Established 1914
14th Waxing of Thadingyut 1369 ME Thursday, 25 October, 2007
Volume XV, Number 192

**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

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**NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—** Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Nursultan A Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which falls on 25 October 2007.—MNA

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**Union of Myanmar**

**State Peace and Development Council**

**Declaration No 3/2007**

13th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1369 ME

(24th October 2007)

**Assignment of duty as Prime Minister**

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed and assigned duties to Lt-Gen Thein Sein as Prime Minister with effect from today.

*Sd/- Than Shwe*

Senior General
Chairman
State Peace and Development Council

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**Union of Myanmar**

**State Peace and Development Council**

**Declaration No 4/2007**

13th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1369 ME

(24th October 2007)

**Assignment of duty as Secretary-1 of State Peace and Development Council**

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed and assigned duties to Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo as Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council with effect from today.

*Sd/- Than Shwe*

Senior General
Chairman
State Peace and Development Council

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**Union of Myanmar**

**State Peace and Development Council**

**Order No 4/2007**

13th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1369 ME

(24th October 2007)

**Appointment of Minister**

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed and assigned duties to U Aung Kyi as Minister for Labour with effect from today.

*Sd/- Than Shwe*

Senior General
Chairman
State Peace and Development Council

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**Union of Myanmar**

**State Peace and Development Council**

**Order No 5/2007**

13th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1369 ME

(24th October 2007)

**Appointment of Deputy Ministers**

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed and assigned duties to the following persons as deputy ministers with effect from today.

1. Maj-Gen Thein Htay — Ministry of Defence
3. Maj-Gen Thein Tun — Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs

*Sd/- Than Shwe*

Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

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**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**
US chopper attack kills 16 in northern Iraq

TIKRIT (Iraq), 24 Oct — An American helicopter opened fire Tuesday at a gathering in northern Iraq, killing 16 people and wounding 14 others, a local police source said.

“Early in the morning, a US helicopter struck a house in a rural area in the town of Dijla, 150 kilometres north of Baghdad, killing 16 people, including seven women and three children, and wounding 14 others,” Brigadier Jasim Muhammad, deputy police chief of Salahadin Province, where the town located.

The incident took place when a US helicopter opened fire Tuesday at a gathering in northern Iraq, killing 16 people and wounding 14 others, a local police source said.

“Early in the morning, a US helicopter struck a house in a rural area in the town of Dijla, 150 kilometres north of Baghdad, killing 16 people, including seven women and three children, and wounding 14 others,” Brigadier Jasim Muhammad, deputy police chief of Salahadin Province, where the town located.

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“The two wounded were transported to a nearby house where families of the neighbours in the rural area gathered, but they were surprised with another attack waged by the US helicopters, destroying the house, killing and wounding some 30 of them, Muhammad said. The US military did not confirm the incident yet. — MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar to participate in 4th China-ASEAN trade fair


The 4th China-ASEAN trade fair will be held in Nanning, Guangxi Province, from 28 to 31 October.

Central Executive of UMFCCI U Nyein Aung and Designer Daw Khin Ohnmar Aung. UMFCCI

Electric Power No-1 Minister receives Chinese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct — Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min received President Mr Wu Jing and party of Dalang (Yunnan) United Hydropower Developing Co Ltd (DUHD) at the ministry here this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, the directors-general, Vice-President Mr Hing Heng Xi and officials and the meeting focused on implementation of Tapein hydropower project. — MNA

Myanmar to take part in ASEAN Open Optimist Sailing Championship 2007

YANGON, 24 Oct — Myanmar Selected Junior Yachting Team will take part in ASEAN Open Optimist Sailing Championship 2007 to be held in Batan, Indonesia, from 26 October to 3 November.

Myanmar team comprises U Than Sein as manager, Mr Stig Petersen (Norway) as coach and Jonney Kaung Kaung, Phone Aung Kha and Min Khant Phone Thwin as men yachters and Thiri Ye Win and Wai Pwint Wah Boe as women yachters.

Myanmar Selected Yachting Team has been undergoing final phase training at Pattaya of Thailand starting on 2 October as part of preparation for the XXIV SEA Games. Myanmar Selected Junior Yachting Team will leave Thailand for Indonesia and take part in ASEAN Open Optimist Sailing Championship 2007. — H
Minister supplicates on religious affairs to State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Saydaws

A group of unscrupulous destructive elements tried to taint noble clear waters of Sasana

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicates on religious matters to Saydaws. — MNA

YANGON, 24 Oct. — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicates on religious affairs to Saydaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee at the hall of committee on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township this evening.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen Saydawus of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bago Division (West) Pyay Town Jotikayon Pali University Kyautkyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita, Agga Maha Saddhamajoti kadhaja Bhaddanta Kundalajoti, Shan State (North) Momeik Town PothebIon Kyautkaik Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita, Agga Maha Saddhamajoti kadhaja Bhaddanta Tezavana, Joint-Secreatry Saydawus Yangon Division Insein Township Ywama Pyaritayak Sarthintaik Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilawka Bhivamsa, Mon State Ye Town Phala Zatauwun Kyaw Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Indasiri and Saydawus of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department, Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department, Pro-Recto Dr Myint Kyi (Adm) of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary, Yangon Division General Administration Department Commissioner U Hla Soe, deputy commissioners and township commissioners, heads of RADs at division, and township levels and officials.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitations of Nano Tassa.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicates on religious affairs to Saydawus. He said: 

Reverend Saydawus,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to pay respects to the eminent Saydawus of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee all in good health.

Kindly permit me to explain to you the bogus monks who organized and incited the members of the Sangha during the protests that occurred in last August and September, their conspiracies and the root causes.

In reality, we do not wish to explain those true incidents that are concerned with the members of the Sangha. But as true Buddhists we with great reverence to Sasana have no choice but to present the matters that may tarnish the Sasana. We feel shy, sorry and disgrace to present the matters just with the aim of promoting, propagating and perpetuating the Sasana and in the interest of the Sasana.

