Our Myanmar people do not pay any attention to the instigation and incitement of foreign media that are airing fabricated news in an exaggerated way. Lessons drawn from the past show that only our own government and own people served the national interest and engaged extensively in nation-building endeavours. Therefore, despite a spate of instigation and attacks we all Myanmar people unanimously support the ruling government.

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

Monday, 15 October, 2007

Artistes to exhibit Myanmar traditional cultural heritage

Since the time of city states at the beginning of Myanmar history Myanmar culture and fine arts are gentle and of high standard. The people have been preserving them.

Nowadays, the government is laying emphasis on uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character. Myanmar traditional culture and fine arts are being handed down to new generation youths.

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are held every year with the aim of keeping patriotism alive and promoting and propagating Myanmar traditional culture and fine arts.

The 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions will be held in Nay Pyi Taw soon. Contestants from states and divisions will participate in the competitions which include Myanmar Thabin, marionette, singing, dancing, composing and playing instruments categories. New brilliant artists will emerge through the performing arts competitions.

The contestants will have to promote Myanmar traditional cultural heritage exhibiting the arts preserved by the veteran artistes in the successive periods.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 15 October, 2007

Leading Committee for Organizing 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions meets

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin addresses the coordination meeting of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Oct — The Leading Committee for Organizing the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held its third work coordination meeting at the Ministry of Culture here today.

Also present were members of the leading committee, working committee and sub-committees, members of panel of judges, managers of state/division competition teams and departmental officials.

Cash donation presented for Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Sangha Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Oct — The cash donation presentation for Pyinmana Sangha Hospital was held at the hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Department of Religious Affairs, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and officials, members of administrative board of the Hospital, donors and guests.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kavisara.

Next, officials donated offertories to members of the Sangha. The donations totalled K 24,994,000.

Edible oil tankers to arrive

YANGON, 14 Oct — The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd is importing edible oil.

MV. Analisial carrying 3,600 tons of edible oil arrived today and MV. Ana III carrying 2,900 tons of edible oil, MV. Bergprai carrying 2,600 tons of edible oil and MV. Analisial carrying 3,600 tons of edible oil will be arriving here on 17, 21 and 24 October respectively.

Minister looks into progress in building of main sub-power station

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Oct — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with officials concerned went on an inspection tour of the 230/33/11 KV (100) MVA main sub-power station near Thephyu Village, Minhlta Town, Yedashe in Bago Division on 12 October.

At the briefing hall, Director U Tin Aung (2) of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (Central) main sub-power stations construction project presented reports on progress in building of the main sub-power station and Managing Director Dr San Oo gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, the minister instructed officials concerned to supervise electrical appliances to have good quality and looked into progress in building of Control Room and installation of Switch Gear Structure. — MNA
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CIA investigates its own chief watchdog

WASHINGTON, 13 Oct — CIA Director Michael V Hayden has ordered an internal investigation of the agency’s chief watchdog who has issued a series of scathing reports sharply critical of top CIA members, officials said. The move has prompted concerns that Hayden is seeking to rein-in an inspector general who has used the office to bring harsh scrutiny of CIA figures including former Director George J Tenet and undercover operatives running secret overseas prison sites, The Los Angeles Time quoted government officials familiar with the matter as saying Friday.

The inquiry is focused on the conduct of CIA Inspector General John L Helgerson and his office. Officials said it was aimed in particular at evaluating whether Helgerson’s office was fair and impartial in its scrutiny of the agency’s terrorist detention and interrogation programmes.

But officials said the probe also spanned other subjects and had expanded since it was launched several months ago.— MNA/Xinhua

Road accident kills 41 in India

NEW DELHI, 13 Oct — At least 41 people were killed Thursday when a bus fell into the Alaknanda River in Uttarakhand, according to India TV report. The accident happened in Chamoli of Uttarakhand when the driver of the bus carrying 45 passengers lost control of the wheel, hit by a boulder which rolled down a hillside due to a landslide in area. The bus fell into the swirling waters of the Alaknanda, a tributary of the river Ganga, and most of the passengers died on the spot. A rescue team has retrieved 41 bodies from the river and sent others injured persons to nearby hospital. — MNA/Xinhua

Multi-vehicle crash kills two near LA

LOS ANGELES, 13 Oct — At least two people were confirmed killed and 10 others injured in a fiery multi-vehicle crash near Los Angeles, authorities said on Saturday. The crash, which occurred in a tunnel late Friday, involved 15 trucks as well as at least one passenger car that was flattened near the tunnel’s entrance. The crash engulfed the 200-feet tunnel in flames for hours after at least one truck, which was carrying fuel, caught fire. Witnesses reported a series of explosions. The accident closed the main north-south route connecting Los Angeles and San Francisco in both directions. Fire crews were still trying to put out the tunnel blaze Saturday afternoon, and officials estimated that the operation could take days.

Eight of the 10 injuries were reported as minor, while the others were said to be of moderate severity. The killed were not immediately identified. Authorities were unsure how long the main north-south route would be closed. But Los Angeles County Fire Department spokesman Jason Hurd said it could be days. — Internet

British prisoner charged with attack on al-Qaeda plotter

LONDON, 13 Oct — An inmate at a high security jail in northern England has been charged with attacking one of Britain’s most-high-profile al-Qaeda prisoners earlier this year, police said on Friday.

Dhiren Barot, 35, serving 30 years in jail for planning “dirty bomb” attacks in Britain and plotting to blow up US financial institutions, had boiled water and oil poured over his head during the incident in July, his lawyer has said.

Muddassar Arani said her client, who admitted conspiracy to murder last year and is considered by British and US officials to be one of al-Qaeda’s most senior operatives in Europe, had been scarred for life. — MNA/Reuters

Three Polish soldiers injured in patrol skirmish in Iraq

WARSZAW, 13 Oct — Three Polish soldiers were slightly injured in a mine ambush while on patrol in Iraq Thursday, the Polish PAP news agency reported.

The soldiers returned to their duties after medical treatment.

Polish army spokesman in Iraq Colonel Wlodzimierz Glogowski said investigations into the attack are under way. Polish troops have been in Iraq since the outbreak of the war, and at one point there was a 2,500-strong contingent in the country. The number now stands at about 900. More than twenty Polish servicemen have been killed in Iraq so far.— MNA/Xinhua

Blast in south Afghanistan kills four policemen

KABUL, 13 Oct — An explosion killed four policemen and wounded four more and 10 civilians in a bazaar in southern Afghanistan on Friday, a British military spokesman said.

