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

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

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win enjoys play contest of 15th cultural performing arts competitions

YANGON, 23 Oct — Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs held its 14th cash donation ceremony for rural water supply at the Development Affairs Department in Thanyatsoon, Botataung Township, here, this morning. Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence addressed the ceremony and accepted the donations. It was also attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, senior military officers, departmental officials, social organizations and donors.

May Buddha Sasana be flourishing and perpetual-I

The Teachings of the Buddha, Myanmar traditions and custom and loving-kindness are deeply rooted in Myanmar society. People of different faiths profess religions of their choice with peace of mind despite discord and dissension sown by internal and external destructive elements.
Boost production of quality items for industrial development

With the efficient use of natural resources, the government is taking measures and rendering assistance in various sectors for the nation’s economic growth. It is also implementing many industrial projects to build a modern developed nation.

With the establishment of industrial regions and zones, and opening of new factories, the nation has seen many industries for manufacturing import-substitute products. The industrial zones have erected modern factory plants and forging shops with the use of advanced technologies. So, the industries that produce ironware are making progress.

Today, combined efforts are being made for boosting production of export items, reducing import products and setting up industries producing import-substitute goods for the economic growth of the nation. So, factories and plants have to work hard for boosting production of quality goods.

In the process of manufacturing machines and personal goods, they have to place emphasis on both qualitative and quantitative improvement. Moreover, they are to do research for winning customer satisfaction and production of popular items.

Thanks to the extensive establishment of factories and import-substitute good factories, the industrial zones have new production methods along with more job opportunities for local people.

Responsible persons are therefore to work hard in concert for development of the whole industrial sector including industries and industrial zones, and to boost production of quality products to fulfill the requirements of the people all the more.

2nd Policy Consultation Meeting between Myanmar, the Philippines held

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Oct.—At the invitation of U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Enrique A Manalo, Under-Secretary for Policy of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines arrived Yangon on 20 October to attend the 2nd Policy Consultation Meeting between the two foreign ministries.

The 2nd Policy Consultation Meeting between the two foreign ministries was held at the ministry here on 21 October. The Myanmar delegation was led by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and the Philippine delegation by Mr Enrique A Manalo.

During the consultation, both sides discussed the matters related to mutual interests and ways to promote cooperation between the two countries.

In the afternoon, Mr Enrique A Manalo paid a courtesy call on Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyaw Win at the ministry.

The deputy minister hosted a dinner in honour of the Philippines Under-Secretary and party at Thingaha Hotel in the evening.

The Philippines Under-Secretary called on Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing separately yesterday.

The Philippines delegation left Yangon by air this morning.—MNA
CIA torture film hopes to shine light on US’ HR abuses

ROME, 23 Oct — Director Gavin Hood hopes his film “Rendition” about the US practice of deporting suspected terrorists to foreign jails will raise public awareness and help stop abuse of human rights in the name of national security.

“It’s easy to talk about arbitrary detentions and enhanced interrogation techniques and all these fancy words in the abstract and then we realize that in fact it’s about people,” Hood told reporters after a screening at the Rome Film Festival.

The film, which screened at the festival on Sunday and has just been released in the United States, is the latest in a string of Hollywood productions tackling the political and military fallout from the September 11, 2001 attacks. The theme has made US cinema popular at European festivals this year, even though box office returns have been mixed.

Iran says capable of firing 11,000 rockets if attacked

TEHERAN, 22 Oct — Iran on Saturday said it has a capability to launch 11,000 rockets into the enemy bases immediately at the first minute if it was attacked, the state television reported.

“We have identified the enemy bases and the positions, ground force of the Revolutionary Guards will launch 11,000 rockets into them at the first minute if Iran is attacked,” General Mahmoud Chaharbaghi, a commander of the Guards, told the television.

Although the top brass did not specify which countries the “enemy bases” belong to, it is widely known that the United States, which has threatened to attack Iranian nuclear facilities, has a number of military bases and troops in the region.

Iranian officials have repeatedly said they were well-prepared to deal with the threats posed by the enemies and vowed to fight against any aggressions on its soil when Teheran’s relationship with the West, mainly the United States, had been strained in the past months.

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 Oct — An American soldier was killed and eight others were injured in a roadside bomb attack in eastern Baghdad, the US military said on Sunday.

The attack occurred on Wednesday when a roadside bomb detonated near the soldiers’ vehicle while conducting combat operations in the area, the military said in a statement.

Six of the eight wounded soldiers have returned to duty after being treated in an Army medical facility, the statement said.

The soldiers’ unit continues conducting targeted raids and clearing operations against insurgents in this part of the capital, the statement said.

The latest death brings the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to about 3,835 since the US-led invasion broke out in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.
First Malaysian astronaut returns to hero’s welcome

MOSCOW, 22 Oct — Malaysia’s first astronaut landed safely back in Kazakhstan to a hero’s welcome on Sunday with two Russian cosmonauts after spending 11 days in space, officials at Moscow’s mission control said.

The Soyuz capsule carrying Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor, an orthopaedic surgeon from Kuala Lumpur, touched down about 200 kilometres (124 miles) off course at 1037 GMT because the trajectory of the capsule was changed after entering the atmosphere.