Actually, religion is too noble and sublime to be compared with anything else and like clean drops of water. Although the secular world is common with burning human desires laymen and laywomen find peace under the cool and clean drops of waters of the religion. A group of unscrupulous destructive elements tried to taint the noble clear waters with colour. Hence a small group of the members of the Sangha were in disgrace for a short time.

As the Saydawus have already known, due to political agitation of unscrupulous persons from inside and outside the nation, who are always committing destructive acts, monks’ protests broke out in August and September 2007. When we look into the entire problem we have found out that bogus monks who in reality are ex-convicts were making plots in advance with the intention of generating a monk protest.

All Myanmar Young Monks Union that initially led the monk’s protest was founded with seven monks in June 2007. The member monks were U Pannajota (a) Natsaw of Maggin monastery in Thingangyun as chairman, U Visuddacara of Bago monastery in Mingala Taungnyunt as secretary, and U Ottara (a) Naga of Nagayon monastery in Kaba Aye, U Candima (a) Apulay of Nyaungdon monastery in Pazundaung, U Gambhira (a) U Candobhasa (a) Hlaing Bwa (a) Nyi Nyi Lwin of Panditayama monastery in Mandalay, U Kesara (a) U Kay (investigation still under way to ascertain his monastery) and U Obhasa/UPamokkha (investigation still under way to ascertain his monastery) as members. Names such as Natsaw, Naga and Apulay were their code names (nick names) they had dubbed each other during the time they were serving prisons terms. I will explain the matter in detail later. Due to the incitement of All Myanmar Young Monks Union, about 140 monks holding placards demanding for bringing down commodity prices staged a protest in Sittway on 28 August, and about 60 monks recited Parittas and dispensed Metta in procession, which in reality was a non-violence anti-government activity, in Pakokku on 5 and 6 September. The so-called All Myanmar Monks United Front demanded the authorities to make a formal apology, to solve the public food, clothing and shelter problems, to release political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and to initiate national reconciliation, with its discontentment to the security personnel for their handling of monks’ protest walk in Pakokku as the reason. The group in making instigation in advance announced through some foreign media that monks would stage a general boycott on 18 September if the authorities failed to comply with the said four demands.

After the occurrence of monk protests in Sittway and Pakokku due to the incitement of All Myanmar Young Monks Union, other groups such as Sangha Samaggi in Mandalay and Sotujana Bikkhu in Pakokku came into being. All Myanmar Monks United Front was founded on 9-9-2007 to ensure a single command. The intention of forming the front was to organize all members of the Sangha to participate in its activities and to systematically control all activities. Sangha Representatives Steering Committee was formed with 15 monks. Of the 15, U Ghosita was assigned duty to Thingangyun area, U Kovidia (Nan Oo monastery) to Mingala Taungnyunt area, U Nandasiri (Pwinbyu-Ngwekkay monastery) to South Okkalapa area, and U Candasiri (a) Payit to Shwethein Dhamma Themgi monastery to start all Sangha protests at the same time. Investigation is under way to find out the assigned areas of U Adhipati, U Nema and U Thavara. The ones who tied a white cloth around his arm or forearm is a leader of monk protests in Yangon Division. All the 15 monks have visited Maesot in Thailand and some of them have attended explosive courses and community organizer (CO) courses here.

The main instigators of the incident in Sittway were U Kovidia of Takkasila Partyati monastery in Dagon Myo Htil (East) and U Komala (a) Kyaw Sein (a) of Judo Kyaw Sein of Adithan monastery in Sittway. U Pannajota (a) Natsaw and U Gambhira (a) U Candobhasa (a) Hlaing Bwa (a) Nyi Nyi Lwin of All Myanmar Young Monks Union visited Mandalay and neighbouring areas in upper Myanmar to spread the disturbances to all parts of the nation. Secretary of the union U Visuddasara made contacts with monasteries (See page 4)
Minister supplicates on religious affairs...

(from page 3)

inside and outside the country and media through telephone and e-mail. Hence, artless monks who were not familiar with secular affairs began to take part in the protests leading to the wrong road of even making demands that were not concerned with religion.

We have found that bogus monks who had already infiltrated the members of the Sangha toured various parts of the country to incite the entire community to take part in the monks protest. Due to those instigative acts, there occurred monks’ protest walks in Yangon and some states and divisions beginning 18 September with the excuse that the government had failed to take any measures to respond to the demands of the front. The front assigned 15 representatives to supervise the Yangon sangha movement to be staged on the platform of Shwedagon pagoda on 24 September. The front also set out the timetable and planned routes for the protest. It also formed the discipline group with the participation of 20 monks who were assigned to lead the protests.

The front also organized some artists to take part in the protest with providing meals and other necessities for the monks as a reason. It even used means of intimidation in agitating the remaining monks and the people to take to the streets. According to the investigation we have found that U Indaka, U Nga Sitha, Thaingi monastery and U Pannajota, at his separate building at Shwedaung monastery. U Candasiri, U Vasava and U Ottara were imprisoned for their involvement in the formation of young monks union during the 1988 unrest and monks strike in 1990. While serving prison terms, U Pannajota was dubbed Nat Saw; U Indaka, Panama; U Ottara, Naga; U Pandavamsa, Pyi Kyaw; and U Candima. Payit. After being released from prison in 1996, U Pandavamsa (a) Pyi Kyaw became a senior resident monk living in a separate building at Mokseik monastery. U Candima (a) Payit was residing at his former Shwethaung Dharma Theingi monastery and U Pannajota (a) Nat Saw, at his former Zawtana monastery. U Ottara became the abbot monk of Kaba Aye Nagaunay monastery and U Vasava at Thingyanmon Maggin monastery. U Indaka (a) Panama became a monk at Maggin monastery.