He said the blast happened in a bazaar close to a mosque in the town of Gereshk in the restive province of Helmand.

It came on the first day of the Eid al-Fitr Muslim holiday when many worshippers gather to pray in mosques to mark the end of Ramadan.

British forces in Helmand were preparing to airlift the wounded police by helicopter to a military hospital, spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Eaton said. — MNA/Reuters
**US Marine Corps proposes moving from Iraq to Afghanistan**

**WASHINGTON, 12 Oct** — The US Marine Corps is proposing to move some of its troops from Iraq to Afghanistan, according to US military officials and media on Thursday.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, told CNN that Marine Corps Commandant General James Conway, has proposed that the Marines become the prime US combat force in Afghanistan while the Army takes the lead in Iraq.

Conway made the suggestion last week at a meeting of senior combat commanders and heads of military services, but he has not put forth a formal proposal yet, according to a report in the New York Times.

Such a shift in policy would require the approval of Admiral Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Defence Secretary Robert Gates. Asked about the report on Thursday, Gates called it “extremely preliminary thinking on the part of perhaps some staff people in the Marine Corps”.

If the idea gained approval, it could simplify troop rotations and deployments in the two countries.

Marines generally serve seven months on the ground, while Army troops are on a 15-month rotation. — MNA/Xinhua

**Private plane crashes in rural area of Bogota, killing seven**

**BOGOTA, 12 Oct** — A private plane crashed shortly after taking off from El Dorado Airport in Bogota, capital of Colombia, on Thursday, killing seven and injuring more, local aviation authorities said.

The two-engine plane, which provides a medical service, crashed into a neighbourhood in the rural area near Bogota, killing two crew members and three doctors on board and two people on the ground killed.

A number of residents were injured in the accident.

The fire brigade and rescue team arrived immediately and the cause of the accident is still under investigation. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Indonesian court rejects case against “NY Times”**

**JAKARTA, 12 Oct** — An Indonesian court has rejected a lawsuit filed by the president of Newmont Mining Corp’s local unit against the New York Times and a reporter over pollution accusations made in the paper, a lawyer said on Thursday.

The civil lawsuit was filed in the Central Jakarta court against the New York Times Co and its reporter Jane Perlez for publishing discrediting articles against Newmont Minahasa President Richard Ness between September 2004 to February 2006.

The lawyer had run several stories highlighting comments by local villagers who claimed to have been sickened from fish caught in Buyat Bay, near a now defunct Newmont gold mine in North Sulawesi Province.

The court threw out the lawsuit, which sought around 65 million US dollars in compensation, on the grounds the case was outside its jurisdiction, said Harjon Sinaga, Ness’ lawyer. — MNA/Reuters

**Bulgarian teachers press on with pay protests**

**SOFIA, 12 Oct** — Thousands of teachers marched through central Sofia on Thursday to demand a doubling of their salaries, pressing ahead with a strike that has paralysed Bulgarian schools for three weeks.

The teachers, who began an indefinite strike on 24 September, said in a statement that the government had ignored their demands and the need to reform the education sector. The industrial action has added pressure on the Socialist-led coalition government to boost living standards in the poorest European Union member country. Some 15,000 teachers marched in front of parliament buildings and demanded the resignations of the education and finance ministers.

Trade unions say the average monthly salary of a teacher of 340.78 levs (174 euros) is “extremely humiliating”. “What is happening today is a precedent in Bulgaria’s history and it is the logical result of your inaction,” the teachers said in a statement. — MNA/Reuters

**Richardson wants US troops replaced in Iraq**

**MANCHESTER (New Hampshire), 12 Oct** — Peacekeeping troops from Arab countries and Turkey should replace US forces in Iraq within a year, and Iran and Syria should serve as guarantors of regional stability, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Richardson said on Thursday.

“Iran and Syria, regarded as a state sponsor of terrorism by Washington, should agree not to interfere in Iraq, the New Mexico governor said at a campaign stop in New Hampshire.

“They would sign on to say, ‘We will respect the boundaries and the territorial integrity of Iraq.’” Richardson said at an elementary school in Manchester.

“The troops would be UN troops, I wouldn’t object to NATO troops, but principally I think they should be Arab troops.” — MNA/Reuters
Yangon, 14 Oct — Book of Condolences for the demise of Member of the State Peace and Development Council Prime Minister General Soe Win on 12 October was opened at the Entrance Building of Pyithu Hluttaw. Today, special envoys of foreign governments who were here to attend the state funeral for the Prime Minister signed in the Book of Condolences. Among the special envoys were Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Thongloun Sisoulith of Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Special Advisor to the President Lt-Gen Agus Wijoyo of Indonesia, Minister for Tourism Mrs Ambika Soni of India and Senior Minister of the State for Foreign Affairs Mr Balaji Sadasivan of Singapore. Ambassadors in Yangon who signed in the Book of Condolences were British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mark Canning, Israeli Ambassador Mme Ruth Schatz, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Park Key-Chong, German Ambassador Mr Dietrich Andreas, Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr P.A.D Samarasekera, French Ambassador Mr Jean-Pierre Lafosse, Italian Ambassador Dr Giuseppe Cinti, Charge d’Affaires ai of Serbia Mr Dragan Janekovic, Charge d’Affaires ai of Nepal Mr Dilip Kumar Paudel, Charge d’Affaires ai of Nigeria Mrs Folashikemi Victoria Aiyed, Charge d’Affaires ai of Saudi Arabia Mr Naif Qaed A Hantushi, Counsellor Mr Kim Kwang Choi of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Resident Coordinator of UN Agencies in Yangon Mr Charles James Petrie.

Minister for Tourism Mrs Ambika Soni of India signs in the book of condolences opened for late Prime Minister General Soe Win.—MNA

Korean Ambassador Mr Park Key-Chong signs in the book of condolences opened for late Prime Minister General Soe Win.—MNA

Ambassador of French Mr Jean-Pierre Lafosse signs in the book of condolences opened for late Prime Minister General Soe Win.—MNA

Resident Coordinator of UN Agencies Mr Charles James Petrie signs in the book of condolences opened for late Prime Minister General Soe Win.—MNA

**Special envoys of foreign governments, ambassadors sign in Book of Condolences opened for late Prime Minister General Soe Win**

Colombia, Venezuela inaugurate binational gas pipeline

BOGOTA, 13 Oct — The Presidents of Colombia and Venezuela, Alvaro Uribe and Hugo Chavez, inaugurated on Friday a binational gas pipeline at a ceremony also attended by Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa.