International Space Station commander, Fyodor Yurchikhin, and flight engineer, Oleg Kotov, who had both spent 197 days in space, accompanied Shukor on his return to earth.

Dashing towards earth in what officials call a “ballistic” landing put more stress on the astronauts but all three were in good health, Russian Space Agency chief Anatoly Perminov said.

In such a landing, the capsule follows a much steeper and shorter trajectory to earth, causing more spin and resulting in a bumpier ride that puts a greater strain on its occupants.

“They all feel satisfactory, I would even say well. And Sheikh Muszaphar feels best of all as his trip to space was much shorter than the other astronauts,” Perminov said.

“The load on the capsule was a little more than under a normal landing, that is natural. But the so called ballistic trajectory was held only for the last few minutes,” he said.— MNA/Reuters

Gaza hospital to stop surgery as runs out of gas

Gaza, 22 Oct — A Palestinian health official said on Sunday Gaza’s main hospital would be forced to stop surgery because Israel had banned imports of anaesthetic gas, but Israel said it had not blocked medical supplies.

Khaled Radi, spokesman of the Hamas-run Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip, said Israel had told the company that imports hospital supplies into Gaza it would not supply the gas, which is needed to conduct surgery.

He said the hospital had barely two canisters of gas left and would have to halt surgery soon.

“This is a crime against humanity. Israel is killing patients, including women and children,” Radi said.

Gaza’s Shifa Hospital is the main medical facility in the impoverished coastal enclave, home to 1.5 million people, and is used for major operations. Radi said supplies of anaesthetic gas were also running out at Gaza’s four smaller hospitals. — MNA/Reuters

Pelosi’s judgement questioned over Armenia issue

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct — Democrat Nancy Pelosi’s pledge of a new direction took a turn when she fumbled an Armenian genocide resolution and raised questions about her leadership as the highest ranking member of the US Congress.

Pelosi, 67, speaker of the House of Representatives and next in line to the presidency after the vice-president, swore she would push the controversial resolution to a vote, then blinked when some fellow Democrats withdrew their support in the face of furious reaction from Turkey.

President George W Bush warned the symbolic resolution to affirm the 1915 massacre of Armenians by Ottoman Turks as genocide would harm Washington’s relations with Ankara. But as long as it looked like it would pass, Pelosi stuck to her guns.

When Democratic support started waning last week amid protests from NATO ally Turkey — which denounced the measure as “insulting” and hinted at halting logistical support for the US war effort in Iraq — Pelosi wavered.

Critics say she miscalculated.

“It’s certainly not her finest moment,” said Michael O’Hanlon, senior fellow in foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

“There’s been no great harm done, but we do have to find some ways to mend the US-Turkish relationship.” — MNA/Reuters

Two kidnapped priests freed in northern Iraq

MOSUL, 22 Oct — Two Iraqi Catholic priests who were abducted a week ago in the northern city of Mosul were released on Sunday, local police and church sources said.

“The two priests abducted a week ago have been freed before midday by their kidnappers,” a source close to the Catholic Church in Mosul told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

A police source in the city confirmed that the two priests were freed after being kidnapped in the al-Thawra neighbourhood in western Mosul on 13 October.

Chaos and insecurity following the US-led invasion to Iraq left the country’s vulnerable minorities easy targets to gangs as well as Sunni and Shiite extremists. — MNA/Xinhua

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Boat capsizes in N-E Thailand, three missing, six injured

BANGKOK, 21 Oct — Three tourists went missing and six others were injured after a boat capsized in Thailand’s northeastern reservoir of Ubolrat Dam on Saturday evening, local radio reported.

According to the report of Thai Traffic Radio FM 100, the tourist boat, with nine tourists aboard, capsized in Ubolrat Dam reservoir in Khon Kaen Province at about 6:30 pm (1130 GMT).

Six persons were injured and the other three were still missing as of Press time.

A local official said the weather, especially the gale, was the cause of the accident. — MNA/Xinhua

Helicopter crashes in Russia, killing four

MOSCOW, 22 Oct — A helicopter crashed on Sunday in the Kemerovo region of Siberia killing four people, ITAR-TASS news agency reported, citing rescue workers.

The US made MD-600 helicopter was flying in poor weather and without permission from flight control, TASS said. No other details were immediately available.

Helicopters are used frequently in Siberia to cover tough terrain. — MNA/Reuters
Fresh fire outbreak hits Shell’s gas plant in Nigeria

LAGOS, 22 Oct — Barely 24 hours after oil giant Shell announced the re-opening of the Utorogun gas plant following its closure about a week ago due to a pipeline fire, the company on Friday afternoon suffered from a fresh fire outbreak that happened to the same pipeline, according to local media reports.

“An early aerial survey of the scene of the inferno also showed a boat burning in the area yesterday afternoon,” said Aoni Obaigbo, the company’s media executive.

“The statement added that fire fighters had already been deployed to the scene to contain the fire, and appealed for understanding in the light of the inevitable cut in the country’s gas supply.”

Foreigners not to be allowed to work over 5 yrs in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 23 Oct — Bangladesh’s Board of Investment (BoI) has decided not to allow any foreign national to work in Bangladesh for over five years in order to encourage transferring technical know-how to local people.

