It is the duty of all to collectively strive for further glorifying, flourishing and developing in accord with the time the cultural structure in the hearts of Myanmar people

State level dignitaries, special guests, diplomats, resident representatives of the United Nations agencies, members of the panel of judges and competitors, may you be all blessed with auspiciousness and I wish you a success in promoting national prestige and integrity by improving traditional cultural performing arts.

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Four cultural objectives
- Uplift of the creative and scientific aspects of the culture
- Uplift of the creative and scientific aspects of the culture
- Uplift of the creative and scientific aspects of the culture
- Uplift of the creative and scientific aspects of the culture

National culture is, indeed, a national symbol that reflects national characters of the nation concerned and its people as well as own national character of the nation and the people.

If we review the recent protest marches, bogus monks and politician opportunists systematically used the process of agitation instead of the process of propaganda to persuade young monks in the nation to take to the streets.

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

Thursday, 18 October, 2007

Produce sufficient food for improvement of socio-economic life of rural people

The government has been laying emphasis on development of agriculture as the base and all round development of other sectors of the economy as well in Myanmar.

Land and marine resources are being explored with the use of modern methods for greater development of the agricultural sector. Paddy production not only provides local food consumption but contributes to world food requirements.

Out of 18 million hectares of cultivable land in the country there are about 7 million hectares of land still left. The government has made arrangements for private entrepreneurs and investors of international community to explore land resources. The fish and meat sector is crucial for food production. Fish and prawns are being bred on commercial scale along the coastal regions and rivers, creeks and ponds and they are exported. In the country there are 34 million hectares of forests that contribute towards environmental conservation and temperate climate.

The government is cooperating with international communities with the aim of achieving the millennium goal for reduction of the number of hungry people in the world by half.

Hence, production of food sufficiently will contribute towards agricultural development and improvement of socio-economic life of rural people.

Corrigendum

Please read the name of Bangladeshi Ambassador as Major General Abu Rushde Rokonuddowla in the news “Ambassadors sign in Book of Conferences opened for late Prime Minister General Soe Win” featured in the newspapers issued on 14-10-2007.

MNA

Cash, provisions donated to four monasteries in Kamayut Township

The congregation led by Lt-Gen Myint Swe receive the Five Precepts from a Sayadaw at a ceremony to offer provisions to four monasteries in Kamayut Township.

YANGON, 17 Oct — The families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated rice and cash to four monasteries in Kamayut Township at Suciattayon Pariyatti Monastery in Kamayut Township today attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were the Presiding Sayadaws of the four monasteries, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers, departmental officials, the chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council, chairmen of Township PDCs and donors.

First, the congregation led by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence received the Five Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara of Suciattayon Pariyatti Monastery.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe donated robes and provisions to the Presiding Sayadaw. Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and senior military officers also donated provisions to the members of the Sangha.

The senior military officers offered rice and edible oil donated by the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to the Presiding Sayadaw.

Today’s donors include Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Yangon City Development Committee, Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd, Ministry of Mines and Yangon Division Salt Entrepreneurs Association, Traditional Medicine Department, Myanmar Fisheries Products and Exporters Association, Yangon West District and Kamayut Township PDCs, Sandi Parary family, OK Crops Trading, PMG Co Ltd, U Kyaw Kyaw Oo-Thih Thudamma Thaingi Daw Than Than Sein, Thiri Kdaee Kywe Physic, nang service, Nos-4 and 1 BEPS Kamayut, No 3rd Ward Union Solidarity and Development Association, Asia Kye prywatataye Co and Kyaw Traditional Medicine.

At the donation ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the vice-mayor and the senior military officers accepted K 8,984,000 donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Lt-Col Myo Naung of Yangon Command explained the purpose of the donation and they then shared merits gained. Today’s donation are K 8,984,000, 101 bags of rice, 179 viss of edible oil, 308 viss of iodized salt, 59 tubes of tooth paste and 58 viss of gram.

Similarly, provisions were donated to Muslim Home for the Aged in Thingangyun Township today. Also present at the donation ceremony were Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Ilha Hay Win, senior military officers and the departmental officials, and wellwishers.

At the ceremony, on behalf of the families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), the military officers donated K 20000, the commander handed over five bags of rice donated by Yangon Division PDC to the home. Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa five bags of rice donated by YCDC, Ministry of Mines and Yangon Division Salt Entrepreneurs Association donated 85 viss of iodized salt, Traditional Medicine Department 220 boxes of medicine, Myanmar Fisheries Association five bags of rice, U Thein Maung - Daw Pa Pa (Sandi Traditional Medicines) 10 bags of rice and wellwishers donated provisions.

Today’s donation is K 5,737,000, 39 bags of rice, 53 viss of edible oil, 85 viss of iodized salt, 17 tubes of tooth paste, 220 boxes of medicine and 17 viss of gram.—MNA
Russia against any use of force in Caspian area

**TEHERAN, 17 Oct** — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday any use of military force in the Caspian region was unacceptable and Russia backed dialogue in resolving differences.

“We should not even think of making use of force in this region,” Putin told a summit of the five Caspian Sea states, including Iran, which is defying Western pressure to halt its sensitive nuclear programme.

“We need to agree that using the territory of one Caspian Sea (state) in the event of aggression against another is impossible,” he told the other leaders at the start of a one-day meeting in Tehran.

The summit in Tehran is focused on resolving differences over sharing out the resources of the oil-rich Caspian Sea but Russian officials say Putin’s bilateral talks with Iran will focus on Iran’s nuclear standoff with the West.

“I should tell you that we say that it is impossible to offer our territory to third countries in case of aggression or military action against one of the Caspian states,” Putin said. — MNA/Reuters

Afghan suicide bomber kills three family members

**KABUL, 16 Oct**—A suicide bomber killed his mother, sister and 11-year-old brother when his explosives vest blew up prematurely in southern Afghanistan, the Interior Ministry said on Monday.

The blast occurred in the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan on Sunday where mainly Dutch and Australian troops have suffered a number of casualties fighting Taleban insurgents.

Australia suffered its first combat death in Afghanistan a week ago when a soldier was killed by a roadside bomb in Uruzgan. Two Dutch soldiers have been killed by suicide bombs in Uruzgan this year. Eleven Dutch troops have been killed in Afghanistan.

Further north, 14 troops from the NATO-led force in Afghanistan were wounded in a Taleban ambush southwest of the capital Kabul, a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said on Monday. The troops came under fire during a patrol in the province of Wardak, immediately southwest of Kabul, on Sunday.