The ceremony was held in northern Colombia’s Punta Ballenas region, where Uribe and Chavez opened the gas pipeline’s valves to begin the 200 million cubic feet gas transportation from Colombia to Venezuela. The Ballenas-Mara-caibo-Antonio Ricarte gas pipeline will function inversely in the future, from Venezuela to Colombia. Chavez highlighted the countries’ independence and said “each country has its time, its festivities, celebrations and in Venezuela we live times of revolution.” Venezuelan helicopters transported Correa and Chavez to Colombia’s gas station at the Manaure town in the Punta Ballenas region within La Guajira department of northern Colombia.

**Philippines bans bird imports from Canadian province**

MANILA, 13 Oct — The Philippines has issued a temporary ban on the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products from a province of Canada for fear of bird flu, reports said on Thursday. The ban was meant to ensure the archipelagic country remained bird flu free.

Philippine ABS-CBN TV citing a memorandum by the Philippine Department of Agriculture reported.

Canadian veterinary officials said last month they found a dangerous strain of bird flu on a farm in the Saskatchewan Province. The strain is not normally associated with human illness but is seen as a serious risk to animal health.

Manila has a similar ban on all live bird and poultry imports from Korea and Britain.

The Philippines is one of only three countries in Southeast Asia that has not had avian influenza since the virus resurfaced in Asia in 2003. The two others are Brunei and Singapore.
Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 1)

Pakokku, Magway Division, Dhamma Sitagu Ayeywa Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhammajokadipada Bhaddanta Vouta of Dawbon Township, Yangon Division, Yecheinok Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddha Jotikadajja Bhaddanta Kemaarvamsa of Singaing, Mandalay Divisions, Myazigon Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandavamsa of Toungoo, Bago Division (East) and Kantaw Panytta Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhammajokadipada Bhaddanta Tiloka of Mingen, Sagaing Division, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Kyi Lay Thet, Acting Prime Minister and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Kyi Lay Thet, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Thida Tinnay Maung Aung Hlaing, Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Muhammed Amin, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the chairman of Yangon City Development Committee the Mayor, senior military officers, special envoys of foreign governments including seven members led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Thongloun Sisoulith of Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Special Advisor to the President Lt-Gen Agus Wijoyo of Indonesia and one member, Senior Minister of the State for Foreign Affairs Mr Balaji Sadasiyan of Singapore and one member, Minister for Tourism Mrs Ambika Soni and two members of India, departmental heads, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam Peihin Datu Iderasagara Brig-Gen (B) Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof bin Abu Bakar, Bangladeshi Ambassador Major General Abu Rushde Rokonuddowla, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China Mr Guan Mu, Egyptian Ambassador Mr Yousef Kamal Botros Hamma, Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra, Japanese Ambassador Mr Yasuaki Nogawa, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Park Key-Chong, Laotian Ambassador Mr Koully A Souphakhet, Malaysian Ambassador Dato Shaharuddin Bin Md-Som, Philippine Ambassador Mr Noel C Cobrera, Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong, Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr P.A.D Samarasekera, Thai Ambassador Mr Bansarn Bunnag, Russian Ambassador Mr Mikhail M Mgeladze and Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Tran Van Tung led by Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hul Phany, Chargé d’Affaires ai and embassy staff of the embassies of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Indonesia and Nigeria, Second Secretary of Nepal, military attaches of Vietnam, Bangladesh, the Republic of Korea, the People’s Republic of China, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Japan, Cambodia, Pakistan, Russia Federation and Thailand, the resident representatives of UN agencies, presidents and officials of social organizations, the president and executives of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, wife, family members and relatives of the late Prime Minister and guests.

(See page 7)
Senior General Than Shwe... (from page 6)

When Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived at Naypyidaw’s Zayarzuni Airport to attend the State funeral ceremony at Defence Service General Hospital, they were welcomed by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and members.

Next, the Senior General and wife paid tribute to the remains of Prime Minister General Aung San Suu Kyi and comforted bereaved family members. After cordially greeting the Dean of Diplomatic Corps of the Union of Myanmar and diplomats of foreign embassies, charges d’affaires and military attachés, and resident representatives of UN agencies, they left the State funeral. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, and General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet viewed the remains of Prime Minister General Aung San Suu Kyi and so did Acting Prime Minister and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Members of SPDC and wives, the Military Affairs Security Chief, Ministers and Senior Military Officers.

After that, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Secretary Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osahthibbyavamsa. Next, wife of the Prime Minister Daw Than Than Nwe and family members practiced Bhavanussati Kamaththa meditation and donated offertories to members of the Sangha and shared merits gained.

After presenting gun of Defence conveyed the casket with remains of Prime Minister General Aung San Suu Kyi and lifted it onto the gun carriage. Those who would attend the funeral boarded the cars.

The gun carriage, followed by vehicles carrying members of the State Peace and Development Council, Wut associations and family of Prime Minister General Aung San Suu Kyi left for Mingaladon War Cemetery at 12.50 pm.

Next, the casket was unloaded from the gun carriage and Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Commander-in-Chief (Air), Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Mya San conveyed it to the hall of the cemetery.

Seven-member team led by an officer then presented the gun-salute. Acting Prime Minister Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein read the orders of the State Peace and Development Council and the Ministry of Defence that released Prime Minister General Aung San Suu Kyi from service. Then, the Secretary-1 put the orders in the casket. The team presented the five gun-salutes. Daw Than Than Nwe and family also paid respects to the remains of Prime Minister General Aung San Suu Kyi.

Members of the State Peace and Development Council, Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Commander-in-Chief (Air), Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Mya San conveyed the casket to the crematorium.

Next, ashes of the late Prime Minister General Aung San Suu Kyi were taken out. The urn held by the son of Prime Minister General Aung San Suu Kyi was conveyed to the entombment site.

General Thura Shwe Mann, Daw Than Than Nwe, Acting Prime Minister Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of SPDC Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Mya San and senior military officers observed the entombment.

Daw Than Than Nwe and families paid respects to the tomb of Prime Minister General Aung San Suu Kyi. The State funeral ended at 2.15 pm.

At 10 am, families of late Prime Minister General Soe Win presented offertories to members Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

The family of late Prime Minister General Soe Win took the Five Precepts from Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osahthibbyavamsa of Nyaungdon Monastery.

Daw Than Than Nwe and families presented offertories to members of the Sangha led by Bhaddanta Osahthibbyavamsa.

Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Indala Jo Ti Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatha Kyaungtaik delivered a sermon and shared merits gained. Alms were then offered to the Sayadaws.
Attempts to harm amicable ties

Kyaw Min Lu (Shwepyitha)

It is known to all that Kengi Nagai, a Japanese photographer was killed accidentally while the security forces handling the violence that occurred at the end of last month for stability of the State. It was a sad incident indeed. After the death of the Japanese, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and party arrived and met some responsible ministers. We have known that a press release was issued. Officials concerned of our country felt sorry for the accident and they are believed to have explained it to them reasonably. Gentle Myanmar people with sympathy and kind heart feel sorry for the foreign visitor.

We saw that it was just an accident or an unfortunate incident. The true event was really simple. However, foreign broadcasting stations reported distorted accusations. We were very unhappy when we learnt about it. They reported that Japanese photographer Kengi Nagai, 50, covering news of protests in the streets in Yangon, was shot point-blank range by a soldier and that he fell down and he tried to shoot the scene with his right handheld camcorder. They added that Myanmar government had negative views on the news channel if it deliberately shot dead the Japanese because it knew the man was a reporter. The broadcasting stations made accusations on the government that provided assistance for the late Japanese.

We learnt that the Japanese who tried to cover news about the protests in Myanmar were branded as a hero reporter. I don’t think he might know that his act would be great as such. Regarding Myanmar, foreign broadcasting stations have described those serving prison terms and those who died for any reason to be heroes. This way they have misled the world people. It was not strange for them. The stations said that the death of the Japanese reporter was a blessing in disguise for Myanmar because, they said, the Japanese people took interest in Myanmar’s affairs after his death. The APF news agency said that it was the big profit for introduction of democracy in Myanmar. The APF news agency took advantage of the incident before the body was buried. It is obvious that fabrications of foreign media targeted our country with a vengeance.

I will explain the incident. When a mistake lingers on it may be thought as right. Therefore, we will correct the mistake. We are not that naive to remain silent.

In fact, on 25-9-2007, Kengi Nagai, was a reporter of APF based in Japan. He arrived in Yangon on a tourist visa No 006567(24-9-2007) EV/T/PIT. In reality, a reporter should come to Myanmar on a journalist visa. We don’t need to mention whether his plan was sincere or not. Studying the time of his arrival in the country there might be some kind of contacts with the protesters. But we said nothing. One who entered the country on a tourist visa should act like a tourist. If he had acted so, the tragic incident would not have taken place. But he came to the country on a tourist visa and acted like a journalist dishonestly. He should officially come to Myanmar through the ministry concerned if he wished to do journalist work. The sad incident would not have taken place if he did so. I think necessary assistance might be provided to him by the government concerned.

Mr Nagai put up at a hotel on 33rd Street in Yangon and tried to cover news about protest marches and security measures. At that time, Section 144 was in force in Yangon and necessary measures were to be taken in accordance with the law to disperse the crowds who were staging protest marches at the stage, they draw three lines and persuade the protesters to disperse and not to march forward. If the protesters fail to follow the instructions, they have to use tear-gas and smoke bombs to disperse the crowd. If the protesters again march forward, they fire warning shots to disperse the crowd. If the protesters however persist on marching forward and pose danger to the security members, they unavoidably have to use minimum force to disperse the protesters.

It is impossible for security members to know who is who and to differentiate between nationals and foreigners in handling a protest. Indeed, Myanmars and Japanese are the same, Asians, so the security members could not know immediately he was a Japanese and whether he was a protester or a correspondent. What is sure in that regard is that security members had to target the ones in the front of the crowd to stop the protest. The Japanese correspondent caused his tragic end by getting among the protesters.

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(See page 9)
Attempts to harm... (from page 8)

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In addressing the incidents, security forces found it difficult to distinguish Myanmar from Japanese or American. They fired shots just to disperse the crowd, not to harm any particular person. Suppose there was an American in the crowd, maybe he would be shot if unfortunate. Surely, the Japanese correspondent was shot accidentally, not on purpose. He met his tragic end due to the fact that he was together with the protesters at an improper site at an improper time.

Those responsible sent him to Yangon General Hospital as soon as possible. Then, they informed the Japanese embassy of the incident, and extended a helping hand to it in taking necessary measures in that regard. Myanmar handed over the 24 belongings of Mr Nagai to the Japanese embassy. It also helped send his body to Japan. Myanmar people felt sorry like his family and Japanese people.

His family asked Myanmar for returning the Sony video tape recorder Mr Nagai was holding in the incident. It is very hard to identify how his tape recorder was lost amidst the protesters who were in disorder due to security forces dispersing the crowd. Security forces did not collect it. I understand the desire of his family that want to get back the recorder to be kept for remembrance. However, foreign radio stations said that it was taken by a policeman. That made his family downhearted and I also felt sorry.

Many foreign news agencies including Japanese ones are airing as if Myanmar security members shot him at close range on purpose. That harms the bilateral relations to a certain degree. To my dismay, with reference to the demise of Mr Nagai, a Japanese news agency suggested that the Japanese government try harder to ensure peace and democracy in Myanmar and said that Japan, a democracy, was responsible for the process.

As a matter of fact, the Japan-Myanmar relations have been cemented for years. Trust and understanding between the Japanese government and Myanmar government as well as between peoples of the two nations have already been fostered. For Myanmar and its people there could be a spite of hatred and abhorrence towards Japanese as they had experienced and suffered much in the time of Japan in Myanmar. There are still many stories and movies on Japanese Kinpaytai and Japanese fascists. Actually, Myanmar people were subject to all forms of torture and agony by Japanese then. However, we Myanmar people did put it in the past with magnanimity. At a time when even China and South Korea are demanding an apology for atrocities of Japan during the war we Myanmar people have been in a position of forgiving it. One can realize such magnanimous attitude of Myanmars towards Japanese.

There are no ulterior motives and spite on others among Myanmars who have reasonable consideration and rational thought. During WWII many Myanmar people were under gruesome torture. However, when Japanese lost the war and fled Myanmar some Japanese war veterans who are still alive know how Myanmar people treated them. The movie by the name of “Thwe (Blood)” jointly produced by Japan and Myanmar stands witness to sincere attitude and temperament of Myanmar. This has born witness to Japan-Myanmar friendship which can not be destroyed.

In Myanmar, the 27th March on which we started to launch the anti-fascist resistance was designated as anti-Fascist Resistance Day. But later on, we Myanmars designated it as the Armed Forces Day on the basis of understanding and consideration so that hatred against Japanese can be warded off. Even such a trivial matter has been taken into consideration one can assess and calculate that should Myanmars knowingly and intentionally shoot dead a Japanese reporter at close range.