“The BoI will also not allow any ordinary workforce from abroad to secure more jobs to the locals in industries fully owned by foreign nationals or joint venture companies,” local newspaper The Daily Star reported on Sunday.

“Foreign nationals are working in Bangladesh in mainly textile and telecom sectors, buying houses, hatchery plants, aviation, cement, glass, software and re-rolling industries. But it was reported at practically the same spot where the last one occurred along the Utorogun-Ughelli Pumping Station condensate trunk-line, the reports quoted an official statement from the company as saying.”

EU, Mediterranean nations to establish free trade area

LISBON, 22 Oct — Trade ministers of the European Union (EU) and the southern Mediterranean countries on Sunday renewed their commitment to establish a free trade area in the region by 2010 and to enhance bilateral ties.

“Foreign nationals are important neighbours of the European Union. We are determined to deepen and strengthen our links with them,” said European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson at the Press conference at the end of the sixth EuroMed Trade Ministerial Conference.

The meeting drew ministers from the 27 EU members and 10 southern Mediterranean countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.

Mandelson said that although significant progress has been made in trade between the EU and the southern Mediterranean nations, “more needs to be done to reach the full potential of this relationship, and there is still huge untapped potential for increased trade and investment flows in this region.”

“Even small steps forward bring significant benefits,” he said.

The commissioner said that thanks to the association agreement under the Barcelona process the southern Mediterranean countries had doubled their trade with the EU over the last decade and their trade deficit with the EU has been cut in half.

Models present creations by Indian designers Ekta and Ruchira during India Fashion Week in Mumbai recently.

INTERNET
US mily explains incident of mishandling N-warheads

WASHINGTON, 21 Oct— The US Air Force said on Friday that the incident of mishandling nuclear warheads in August was an “unacceptable mistake” of a sort that had never happened before.

Air Force Secretary Michael W Wynne made the first explicit confirmation on the incident at a Pentagon Press conference, saying that the military would “make all appropriate changes to ensure this has a minimal chance of ever happening again”.

In the 29-30 August incident, six nuclear warheads on air-launched cruise missiles were improperly handled and procedures were not followed when they were loaded on a B-52 bomber and flown from Minot Air Force Base, in the northern US state of North Dakota, to Barksdale Air Force Base, in the southern state of Louisiana.

The incident is considered as the worst known violation of nuclear security rules in decades. Major-General Richard Newton, the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for operations, said at the Press conference that the incident was resulted from “unprecedented string of procedural errors”. — MNA/Xinhua

Violence flares again in Amsterdam immigrant area

AMSTERDAM, 22 Oct — Disturbances broke out for a sixth successive night in an immigrant quarter of Amsterdam on Saturday when four cars were set on fire, police said. The unrest started after police shot dead a man of Moroccan origin last weekend who had stabbed and injured two officers.

Saturday’s fires brought the total number of burnt cars to 11, a police spokesman said.

Models display creations during the Pierre Cardin 2008 spring & summer fashion show on the Mingsha Mountain in Dunhuang City of northwest China’s Gansu Province, on 20 Oct, 2007. — XINHUA

British boys jailed for stoning cricket player to death

LONDON, 21 Oct — Five British boys aged between 12 and 14 were sentenced to two years detention on Friday for stoning a pensioner to death as he played cricket with his son.

The schoolboys, one of whom was aged just 10 at the time, attacked Ernest Norton, 67, next to a leisure centre in Kent, southeast England in February 2006.

The boys spat at Norton, verbally abused him and pelted him with stones and pieces of wood. He died of a heart attack in front of his son after two stones struck him on the head, one rock the size of half a brick, shattering his cheekbone.

Judge Warwick McKinnon, sitting at the Old Bailey court in London, sentenced the boys to two years detention each and described the crime as “a vicious, unprovoked attack”.

“Your behaviour was utterly disgraceful and criminally irresponsible. No sentence I can pass can restore the human life so needlessly taken by this mindless display of violence,” he told them.

The court heard that before the attack, information was posted on an Internet site that there was going to be a fight involving four local gangs in a nearby park.—MNA/Reuters

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON UNITED NATIONS DAY

YANGON, 24 Oct — The following is the message from the United Nations Secretary General on the occasion of the United Nations Day.

The world is changing in the United Nations’ favour — as more people and Governments understand that multilateralism is the only path in our interdependent and globalizing world. Global problems demand global solutions — and going it alone is not a viable option. Whether we are speaking of peace and security, development, or human rights, demands on our Organization are growing every day.

I am determined to ensure that we make progress on the pressing issues of our time, step by step, building on achievements along the way, working with Member States and civil society. That means strengthening the UN’s ability to play its role to the fullest extent in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. And it means invigorating our efforts for disarmament and non-proliferation.

At the same time, we must redouble our efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in Africa. I will seek to mobilize political will and hold leaders to their commitments on aid, trade and debt relief.

And I will continue to do all I can to galvanize global and decisive action on climate change. The UN is the natural forum for building consensus on this pressing issue, as we saw in the high-level event held a month ago on the margins of the General Assembly. The many leaders who attended sent a clear message to the Bali negotiations in December under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: this is no longer business as usual, and we must build momentum across industrialized and developing countries to ensure results. Protecting the climate for present and future generations is in the common interest of all.

