming Constitution”, “Violence is the opposite of democracy”, “We don’t accept neo-colonialism”, “Beware of rumours of BBC and VOA” and “RFA setting up hostilities”. — MNA

People of Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions hold mass rallies to denounce recent protests
China’s software revenue up 22.9% in first eight months

BEIJING, 8 Oct—China’s software industry reported a revenue of 343.89 billion yuan (45.73 billion US dollars) for the first eight months of this year, up 22.9 percent year-on-year, according to the latest statistics from the Ministry of Information Industry. Of the total revenue, software products accounted for 121.25 billion yuan, up 24.1 percent, system integration made up 84.05 billion yuan, up 18.5 percent; software technological services was 55.81 billion yuan, up 23.9 percent; embedded system software was 74.26 billion yuan, up 24.5 percent, and IC design collected 8.52 billion yuan, up 27.6 percent.

A spokesman of the ministry said this year a series of policies would be promulgated to further encourage the development of software and integrated circuits. Efforts will also be made to foster and regulate the domestic software market, and support products with self-owned intellectual property rights through government purchasing.

HK, Ireland sign offender surrender pact

HONG KONG, 7 Oct—Hong Kong and Ireland signed a bilateral agreement Friday on the surrender of fugitive offenders, the 17th of its kind the Chinese special administrative region has signed with other regions or countries.

The bilateral pact could help “strengthen Hong Kong’s capacity to deny safe haven to criminals”, the Hong Kong SAR Government said in a Press release. The agreement sets out the conditions for the surrender of fugitive offenders between the two and contains the usual safeguards of similar international agreements, which cover critical issues such as double criminality, death penalty, political offenses, prima facie as well as the specialty rule. It also provides for protection against re-surrender of an offender to a third jurisdiction.

Assistant to village headman shot dead in Thai south

BANGKOK, 8 Oct—Violence continued in Thailand’s deep south as suspected insurgents shot dead an assistant to a village headman in front of a mosque in Pattani Province Saturday afternoon.

 Meanwhile in nearby Narathiwat province, more than 200 police and soldiers raided four locations in Bacho District Saturday morning and detained 10 people. Two of the detainees were believed to have been involved in cases concerning national security while the rest are drug suspects, the report said. MNA/Xinhua

Colombian police smash 105 cocaine labs

BOGOTA, 8 Oct—Colombian police on Sunday destroyed 105 cocaine processing laboratories in raids near the country’s northeastern Caribbean coast, police spokesman Jorge Luis Ramirez said.

Police made no arrests in Operation Jungla, which was carried out in the towns of Montebello and San Jacinto in the provinces of Cordoba and Bolivar, he said. Police used helicopter gunships, but there were no clashes during the operation, he added.

“We found and destroyed 105 rustic laboratories which were being used to process coca leaves with cement and gasoline,” he said, adding the produced cocaine was transported for distillation in other areas.

The US Government estimates Colombia has 144,000 hectares of land under cultivation and produces some 450 tons of drug each year.

In a separate raid on Sunday, anti-narcotics police found a cocaine laboratory that produced 3.5 tons of cocaine a month in Barranca de Upia, a rural area in Meta Province. No one was arrested in Meta either.

MNA/Xinhua

INVITATION TO TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Health, Central Medical Stores Depot for the Supply of Pharmaceutical and N.O.D Cylinders tested and filled with N.O.Gas. Tender documents are available during office hours at the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores). Central Medical Stores Depot, No.57, Sakawa Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, commencing from (11.10.2007).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores). Central Medical Stores Depot, not later than (25.10.2007) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraphic/telex proposal will be accepted. For detailed information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores).

Phone No. 371294, 372362.

Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Health

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (261)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (261) are hereby notified that the vessel will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will be discharged to A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Claims against this vessel will be admitted up to Noon, Friday 12th October 2007. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

TRADE MARK CAUTION
AstraZeneca AB, a Company incorporated in Sweden, of SE 151 85 Sodertalje, Sweden, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

REPRALTA
Reg. No. 529/2007 in respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations and substances for the prevention and/or treatment of cancer”.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 10 October 2007

MNA/Xinhua

Members of the Tepeyac Association leave the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City with a relay torch that will be carried to New York on 7 Oct, 2007. About seven thousand runners — mostly Mexican immigrants and family members — will carry the torch from Mexico City to arrive in New York on 12 December, in an effort to unify Mexicans living on both sides of the border. — Internet
Tanzania interested in power generation by N-reactors

Dar-es-Salaam, 8 Oct — The government of Tanzania has expressed interests in electricity generation through nuclear reactors in the country, local media reported on Saturday. The Guardian quoted a government statement as saying that the government was exploring the possibility of putting up a nuclear energy plant as an alternative source of energy.

“As a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Tanzania is allowed to use nuclear technology and allied material as per regulations laid down by the nuclear technology watchdog,” read in part the statement issued by the government of Tanzania after the IAEA meeting held in Vienna.

The newspaper quoted Tanzanian Science and Technology Minister Peter Msolla as saying that the country has enough unexplored reserves of uranium for the generation of electricity.

Swiss League calls for free breast cancer screening for women

Geneva, 8 Oct — The Swiss Cancer League called for free breast cancer screening programmes for all women over the age of 50 across the country, the official Swissinfo website reported on Saturday.

The campaign comes at the start of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is being observed across Switzerland, according to the report.

Currently only the French-speaking part of the country offers free and routine mammograms to all women aged between 50 and 69.

“The problem we have at the moment is that there is no law at a national level requiring the introduction of mammogram programmes, leaving it up to the individual cantons to decide their own approach to screening,” the league’s Nicole Buliard told Swissinfo.

A study carried out by the organization showed that systematic screening programmes for breast cancer were cheaper and more effective than ad hoc testing.

In Swiss cantons where a universal screening programme is in place, all women are invited to come for a mammogram soon after their 50th birthday.

Study: brain turns significant data into memories

Beijing, 8 Oct — New research on mice reveals why memory-storing regions of our brain — often facing overload because of the mass of information bombarding our brain — reject trivial and retain significant information that is transformed into long-term memory.

The new study, published in the 5 Oct issue of the journal Cell, reveals how emotions could help the brain “decide” which memories to keep and which to discard.

Memories are thought to form with the strengthening of connections between neurons. These connections rely on receptors to send and receive “brain data.” Past research has shown that emotional stress is connected to an increase in the hormone norepinephrine in the brain.

They ran lab tests on mice, finding that norepinephrine, as well as emotional stress, leads to a chemical change in certain brain receptors.

Getting rid of excess weight key to healthy heart

Beijing, 8 Oct — Fad diets, fewer fatty foods, more fruits and vegetables or more exercise simply won’t do the trick for those seeking a healthy heart. The key is excess weight and getting rid of it.

“What I find happens is that people tend to focus on one thing,” says Riska Platt, a registered dietitian and spokesperson for the American Heart Association. “They just add in fish to their diet and feel that they’ve taken care of everything. There are selected foods that have excellent properties in the management of heart disease but you’ve also got to look at your total diet.”

While cardiologists still recommend cutting back on salt and fat, in the past few years their advice has shifted for the average patient. Rather than encouraging people to eat certain healthy foods, doctors, more than anything, want patients to consume less calories.

“The point for people in the US is to eat less,” says New Jersey-based Dr Augustine E Agocha, lead physician at Advanced Heart, Lung and Vascular Care and chief of cardiology at Deborah Heart and Lung Centre.

“It’s about calories.” Agocha says too many people who attempt a high-fiber diet, for instance, overdo it and give up after two months. He tells men to limit themselves to 2,500 calories a day, and women 2,000. If you can’t resist a cheeseburger, that’s OK. he says, as long as you cut back the rest of the day. You can always buy yourself more calories by exercising, too.

“This is important because excess weight negatively affects cardiovascular risk factors, increasing LDL, or bad cholesterol, triglyceride levels, blood pressure and blood glucose levels and lowering HDL, or good cholesterol.