At present, there are still mutual trust and respect between Myanmar and Japan based on Japan-Myanmar friendly ties. Not only Japanese government but also NGOs are still providing the nation with humanitarian assistance. However, some foreign radio stations are airing fabricated news as to the incident of Mr Nagai with the intention of undermining the Japan-Myanmar relations, of terminating the aid provided by Japan and of getting foreign countries to impose sanctions on Myanmar. This is what we revealed the true situations of Myanmar. It is necessary to perpetually maintain friendship between the two countries on the basis of objective conditions. It should not be like the instance that the sweet taste of certain soup was degraded by salt.

(Translation: NY+MS+TS)  
Kyemon: 13-10-2007
Townsenders organize ceremony to support National Convention, forthcoming constitution in Pyay, Bago Division (West)

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Oct—Townsenders organized ceremony to support the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution at Mingala Shwepyi Sports Ground in Pyay, Bago Division (West) on 12 October.

Over 110,000 people including townselders, local national races, members of social organization, entrepreneurs, industrialists, farmers, workers, departmental personnel, teachers, students and people from Pyay and Thayawady Districts in Bago Division (West) attended the ceremony.

Before the ceremony, Pyay District column led by U Win Tun Myint and Thayawady District column led by U Than Zaw marched towards the sports ground and took their designated places.

Townsenders Hotelier

Rector Dr Aung Kyaw Myat of Pyay University of Technology, and District Education Officer (Retd) U Chit Hla as members of the Panel of Chairmen. Daw Ei Ei Tun of Bago Division (West) USDA and Daw Khain Yi Mon Tun of Bago Division (West) USDA acted as master of ceremonies and co-MC. First, those present saluted the State flag.

In his address, Townsenders Hotelier U Win Myint said: Taking lessons from previous constitutions and constitutions of the countries of the world, delegates to the National Convention held thorough discussions. According to the needs of the nation, different organizations gathered at the National Convention with common desire and laid down basic principles. A certain length of time is needed for holding the National Convention Convening Commission capable of completing its mission was able to carry out the tasks of the National Convention with the announcement of the seven-step Road Map on 30 August 2003. The people who know the fact that democracy will be achieved through the implementation of the seven-step Road Map laid down at the National Convention will surely benefit Our Three Main National Causes.

The constitution essential for a nation must be adopted unanimously by every citizen and it must surely benefit the nation. Nowadays, destructive elements are trying to hinder the nation-building tasks. All the people are able to differentiate the constructive and the destructive acts and the strength of the people gathering here shows that all are unitedly marching towards the national goal.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the people to unanimously support the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution.

Local people of Bago Division (West) marching to the ceremony to support the National Convention and the constitution in Pyay.— MNA

Local people of Bago Division (West) marching to the ceremony to support the National Convention and the constitution in Pyay.— MNA
Townsenders organize ceremony...

Chairman U Win Myint, a hotelier.

MNA

laid down 15 chapter headings and it was adjourned on 6 June. The National Convention resumed on 7 July 1993. The session was able to lay down 104 fundamental principles and discussed detailed basic principles as to seven sectors.

The plenary session of the National Convention resumed on 28 November 1993 in which altogether 631 delegates of 677 took part. On 27 November, the National League for Democracy holding the negative attitude walked out of the National Convention. Hence, the National Convention Convening Commission revoked 86 NLD delegates from the list of those to the National Convention under Para-48 of National Convention Convening Procedures. As a result, the National Convention was adjourned on 31 March 1996.

In an effort to ensure the emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation the government laid down the seven-step Road Map and is implementing it. The National Convention, the first step of the seven-step Road Map, resumed on 17 May 2004. With the active participation of delegates from all walks of life the National Convention was successfully completed, and it has been able to lay down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles. There had some restrictions and weaknesses in the 1947 Constitution that was drawn hastily. Likewise, the 1974 Constitution was the one that favoured Socialist economic system. Due to a string of weaknesses and dangers that could lead to disintegration of the Union, it was abolished.

It is obvious that fundamental principles and detailed basic principles are more complete than those of the previous constitutions. According to the principles laid down by the National Convention there will be one self-administered region for Wa national races and five self-administered zones for Naga, Dhanu, Pa-O, Palaung and Kokang national races in addition to the existing seven states and divisions. Therefore, the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles will be able to serve the national interests all the more.

The successful completion of the National Convention is the first step of a journey leading to completion of the National Convention. It is necessary for the entire national people to continue marching to the national goal with new vigour. In conclusion, he urged those present to make concerted efforts for the emergence of a new constitution that is indispensable in building a new democratic nation.

U Khin Maung Thwin, Secretary of Thayawady District USDA — MNA

Constitution was the one that was realised their attitude. They have already realized that internal and external destructive elements are attempting to break up Union Tatmadaw. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services is the Head of all armed forces and the main duties of the Tatmadaw are to safeguard the State. In the region, one can learn education ranging from primary to higher education. The National Convention has laid down the basic principles that will be religious freedom and freedom of worship. Therefore, all the people support and welcome the constitution that will emerge based on the basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

Chairman U Win Myint, member of Bago Division (West) WAO — MNA

steps to enable the representatives-elect, political parties and those from all strata to write a constitution since the 1990 election. After they had held discussions, they laid down 104 basic principles. If there had not been any instigation, the NC would have been completed since 10 years ago and a government would have been democratically elected. It is known to all that the NC was disrupted because of a party or a group of delegates. However, thanks to the concerted efforts of national forces including the commission and delegates, the NC was reconvened on 14 May 2004. Again, some who think highly of themselves walked out of the NC for the second time by making various demands. But the commission and the delegates made commitment to reconvene the NC and as a result, it was held till its successful completion. Altogether 33 delegates of the 14 townships of Bago Division (West) took part in the discussions at the NC.

The NC has laid down the basic principles for the good sake of the entire people. In conclusion, the Tatmadaw government has built infrastructures all over the nation for the development of the State. It is marching towards a new democratic nation with a new administrative machinery. It is striving for the emergence of an enduring constitution taking its lesson from the past. As the NC was held with the participation of the delegates who are expert at their respective fields, it can be said that the NC is completely compatible with the prevailing conditions of the nation. And the goal of building a democratic nation is within reach. So all the people are urged to march towards that goal.

Education College Principal Daw Khin Mu Myint, member of Bago Division (West) said every nation needs such basic infrastructures as peace and stability, economic growth, national unity and national spirit in order to catch up with other nations. Now, our nation has seen significant progress in economic, education, health and social sectors. However, there are some people who are jealous of the development of the nation. Recently, the people were concerned about the situation in which protests occurred in the nation at the instigation of some dollar earners.