The troops called in air support, but there was no word on Taleban casualties and no reports that any civilians had been hurt in the fighting, the spokesman said. — MNA/Reuters

Suicide bomber targets women, children in Baghdad park

**BAGHDAD, 16 Oct**—A suicide car bomber killed four people and wounded 25, mostly women and children, in a public park in western Baghdad on Monday, police said. The attack in the religiously mixed Harthiya District came on the final day of the Eid al-Fitr holiday, when many families had taken advantage of the improved security in the Iraqi capital and the good weather to venture outside.

Police said the bomber parked at the entrance to the garden and then blew himself up as families were leaving to go home at the end of the day.

There was no claim of responsibility for the bombing but Sunni Islamist al-Qaeda had vowed to step up attacks during the holy fasting month of Ramadan which preceded the Eid holiday. — MNA/Xinhua

Explosion occurs in Croatian Embassy in Ankara

**ANKARA, 16 Oct**—An explosion occurred in the Croatian Embassy in the Turkish capital of Ankara on Monday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The explosion happened on the 3rd floor of the embassy building, said the report, adding that no casualties were reported but windows of the building were shattered.

Anatolia said that an investigation is under way into the cause of the blast. — MNA/Xinhua
Garlic good for your heart

**BEIJING, 17 Oct** — Garlic is a well-known, loved food ingredient, easy to introduce into daily meal and is more overgood for the cardiovascular system, according to a new study in United Nations quoted by media reports Wednesday.

The study, conducted by scientists at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, found that garlic is rich in allicin, an organic polysulphides. When allicin is broken down into sulphur compounds, these react with red blood cells and produce hydrogen sulphide which relaxes the blood vessels, keeps blood flowing easily and prevents blood clots and oxidative damage. When hydrogen sulphide is at low concentration level, the study said, it helps cells communicate with each other. Within a blood vessel, hydrogen sulphide stimulates cells on its lining to relax, causing the vessel to dilate. In this condition, blood pressure comes down enabling blood to carry more oxygen to essential organs and reduces pressure on the heart. Hypertension — high blood pressure — is known to be a major risk factor for heart disease.

PHOTO: Zoe, a domestic shorthair cat, touches the mouse of a computer during a media preview for The Cat Fanciers’ Association 5th Annual CFA-Iams Cat Championship in New York on 10 Oct, 2007.<br>INTERNET

Death toll reaches three from Los Angeles fiery pile-up

**LOS ANGELES, 16 Oct** — The death toll from a fiery pileup on a freeway linking Los Angeles and San Francisco has risen to three, authorities said on Sunday.

The pileup involving 15 trucks and at least one passenger car also injured 10 people.

Firefighters were still struggling on Sunday to put out the fire that engulfed a tunnel where the pileup took place.

Traffic was congested, with up to three-hour delays reported on narrow winding roads and surface streets that served as detours, while local officials sought a state declaration of a state of emergency.

Two people were initially reported dead in the inferno and a third body was found in the debris on Saturday night, said Kelly Yagerlener of the Los Angeles coroner’s office.

The chain-reaction crash occurred on Friday night on a two-lane road mainly used by truckers making the transition between the Golden State (5) Freeway and the Antelope Valley (14) Freeway in the Santa Clarita area north of Los Angeles, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Three killed in plane crash in western Canada

**OTTAWA, 16 Oct** — A small plane crashed on Saturday on Vancouver Island in Canada’s western British Columbia Province, killing all three people on board, police said.

The Cessna 172, carrying a pilot and two tourists, went down between Port Alberni and Bamfield, local media reported on Sunday.

The bodies of two men and a woman were later recovered. The group had travelled from Lake Cowichan to the fishing village of Bamfield and were on the return trip, police officials said.

INTERNET

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 16 Oct** — Two American soldiers were killed and three others injured in two incidents in Iraq on Sunday, the US military said on Monday.

A soldier assigned to Multi-National Division-Baghdad was killed and three others were wounded in a roadside bomb explosion during combat operation in southern Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

The soldier’s unit continue conducting raids and clearing operations to disrupt insurgents and militia elements operating in this section of Baghdad, the statement added.

Separately, another soldier died of a non-combat related incident in Nineveh Province in northern Iraq, the military said without providing further details.

The incident is under investigation, it added.

INTERNET
People of Kachin, Sagaing, Shan State (South) denounce recent protests

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct —The people of Mogaung and Mohnyin townships of Kachin State, Sagaing and KhinU of Sagaing Division, and Maukmai of Shan State (South) who wish to see stability of the State, the rule of law and community peace and tranquillity walked in procession on 14 and 15 October in the respective regions to denounce the recent protests instigated by some monks and NLD members.

As they regarded the recent protests as a threat to peace and stability and they walked in procession after seeking permission from the authorities concerned.

In Mogaung Township, over 20,000 people walked in procession on 14 October shouting slogans calling for "Our Three Main National Causes" and "The seven-step Road Map must meet with success". "We don’t want destructive elements" and "We don’t want stooges of foreign countries", and holding placards "We favour peace and stability", "We oppose unrest and violence", "We support the National Convention" "We oppose foreign incitement", "VOA deceiving", "BBC lying", "RFA setting up hostilities" and "Price hike due to sanctions imposed by USA".

Similarly, over 30,000 people walked in Mohnyin Township on 14 October, over 22,000 people in Sagaing on 15 October, over 20,000 people in 15 October in KhinU, 10,000 people in Maukmai, Shan State (South) on 15 October respectively. During the walks in procession they shouted slogans holding placards. — MNA

High explosive TNT cartridges exposed

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct—After receiving news from reliable sources, the government released the news about the plots to carry out terrorist acts to disrupt the National Convention when it was in session.

Acting on information given by a duty-conscious public member, the authorities called in for interrogation Asheigyi (a) Kyaw Myo Min (a) Min Min, 30, son of U Kyaw Htay, lay attendant in Nan Oo Kyaungtaik in the compound of Shwedaung Monastery in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, on 11 October.

According to his admission, local authorities exposed 48 yellowish high explosive TNT cartridges buried near the house of U Kyaw Htay of Kweithit Ward in ChaungU, Monywa District: 12 85mm x 42mm x 42mm pieces, each of which weighs 0.5 lb with a hole on one side for a detonator to be put in, 18 26mm x 42mm x 42mm pieces, each of which weighs 0.18 lb with a hole on one side, and 18 26mm x 42mm x 42mm pieces, each of which weighs 0.18 lb without a hole on it.

Further investigation revealed that the seizures belong to U Kovida, age 23, Vassa 3, residing in the monastery. The explosives were hidden in the monastery initially. Then Asheigyi (a) Kyaw Myo Min (a) Min Min together with U Kheminda of the monastery and Phyu Tok (a) Kyaw Myo Hein of ChaungU Township transferred the explosives to ChaungU.