In 1998, U Pannajota (a) Nat Saw and U Candima (a) Payit were arrested for the second time and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment for their attempts to form the young monks union for the second time. Thanks to a protest, they were released from prison in June 2005. U Candima (a) Payit was allowed to reside at Shwethaung Dharma Theingi monastery in Thingyanmon. U Pannajota (a) Nat Saw lived at the monastery where U Pandavamsa (a) Pyi Kyaw was residing. U Eindaka (a) Panama became the abbot monk of Thingyanmon Maggin monastery when the abbot monk U Vasava passed away. U Pannajota (a) Nat Saw became a lecturer monk at the monastery. As I have already explained that most of the monks who hatched plots with intention of generating monks protest are not real monks. They are ex-converts who became monks for the sake of their own interests.

Most of the members of the said steering group faced imprisonment for breaching the existing law. In addition, some of them have attended courses to generate disturbances and commit terrorist acts in Thailand recently. U Candima (a) Pyi Nyi Lwin arrived at Maesot together with another monk in July 2005. He met with AAPP in-charge Bo Kyi and also attended community organizer course (CO) there. He accompanied U Osatha of Chaukhtatgyi, U Issariya (a) Gyaung Gyaung of Maggin monastery, U Pakalata and U O Oba of the monastery (name is not known yet) and an ex-GTC teacher monk whose monk name is not known yet of Haukkant Tawya monastery to Maesot in 2006 to attend CO. Clandestine supporters of U Gambhira were Ko Nyein Chan (chairman of political defiance committee), Min Naing (internal liaison in-charge of FDB in Maesot) and U Kyaw Htet (vice-chairman of FDB). In addition to their direct assistance to U Gambhira, Ko Nyein Chan sent hundreds of thousands of kyats to him through his brother Aung Kyaw Kyaw. We have information saying that internal and external terrorists are continuing contacts with U Gambhira who is at large to send explosives and related equipment and communication equipment to blow up bombs inside the country.

The above-mentioned incident is a clear evidence that All Myanmar Monks United Front was making contacts with NLD inside the country. Min Ko Naing led so-called 88 generation student group, Peer Group led by Phyu Phyu Thin, AAPP outside the parliament and FDB a coalition of six anti-government groups that are taking refuge at the border to cause unrest in various parts of the nation. We have found out that the front has been continuously making contacts with foreign radio stations such as BBC, VOA, RFA and DWB to use them as a harbingers and to incite the public.

Moreover, we have already released news reports saying that anti-government elements and their supporting groups failed to achieve their goal in making arrangements to blow up bombs during the time the National Convention was in progress to cause political instability and undermine the National Convention. The government has been constantly watching their steps with security awareness as they are going to commit terrorist acts at every time they get the opportunity. When security personnel acting on information searched Nan Oo monastery, they found US $27, one yuans, 22 kinds of electronic equipment and one block of high explosive in U Kovidaw’s suitcase. According to further information, we have come to know that Ashayggii (a) Kyaw Htet buried the explosives in a one-foot deep hole under the ground. When the personnel concerned searched the compound of the house of U Kyaw Htet and U Ko Ngwe. As a result, no monk has passed away. The TNT cartridges can kill people and they are high explosives made in a big nation. They are ready-to-use type in the battlefield. It is obvious that the plans are premeditated part of destruction. These are attempts of the anti-government groups with the assistance of FDB and NCCUB. It was regrettable that bogus monks were involved in such attempts.

Authorities concerned are questioning those who led or took part in or followed the recent protests. Some monks were questioned unavailing. After being persuaded, the monks took part in the protests artlessly. However, they were released as soon as possible. Being the Buddhists ourselves, we handled the protests with utmost care and control for peace and stability and they were promptly put down. As a result, no monk has passed away. Action will be taken against bogus monks who led the protests, those who involved in the destruction attempts and those who committed political and economic acts and those who violated social codes of conduct according to law.

Those bogus monks did not act in conformity with the rules of Sangha. U Pandavamsa (a) Pyi Kyaw went to the border area and smuggled into motorcycles and trafficked timber for one year. He was a bookie of chehti (three-digit gambling) and two-digit gambling. According to the confession of Ma Ei, 24, daughter of U Than Huy of Taungzun Village, Bilin Township, she had an affair with Pyi Kyaw. They lived together illegally. She became pregnant two times in February and August 2005. Abortion was made under the arrangement of Pyi Kyaw. Hnin Hnin (a) Hnin Mo who disclosed sundry matters of Nyeikkyoan Monastery and U Tezinda (a) Toke Kyi were bookies of two- and three-digit and football gambling. They lived together. Thanda Kyaw, sister of Hnin Hnin, who lived with her, had an affair with monk Maung Tin and she fell in love with monk. Nga Oo.

U Zawana (a) Mokesi drank liquor daily and gave some predictions about two- and three-digit gambling. He practised alchemy. He earned about K 100,000 a month as the winners of three-digit gambling donated.
Minister supplicates on religious affairs…

(From page 4)

cash to him. He used the money in practising alchemy. He had food at the tea shop without going round the town to accept offerings of food. In the evenings, he usually drank a mixture of liquor and honey. U Pan Phuajota (a) N Saw, a laic, had political contact with Bo Kyi of the government based AAPP group and received a lot of money from U Indaka (a) Panamu (a) Gyuong Gyoung, U Kovida and U Gambhira and their connections and distributed cash to them.

According to the investigation and information, a team comprising personnel of CID, SID and Religious Affairs Department together with some witnesses inspected and searched Ngwekyayannariyatt Sartha and on 28 and 29 September. In the rooms of the monks and boxes they seized anti-government documents, documents related to two and three-digigit gambling, pornographic books and pictures, VCDs, condoms, knives, other things that are not concerned with the monks.

They also seized anti-government documents, pornographic VCDs, books and photos, condoms, tonic, contraceptive equipment’s wares, weapons such as jingali, catapults, iron rods, knives, scaber, foreign exchange, liquor bottles, vouchers of two and three-digigit gambling and others that do not relate to the monks in Shwhatenga monastery in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Thingyanmonastery, Yangon monastery, Pyinuma, Shweyaunghin, Seiktathuka, Shwetangmaw, Zatiyama and Dhammazeya monasteries in South Okkalapa Township, Kyauksardaw Ashay, Dhamma Waiponla and Zeiyathuka monasteries in Thingyan Township, Tekkathila and Maha Zeya Theikda Pahtan monasteries in Dagon East Township, Zeyathuka monastery in Thuwunna and Khemithaya monastery in Dagon South Township.