If security and development are two pillars of the UN’s work, human rights is the third. I will work with Member States and civil society to translate the concept of the Responsibility to Protect from word to deed, so as to ensure timely action when populations face genocide, ethnic cleansing or crimes against humanity.

Finally, we must transform the UN itself. We must adapt to meet new needs, and ensure the highest standards of ethics, integrity and accountability, so as to demonstrate that we are fully answerable to all Member States and to people around the world.

We will be judged in the future on the actions we take today — on results. On this United Nations Day, let us re dedicate ourselves to achieving them. — UNIC

Heavily armed Filipino soldiers with bomb-sniffing dogs patrol in Manila. The toll from a deadly bomb blast in a Manila shopping mall has risen to 11 after another body was found in rubble at the ravaged building and an injured man died in hospital, officials said on 21 Oct, 2007.—INTERNET

A Turkish army helicopter flies over a settlement in the southeastern Turkish province of Hakkari, bordering Iraq, on 21 Oct, 2007.—INTERNET
14th cash donation ceremony for rural water…

(from page 1)


Out of 8042 villages in three arid divisions where water is scarce, water supply tasks were implemented in 7945 villages from 2000-2001 fiscal to September 2007-2008. So, 99 percent of the project has been completed. Out of 15183 villages in other states and divisions, 9778 villages have enjoyed clean water. So, 64 percent of the project has been completed. Therefore, among 23225 villages in all the states and divisions, water supply tasks were carried out in 17723 villages accounting for 76.31 percent. Cash donated for water supply tasks included K 2103 million by foreign donors, US$ 5.60 million, Y 734.08 million by the international community and K 10391.10 million, US$5.67 million, Euro 770, FEC 10012 and Y 734.08 million. Altogether 1921 well-wishers donated K 1551.792 million, US$76752, Euro 770 and FEC 10012 from the development Association and Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation are cooperating in the water supply tasks. Japan International Cooperation Agency will sink 250 tube-wells in Shan State (North) as a five-year project. Up to September 2007-2008, 217 tube-wells have been sunk.

He spoke on sinking of tube wells in the townsships in cooperation with NGOs and UNICEF, cultivation of physic nut, maintenance of tube wells and other machines and implementation of the tasks for supply of clean water in 55 townships and seven districts. Lt-Gen Myint Swe donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to the donors. On behalf of the donors, headmistress (Reid) Daw Khin May Than of No 2 Basic Education High School in Insein explained the purpose of the donation. Lt-Gen Myint Swe in his address said that in order to improve the living conditions of the people of rural areas where about 70 per cent of the nation’s population reside, the government has devoted duties upon development affairs committees for ensuring smooth transport and supply of safe water to rural areas.

In arid zones where water is scarce, in summer, local people have to go to places about four to five miles away from their houses and spend the whole morning to fetch fresh water. In consequence, they are not in a position to work effectively for their living and dysentery, diarhoea and trachoma are common in the regions. So, the Development Affairs Department has implemented a 10-year project for rural water supply since 2000-2001 fiscal year with the funds provided by the government and development affairs committees, and cash donations made by wellwishers, UDAS, social organizations and international NGOs. So far, the project has benefited 21 townships of Sagaing Division, 15 townships of Magway Division and 19 townships of Mandalay Division, he said, calling for increased efforts to ensure that all the three arid divisions enjoy sufficient clean water.

He expressed his thanks to all who contributed towards national development undertakings. Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and the minister inspected the documentary photos.

In the ceremony, 107 well-wishers donated 105,440,000 kyats. — MNA

Altogether 1292 tube-wells were sunk in three arid divisions and 489 in other states and divisions totaling 2281. At the 14th cash donation ceremony, 107 well-wishers donated K 1054.4 million. Social organizations including Union Solidarity and Development Association and Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation are cooperating in the water supply tasks.
May Buddha Sasana be flourishing and perpetual—I

Po Ye Chan

Myanmar is globally well-known as a nation where Theravada Buddhism flourishes. The majority of Myanmar people that constitute 90 per cent of the national population are Buddhists with 5.51 per cent of followers of Christianity, 3.68 per cent of adherents of Islam, 0.70 per cent of Hindus, 0.52 per cent of animists and 0.12 per cent of others.

Freedom of Worship

According to the statistics collected in 2006, in Myanmar there are 63,297 monasteries, 3,369 nunneries, 246,663 monks, 299,077 novices and 43,480 nuns. There are altogether over 500,000 members of the Sangha (including novices).

There are 6,318 churches, 2,751 mosques and 787 temples for Hindus. The government provides cash assistance to the religious organizations of Christianity, Islam and Hinduism yearly. It has issued free tickets to travel by train or boat to the respective religious leaders so that they can carry out religious duties with peace of mind. It has also provided necessary assistance to them for attending meetings abroad and going on pilgrimage as well as publishing of books on religion.

In Myanmar there are altogether 151 Chinese temples. The government provides cash assistance to animists of hilly regions yearly. There are also other religions with very few followers. High-ranking officials of the government attend and take part in religious festivals held by the religions concerned.

At present, religious and racial riots are common in some countries of Asian and African Continents. There are still wars like Crusade of Christianity and Jihad of Islam. The Teachings of the Buddha, Myanmar traditions and custom and loving-kindness are deeply rooted in Myanmar society. People of different faiths profess religions of their choice with peace of mind despite discord and dissension sown by internal and external destructive elements.