In reality, the country has been equipped with a network of facilities such as roads and bridges, railroads, and airports. In Bago Division (West) alone, there are a lot of dams, reservoirs and river-water pumping stations and it has been green and lush. In the region, one can learn education ranging from primary to higher education. The National Convention has laid down the basic principles that will be religious freedom and freedom of worship. Therefore, all the people support and welcome the constitution that will emerge based on the basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

Daw Ni Ni Soe, member of Bago Division (West) WAO — MNA

Division (West) Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, said every nation needs such basic infrastructures as peace and stability, economic growth, national unity and national spirit in order to catch up with other nations. Now, our nation has seen significant progress in economic, education, health and social sectors. However, there are some people who are jealous of the development of the nation. Recently, the people were concerned about the situation in which protests occurred in the nation at the instigation of some dollar earners.

In reality, the country has been equipped with a network of facilities such as roads and bridges, railroads, and airports. In Bago Division (West) alone, there are a lot of dams, reservoirs and river-water pumping stations and it has been green and lush. In the region, one can learn education ranging from primary to higher education. The National Convention has laid down the basic principles that will be religious freedom and freedom of worship. Therefore, all the people support and welcome the constitution that will emerge based on the basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

Thanks to the Convention and the upcoming constitution while guarding against any danger of the internal and external destructive elements.

Member of Supervisory Committee for Pyay District War Veterans Organization Assistant Director of Internal Revenues Department Major Win Aung Nyo (Retd) tabled the motion calling for the support of the National Convention and forthcoming State Constitution. He said that only countries with strong armed forces could build peace and stability when observing histories of the world nations. If the armed forces of a nation became fragile, terrorist acts and insurgencies would surely appear in that country.

All the entire national people favour peace, stability and development but not the invasion. They have already realized that internal and external destructive elements are attempting to break up Union Tatmadaw. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services is the Head of all armed forces and the main duties of the Tatmadaw are to safeguard the State. In the region, one can learn education ranging from primary to higher education. The National Convention has laid down the basic principles that will be religious freedom and freedom of worship. Therefore, all the people support and welcome the constitution that will emerge based on the basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

All in all, the people support the National Convention and the upcoming constitution while guarding against any danger of the internal and external destructive elements.

U Tun Zaw of Nat殡al Township, MNA

MC Daw Ei Ei Tun and Co-MC Daw Khin Yi Mon Tun — MNA

Division (West) Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, said every nation needs such basic infrastructures as peace and stability, economic growth, national unity and national spirit in order to catch up with other nations. Now, our nation has seen significant progress in economic, education, health and social sectors. However, there are some people who are jealous of the development of the nation. Recently, the people were concerned about the situation in which protests occurred in the nation at the instigation of some dollar earners.

In reality, the country has been equipped with a network of facilities such as roads and bridges, railroads, and airports. In Bago Division (West) alone, there are a lot of dams, reservoirs and river-water pumping stations and it has been green and lush. In the region, one can learn education ranging from primary to higher education. The National Convention has laid down the basic principles that will be religious freedom and freedom of worship. Therefore, all the people support and welcome the constitution that will emerge based on the basic principles laid down by the National Convention.
Townsenders organize ceremony...

(From page 11)

Constitution that are included in the 108 detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention. Moreover, Tatmadaw aims at participating in the leading sector of national politics. This regard, those holding negative views have made accusations that Tatmadaw will play a key role in the future national politics. Tatmadawmen who dare to sacrifice their life for the country, have also rights to serve the duties like the candidates of the political parties. Therefore, the National Convention has prescribed that Tatmadawmen delegates should take part in discharging duties of national politics just like representatives-elect should do. Tatmadaw had to resolve severe political situations all the citizens faced in 1945, 1958, 1962 and 1988 and defend the independence of the State, and life and property of the people. As a result, the entire national people need to realize that Tatmadaw to participate in the discharging duties of the State in accord with the law is utmost important. Tatmadawmen delegates are allowed to be lined up in the Hlutaw of some democratic neighbouring countries including Indonesia and Thailand. Thus, the National Convention has laid down the principle that Tatmadawmen are to participate in the Hlutaw with a ratio of one-forth of all delegates.

U Tun Zaw of Nattalin Township seconded the motion calling for support of the National Convention and the forthcoming Constitution. Fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention guarantee the interest of the people. Myanmar is situated in a geographically strategic area. It is important for the leaders of the western nations to become their stronghold. That is why they are trying to install a government under their influence. The present Tatmadaw government will not be placed under their influence. Under the British rule, the imperialists practised the divide-and-rule policy and created unequal situations in plains and hilly regions. As a result, there was misunderstanding and suspicion among the national races.

The government has built roads and bridges and is implementing 24 special development zones in states and divisions. In the country unity and integration is the primary requirement. Therefore I support the forthcoming constitution that safeguards the Union spirit and to be drafted in accord with the fundamental principles.

Townsender U Tin Lwin of Nattalin continued seconding the motion, saying that due to discord and suspicion sown by colonialists there were splits and conflicts among national races who have been living in the Union for years through thick and thin. As a result, armed insurgency reigned in the nation. So the Tatmadaw had to cope with the situation and could not place much emphasis on national reconciliation. When the independence was regained also, there emerged armed conflicts among national races. This was followed by killing, arson, strike and looting. Faced with such difficult time, the 14-year long Parliamentary democracy met its end. As the Union was on the verge of disintegration, the Tatmadaw had to save the nation in time in 1962.

In the disturbances of 1988, there were killings committed by some protesters in broad daylight. At that time, the entire people had to live in constant fear. It is sure that the culprits were not the Tatmadaw. In the time of the independence struggle, Burma Communist party became weak as it followed the wrong ism and sectarianism. But they resurfaced launching underground movement against the government. BCP perpetrated various forms of torture including gruesome killings against the people. In the ‘88’ unrest, some foreign radio stations aired fabricated news to the effect that young student by the name of Ma Aye Nyein Thu was raped by security members to fuel public outrage. The plot was arranged by the so-called ‘88’ generation student leader Htay Kywe who is now given protection by a foreign embassy.

The internal and external destructive elements in collusion with BBC, VOA and RFA are making attempts to harm the process of the seven-step Road Map as they are in no position of meddling in Myanmar’s internal affairs. They followed the tactics applied in 1988 unrest to incite and instigate the people. But their attempts met with failure, and the National Convention that laid down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles was successfully convened. Those who are jealous of national development are attempting to incite the people under the name of religion. Exploiting monks and nuns, they enticed and organized the people into taking to the street in order to grasp the State power through short cut. Due to violence and unrest, only the notorious neo-colonialists and destructive elements benefited.