At about 3 pm on 12 October, a bomb blast occurred at Shwepyi Sanyar Lodging House on Bayintnaung Street in Ward 1 in Myawady, leaving guest U Tin Aung injured and damaging four rooms.

The incident took place due to the fact that monks were used and they got involved in the case that is against the Vinaya rules for monks. There is a link between the incident and recent protest marches. External elements are sending explosives and accessories into the nation, so the authorities have called in some persons for questioning to expose all those involved in the case. — MNA
Elements harmful to Dhamma and political opportunists

Pothudaw Yay Chan

Recently, some young monks took to the streets and walked in procession. Political opportunists participated in the procession, and recitation of Metta Sutta was later dominated by political slogans. The flags of fighting peacock, the flags of political party and placards along with religious flags were seen together. I felt unhappy to see that the young monks were exploited. So, I write this article.

Regarding the acts of the monks, I remembered the Ovada of the Lord Buddha delivered to Samane Shin Rahula. The Buddha said that one used a mirror to see oneself. The Buddha told him to think before he did something. One should think if his deed would produce good or bad results.

The main point I want to express is that if the members of the Sangha should get involved in politics or not. Daw Suu Kyi wrote in an article entitled Aung San in her book “Freedom From Fear”.

...When Aung San was at university as a first year student, a debate organized by the Students Union was held. After the debate, Aung San stood up among the audience and seconded the motion that monks should not get involved in politics tabled by Aung Than, his elder brother. Aung San seconded the motion with belief and it was not an act of fraternal unity.

We should notice that the motion he seconded expressed his belief. It was his belief that members of the Sangha should not be given permission to get involved in politics.

About one year before he died, he made a speech at the Shwedagon Pagoda. He said religion and politics could not intermingle and it is against the theory of the religion. He urged the members of the Sangha to make efforts for flourishing of the Sasana in order that the people of the world may live in unity. From the point of view of the religion, the efforts were not only noble but also the noblest politics carried out for the nation and the people.

According to the statement of Daw Suu Kyi, members of the Students Union promoted the prestige of race, religion and the Sasana, thinking that politics and religion were different.

Pro-west so-called “88” generation students misuse the name of the students union.

They incited members of the Sangha through the media. They pretended to pay respects to the monks saying that they took refuge in Sangha. But in their political discussions, they said the monks should be exploited as Yellow Army. They should be put on the front, they said. The young monks did not know what the so-called “88” generation students said. We have witnessed the procession of the monks in the streets as a political movement.

Here, I will explain the Pali terms in brief. Dhammanandava means danger to the Dhamma. It is a great danger to the Sasana. Kalavipatti means bad time.

There were true evidences that political opportunists in successive periods exploited the monks for political gains. For example, during the independence struggle, Sangha Thamaggi, a Sangha organization, came into existence with the support of the political activists. It emerged in parallel to GCBA. GCBA broke up and so did Sangha Thamaggi. There were cliques in U Soe Thein’s GCBA, so also in U Chit Hlaing’s GCBA, 21-member Myat Hlaing Paw party, Dama party, Fabian party, Ngaowintaing party and Do-Bama Assayon with their respective monks.

Do-Bama Assayon dominated the political forces that split and Sangha Thamaggi or Young Monks Association influenced the disunited monks. Therefore, there were sad events between old members of the Sangha and young monks with political beliefs.

Later, far-sighted Sayadaws formed All Ganas Maha Sangha Organization for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Sasana and carried out religious tasks only. The organization demanded the government to constitute the Ministry of Religious Affairs and to prescribe Sangha Vinicchaya Law. Moreover, directives were issued for Dhammakkathika Sayadaws to give sermons on religious affairs only and not to get involved in party politics.

When sectarianism, personality cult and various isms among the monks’ community were beginning to diminish thanks to the far-sighted Sayadaws and senior members of the Sangha, there came another act of instigation. The British government held elections to call a legislative hluttaw when the time came to grant independence to Myanmar. At the time, some clever politicians organized the monks to help them get a share of power. In addition, at the instigation of the lackeys of the colonialists, the British government (British Parliament) passed a law for monks and nuns enabling them to vote.

In reality, this act could wreck the unity of monks and various ganas that had been forged on a tough basis, and there might be clashes among those in the political field.

Some young monks still practising sectarianism, personality cult and various isms supported the law but the far-sighted Sayadaws strongly opposed and the attempt to enact the law failed. There is material evidence that the 126th central special executive committee of All-Ganas Maha Sangha Organization passed a resolution as follows (a rough translation):

...Casting votes in elections by Buddhist monks as well as their involvement in political affairs is not concerned with the Sasana. Casting votes has nothing to do with monks so they are not entitled to do so. Thanks to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha, monks and nuns avoided involvement in political affairs. But when it came to the period of parliamentary democracy, the politicians approached the monks and made instigation again. While AFPFL

(See page 7)
Elements harmful to Dhamma…

(from page 6)

split into two factions, the mass of monks split into many ganas — Burma Sangha Party, Maha Sangha Raja Organization, Sangha Front, Sangha Unity Organization, Sangha Unity Young Monks Association, Union Sangha Association, Sangha Purification Association, Rakhine Sotujana Association, and Maha Sotujana Association.

As a result of the break-up of Sangha unity, there emerged bogus monks who made their living at the expense of the Sasana and the Sangha world.

I would like to point out some facts that some persons who are using young monks for political gains and the monks who show disregard for the Ovada and Vinaya of the Buddha at the instigation of those harmful to the Sasana should be aware of. Lord Buddha wants no monks who live closely in the community of lay people. At present day, those monks who are dealing with lay persons in political affairs and gambling such as football and two or three digits numbers games are indeed bogus ones. One can study it in the Kulupaka Sutta if one wants to know. The following are the five kinds of monks Lord Buddha dislikes:

(a) the monk living and dealing closely with people as if they were his family members or lay persons
(b) the monk who gets involved himself in management affairs although it is not his business
(c) the monk who tries to mediate two separated groups
(d) the monk who indulges in private discussion with people, and
(e) the monk begging excessively (Kulupaka Sutta-120)

Chairman U Khemacara of Young Monks Association and U Gambhira of Sangha Front, who are living abroad, instigating the young monks to commit acts that are not concerned with the Sasana, are not true monks serving the interest of the Theravada Sasana. They are the bogus ones making their living disguised as monks.

Lord Buddha expounded the Ovada Katha concerning the fact that most Buddhists usually pay homage when they meet a monk wearing robes.