The Land of Pagodas

There are millions of Buddha statues and Buddha statuettes (including Buddha statuettes on alters of the houses) in Myanmar. There are tens of thousands of monasteries, pagodas and religious edifices. All the religious edifices including pagodas and stupas were built based on the ten traditional arts and crafts. The Bagam archeological region is a marvelous site for both Buddhists at home and abroad and researchers of different countries. Thousands of tourists and pilgrims flock to Bagam where national heritage is preserved. The religious edifices of the Shwedagon Pagoda are complete with different kinds of arts and crafts. Myanmar is called the Land of Pagodas.

Although the Shwedagon Pagoda deteriorated due to the natural elements, successive Myanmar kings renovated it. In 1999, the old umbrella of Shwedagon Pagoda was replaced with the new one studded with pieces of jewellery that was hoisted atop the pagoda. This reflects faith and generosity of Myanmar people.

The daily pilgrimage of Buddhists to different parts of the country where there are famous pagodas and religious sites is a significant characteristic. Over K 556.5 million and 69.40 viss of pure gold were donated to the Htidaw (umbrella) hoisting ceremony of Shwedagon Pagoda up to 31-3-1999. If the cash amount is added to K 165.9 million donated to the Pagoda Board of Trustees it will amount to over K 734.8 million. Pure gold donated to the new umbrella and Shwethinngan (golden robes) is 842.63 viss plus 539.40 viss of 67,868 items of jewellery. This shows profound faith and generosity of Myanmar Buddhists. The forthcoming Constitution include fundamental rights of citizens. Detailed basic principles include freedom of worship for followers of different faiths. Buddhism which 90 per cent of Myanmar people profess has been recognized as a religion of significant characteristics.

Buddhism which 90 per cent of Myanmar people profess has been recognized as a religion of significant characteristics.

Pariyatti Sasana

To ensure the purification, perpetuation and flourishing of the Sasana the Ministry of Religious Affairs under Ovada of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds the following Pariyatti examinations yearly.

— Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examination (December, January)
— Dhamma specifically examination (March)
— Pathamahatthan examination (March)
— Five Nivaka Pali examination (June)
— Abhidhamma and Visuddhamagga examination (December)
— Basic Buddhist Cultural examinations (May)

Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida
Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examination constitutes both written and oral tests and usually takes 33 days. It is the most profound, subtle and difficult one among religious examinations held in Myanmar. There are 20 prescribed text books with 8025 pages for the examination.

The candidates who have passed both written and oral tests are presented Tipitakakovida titles. They are also presented free tickets for land, water and air trips in addition to monthly cash donations. A man with normal diligence, intellectual power and health cannot pass the examination.


(See page 9)
The candidates who have passed both written and oral tests are presented Tipitakakova titles. They are also presented free tickets for land, water and air trips in addition to monthly cash donations. A man with normal diligence, intellectual power and health cannot pass the examination.

The first Tipitakadhara Selection Examination was held on 6th Waxing of Tabodwe 1310 Myanmar Era, and in 58 years, there have emerged 11 Tipitakadhara Title recipient monks.

So far, 24 convent schools have been opened across the nation and 3709 girls are pursuing education there.

Missionary Work
Since 1991, more and more missionary courses have been opened yearly in townships in states and divisions for border areas and hilly regions. In 2007, 579 monks and 35 nuns are doing missionary work in 481 missionary centres.

In states and divisions, missionary courses for monks have been conducted 17 times and so far, 1136 monks have completed the course. Missionary course for lay persons have been opened 45 times and 3645 lay persons have completed the course.

Missionary University
According to Meeting No 22/98 of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, with the permission of the State Peace and Development Council, the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University was established with 327 officials and 426 other ranks in 1998. The purposes of the university are:

(a) to promote moral conduct, (b) to be well-versed in Pitakat treatises, (c) to be well-versed in Pali, and (d) to be skilled in Myanmar language.

In accordance with these four principles, the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) was opened on 23 June 1986, and the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay) was opened on 21 August 1986. The universities conduct (1) four-year Sasana Takkasla Dhammacariya course and (2) two-year Sasna Takkasla Maha Dhammacariya course.

With the aim of enabling needy children throughout the nation to have access to education and to become polite and gentle, 1313 monastic schools were opened in 248 townships in 2007. Altogether 222,742 schoolchildren are pursuing education in these schools.
The 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the sixth day at the designated places in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin yesterday. Present on the occasions were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife, ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, officials of the leading committee, the work committee, and subcommittees, service personnel and local people.

Twelve contestants participated in the amateur level (second class) men's classical song contest and eight students in the basic education level (15-20 age group) girls' classical song contest held at the University of Agriculture. Chairman of the panel of judges U Sein Mar Din and party supervised the dancing contest at the conference hall of University of Veterinary Science. A total of 22 contestants competed in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls' dancing contest.

At the assembly hall of the Agricultural Research Department, eight teams participated in the basic education level (5-10 age group) boys' orchestra contest and four teams in the basic education level (10-15 age group) girls' orchestra contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Satin and party supervised the competitions of the contestants in the orchestra contest at the Agricultural Research Department. Two teams competed in the amateur level (second class) Dobat contest and another four teams in the basic education level (10-15 age group) girls' Donmin contest.