Internal traitors made attempts to tarnish the image of the nation and harm peace and stability in return for dollars. So they have become richer and richer with the financial assistance from abroad. And the so-called ‘88’ generation students were no exception. At a time when efforts are being made for the emergence of a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation the entire people are to be well aware of dangers posed to the nation and the wicked plots of elements who are eager to take the State power.

Next, the meeting chairman sought the approval of those present on the occasion and they unanimously supported the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution.

After that, those present chanted slogans and the ceremony came to a close at 9 am.

MNA

People of Mongnai Township in Shan State (South) hold rally to denounce recent protests

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Oct.—People of Mongnai Township in Shan State (South) who wish to see stability of the State, the rule of law and community peace and tranquility regarded recent protests instigated by some monks and NLD members as a threat to peace and stability. So they held a mass rally to denounce such protests on 12 October after seeking permission from the authorities concerned. In Mongnai Township, Shan State (South), over 13,000 people of five wards in the township and nine village-tracts held in procession at 8.45 am on 12 October shouting slogans ‘Our Three Main National Causes’, ‘the seven-step Road Map must be successful’, and holding placards that read ‘We favour peace’, ‘We oppose unrest and violence’, and ‘the public be warned of the activities of those present on the occasion and they unanimously supported the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution.

Local residents marching to the mass rally in Mongnai Township.

Car bomb attack on Iraqi General kills seven

KIRKUK (Iraqi), 13 Oct.—A car bomb targeting the traffic police chief of Kirkuk killed at least seven people and wounded 50 others on Thursday, the latest in a spate of attacks as tensions remain high in northern Iraq. Brigadier-General Salar Ahmed told Reuters he was wounded in the attack on his convoy. His injuries were not serious but two of his guards were killed and four wounded. “It was a parked car bomb which exploded as my convoy passed by,” he said. Some of the victims were motorists who had been queuing at a fuel station in a Kurdish District of Kirkuk, a volatile multi-ethnic city. One police source said 10 cars had been set ablaze. Brigadier-General Sarhat Qader, another senior policeman in Kirkuk, said seven people were killed and 50 wounded in the attack. Residents worked frantically to pull a charred body from the wreckage of one car. Reuters Television pictures showed at least five cars destroyed, some still ablaze and others burnt-out wrecks.—MNA/Reuters
HKUST to award honorary doctorates to pre-eminent persons

HONG KONG, 13 Oct — Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) announced Friday that it will confer honorary doctorates to three pre-eminent persons including famous novelist Louis Cha, in recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions. The university will hold on 9 November the 15th Congregation with Hong Kong Chief Executive Donald Tsang officiating the ceremony.

The three recipients include Louis Cha, influential author and co-founder of Ming Pao, will be conferred Doctor of Letters honoris causa; William M W Mong, celebrated philanthropist and Chairman and Senior Managing Director of Shun Hing Group will be awarded Doctor of Business Administration honoris causa; K Barry Sharpless, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 2001 for his groundbreaking work on stereo selective oxidation reactions.

London, 13 Oct — The British Government Friday published a new framework for conserving the country’s wildlife and habitats.

The new framework “Conserving Biodiversity: the UK Approach” announced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, calls for joint work among the public, voluntary and business sectors in the UK on a variety of agreed goals and priorities for the greater good of biodiversity.

Under the framework, shared priorities for action will include developing data, taking targeted action for priority species and habitats, engaging people and encouraging behavioural change, and the needs of biodiversity will need to continue to be embedded into all relevant sectors of policy.

World’s oldest wall painting unearthed in Syria

DAMASCUS, 13 Oct — French archaeologists say they have excavated an 11,000-year-old wall painting in red, black and white in northern Syria which they describe as the oldest in the world, although it resembles a modern work.

The two-square-metre painting was found below ground at the Neolithic settlement of Djade al-Mughara on the Euphrates, northeast of the city of Aleppo, mission head Eric Coqueugniot told Reuters.

“It looks like a modernist painting. Some of those who saw it have likened it to work by Klee. Through carbon dating we established it is from around 9000 BC,” Coqueugniot said.

“We found another painting next to it, but that won’t be excavated until next year. It is slow work,” said Coqueugniot, who works at France’s National Centre for Scientific Research.

Coqueugniot was referring to Swiss-German artist Paul Klee, who had links with the Bauhaus school, a main player in the German modernist movement. Rectangles dominate the ancient painting, which formed part of an adobe circular wall of a large house with a wooden roof at the 15,000-square-metre site.

Excavations have been going on at the site since the early 1990s. The painting has been recovered for now and will be moved to the Aleppo museum next year, Coqueugniot said. Its red colours came from burnt hematite rock, crushed limestone formed the white and charcoal provided black. — MNA/Reuters

Chinese film “Still Life” wins top prize in Chile

SANTIAGO, 13 Oct — The movie “Still Life” by Chinese director Jia Zhangke won the top prize at the International Film Festival held in the southern Chilean city of Valdivia on Wednesday.

Jia won the award for the best international feature film and 4,000 US dollars at the closing ceremony of the film festival, which opened on 5 October in Valdivia, 600 kilometres south of Santiago.

At last year’s Venice Film Festival, Jia was awarded the Golden Lion for best movie with his documentary-style “Still Life”, a story about a man searching for his ex-wife and a woman looking for her husband in a town about to be submerged by the rising waters of the Three Gorges Dam.

Han Sanming, the main character in the film, won the best actor award. — MNA/Xinhua

Britain announces new framework for conserving biodiversity

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Midfielder has eyes on Premier League and Champions League

LONDON, 12 Oct—Cesc Fabregas believes Arsenal still need to improve if they are to enjoy a successful campaign this season. The Gunners have enjoyed a flying start to the season at home and abroad and are still unbeaten. Arsene Wenger's exciting young side have won their last ten games and currently sit proudly at the top of the Premier League.

Fabregas has been a pivotal figure in Arsenal's fine run, but the classy schemer is refusing to get carried away. "The squad is very good, very happy, very confident, very strong and I think we still have to improve on a lot of things," Fabregas told Sky Sports News. "We are doing very well."