A scene of Beijing’s No 5 subway line. Beijing opened a new subway line on Sunday in a bid to boost public transport and ease road congestion ahead of the Olympics. —Xinhua

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Some huge debris scattered by Typhoon Krosa and ruined cars and buildings, on 7 Oct, 2007, in China (Taipei). Four people were killed after the typhoon slammed into China (Taipei) but the storm weakened as it moved toward Mainland China on Sunday.

INTERNET
Vidal threatens to boycott Chile match over unpaid bonus

SANTIAGO, 9 Oct.— Chile defender Arturo Vidal on Monday threatened not to play in this month’s two World Cup qualifiers because of a pay row going back to this year’s Under-20 World Cup in Canada.

Vidal said the members of the under-20 squad were still waiting to receive a bonus of 10,000 US dollars each for finishing third in the tournament in July.

“I’m going to speak to the coach (Marcelo Bielsa) because they have to pay us this money,” the Bayer Leverkusen player told reporters. “We’ve been waiting two months and there’s no solution.”

“I think we’ll take drastic measures to get paid.”

The Chilean federation say the money has not been paid because they are investigating an incident following the semifinal defeat against Argentina, when players brawled with Canadian police.

All 21 members of the squad were briefly detained after the game in Toronto. Witnesses said police used pepper spray and electric-shock guns against the players.

Vidal is one of the three members of the Under-20 team named in the senior squad for this month’s matches, the first in the South American qualifying competition for the 2010 World Cup.

Chile visit Argentina on Saturday and host Peru four days later.

Chile have been plagued by disciplinary problems recently and has banned six senior players for 20 international games following an incident at the team hotel during the Copa America in Venezuela.

UEFA opens disciplinary case against Milan’s Dida

BERNE (Switzerland), 9 Oct.— UEFA has opened disciplinary proceedings against AC Milan and their goalkeeper Dida following the Brazilian’s controversial substitution during last week’s Champions League defeat away to Celtic.

Dida was carried off on a stretcher near the end of the Group D match after a Celtic fan invaded the pitch and appeared to make light contact with the goalkeeper.

In a statement released on UEFA’s website (www.uefa.com), European soccer’s governing body said the case would be discussed by its disciplinary body on Thursday.

UEFA said the proceedings had been instigated based on a paragraph of their disciplinary regulations which states that “players, officials and members, shall conduct themselves according to the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsman-

shelf”. Milan’s lawyer Leonardo Cantamessa said the club’s medical staff had decided the keeper should be substituted as a precautionary measure.

“Milan did not commit any disloyal act,” Cantamessa told Italian news agency ANSA’s website (www.ansa.it). “The doctor could not take the responsibility of keeping him on the field. This whole affair has been blown up.”

Ajax coach Ten Cate set to join Chelsea

AMSTERDAM, 9 Oct.— Ajax Amsterdam coach Henk Ten Cate is set to join Chelsea after the two clubs reached agreement on Monday.

“Last week, Henk Ten Cate asked Ajax to negotiate with Chelsea after Chelsea contacted him personally,” the Dutch club said in a statement.

“After an internal consultation, Ajax agreed to the request. It was now up to Ten Cate and Chelsea to finalize the transfer, Ajax said, adding the club did not think the move would take long. Ten Cate has been linked with an assistant coach position at Chelsea in media reports.

He was assistant coach to Frank Rijkaard at Barcelona when they won the Champions League and became Ajax coach in May 2006 on a two-year contract.

Ajax were eliminated from the UEFA Cup last week after a 3-2 home loss to Dynamo Zagreb put them out on away goals.— MNA/Reuters

Espanyol striker Tamudo replaces Villa for Spain

MADRID, 9 Oct.— Espanyol striker Raúl Tamudo was called up to the Spain squad by coach Luis Aragones on Monday for their Euro 2008 qualifier against Denmark on October 13.

The 29-year-old comes in to replace David Villa, who pulled out of the squad after suffering an ankle injury during Valencia’s 2-1 defeat to Espanyol at the weekend.