Five contestants participated in the amateur level (first class) men's Donmin contest and three in the amateur level (first class) women's Donmin contest.

Seven contestants participated in the basic education level (10-15 age group) boys' Donmin contest and six in the basic education level (15-20 age group) girls' Donmin contest.

At the assembly hall of the Agricultural Research Department, eight teams participated in the basic education level (second class) Dobat contest and another four teams in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys' orchestra contest.

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Maung Kyaw Thet Aung and troupe from Mandalay Division taking part in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys' orchestra contest. — MNA

MNA
Gifts for No 2 Defence Services Obstetric & Gynecological and Children’s Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw

Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presents cash to doctors of DSOGCH. MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Oct — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association this morning donated two water purifiers to No 2 Defence Services Obstetric & Gynecological and Children’s Hospital (300-bed) at a ceremony held at the hospital in Nay Pyi Taw.

It was attended by Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, specialists of the hospital and officials concerned.

Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint explained the purpose of the donation. Next, the vice-president, CEC members Daw Tin Tin Mya and Daw Thuzin Nwe presented K 500,000 donated by MMCWA for two water purifiers to Obstetrician and Gynecologist Major Moe Kyaw Tun, Paediatricians Major Swe Myint and Major Zaw Thein Oo and officials.

After that, Obstetrician and Gynecologist Major Moe Kyaw Tun spoke words of thanks, and the ceremony came to an end — MNA

Myanmar delegation attends 34th UNESCO General Assembly

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Oct — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein arrived back here today after participating in the 34th UNESCO General Assembly and meeting of education ministers from Southeast Asian nations on 17 October in Paris, France.

Myanmar delegation attended meetings of Director-General of UNESCO Mr Koichiro Matsuura and education ministers from Southeast Asian nations on 17 October and the meeting of ministers for education and economic development on 19 and 20 October.

Minister Dr Chan Nyein delivered an address at the general assembly of UNESCO on 20 October and briefed on matters related to the development of education sector in Myanmar.

The delegation was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Ministers for Education U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and officials of the Ministry of Education.

Member of the delegation Dr Myo Myint, General Secretary of Myanmar-UNESCO National Commission and Professor of Yangon University of Foreign Languages also arrived back on the same flight. MNA

People of Magway Division, Shan State (South) and Bago Division denounce recent protests

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Oct — People of Thayet Town in Magway Division, Kehsi, Mongkai, Leikha Townships in Shan State (South) and Kyaukdaga, Nyaunglaybin, Shwegyin, Waw, Kamna, Ottwin, Pyu, Htantabin and Kyaukkky Township in Bago Division who favour stability of the State, prevalence of law and order and community peace walked in procession on 14, 18, 19, 20 and 22 October in the respective regions to denounce the recent demonstrations instigated by some monks and NLD members.

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

On 14 October in Thayet Town in Magway Division, over 8,000 people holding 14 State Flags and the placards that read “We favour stability”, “We favour peace”, and chanting “We don’t want protests and terrorist acts” and “Fight against internal and external destructive elements” gathered at Township Sports Ground and marched to Mindon Street, Lanmadaw Street, Pagoda Street, Brokers’ Street and finally to Electric Power Office Street in the town.

On 18 October in Kehsi Town in Shan State (South), over 7,500 people holding the placards walked in procession from Township Sports Ground, through Thitkha Street, Kyaythee-Mongral Street, and finally to Haw Street in the township.

Similarly, on 19 October in Mongkai Township, Shan State (South), over 8,000 people holding the placards walked in procession in the town.

On 20 October in Leikha Township of Shan State (South), over 12,000 people holding the placards marched in procession in the town.

On 20 October in Kyaukdaga Township of Bago Division, over 15,000 people holding 14 State Flags and the placards walked in procession in the town.

On 22 October in Nyaunglaybin Township of Bago Division, some 30,000 people holding the placards walked in procession in the town.

On 22 October in Swegyin Township of Bago Division, over 21,000 people holding the placards walked in procession in the town.

On 22 October in Waw Township of Bago Division, some 13,500 people holding the placards walked in procession in the town.

On the same day in Ottwin Township of Bago Division, over 20,000 people holding the placards walked in procession in the town.

On the same day over 20,000 people from Pyu Township, over 15,000 from Htantabin Township and some 7,000 from Kyaukkky Township walked in procession in the town.

Local people in Mongkai denounce recent protests. MNA
**Chronicle of National Development**

**Comparison between period preceding 1988 and after (Up to 31 - 12 - 2006)**

This book features five indexes, 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.

Illustrated with charts and colourful photos.

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**Britain has failed in Afghan drugs war**

KABUL, 23 Oct — Britain, in charge of efforts against drug production but has been unable to stop an increase in production, Afghan newspapers said on Monday.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai is on a four-day state visit to Britain.

Afghanistan produced 93 per cent of the world’s opium in 2007 and the industry also funds a growing Taleban insurgency, which British and other Western troops are struggling to contain.

Karzai, whose writ does not extend much beyond major cities, is under growing pressure to tackle narcotics, but several Afghan papers, including a state-controlled daily, said Britain was responsible for the failure to stop drugs.