We are very young with a lot of ambition and hopefully we can keep going until the end." The Spanish international admits he has set his sights on winning the UEFA Champions League to help erase the painful memory of losing to Barcelona in 2006. —INTERNET

Spain sink Denmark 3-1 with clinical finishing

AARHUS (Denmark), 14 Oct—Spain beat Denmark 3-1 with some clinical finishing in their Euro 2008 Group F qualifier on Saturday, severely jeopardising the Danes' chances of making it to next year's finals. The win meant Spain joined Sweden, who have a game in hand, on 22 points at the top of the group, with Denmark languishing in fourth on 14 points behind Northern Ireland on 16.

Raul Tamudo opened the scoring for Spain in the 14th minute when he calmly headed a cross from Andres Iniesta over goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen. Sergio Ramos made it 2-0 in the 40th minute when he was sprung free in the box after a one-two with Xavi and lifted the ball over the diving Sorensen. —MNA/Reuters

France blast Faroes 6-0 after fog delay

TORSHAVN, 14 Oct—France blasted the Faroe Islands 6-0 in their Euro 2008 Group B qualifier on Saturday despite arriving on the North Atlantic islands hours before the match after their flight was delayed a day by fog.

Nicolas Anelka opened the scoring for the visitors, connecting with a cross from Franck Ribery to beat goalkeeper Jakup Mikkelson after seven minutes.

A minute later, Thierry Henry won the ball and hit a low shot to the far corner past Mikkelson to score his 41st goal in 95 appearances for France, equaling a record set by Michel Platini.

France were without striker Louis Saha and usual captain Patrick Vieira due to injuries but had no problem controlling the match with close to 70 per cent possession. —MNA/Reuters

Germany first to qualify for Euro 2008 finals

DUBLIN, 14 Oct—Germany became the first team to qualify for the Euro 2008 finals thanks to a 0-0 draw in their Group D match against Ireland at Croke Park on Saturday.

The point was enough to secure the visitors their place with three games to spare.

"Today it was our chance to wrap this qualifying process up which we've done fairly convincingly," Germany coach Joachim Loew told reporters via an interpreter. "At a very early stage we have qualified for Euro 2008."

Ireland's point from the match will do little to improve their chances of qualifying, however. With 15 points, they are still five behind the Czech Republic and eight short of table-toppers Germany who both have games in hand. Ireland manager Steve Staunton said he was "bitterly disappointed" at the result given his side's performance.

"I thought we should have won the game and (I am) gutted for the players, they put in a very good performance, especially in the second half," Staunton said at a news conference. —MNA/Reuters

Holyfield to go on despite defeat

LONDON, 13 Oct—Evander Holyfield vowed to continue boxing after his bid to win a world heavyweight title for a record fifth time was thwarted by Sultan Ibragimov.

Holyfield lost a unanimous points verdict in Moscow, the judges scoring the fight 118-110, 117-111 and 117-111. The 44-year-old was unable to match Ibragimov's counter-punching. But Holyfield insisted: "The important thing is I showed improvement and adjustment. He got the decision and I have to go back to the drawing board."

Holyfield, who last held a version of the heavyweight title in 2000, was wobbled by Ibragimov in the seventh round and again in the 10th.

The veteran's record is now 42-9-2, while Ibragimov improves to 22-0-1. Holyfield was aiming to upset the odds and also become the second-oldest ever heavyweight world champion after fellow American George Foreman. —INTERNET

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

LEAVE A WORD TRA HAP ART GIDY RIM AE I L PLAN T IRVANA TUND W NW CURSE TESY SN WEAR A AX HREM ER E EVIDENT PEC TR NH EDE TH DEBAR
Sri Lanka rejects setting up UN rights mission

COLOMBO, 14 Oct— categorically rejected the resident UN human rights commissioner and we have our own Constitution. We are not willing to discuss a mission for monitoring purposes, neither are we ready to open up an office,” Sri Lanka’s Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe told reporters. Samarasinghe made the remarks when addressing a joint press conference with Louise Arbour, the UN Human Rights High Commissioner after the latter ended her four-day visit to the island.

Arbour said abductions and disappearances are continuing in the island and lamented lack of proper actions to investigate such complaints.

“The weak rule of law and prevalence of impunity are alarming,” Arbour said. She said although Sri Lanka had resources and institutions to safeguard human rights in the island, there exists a gap.

The Sri Lankan Government has faced large scale accusation of rights abuses from international watchdogs, but it maintains that tough action is needed to combat the threat of terrorism imposed by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Arbour was prevented from visiting the Tamil Tigers, but she visited the northern town of Jaffna during the visit.

More than 5,000 people have been killed in the new wave of violence between government troops and the LTTE since the end of 2005.

Sri Lanka Saturday prospect of setting up a mission in the island. MNA/Xinhua

China’s Zhang Yawen/Xie Zhongbo (top) return the shuttlecock against their compatriots Hong Jingyi/ Bao Zhilong during the semifinal of mixed doubles at the 2007 International Badminton Invitational Tournament in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 Oct, 2007. Zhang Yawen/Xie Zhongbo won the match 2-0.

Ministry of Education

Condolences

Our condolences to the family of Prime Minister General Soe Win who passed away on 12-10-2007 (Friday).

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 15 October, 2007

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Sunday, 14 October, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah and Kayin States, rain or thundershower has been isolated in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan State and Bago Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Mandalay Division, isolated heavyfalls in lower Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.15) inch, Pyapon (3.11) inches, Mandalay (2.36) inches, Yangon (Central) (2.44) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (2.04) inches, Hmawbi (1.89) inches, Myingyan and Taungb WINDOW (1.85) inches each, Katha (1.73) inches, Monywa and Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.69) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 13-10-2007 was 87ºF. Minimum temperature on 14-10-2007 was 71ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 14-10-2007 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 13-10-2007 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 14-10-2007 was (2.04) inches at Mingaladon, (1.69) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.44) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (134.76) inches at Mingaladon, (139.88) inches at Kaba-Aye and (142.56) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from East at (12.30) hours MST on 13-10-2007.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 15-10-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah and Shan States, scattered in Mon and Kayin States, lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of decrease in rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 15-10-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-10-2007: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (90%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-10-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 15 October, 2007
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, and who, the losers from recent violent protests?
☆ Due to the violent protests,
  The people are in a state of panic
  Artless persons get into bad company and run into trouble
  Trade and commerce hit hard
  Vendors and shopkeepers have hard times
  Tourism industry in bad shape
☆ Due to the violent protests,
  Colonialists’ lackey expatriates earn dollars
  Touts were provided with funds
  Criminals and opportunists are happy with the unrest
  National traitors from agitator media gained a lot of dollars