Tamudo, who has won nine caps and scored four goals for Spain, last featured in a World Cup qualifier against Serbia & Montenegro in September 2005.— MNA/Reuters

Leonard beats Parnevik in playoff to win Texas Open

HOUSTON, 9 Oct.— American Justin Leonard nailed a 17-foot birdie putt on the third playoff hole to win his third Texas Open on Sunday and deny hard luck Swede Jesper Parnevik his first title in six years.

Leonard, who began the day four shots off the lead, forced a playoff with a final round five-under 67 that included a stretch of three consecutive birdies from the 12th, to end his own two-year title drought.

He joined Arnold Palmer as the only three-time winners of the event.— MNA/Reuters

Altitude becomes headache for Bolivia

LA PAZ, 9 Oct.— Bolivian officials admitted on Monday that playing at high altitude, previously considered their trump card, was causing logistical headaches for this month’s opening World Cup qualifiers.

Faced with the prospect of a match away to Uruguay at sea level on Saturday and another at home to Colombia at altitude four days later, Bolivia have decided to split their squad in two.

Bolivian federation president Carlos Chavez said the country’s foreign-based players would train in lowland Santa Cruz and the home-based ones in La Paz.

“We’re trying to avoid submitting the players were based at sea level to a demanding adaptation to altitude just before playing Uruguay in Montevideo,” he said.

Seven of the 30-man squad named for the two games are based abroad.

Bolivia traditionally play home matches in La Paz, the world’s highest international venue at 3,600 metres above sea level.

Earlier this year, FIFA banned matches at over 2,500 metres, a decision which caused an outcry in the Andean nation.— MNA/Reuters

Diouf announces end of international career

DARAK, 9 Oct.— Senegalese captain El Hadji Diouf announced he was ending his international career on Monday, citing organizational problems at the West African side.

“I have stopped my international career,” Diouf told commercial radio station RFM in a telephone interview from England, where he plays club football for Premier League Bolton Wanderers. “There are so many problems with the national team. “The team has a scheduled friendly match in a week and we don’t even know who we are playing against. This is unacceptable,” he said the 26-year-old striker, who has played for his country over 30 times. — MNA/Reuters
Britain to halve its Iraq force to 2,500 troops

LONDON, 9 Oct — Britain will halve its force in Iraq to 2,500 troops from spring next year, after handing over responsibility for the southern province of Basra to Iraqi security forces, Prime Minister Gordon Brown said on Monday.

In his first major foreign policy speech to Parliament, Brown also announced plans to allow Iraqis who have worked for British troops to apply for funds to resettle in Britain, Iraq or other countries in the region.

Brown announced during a visit to Iraq last week that 500 more soldiers would be home from the unpopular war in Iraq by year’s end. The force had already been due to fall from 5,500 to 5,000, and will now fall to 2,500 from spring next year.

Brown, who took over from Tony Blair as prime minister in June, had been widely expected to speed up the withdrawal of British troops after voters’ dismay at the war sent Blair’s popularity plum-metting and hastened his departure from office.

The announcement marks a turning point in southern Iraq, where there will no longer be a major presence of international forces patrolling the street.

However, Brown told Parliament, Britain’s “overwatch” role would still mean British troops had “a capacity to operate supply lines and look at the border issues”.

“That means we are in a position to support Iraqi troops but also to re-intervene,” he said.

Britain had sent 45,000 troops to Iraq during the US-led invasion in 2003 as Washington’s main ally and had maintained around 7,000 to 8,000 troops for most of the past four years in the mainly Shiite area that produces most of Iraq’s oil wealth.

MNA/Reuters
People’s Desire

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

☆ RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies
☆ RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!
☆ The public be warned of killers in the air waves — RFA, VOA and BBC

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

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

☆ Due to violence and unrest
  Peace-loving people have to live in state of alarm
  Learning of students disrupted
  Commodity flow stagnant
  Vendors have hard times
  Passenger transport services delayed
☆ Due to violence and unrest
  Only the notorious neo-colonialists benefited
  Instigators covertly earning dollars
  Expatriates and ax-handles living in luxury
  Followers of colonialists earning handsome dollar rewards