Most of the leading monks of the Front who organized the protests in August and September were ex-convicts, those who were married, drank liquor, did gambling, cooperated with anti-government organizations, accepted monetary assistance and went abroad and attended political courses.

So, it is clear that they were masterminds behind the recent protests, after committing acts that are against the Sasana, and re-entering the Religious Order.

I would also like to supplicate on some movements of monks in other countries. I have learnt that some monks from a few monasteries in the US, which is opposing Myanmar, are trying to meet with US President Bush to interfere in Myanmar’s internal affairs. Moreover, I have learnt that the 80th birthday reception of monk U Panavamisa residing in the US is due to be held in Los Angeles; that ex-monk U Kovida who used to reside in Maseoyemn monastery in Myanmar will organize some monks in the US and will attend the reception; that at the reception a Sangha organization under the name of “Sangha Okshang will be formed; and that a high-ranking official of the US will meet the organization to jointly attack Myanmar. However, the majority of the monks of the US are not involved in anti-Myanmar government movements and keep on carrying out religious duties.

As you know, some of the monks in the US are, indeed, absconders who fled the nation to other countries like Nat Saw, Panama, Naga and Nyi Nyi. The people of the US will take responsibility of the Sangha. Those Sangha who were behind the recent protests and then fled the nation may be in the US now. Some monks in the US are not true ones because they have violated the existing laws. Therefore, it has become apparent that such a handful of monks do not represent the members of the Sangha in Myanmar who observe the Vinaya rules. And they are not the monks who deserve reverence of Myanmar people. Therefore, I would say, the organizations whether they are named Sangha Okshang or Sangha Maggi made up of some monks are not lawful.

In addition, Sangha Okshang organization to be formed in the US will not represent the entire monks of Myanmar. In Myanmar, Sangha Ganasa at all levels have been formed systematically under the leadership of the State Sangha Maha Nayak Committee in accord with the Vinaya rules, procedures, and rules and regulations. It is absolutely unacceptable that a US President is hatching plots to use a handful of monks in the propaganda campaign as if they represented the entire mass of members of the Sangha.

As I have supplicated, the attempts to instigate monk protests and manipulate the movements of monks were designed to make religious affairs associate with the political affairs, using the monks who are artless without much knowledge about secular affairs. Instead of working hard in religious affairs of Parayatti and Patipattti, using their monasteries as bases, those bogus monks, in collusion with political parties and so-called “SS” generation students, are staging protests and distributing anti-government flyers and pamphlets, instigating movements and protests in complicity with foreign radio stations, receiving assistance from anti-government groups from other countries, and running illegal enterprises and books, leading a married life, and doing businesses, thereby tarnishing the image of the Sasana.

We are addressing the cases relevant to members of the Sangha with great care to minimize mistakes. It is heart-breaking for me to supplicate such cases and crimes that are designed to attack the government. However, I have to do so with a heavy heart with the belief that you eminent Sayadaws will give Ovada and sermons to young monks to avert any adverse effects to the Sasana if you have information about these cases. I would like you to understand and stand for the fact that we are not to un advisably to provoke a conflict because we cannot let any situations take place that harm the Sasana and the nation.

I pledge the government will carry out tasks for the flourishing of the Sasana. Therefore, monks who carry out religious duties for flourishing of the Sasana do not need to be worried about that. You are kindly requested to give Ovadas and sermons for the sake of the Sasana if you have some.

Afterswards, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayak Committee Sayawd Agga Mah Aung Panditta Agga Maha Saddharma Jotikada Bhaddanta Kundala Joti of Jotikayon Monastery in Pyay, Bago Division (West), administered Ovadathwa. Next, Sayadaws and the congregation led by Minister for Religious Affairs Brg-Gen Thura Myint Maung recited “Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthattu” three times and a ceremony concluded at 4.15 pm.

MNA

Spokesman for Abbas calls on US to turn words into deeds

RAMALLAH, 24 Oct — A spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Monday called on the United States to turn its words related to achieving peace in the region into deeds.

"In order to turn its statements into deeds on the ground, the United States should exert pressure on the Israeli Government to agree on a clear and specific joint document of declaration," Nabil Abu Rudeineh told reporters in Ramallah.

He further specified that the document should contain a definite date for starting the talks and the core issues, including Jerusalem, refugees right of return, Jewish settlements and the borders of the Palestinian state.

He was critical of the current manner of Israel, who has kept saying that the upcoming peace summit in the United States would only produce understandings but not agreements.

"The United States should use all its influence on the Israeli Government to make it accept the Palestinian demands," Abu Rudeineh said.

US President George W Bush had called several weeks ago for holding an international summit in Annapolis, Maryland in the United States, to find a fair solution to the almost 60-year-old Israeli-Arab conflict.

To ensure the success of the summit, Israel and the Palestinians, should form negotiation teams respectively to thrash out a joint declaration of declaration, which would be presented to the summit to be held in November.

MNA/Xinhua

Jordanian aviation to make mark at Dubai Air Show

AMMAN, 24 Oct — Jordan’s aviation sector will be showcased next month at the Dubai Air Show 2007, the third largest air show in the world, local newspaper The Jordan Times said on Monday.

The aerospace exhibition, which is slated for 11-15 November at the Airport Expo Dubai, will feature up to 90 exhibitors from 48 countries and attract some 40,000 trade visitors and up to 150 civil and military delegations from 50 countries, therefore quoted a statement by the show organizer F&E’s Aerospace Group as saying.

"Jordan is certainly making its mark in one of the world’s fastest growing regional aviation markets and this clearly will be demonstrated, at its country pavilion at next month’s Dubai Air Show," director of F&E Alison Weller was quoted by the statement as saying.

According to the statement, the Jordanian delegation will include officials from the Civil Aviation Authority, Defence Ministry personnel and high ranking executives from airline operators.

MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.
With big powers playing out rivalry in the global forum, United Nations should not be marginalized, should instead be allowed to actively perform the roles that its founding fathers have prescribed.

Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attends ceremony to mark 62nd Anniversary of United Nations Day

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers an address at the 62nd Anniversary of the United Nations Day. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct — The ceremony to mark the 62nd Anniversary of United Nations Day 2007 was held at the hall of the Government Office here this morning, with an address by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Present on the occasion were Ministers, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Deputy Ministers and their wives, the Director-General of Government Office, officials of the SPDC Office, heads of departments, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany and Ambassadors and Charges d’Affaires of Foreign Embassies, UN Coordinator Mr Charles James Petric, resident representatives, members of social organizations and guests.

First, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo made a speech on the occasion. He said:

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be here today to commemorate the sixty-second anniversary of the United Nations as we have traditionally done in the previous years.
In its 62 years of existence, the United Nations has been able to lead the member countries objectively, adhering steadfastly to noble Purposes and Principles, to maintain international peace and security and to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, as stipulated in the United Nations Charter.

In doing so, the United Nations has coordinated with all nations, large or small, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members.

Since Myanmar has become a Member State after its independence, she has always been cooperating with the United Nations in its endeavours in international affairs. We would like to reaffirm Myanmar’s cooperation in the future also.

The year 2007 is a historic year in Myanmar as the 17 armed groups who have returned to the legal fold. The year 2007 is a historic year in Myanmar as the 17 armed groups who have returned to the legal fold.

As a reflection of Myanmar’s cooperation with the United Nations, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General Mr Ibrahim Gambari has already made three visits to our country. Other high-level United Nations delegations visited our country this year as well — Under Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

Being a State Member, Myanmar has been collaborating with the United Nations in current international affairs also together with other nations.

Ensuring environmental sustainability, one of the Millennium Development Goals, is of great importance to mankind. It is alarming to see drastic climate change and global warming due to the greenhouse effect. Not only natural hazards have become more frequent but rapid urbanization and population growth have put more people at risk now.

The countries least responsible for global warming — the poorest developing nations — will be most affected by its consequences, both in human and in economic terms. Global warming affects globally but the impact varies as wealthy nations possess the resources and know-how to adapt. In addition to being vulnerable to disasters, the poorest developing nations are also burdened with external debt and conditional aids.

In keeping with the Millennium Development Goals, Myanmar has adopted and implemented a National Environment Policy based on the sustainable use of its natural resources. To ensure environmental sustainability, the Myanmar Forest Policy was laid down in 1995 and priority is given to maintaining the area covered by forests which accounts for over 52% of the total land area. Systematic felling system has been practiced and reserved forest area increased nearly double from over thirty-eight thousand square miles (14.9 per cent of total land area) in 1988-89 to over sixty thousand square miles (23.2 per cent of total land area) in 2005-2006. Myanmar is also one of the 12 countries that took part in the Asia Least-Cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy (ALGAS) in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank.

Distinguished Guests,

The world is becoming more and more integrated as globalization deepens in the 21st century. Collective deliberation in matters of peace and security, development and human rights, is increasingly needed for the benefit of mankind. With the big powers playing out their rivalry in the global forum, the United Nations should not be marginalized and should instead be allowed to actively perform the roles that its founding fathers had prescribed.

On this auspicious day, let us pledge to recommit ourselves to supporting the United Nations in facing the challenges of the world.

Next, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win read out the message of the 62nd Anniversary of United Nations Day 2007 sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe. (The message of the 62nd Anniversary of United Nations Day 2007 sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe was reported separately.)

Afterwards, UN Coordinator Mr Charles James Petric read out the message sent by UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Kimoon. (The message sent by UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Kimoon was reported on 24-10-2007 [issue of this paper].)

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greeted Dean of Diplomatic Corps Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany and Ambassadors and Charges d’Affaires of Foreign Embassies, UN Coordinator Mr Charles James Petric and resident representatives. — MNA
Resources are already stretched...

(from page 1)

In this age of globalization, countries have become more interconnected, and thus collective efforts for security and development under the leadership of the United Nations is of vital importance.

It is now almost a decade since the Millennium Development Goals were unanimously adopted at the historic Millennium Summit of the year 2000. In the Millennium Development Goals, United Nations Member States have pledged to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, to achieve universal primary education, to promote gender equality and empower women, to reduce child mortality, to improve maternal health, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, to ensure environmental sustainability, and to develop a global partnership for development.

Of the Millennium Development Goals, to ensure environmental sustainability is of utmost importance now as climate change is no longer a mere environmental problem but becoming a threat to global security.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said the scenarios facing us were alarming. Scarce resources—whether energy, water or arable land—could lead to a breakdown in established codes of conduct, and even to outright conflict. He cautioned Member States to focus more clearly on the benefits of early action.

Our increasingly unstable climate is no longer seen as primarily an environmental or economic issue. Over the past two years, the threat we face has grown larger in scale and sharper in outline. Recent scientific evidence has reinforced our fears that resources are already stretched to the limit, and we will soon encounter economic disruptions on a scale not seen since the end of the World War II.

This is not about national security only, but about collective security in a fragile and increasingly interdependent world. Once again, it will be the most vulnerable and the least able to suffer most. Some analysts have predicted that by the end of the decade there could be up to 50 million environmental refugees, leaving their lands at risk, either voluntarily or by coercion.

To surpass these global challenges ahead of us, all Member States should divert from regional or bilateral squabbles and unitedly contribute and work together under the United Nations coordination.

On this auspicious day commemorating the Sixty-Second Anniversary of the United Nations, Myanmar wishes the United Nations Organization every success in facing challenges, small and large. — MNA

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.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Thein Sein sends felicitations to Kazakhstan

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Karim Masimov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which falls on 25 October 2007. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than enjoys Maha Doat Drama Marionette Contest

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of Ministry of Defence and wife enjoy the professional level Maha Doat Drama Marionette Contest. — MNA

Troupe from Mandalay Division participates in play contest

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Oct—A troupe representing Mandalay Division participated in the play contest of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions at the convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin for the second day at 7 pm today.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw, members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint Oo and wife and U Aung Myint, Secretary of work committee of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of Fine Arts Department, members of the work committee and sub-committees, staff of the ministries, members of the cultural troupes from states and divisions, families of regimes and units under Nay Pyi Taw Command, local people from Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District and enthusiasts were present.