According to Visuddhi Treatise, Lord Buddha expounded a sermon that the suffering wicked monks will face due to receiving respects of lay persons, wearing robes, having alms food and taking shelter in monasteries donated by lay persons are much worse than the sufferings of those who were tortured till all the flesh in their calves is removed off, those who are stabbed straight through with spear in their chests, those whose bodies are touched flat with glowing iron plate, those who swallow glowing iron solid, and those who are baked in glowing huge iron pot.

If we review the recent protest marches, bogus monks and politician opportunists systematically used the process of agitation instead of the process of propaganda to persuade young monks in the nation to take to the streets.

Using the kind relative method, U Khemacara, U Gambhira and U Obha aired a distorted news story repeatedly in order that target audience came to consider and automatically recognize the organizers to be those with great loving-kindness and compassion or saviors, and express outrage. They pushed monks onto the streets but the monk organizers like U Gambhira did not take to the streets.

It is also found that they used barrage, one of the subversion methods, in collusion with foreign radio stations. The expression “barrage” is a military term, which means protection of the weak part of own force by providing the support of fire in order that the vanguard of the enemy cannot infiltrate the part.

In the subversive acts, the expression “barrage” means to divert the attention of the people, deceive the people and release distorted news stories in order that the audience do not hold the idea to give priority to their motherland and mother organization, fulfill the wishes of masterminds behind the scene, and concentrate on the created situations.

The plots of these destructive elements worked so beautifully that young monks were totally trapped. Therefore they no longer paid attention to their primary duties of three kinds of Sasana—Parijatti (learning of Buddhist scriptures), Patipatti (meditation) and Pativedha (attainment of insight) and were under the influence of sectarianism and chose the path paved by the destructive elements. So, the people came to be worried about the future of the Sasana. The monks failed to follow the directives of the members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and held defiance against the government through mass movements, thereby posing danger to the Sasana and peace and stability of the State.

Initially, the young monks had no wish to create violence and unrest. Therefore, the authorities, at first, did nothing to prevent the protest marches. Misunderstanding the authorities’ tackling the issue in a soft way with great care, the masterminds behind the protests fueled the protest at peak, saying public victory was within reach. The western masterminds and some members of expatriate gangs, watching the incidents, jumped the track.

In their scheme to instigate mass protests to be staged under the leadership of monks, NLD and CRPP members took positions among the monk protesters holding placards and flags. In the meantime, those pretending themselves as students came to rear their heads holding flags featuring the picture of fighting peacock. Many causal opportunists with the intention of robbing property if opportunite joined the protest marches of the monks.

Authorities noticed the situations, so they took necessary measures to avert possible evil consequences. The people did not want to face any situations like the 1988 unrest in which administrative machinery was no longer effective, decisions were made under mob rules to bully the public, innocent people were burnt and beheaded along with inhumane killings of people under various accusations.

So, I would like to urge the people to view the prevailing situations as they really are, placing no trust in alien instigation, and to prevent the movements of subversive elements and politician opportunists resorting to various means to destroy the nation and the Sasana, so as all the situations of the nation will return to normalcy.

Translation: NY*ST+MS

Kyemon: 16-10-2007

Chairman U Khemacara of Young Monks Association and U Gambhira of Sangha Front, who are living abroad, instigating the young monks to commit acts that are not concerned with the Sasana, are not true monks serving the interest of the Theravada Sasana. They are the bogus ones making their living disguised as monks.

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Using the kind relative method, U Khemacara,
From time immemorial, Myanmars have possessed and exercised culture, customs, and fine traditions consisting of social ethics based on good ideas, the Teachings of the Buddha, humanitarianism, equality of the people, and mutual respects, and social value.

Possessing own national cultural structure is a prestige that indicates a strong historical background of the nation and the people. Similarly, the capability to preserve and promote the national culture through out the nation’s history that dates back to thousands of years depicts the people’s spirit of cherishing the own race and the strength of preserving own lineage.

Therefore, the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are held to develop the fine traditions and the characters of the national cultural structure and to hand them down to younger generations.

At such a time of globalization, the drive to avert contraction and loss of the national characters of the nation and the people rests on the capability of preserving the national culture, customs, traditions and national norms.

It is required to improve national culture effectively in resisting the infiltration of the western culture into the nation through relations with international community for national development, technological development, and international trade and commerce.

The more important point for the people in this regard is to be vigilant with national awareness against various forms of psychological warfare and cultural influence delicately penetrating into the nation through the cultural and economic fields with the intention of harming the strength of safeguarding the national interests that gives birth to the spirit of protecting own lineage.

Only when the nation is capable of revitalizing the national culture’s high standard, endowed with social, religious and secular essence, and strong fine traditions in the social, religious, and perception in the judicial, legal, administrative, diplomatic, and warfare sectors, will it be possible to reawaken nationalistic spirit of the people through their pride of their motherland and race.

So, the government is holding the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions aiming to hand down Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts to younger generations and revitalizing Myanmar’s attributes endowed with Myanmar fine arts.

From time immemorial, Myanmars have possessed and exercised culture, customs, and fine traditions consisting of social ethics based on good ideas, the Teachings of the Buddha, humanitarianism, equality of the people, and mutual respects, and social value.

These national character and essence are featured in Myanmar treatises such as lyrical ode, poem, poem of epic proportions, verse, significant record, maxim, and written homily as well as in classical songs, dramatic plays, and marionette plays.

Due to its interrelation with literacy, and content of the three branches of Myanmar language—poem, drama, and prose, Myanmar dramatic play is endowed with Myanmar traditions and national character along with the essence of literature and the pinnacle of drama.

To reveal a tangible evidence of interrelation between literature and drama, the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions included the competition of Kvet Seik (narration of religious or historical stories), which serves as a bridge between literature and drama like the arts of public speaking.

As Myanmar people have a keen sense of hearing concerning artistic works, they had the tradition of royal narrators presenting poems of various kinds and classic novels in the court and the art of narrating classical stories was flourishing among the people.

Near-extinct Kvet-seik or the art of narrating which is one of the traditional performing arts of Myanmar will be presented at the competitions as a measure taken to honour and invigorate it. Similarly, this year’s competitions will include theatrical drama or play that in various forms had faced ups and downs in the history of Myanmar performing arts.

Theatreal drama came into being as the form of literature. If we count the years starting from Manikat play, acknowledged by Myanmar drama scholars as the first standard theatrical drama, Myanmar drama is over 200 years old.

Throughout the successive eras, drama dominated Myanmar people as theatrical literature, court plays and modern stage performances.