“Britain leads international efforts against drug production and trafficking in Afghanistan. There has been large investment by this country for the annihilation and destruction of drugs,” Daily Afghanistan said in an editorial.

“But unfortunately... not only has there been no reduction, but it has gone up year after year,” it said.

Afghanistan’s allies and major aid donors have taken on responsibility for different sectors since US-led forces overthrew the Taleban in 2001.

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**Russia has failed in Afghan drugs war**

MOSCOW, 22 Oct — A Russian booster has put into orbit four US satellites early Sunday, news agencies reported.

The Soyuz-FG booster blasted off from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan at 00:12 Moscow time (02:12 GMT) Sunday with the four US Globalstar communication satellites atop.

The Globalstar system was developed by a consortium of international communicanpanies in 1991 to offer mobile and ground telephone services, Internet, SMS and facsimile communications, as well as Globalstar and GSM roaming and navigation, with a precision of up to 300 metres.

The system was first deployed at the beginning of 2000 and now consists of 48 main and eight standby transmitter satellites.

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Malibu fire burned 3,000 acres (1,200 hectares). Another blaze in that county scorched 2,500 acres in the afternoon, authorities said. No injuries were reported.

To the south in San Diego County, officials said one person died, while four residents and four firefighters were injured in a fire that scorched 2,500 acres (1,000 hectares). Another blaze in that county burned 3,000 acres (1,200 hectares).

Malibu saw some respite in the afternoon, but authorities warned the fierce Santa Ana winds that roar through California’s canyons remained erratic and could double in speed overnight.

“Have a plan and be prepared,” Malibu Mayor Pamela Conley Ulich told a news conference. “The winds, although they are dying down, could kick up again this evening.”

Gunmen seize seven workers from Nigerian oilfield

LAGOS, 22 Oct — Gunmen in speedboats kidnapped seven workers including three foreigners from an offshore Nigerian oilfield in a major setback to peace in the Niger Delta.

The three contractors to Royal Dutch Shell, a Croat, a Russian and a Briton, were taken from a support vessel at the EA field off the southern state of Bayelsa on Saturday night after a three-hour gunfight with troops, security sources said on Sunday.

“There was a long drawn-out battle and three were taken from a support vessel,” a security source at an oil company said.

Four Nigerians were also kidnapped, Shell said.

No group has claimed responsibility.

The EA field has been halted since an attack in February 2006.

It was the first attack of this type since the inauguration in May of President Umaru Yar’Adua, who started a peace process to address demands for more regional autonomy by armed groups in the Niger Delta.

The attack is also a setback for Shell’s plan to resume production from the western Niger Delta.

The company reduced output there by 477,000 barrels per day (bpd) after the attacks in February 2006.

Hu named chairman of CPC Central Military Commission

BEIJING, 22 Oct — Hu Jintao was named chairman of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Military Commission at the first plenary session of the 17th CPC Central Committee here on Monday.

Hu Jintao succeeded Jiang Zemin as chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission in September 2004 after Jiang resigned.

Before that Hu had been vice-chairman of the commission since 1999.

Hu was an alternate member and member of the 12th CPC Central Committee, and has been a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee since 1992.

A native of Jixi County, Anshan Province, Hu was born in December 1942. In 1959, he was enrolled by Qinghua University and graduated from the Hydraulic Engineering Department in 1965. He joined the Party in April 1964.

Wind-stoked wildfires rage in southern California

LOS ANGELES, 22 Oct — At least nine wildfires stoked by gusting winds burned out of control in southern California on Sunday, killing one person in San Diego and forcing hundreds to evacuate the wealthy enclave of Malibu where five homes went up in flames.

The Malibu fire burned 1,250 acres (505 hectares) by 4:30 p.m. (2330 GMT) and destroyed at least seven buildings, including a landmark castle-like house and a Presbyterian church, officials said. No injuries were reported.

To the south in San Diego County, officials said one person died, while four residents and four firefighters were injured in a fire that scorched 2,500 acres (1,000 hectares). Another blaze in that county burned 3,000 acres (1,200 hectares).

Malibu saw some respite in the afternoon, but authorities warned the fierce Santa Ana winds that roar through California’s canyons remained erratic and could double in speed overnight.

“Have a plan and be prepared,” Malibu Mayor Pamela Conley Ulich told a news conference. “The winds, although they are dying down, could kick up again this evening.”

Performers stage the music drama “Butterfly” in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 19 Oct, 2007. The drama is adapted from Chinese classic love story “Liang and Zhu.” — XINHUA
**Sports**

Karlsruhe slip to fourth after 0-0 draw with Bielefeld

**Berlin, 22 Oct** — Karlsruhe missed a chance to reclaim second place in the Bundesliga when they were held to a goalless draw at home to Arminia Bielefeld on Sunday.

Karlsruhe began brightly and almost took the lead with a clever free kick in the second minute but they soon faded and the game petered out.

Hanover 96, with a chance to go up as high as fourth, were also disappointed on Sunday, as they had to settle for a 2-2 draw away to VfL Wolfsburg, with all the goals coming in the first half. — **MNA/Reuters**

Newcastle pile agony on Spurs with easy 3-1 victory

**London, 23 Oct** — Tottenham Hotspur's poor start to the season showed little sign of improving when they were beaten 3-1 by Newcastle United in the Premier League at St James' Park on Monday.