The troupe representing Mandalay Division performed a play “Be united in the nation of brethren”. — MNA
May Buddha Sasana be flourishing and perpetual-2

Po Ye Chan

In BC 623, Queen of King Buddhodana, a respected Shakya family, of Kapilavatta Mayadevi gave birth to a son by the name of Siddhattha (Buddha-to-be) at pleasant Inyin Forest in Lumbini Park (it is today called Nepal). Prince Siddhattha (Buddha-to-be) fully enjoyed various kinds of worldly pleasures in the palace.

At the age of 29, Prince Siddhattha left his wife Yasodhara and son Yuhala and renounced the throne and retired to the solitude of the forest where he would engage in profound meditation until he attained enlightenment. Going forth from the home to the homeless state, he had realized the disadvantages of the right extreme which are low, mean and not beneficial. During six years of his excessive practice of meditation at Uruvela Forest he became bony and weak. And he was too frail mentally and physically to attain enlightenment. This made him realize the disadvantages of both extremes and he partook foods again to be able to continue practising meditation to gain the higher level of knowledge. And he again practised meditation with extraordinary diligence making better use of the middle way (Magyamapatipada) which is free from both right and left extreme and finally attained enlightenment.

When He managed to develop penetrative insight into the Four Noble Truths that enabled Him to enter the path of liberation and enlightenment beneath the Bodhi Tree near Gaya in Magadha He was 35 years old. And He became a Buddha, a fully enlightened One. Firstly, the Buddha preached the Dhammacakkavati (the first sermon) to Pancaaggi (five monks) and then people from all walks of life including five children of the rich in Baranasi, 20 offspring of the rich in different regions and 30 Bhaddavaggi princes. After delivering the Dhammacakkavati, Buddha founded the Sangha Organization with 60 follower monks. He instructed the 60 monks to go to different directions to deliver sermons. Buddha Himself without sparing day and night all 45 Vasa preached for the welfare of human beings and celestial beings until His last breath or until He entered Parinibbana.

Four Noble Truths

The Four Noble Truths are the Noble Truth of Suffering, the Noble Truth of the Cause of Suffering, the Noble Truth of the Cessation of Suffering and the Noble Truth of the Path leading to the Cessation of Suffering. Birth, aging and death, grief, lamentation, bodily pain and distress of mind are sufferings. The cause of suffering originates from the six sense bases, namely, eye, ear, nose, tongue, body (tangible) and mind (sentation). Freeing completely from all faults and mental obstructions or all defilement is the cessation of suffering. The Noble Eightfold Paths leading to absolute happiness is the path leading to the cessation of suffering.

The Buddha expounded the Noble Eightfold Paths that can lead one to the cessation of suffering. The Noble Eightfold Paths

1. Sammadhitthi-Right Understanding
2. Sammassanaka-Right Thought
3. Sammavaça-Right Speech
4. Sammakkammana-Right Action
5. Sammaajjiva-Right Livelihood
6. Sammapanayama-Right Effort
7. Sammasati-Right Mindfulness
8. Sammasamadhi-Right Concentration

Five days after He preached Dhammacakkavati sermon (the First Wheel of Dhamma) the Buddha expounded Anathalakkhana Sutta. The five aggregates are: the aggregate of matter, the aggregate of feeling, the aggregate of volitional activity, the aggregate of perception and the aggregate of consciousness. The five aggregates made up of mud and matter, which from the object of clinging and grasping, embody the Truth of Suffering.

Tripitaka

There are three manuals of Theravada Buddhists or Tripitaka. Tripitaka comprises five treatises of Vinaya Pitaka, three treatises of Suttanta Pitaka and seven treatises of Abhidhamma Pitaka. The five treatises of Vinaya Pitaka include Parajika (forfeit leading to the loss of monkhood); Pacittiya; Mahavagga; Culavagga and Parivara. The three treatises of Suttanta Pitaka include Silakkhan Sutta (practices of noble persons); Mahava Sutta (collection of noble teachings) and Patheya Sutta (practice leading toNibbana).

In Abhidhamma there are seven treatises, namely, Dhamma Singani, Vibanga, Datu Katha, Puggala Panthika, Katha Waththi, Yamana and Pathaga.

There are five Nikayas in Buddha’s teachings: (a) Diga Nikaya (long Suttas), (b) Majhihika Nikaya (moderate Suttas) (c) Samyut Nikaya (Subjects are described in order) (d) Angutta Nikaya (from one to eleven in number) (e) Khuddhaka Nikaya (various kinds of short treatises)

The synods of members of the Sangha were held for six times for perpetuation of the Buddha’s teachings (Pitaka). The first, second and third synods of the members of the Sangha were held in India. The forth synod was held in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). The fifth was held in Yadanabon Naypyitaw by King Mindon. The sixth was held at the Maha Pasana Cave in Yangon under the aegis of the government of the Union of Myanmar. Myanmar played an important role in purification and perpetuation of the Sasana.

Buddhism did not flourish in Majjhima region under Abhiyaza, the first King of Tagau dynesty. It flourished in Myanmar under Dhammayaza, the second King of Tagau dynasty. There existed Tripitaka under the guidance of Shin Arajhan in the time of King Anawrahta in Bagan period. From that time, Theravada Buddhism was rooted in Myanmar.

The Law of Buddha

Lord Buddha prescribed the rules of conduct of the Buddhist Order in His time. There were certain wrongdoings made by members of the Sangha, Ashin Sariputta, the great disciple of the Buddha, made supplication on prescription of the rules of conduct of the Buddhist Order for perpetuation of the Sasana. The Buddha told Sariputta to wait. He said He knew the time of prescription of the rules of conduct of the Buddhist Order. He would not prescribe the rules as long as there was no fault committed by the members of the Sangha. He later prescribed the rules when members of the Sangha committed certain sins. The rules to be followed by the members of the Sangha are known as Vinaya or the Law of the Buddha.