Drama formed by the four main origins — singing, dialogue, music and dancing — flourished as dialogue plays, musical plays, dancing plays and opera. The present type of drama a combination of singing, dialogue and music is a new type of drama that began to attain popularity among the people in the post-independence period, especially during the World War II.

When the Tatmadaw government assumed State duties it organized and encouraged theatrical artistes, musicians and film artistes and established the period of Waziya play. The period did not last long due to certain reasons. But the play did give birth to new generation artistes who have had their own deserving roles in film, drama and music worlds. Drama has been included in the competitions as a branch or a part of Myanmar art or as an art that is familiar with Myanmar people and that has the capacity to win their hearts.

I firmly believe that as an acknowledgment and in response to the government’s goodwill, the contestants should use the power of drama arts to organize people for positive purposes, while presenting their performances with the aim of realizing the lofty objectives of the performing arts competitions.

I also trust that the will to live in unity will further strengthen among the competitors through the fraternal spirit by taking part in the contest with vigour and the united spirit of cherishing, valuing and protecting and preserving traditional culture.

Myanmar races have been living in unity and togetherness in the territory now called the Union of Myanmar since yore. And during the thousand-year history beginning from that particular time, traditions, customs, modes of dress, living styles, behaviours, thoughts, visions, opinions, knowledge, artistic creations and composing arts were integrating and now they have emerged and flourished as the Myanmar cultural structure.

As the cultural structure was born of Myanmar’s natural conditions and the lineage of all the national races, it is most suitable to Myanmar society.

It is the duty of all to collectively strive for further glorifying, flourishing and developing in accordance with the time the cultural structure in the hearts of Myanmar people.

I would like to urge all for successful realization of the objectives of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, and to keep in the minds their national duty of protecting, preserving and promoting national culture, the demand of the past, present and future.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all — to further invigorate national characters, traditions and culture, national norms, and human value and strength with the might of arts through cultural preservation; and — to safeguard new generation youths from being dominated by alien culture with the might of arts by enabling them to appreciate and know the firmness and profundness of Myanmar history and high civilization.

MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct —— Patron of the Leading Committee for Holding the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Acting Prime Minister and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an opening address on the occasion.

Patron of the Leading Committee Secretary-1 of Defence, members of the panel of patrons of the leading committee, Chairman of the leading committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers and their wives, the chief-justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy chief-justice, deputy attorney-general, deputy auditor-general, members of CSSTB, members of the leading committee, work committees and sub-committees for holding the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, ambassadors, the director-general and the office of the government, journalists, members of social organizations, members of the central panel of judges, members of the panel of judges of States and Divisions, contestants, students of the University of Culture and invited guests.

Chairman of the leading committee Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin reported on arrangements for the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

He said as part of efforts for vitalizing patriotism and nationalism that is based on strong Union Spirit and ensuring uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and integrity, the first Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were held in 1993 and the 15th competitions will be held in accordance with five objectives.

The 15th Competitions are divided into six categories. Altogether 4258 contestants will participate in various competitions and handsome prizes will be awarded to outstanding contestants, he said.

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Oct — The opening ceremony of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the city hall here today and Patron of the Leading Committee for Holding the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Acting Prime Minister and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an opening address on the occasion.

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are held yearly in accordance with objectives — To vitalize patriotism and nationalism that is based on strong Union Spirit, To ensure uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and integrity, To ensure flourishing of Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts, To nurture spiritual development of the youths and To prevent the influence of alien culture.

Also present at the opening ceremony were Lt-Gen Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo of the Ministry of Defence, members of the panel of patrons of the leading committee, Chairman of the leading committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers and their wives, the chief-justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy chief-justice, deputy attorney-general, deputy auditor-general, members of CSSTB, members of the leading committee, work committees and sub-committees for holding the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, ambassadors, the director-general and officials of the SPDC Office and the office of the government, journalists, members of social organizations, members of the central panel of judges, members of the panel of judges of States and Divisions, contestants, students of the University of Culture and invited guests.

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Vice-Chairman of the leading Committee Chairman of the Work Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint formally opened the Competitions. The second session of the ceremony followed at the hall.

First, Patron of the Leading Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an opening address.

(The full text of the speech of the Secretary-1 is reported separately.)

Artistes sang the song composed by Gitalulin Maung Ko Ko hailing the Performing Arts Competitions in chorus and the opening ceremony ended. — MNA

15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions commence

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Objectives of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalize patriotism and nationalism that is based on strong Union Spirit.
— To ensure uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and integrity.
— To ensure flourishing of Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts.
— To nurture spiritual development of the youths.
— To prevent the influence of alien culture.
Townsenders organize ceremony to support National Convention and forthcoming constitution in Bago

A ceremony to support the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution in progress in Bago Division Sports Ground in Bago. — MNA

NAYPyITAW, 17 Oct— In accord with law, townsenders from Bago Division organized ceremony to support the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution on 15 October at the sports ground in Bago, Bago Division.

Altogether 120,000 people including townsenders and locals, members of social organizations and cultural troupes, entrepreneurs, industrialists, farmers, workers, departmental personnel, teachers, students and people from all walks of life attended the ceremony. People including townsenders, residents, service personnel, members of social organizations, businessmen, industrialists, peasants, workers and teachers and students marching to the ceremony to support the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution. — MNA

They shouted slogans such as “non-disintegration of the Union-our cause, non-disintegration of national solidarity-our cause, perpetuation of sovereignty-our cause”, “The seven-step road map must succeed holding placards that read “Oppose those who hinder national development and peace”, “We support the National Convention”, “We welcome the forthcoming constitution”, “We don’t accept neo-colonialism”, “Down with hegemonism”, “No need of internal and of Bago Division USDA, Member of Bago Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw San San Myint, Joint Secretary Dr Tin Tin Win of Bago Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association, member of Bago Division War Veterans Organization Lt-Col Tin Myint (Retd), Townsenders U Hla and U Khin Maung Htwe of Bago, Executive Daw Shwesin Myat Theint Kywe of Bago Township USDA and Executive Daw Theint Theint Khaing of Bago Township USDA acted as master of ceremonies and co-MC. First, those present saluted the State Flag. In his address Chairman Rector U Kyaw Ye Tun said: For the emergence of constitution, the National Convention was convened on 9 January 1993 with six objectives. But, it was temporarily adjourned in 1996 as NLD walked out the National Convention. Based on fundamental principles and detailed basic principles, constitution (draft) will be drawn and referendum will be held. Ignoring own business and social affairs, delegates with Union Spirit tried to complete the National Convention. Myanmar is home to various national races and has a long history and thus stability and prosperity are very important for her. Misunderstanding among national brethren led the country into instability and as a consequence, the country lagged behind in development. Now, the government has been able to build national reconciliation and priority has been given to development of all parts of the country. As peace has been made with national race armed groups and 17 armed groups and various small groups have returned to the legal fold and they are now serving the interests of the people. Defence capability, economic might and organizing strength are essential for perpetuation of the Union. Only when there are peace and prosperity, there will be discipline-flourishing democracy and vice versa. The opposite of democracy is disturbing the State and its people and doing as one wishes to grab power. Democracy should be practised through sincerity. It is known to all that neo-colonialists are trying to bully small countries. Under the guise of democracy and human rights, they incite unrest in the target country. Economic sanctions were imposed to put the people into dire poverty and these sanctions caused only negative effects. People are to strive together with the government for stability of the State and national development. (See page 11)
Townsenders organize ceremony to support...