Spurs, who have finished fifth for the last two seasons, remain in the bottom three after goals from Obafemi Martins, Claudio Capaca and James Milner gave Newcastle a formidable victory.

Newcastle stay in eighth place with 27 points from 14 games but only their second successive Premier League title.

The diagonal second half goal helped them move to 15 points from nine matches, while Spurs languished in 18th with just seven points from their opening 10 matches.

Robbie Keane scored Tottenham's goal after 57 minutes with a tap from a rebound after Darren Bent hit the post to bring the score back to 2-1.

Martins opened the scoring on the stroke of halftime and Capaca headed the second from a corner after 51 minutes, his first goal for United.

Milner wrapped up the points for Newcastle with a well-struck volley from the edge of the box 17 minutes from time to kill off any hopes of a Spurs comeback.

The defeat, which leaves Spurs with just one league win this season, increases the pressure on manager Martin Jol, who came close to losing his job earlier in the campaign. **MNA/Reuters**

Referee Clattenburg left off Premier League rota

**London, 23 Oct** — Referee Mark Clattenburg, who was roundly criticised for a number of key decisions in the Merseyside derby on Saturday, will not be refereeing a Premier League match at the weekend.

The Professional Game Match Board, which allocates the referees, have not given him a match for the coming weekend.

Everton manager David Moyes was angry he sent off his defender Tony Hibbert for bringing down Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard in the box.

He was also angry that Dirk Kuyt was not sent off for an aerial lunge at Everton's Phil Neville for which he only received a yellow card.

As a result, he was on the field to score Liverpool's winner in their 2-1 victory from the penalty spot just before the end of the match. Everton also had a strong claim for a penalty turned down after Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher appeared to wrestle Joleon Lescott to the ground.

The defeat, which leaves Spurs with just one league win this season, increases the pressure on manager Martin Jol, who came close to losing his job earlier in the campaign. **MNA/Reuters**

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**Sao Paulo beat rivals Cruzeiro to edge closer to title**

**São Paulo, 22 Oct** — Sao Paulo moved closer to their second successive Brazilian championship title by beating Cruzeiro 1-0 in a top-of-the-table clash on Sunday.

Sao Paulo, with 67 points from 32 games, extended their lead at the top to 13 points with six games left.

The only goal came in the 69th minute when substitute Diego Tardelli broke down the left and pulled the ball back to midfielder Jorge Wagner, who hit a first-time shot into the bottom right-hand corner.

Goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni kept another clean sheet for Sao Paulo, who have conceded only 12 goals in the championship.

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Nancy held to 1-1 draw by struggling Sochaux

**Paris, 22 Oct** — Nancy missed a chance to join Olympique Lyon at the top of Ligue 1 when they were held to a 1-1 home draw by struggling Sochaux on Sunday.

The Lorraine side, with a game in hand, now have 23 points from 10 matches and are two points behind six-times champions Lyon, who beat Monaco 3-1 on Saturday.

Nancy opened the scoring on 26 minutes through Kim but were denied the three points 12 minutes into the second half by a Marcelinho goal.

Sochaux dropped to third from bottom with eight points from 11 games. **MNA/Reuters**
Scientific development inscribed in CPC Constitution

The scientific outlook on development was proposed by the 16th CPC Central Committee in 2003, against the backdrop of rapid economic growth and a series of problems including excessive consumption of resources, damages to the environment and a widening gap between the rich and poor.

The scientific outlook on development “takes development as its essence, putting people first as its core, comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development as its basic requirement, and overall consideration as its fundamental approach”, reads the resolution on the amendment to the Party Constitution, unanimously passed at Sunday’s closing session of the National Congress.

This is the fifth amendment to the current edition of the Party Constitution, adopted at the 12th Party Congress in 1982.

Two killed when bus plunges into canal in N-E Thailand

BANGKOK, 23 Oct — A bus plunged into a canal in northeastern Thailand’s province of Si Sa Ket early Sunday morning, killing two people and injuring 17 others.

Police were quoted by local newspaper the Nation’s website as saying that the bus driver, Sads Phaophukiew, 45, fell asleep and lost control of the bus, causing it to hit into a bridge fence and plunge into the Hay Samran Canal.

Police said the bus conductor, Pornstit Phothong, 21, died at the scene.

A passenger, Ratchane Maneephan, 36, died at the Khan Khan Hospital.

Seventeen other passengers were injured slightly and were allowed to go home after receiving treatment at the hospital.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather

Tuesday, 23 October, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan State and Taninthayi Division, isolated in Bago Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pylaung (0.55) inch, Namhsam (0.51) inch and Taunggu (0.40) inch.

Maximum temperature on 22-10-2007 was 92ºF. Minimum temperature on 23-10-2007 was 72ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 23-10-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 22-10-2007 was 7.5 hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-10-2007 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mingaladon, (140.75) inches at Kaba-Aye and (142.72) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from North at (15:30) hours MST on 22-10-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-10-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Rakhae States, Sagoa and Mandalay Divisions, isolated in Ayeawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather is partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-10-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-10-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-10-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
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