Sayadaw Ashin Janakhivamsa of Maha Gandhayon Monastery in Amarapura explained the three Sasanas in his book on the Law of Buddha. The Sayadaw said: Sasana means the teachings of the Buddha. In fact they are Pitaka known as Pariyat. Keeping morals and practising meditation are called Patipatti Sasana. Nibhana is known as Pativedha Sasana. Patipatti Sasana

Morality is the basis of three things—morality, concentration and wisdom. One with good morality has right concentration. One with concentration may attain wisdom. Vinaya is the Dhamma that guides morality of the members of the Sangha. The members of the Sangha who keep precepts are very gentle and polite. Even other followers of different faiths would pay respects to them.
May Buddha Sasana be flourishing …

(from page 8)

includes three things — morality, concentration and wisdom and the base of Pativedha Sasana.

The Sayadaw added: Morality is the basis of three things — morality, concentration and wisdom. One with good morality has right concentration. One with concentration may attain wisdom. Vinaya is the Dhamma that guides morality of the members of the Sangha. The members of the Sangha who keep precepts are very gentle and polite. Even other followers of different faiths would pay respects to them.

According to the Sayadaw’s book, Vinaya is the soul of the Sasana. Only when those with morality keeps Vinaya, will Vinaya exist forever.

So long as the members of the Sangha with morality follow the Vinaya rules the Sasana will exist. Because they will continue to safeguard the Sasana. On the other hand, if those with morality who do not learn nor follow Vinaya, the Sasana will not exist.


“I complain about an incident.

At about 2 pm today, some of the monk protesters threw purified drinking water bottles at the buildings near the street, east of the monastery, and some of the windowpanes were broken.

So, I complain to you about the case, and you are requested to take action against the monks and people involved in the case.

Remark: According to the Vinaya rules, a monk who steals, takes or destroys other’s property worth 25 pyas (one-fourth kyat) violates one of the four Parajjika Vinayas and is automatically reduced to ordinary man from monkhood. If a member of the group violates this Vinaya, all the group members are automatically reduced to ordinary men.

PS: The two letters of complaint are enclosed. You may send someone to my monastery for evidence. The letters were also attached with two reports of two monks in-charge of Dakhina and Ottara buildings of Kyakhatwaing monastery.

When action was taken against Min Ko Naing and so-called “88” generation students who are lackeys of colonialists, there emerged protest marches staged by some monks. Initially, the monks took to the streets and marched in rows, reciting Metta sutta as a gesture of showing sympathy for the people who were facing adverse effects of hikes in fuel prices and consumer prices. Just a few days later, NLD members and lackeys of colonialists walked after the monk protesters, protesting and chanting political slogans.

Then, they started to make political demands — release of Daw Suu Kyi and political prisoners, and a dialogue that NLD member expatriates and neo-colonialists have been shouted for a long time.

Later, the monk protesters committed many acts that are against Vinaya rules prescribed for monks — setting fire to four motor vehicles in Pakokku, destroying a residence and a private store in a ward, threatening people of wards and collecting extortion money of five to six figures for the cost of protests, throwing stones at security forces, telling lies in the interviews conducted by foreign radio stations, and throwing purified drinking water bottles at some buildings of Kyakhatwaing Monastery.

Here, I would like to present some excerpts from the book “The Law of Buddha” by Ashin Janakabhivamsa of Maha Gandhayon monastery in Amarapura.

In Chabbaggi monks’ theft of laundry package featured in page 12 and 13 of the book, it is said that if a monk took other’s property worth at least 25 pyas, it was considered a Sangha Disat Vinaya. According to the Vinaya rules, if the property is worth between one pe’ (anna) and 25 pyas, he commits Thullaccan Vinaya. If the property is worth one pe’ or less than one pe’, he commits Dukkat Vinaya.

Regarding Sangha Bhedaka Vinayas, Vinaya Pitakat says that monk Devadat violated Vinayas to sow disunity among the monks of the Buddha and to destroy administrative machinery of Buddhism. He committed Sangha Disat Vinaya.

Directive Nos 81, 83, 85 and 65 promulgated by eminent monks such as Chairman of the First State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Mingun Tipitakadhara Sayadaw and the speech delivered on 24 September 2007 by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara say that monks should not get involved in secular affairs that is unrelated to Gandha Dhura (learning of Buddhist Scriptures) and Vipassana Dhura, should not form, participate or support illegal Sangha organizations, and should not get involved in political parties. The people believe that only when each and every member of the Sangha strictly observes the directives will Theravada Buddhism flourish in the nation.

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Who are using monks, who discharge religious duties for the Sasana, for political gains? I will present the answer to this question in the next article.

Translation: TS + NY + MS

People of Bago and Magway Divisions, Shan State (South) condemn recent protests

**NAV PYI TAW, 24 Oct**—Local people of Pyay, Padaung, Paukkhaung, Thayawady, Thonze, Monyo, Natatalin and Yedashe townships in Bago Division, Hopong and Hsihseng townships in Shan State (South), and Seikpyu and Yanangyoung townships in Magway Division who favour stability of the State, prevalence of law and order and community peace, after seeking permission from the authorities concerned, walked in procession on 21 and 22 October in respective regions to denounce recent protests incited by some monks and members of the National League for Democracy (NLD).

On 21 October morning, some 20,000 people of Hopong Township in Shan State (South) walked in procession around the township, chanting slogans such as “Our Three Main National Causes and State’s seven-step Road Map must succeed”, and holding placards that read “We favour stability”, “We favour peace”, “No terrorist acts”, and “We don’t accept neo-colonialism”.