(from page 10)

In conclusion, I would like to urge the people to support the National Convention and actively participate in endeavours for emergence of constitution.

Secretary of Bago District USDA U Aung Soe tabled a motion calling for support of the National Convention and forthcoming constitution and denouncing external and internal destructive elements who undermine peace and stability and foreign broadcasting stations reporting skulky of lies.

The completed National Convention is a genuine one representing various organizations and delegates from over 100 national races, officials of political parties and the groups that returned to the legal fold.

When we study the fundamental principles laid down, there are based on national policy of Our Three Main National Causes. The principles differ from those of the 1947 and 1974 constitutions and the people can enjoy more opportunities.

Now internal and external destructive elements create instability and unrest in the country and they provide cash and other supplies to above and underground destructive elements.

Moreover, foreign broadcasting stations like BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB air lies. Fabricated broadcasts undermine peace and stability and harm the national political trend.

Majority of the people favour stability and prevalence of law and order and they do not favour violence like 1988 disturbances. What the people desire is to establish a modern discipline-flourishing democratic nation. There are better foundations in agriculture, livestock breeding, greening and transport, with the exploitation of rich natural resources, all the people are to be united in establishing the democratic nation.

Therefore, I table the motion calling for support of the National Convention and forthcoming constitution and denouncing external and internal destructive elements who undermine peace and stability and foreign broadcasting stations reporting skulky of lies.

Next, member of Bago Division Women’s Affairs Organization seconded the motion.

Fundamental principles and detailed basic principles are based on the prevailing conditions and rights of the national races are specially prescribed.

Myanmar constitutes over 100 national races and the constitution is essential. The people are waiting for approval of new constitution. I seriously second the motion.

Member of Bago Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Ni Kyaw said that it is required of the people to be able to distinguish between good and bad in a bid to build discipline-flourishing democracy in the nation. The government is fulfilling this requirement by implementing the State’s seven-step Road Map.

The principles to be included in the forthcoming State constitution are designed to create a brighter future of the nation. So, she said that she deeply seconded the motion.

Member of Bago Division War Veterans Organization Captain Tin Hlay (Retd) supported the motion, saying that these days, destructive elements are resorting to various means to instigate protests like 1988 unrest, using all possible persons even monks.

The western super power invaded its targeted countries and interfered in their internal affairs under the pretext that peace and stability is not restored in the nation due to lack of democracy.

The government is putting a great deal of energy into the drive for restoration of peace and stability, prevalence of law and order, national economic growth and raising the education standard of the nationwide. The upcoming State constitution is necessary for a prosperous future of the nation.

It is the most indispensable role the Tatmadaw plays in the national defence and security sector.

The principles the National Convention has adopted reflect the life of the people and are against the democratic process of support of the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution and to condemn the foreign media that have broadcast fabricated news to jeopardize the community peace and stability of the State.

He said:

Regarding the rights of peasants, the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles guarantee that laws shall be enacted to protect the rights of peasants and to help peasants earn reasonable incomes from the cultivation of crops.

Regarding the economic system of the country, the principles also guarantee that the economic system of the State shall be the market-oriented economic system. The State shall safeguard the interests of the people, the State shall not nationalize businesses and industries and the State shall not demonetize the currency.

Therefore, it is obvious that the forthcoming constitution guarantees that the entire peasants and the people shall have rights and economic opportunities.

It is a constitution that controls a political system, economic system and social system of the country. Therefore, a constitution is necessary to ensure a smooth transition from the old system to the new one. Transition from the old system to the new one in haste without constitution can make and can hurt the State. Hence, the Tatmadaw Government has been making efforts for the emergence of a constitution and convened the National Convention. At the convention, delegates from all walks of life laid down the detailed basis principles.

Today, some developed countries have used media as a weapon to influence Myanmar. We, all national races, must guard against the danger posed by BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB that have broadcast fake news to jeopardize the national unity. We denounce the acts of those media.

The National Convention was convened successfully and the new constitution will emerge soon. The forthcoming constitution reflects the genuine desire of the entire people. Hence, we support the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution and denounce the acts of internal and external destructive elements and foreign media which have aired fabricated news.

Next, the chairman sought the approval of the people for the motion calling for the support of the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution and denouncing the acts of internal and external destructive elements and foreign media which have invented fabricated news. Those who present unanimously approved the motion.

The mass rally successfully concluded at 8 am chanting slogans.
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(TENDER NO. 9 (T) MPE/JET A-1/2007-2008)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Jet A-1 (6,000±10%) Metric Tons.

2. Tender Closing Date: (30-10-2007) at (12:00) noon
3. Tender Opening Date: (30-10-2007) at (13:00) hrs
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Building No.44, Special Development Zone, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing (15-10-2007) on payment of the One Hundred (100) FEC per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Vietnam receives H5N1 human-vaccine production technology

HANOI, 16 Oct—Vietnam is receiving technology and equipment for producing vaccines against bird flu virus strain H5N1 for humans, local newspaper Vietnam Agri-culture reported on Monday.

The equipment and technology worth 2.7 million US dollars funded by the World Health Organization are being handed over to Vietnam’s Nha Trang Vaccine Institute.

The equipment installation for the institute will be completed in the second quarter of 2008, to serve the vaccine production in the early fourth quarter of the year. H5N1 vaccines for humans to be produced by the institute are expected to be qualified for being exported.

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This book features nine excellent, correct data and figures and documentary photos.

This book reflects the success in building the infrastructure according to the political, economic and social objectives for the brighter future of the State.

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Tunas floods death toll climbs to 11

TUNIS, 16 Oct—The death toll from flooding in Tunisia rose to 11 on Monday after heavy weekend rains caused rivers to burst their banks in the north of the country, official news agency TAP and local media reported.

“Three bodies have been found so far, bringing to 11 the number of victims from these torrential rains,” TAP said.

Five people were still missing in the floods, which swept away cars, blocked traffic and inundated streets and avenues north of the capital Tunis. The security forces were still searching for survivors, TAP said.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam’s GDP growth estimated at 8.5% in 2007

HANOI, 16 Oct—Vietnam’s gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to grow 8.5 per cent in 2007 to 1.144 trillion Vietnamese dong (71.3 trillion US dollars), or GDP per capita of Vietnam Agriculture reported on Monday. This year, the country is set to see export revenues of 48 billion dollars, up 20.5 per cent over last year, and consumer price index of 8.2-8.3 per cent, the paper quoted reports at a meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of Vietnam, the country’s top legislature, last weekend. Vietnam, gaining economic growth of 8.16 per cent in the first nine months of this year, has eyed GDP growth of 8.5-9 per cent and GDP per capita of 960 dollars in 2008, compared with 8.17 per cent in 2006.—MNA/Xinhua

Tunis. The security forces flooded homes of the capital Tunis. April rains caused rivers to burst their banks in the north of the country, official news agency TAP and local media reported.

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MNA/Reuters

India sets up own tsunami warning system

NEW DELHI, 16 Oct—India on Monday unveiled its own tsunami early warning system, some three years after a killer tsunami hit the Indian Ocean rim and killed hundreds of thousands of people. The National Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean was dedicated to the nation by India’s Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee during a ceremony in Hyderabad, a high-tech city in southern India.

The institute started to produce the vaccines on a trial basis late 2005, and they have been tested successfully on animals. Vietnam has detected seven bird flu patients from the five northern provinces of Vinh Phuc, Thai Nguyen, Thanh Hoa, Ha Nam and Ha Tay since 10 May, of whom four died, according to the Preventive Medicine Department under the Vietnamese Health Ministry.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
**Int’l researchers develop Alzheimer’s blood test**

BEIJING, 16 Oct — An international team of scientists have developed a simple blood test that may be able to forecast whether or not lapses of memory could be an early sign of Alzheimer’s disease.

In a study published Sunday in the journal Nature Medicine, researchers describe 18 cell-signaling, or communication, proteins discovered in blood that predicted with 90 percent accuracy whether a person would develop Alzheimer’s disease.

They said tests to detect changes in these proteins could be used to predict the disease two to six years ahead of its onset and may be useful in the search for treatments.

“This is very exciting,” said Dr Tony Wyss-Coray, a researcher at Stanford University and head of the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System in California, “We show there are very interesting changes going on with patients with Alzheimer’s disease. These changes occur early on in the disease process,” Wyss-Coray said in a telephone interview.

Researchers in the study wanted to see if they could find specific patterns in the blood of people with Alzheimer’s disease that might offer a profile or fingerprint for the disease. They collected 259 blood samples from people with early signs of Alzheimer’s to late-stage disease as well as people with no symptoms at all. They were able to measure levels of 120 known proteins found in blood plasma that work as chemical messengers between blood cells, brain cells and cells in the immune system.

An analysis of these uncovered 18 proteins that are expressed in different concentrations in people with Alzheimer’s disease.

**HK experts reveals lupeol in fruits helps combat cancer**

HONG KONG, 16 Oct — A study found that a substance called “lupeol” contained in fruits may help beat head and neck cancer, announced the University of Hong Kong which made the result public here Tuesday.

The study, conducted by the university’s Faculty of Medicine, revealed that lupeol, a compound rich in fruits, selectively targeted and killed cancer cells. Using a mouse animal model, lupeol dramatically decreased tumor volume and suppressed local metastasis while bearing minimal effect on surrounding tissue and other vital organs like liver and kidney.

Interestingly, lupeol was found to be more effective and more potent than conventionally used chemotherapeutic drug, cisplatin, by approximately three-fold in terms of tumor volume and degree of metastasis suppression.

**62-year-old killer crocodile dies in central Uganda**

KAMPALA, 16 Oct — One of Uganda’s oldest crocodiles allegedly having mauled over 80 fishermen died over the weekend in the central region of the country.

The 62-year-old crocodile, also called “the man eater,” was found dead on Friday at Buwama Crocodile Farm on Masaka Road in Mpigi District, the state-owned New Vision daily reported on Monday.

The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) officials, assisted by fishermen, captured it from Lugaga swamp in Bugiri District in March 2005 and relocated it to Buwama. Weighing one ton at the time of its capture, it had remained elusive to armed squads of vermin control officials.

Although, the fishermen wanted it killed to avenge the death of their colleagues, the UWA and the authorities at the Buwama farm on the shores of Lake Victoria saved it from being killed.

“It was in a secure place and its death is something I did not expect,” said an UWA official who preferred anonymity.

“We are sad over the death of the crocodile,” said Alex Mutamba, a manager at the farm.

“It is also bad that it mauled people before it was brought here, but all this occurred because its territory was under invasion,” he said.

Local communities had invaded the crocodile’s territory by engaging in over-fishing, something that deprived the crocodile of its source of food, according to the wildlife authority sources.

The city also enjoys good air. It recorded 200 days with good air quality last year and may have more than 300 days this year, according to Wang.— MNA/Xinhua

**China denies “environmental disaster” caused by Three Gorges project**

BEIJING, 16 Oct — The Three Gorges project has not deteriorated environment in Chongqing, a sprawling metropolis next to the project, Mayor Wang Hongju said here on Monday.

Water in the Chongqing section of the Yangtze River is clean and drinkable, “and the water quality is the best in Chinese cities at current,” Wang, who is also a delegate to the ongoing 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), said on the sidelines of the congress.

The city also enjoys good air. It recorded 200 days with good air quality last year and may have more than 300 days this year, according to Wang.— MNA/Xinhua

**US actress Jodie Foster listens to journalists in a press conference held to promote the movie “The Brave One” in Tokyo, Japan on 16 Oct, 2007. The film directed by Neil Jordan, will be released on 27 Oct in Japan. —Internet**

**Miss Hong Kong of China Kwan Hing Wong displays evening wear in the Miss International finals in Tokyo, Japan, on 15 Oct, 2007. Girls from more than 60 countries and regions took part in the beauty pageant.**

**Miss Hong Kong of Japan Yuka Ishihara displays evening wear during the finals of the Miss World 2007 competition in the southern Japanese city of Sendai, on 15 Oct, 2007. The pageant winner and titleholder of 2006 is the 19- year-old Miss Japan.**

**Bride Xie Qiyun and bridegroom Wu Zun have pictures taken in front of a hotel in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, on 15 Oct, 2007. —Internet**
Croatia enjoy comfortable friendly win over Slovakia
Rijeka (Croatia), 17 Oct — Croatia warmed up for next month’s Euro 2008 qualifiers with a 3-0 win over Slovakia in a friendly on Tuesday that offered coach Slaven Bilic a chance to take a look at several fringe players.
Croatia, who will qualify for next year’s finals if England manage at least a draw in their Group E game in Russia on Wednesday, coasted to victory after Ivica Olic scored either side of a goal by midfielder Ognjen Vukojevic on his debut.
Slovakia’s Mark Cech hit the post after seven minutes and Croatia striker Eduardo Da Silva also came close before his shot was parried by the goalkeeper and Olic tucked home the loose ball to put the home side ahead just before the break.

Juventus extend Del Piero’s contract to 2010
ROME, 17 Oct — Juventus have extended captain Alessandro Del Piero’s contract by two years until 2010, the Serie A club announced on Tuesday.
“Today we have achieved an important result for the future of Juventus,” chief executive Jean-Claude Blanc told the club’s website (www.juventus.com).
“The agreement with Del Piero confirms our ambition and our faith in the absolute value of a player who will continue to put his experience at the service of the team and millions of fans.”
The new deal with the Turin club comes after lengthy negotiations. At one stage, the club’s sporting director Alessio Secco confirmed our ambition and our faith in the absolute value of a player who will continue to put his experience at the service of the team and millions of fans.”

Messi strike helps Argentina to 2-0 win over Venezuela
MARACASIBO (Venezuela), 17 Oct — Lionel Messi added another superb goal to his collection to help Argentina beat Venezuela 2-0 away in a World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.
Messi struck two minutes before halftime after his Barcelona team mate Gabriel Milito had given Argentina the lead with his first goal for his country on his 30th appearance.
The win gave Argentina, who have won all 15 meetings with Venezuela, maximum points from their first two games in the qualifiers for the 2010 World Cup.
Venezuela, the only South American team never to have played at the World Cup, have three points from two games after winning in Ecuador on Saturday.
Venezuela striker Giancarlo Maldonado wasted an early chance for the hosts when he fired over the crossbar after Juan Arango’s incisive pass split the Argentina defence.
Argentina went ahead three minutes when defender Milito rose to head home a free kick from Lionel Messi.
Maldonado had scored both goals direct from free kicks in Argentina’s 2-0 win over Chile on Saturday.
Venezuela enjoyed plenty of possession but could not find the final pass and fell further behind two minutes before halftime. — MNA/Reuters

Kanoute calls for action over Togo pitch invasion
MADRID, 17 Oct — Mali striker Frederic Kanoute called on Tuesday for football authorities to take a tough stand over violent incidents that marred the end of an African Nations Cup qualifier between Mali and Togo in Lome last week.
Mali won the game 2-0 to qualify for the finals in January at the expense of their hosts but their fans and players were attacked when fighting broke out.
Sevilla striker Kanoute and Stoke City’s Mamady Sidibe both suffered injuries, according to Mali officials. Sidibe was cut on the arm by a spectator while Kanoute needed stitches for a cut on his back.
“People came on to the pitch. At first we were a little nervous although it was nothing serious,” Kanoute told a news conference in Seville. “It went from bad to worse and we had to go to the dressing room but we didn’t know where to go because we were in the middle of the pitch. The people came on the pitch and started hitting us... It is the worst experience I have had.
“It was very, very serious. The Malians in the stands suffered even more.” — MNA/Reuters

Players pose after the second synchronized swimming World Cup in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, on 15 Oct. Russian players claimed the championship. — INTERNET

FIFA satisfied with 2010 World Cup preparations
JOHANNESBURG, 17 Oct — FIFA’S general secretary said on Tuesday he was satisfied with the progress of South Africa’s preparations for the 2010 Soccer World Cup.
Jerome Valcke said preparations for the preliminary draws in the coastal town of Durban on November 25 were 95 per cent complete and construction at stadiums was on schedule.
“As of this day, I am not worried at all. I sleep very well,” Valcke told journalists after a meeting of the board of directors of the World Cup organizing committee.
“I am happy with the preparations for the preliminary draw, there are little details to be fixed but these are just details. We are keeping a watchful eye especially on the stadiums,” he said.
Valcke said a technical team had been put in place to monitor construction work on the stadiums. — MNA/Reuters
Putin sees US change on missile defence

TEHERAN, 17 Oct — Russian President Vladimir Putin, using unusually positive language, said on Tuesday there had been a “certain transformation” in the US position on missile defence and added that talks would continue.

“The latest contacts with the American partners showed that there is certain transformation in their position and we will continue the dialogue,” Putin said in an interview with Iranian media released to Russian journalists travelling with him.

Putin did not give further details, but he held talks in Moscow at the end of last week with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and US Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

He used the same interview to criticize NATO, saying the US-led alliance’s expansion to include former Soviet satellites in Eastern Europe was “harmful”.

On the missile defence system, Putin repeated Russia’s position that it does not see an identifiable threat to justify the project. But he did accept that his country should work with both the United States and Europe to overcome differences.

The United States plans to place 10 interceptors in Poland and radar in the Czech Republic under the project.

“We are having a difficult dialogue with the United States and European partners on missile defence. If we need to create a missile defence, then it should be done together, based on certain principles,” he said.

Putin said that the United States and Russia must create a transparent system and agree on how it would operate.

He said NATO was an alliance created as part of the West’s Cold War standoff with the Soviet Union. But it had not reformed itself to address modern threats such as international terrorism and drug trafficking.

MNA/Resources

WEATHER

Wednesday, 17 October, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin and Chin State and Sagraig Division, fairly widespread in Shan and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Bago Division and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw 0.75 inch, Mawlamyine (3.15 inches), Homa Bay (2.52 inches), Moenkuk (2.33 inches), Hkambwe (2.04 inches) and Hmawbi (1.89) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-10-2007 was 90.7°F. Minimum temperature on 17-10-2007 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-10-2007 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 16-10-2007 was (3.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 17-10-2007 was (0.87) inch at Mawlamyine, (0.55) inch at Kayin State and (0.50) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (135.71) inches at Mawlamyine, (140.43) inches at Kaba-Aye and (142.56) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from East at (06:30) hours MST on 17-10-2007.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the North and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-10-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin and Chin States and upper Sagraig Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine State, lower Sagraig, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Mon State, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%)...

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely to occur in and off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface winds speed in squalls may reach (55) to (60) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-10-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-10-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-10-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
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 ill-wishers

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