In like manner, on 22 October, over 25,000 local people of Pyay Township, over 25,000 people of Padaung Township, over 17,000 people of Paukkhaung Township, over 12,000 people of Thegon Township, over 15,000 people of Thayawady Township, over 15,000 people of Thonze Township, about 16,000 people of Monyo Township, over 31,000 people of Natatalin Township, about 25,000 people of Yedashe Township, Bago Division, about 25,000 people of Seikpyu Township, Magway Division, over 52,000 people of Hsihsai Township, Shan State (South), and over 5,500 people of Seikpyu Township, Magway Division, walked in procession, chanting slogans and holding placards. — MNA

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15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

**NAV PYI TAW, 24 Oct**—The 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the seventh day at the designated places in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin yesterday.

Present on the occasions were wife of the chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, departmental heads, officials of the leading committee, the work committee and sub-committees, servicemen and family members of regiments and units under Nay Pyi Taw Command Station and local people from Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana District.

At University of Agriculture, Assistant Director (Music) (Retd) Daw Tin Tin Mya and party supervised the singing contest. Thirteen contestants participated in the basic education level (15-20 age group) women’s oldies and modern song contest and 11 students in the higher education level women’s oldies and modern song contest.

Chairman of the panel of judges U Sein Mar Din and party supervised the dancing contest at the convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science. A total of 21 contestants competed in the basic education level (15-20 age group) women’s dancing contest and 23 students in the basic education level (10-15 age group) boys’ dancing contest.

The song composing contest, supervised by Patron of the panel of judges Bogalay Tint Aung and Chairman of Myanmar Music Asiayon, was organized at the hall of University of Agriculture. Ten persons from States and Divisions took part in the amateur level (second class) men’s mandolin contest and five students in the amateur level first class men’s mandolin contest.

At the hall of Forest Research Department, leader of the panel of judges U Maung Hmi and party supervised the mandolin contest. Twelve persons from States and Divisions took part in the amateur level (second class) women’s mandolin contest and eight students in the basic education level (15-20 age group) men’s xylophone contest.

The orchestra contest was held at the convocation hall of University of Agriculture. Seven persons participated in the amateur level (first class) men’s orchestra solo contest and eight students in the basic education level (10-15 age group) men’s orchestra solo contest.

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Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing enjoys the amateur level (second class) women’s mandolin contest. — MNA

Local people in Hsihseng denounce recent protests. — MNA
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NY taxi drivers strike again over tracking system

NEW YORK, 23 Oct—Some New York taxi drivers went on strike on Monday for a second time over a requirement for cabs to install tracking systems and credit card payment machines that they say is costly and will invade privacy.

Bhairavi Desai, the executive director of the Taxi Workers Alliance, which organized the 24-hour walkout, said thousands of drivers had stayed home and disputed reports that most of the city’s 13,000 cabs were on the road.

“What matters is, did the full-time steady drivers go on strike? Did they hold the line? And from all of the reports that we are getting, the answer is yes,” Desai told reporters.

An initial two-day strike was held in early September against the new rules imposed by city authorities, which were intended as a benefit to passengers. The new systems feature a touchscreen that allows passengers to watch television, track their progress on a map and pay by credit card. The system has been installed in almost 4,000 taxis, and all 13,000 cabs have to be outfitted by 31 January, said Allan Fromberg, a spokesman for the Taxi and Limousine Commission.

But some cab drivers say the system will invade their privacy, absorb 5 per cent of total fares and make driving less comfortable since the systems generate heat. —MNA/Reuters

In this photo released by the San Diego Zoo, keeper JoAnne Simerson carries the San Diego Zoo’s giant panda cub when visiting the Giant Panda Research Station through 14 Oct. —INTERNET

US, Iraqi troops kill insurgent, detain two Shiite militia leaders

BAGHDAD, 23 Oct—US and Iraqi security forces killed an insurgent and detained two suspected Shiite militia leaders accused of conducting criminal activities in eastern Baghdad, the US military said in a statement.

The troops detained the two officials of the Mahdi Army office in the al-Habibiya neighbourhood during an intelligence-driven raid on Sunday, the military said in a statement.

One of the detainees was the office’s director, who is believed to be the commander of three extremist companies and leads a group of 50 Mahdi Army cell members, loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, the statement said.

His group is believed to be responsible for killing 20 innocent citizens in September, and a separate incident last month in which his group attacked a residential compound, robbed residents of their money and valuables and raped five young girls, it said.

His group is also accused of supplying weapons, roadside bomb and mortar attacks against Iraqi and coalition forces, it added.

The second detainee is the head of the political department in the same office and is believed to lead 10 terrorist cell members, it said. — MNA/Xinhua

Car carrying Hamas members explodes in Gaza

GAZA, 23 Oct—A car carrying Hamas militants blew up in the Gaza Strip on Monday, injuring at least three people, Hamas officials and medical workers said.

Hamas said it believed the blast was caused by a roadside bomb. Tensions remain high in Gaza between Hamas and other armed Palestinian groups four months after Islamists took control of the territory.

The second detainee is the head of the political department in the same office and is believed to lead 10 terrorist cell members, it said. — MNA/Xinhua

An Israeli Army spokeswoman said Israel was not involved in the attack. Medical workers said three Hamas security personnel were wounded in the explosion on a coastal road in central Gaza. Hamas has in the past accused members of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah faction of carrying out attacks against its security forces. But Hamas has clashed in recent days with clan members associated with Fatah as well as the Islamic Jihad militant group. — MNA/Reuters

Death toll rises to 37 in China shoe factory fire

PUTIAN (Fujian Province), 23 Oct—The death toll in a shoe factory fire in southeast China has risen to 37 from 34, with another 19 people injured, local authorities said on Monday.

The blaze broke out at 9:50 pm on Sunday at the “Fenda” workshop where shoe uppers were made, in Huishi Township, Xiuyu District, Putian City, Fujian Province, but was extinguished one hour later.

Initial investigations showed 56 workers were in the workshop at the time of the fire, which spread over 520 square metres. Zhu Qing, director of the information office of the Fujian provincial government, said at a news briefing on Monday.

The owner of the workshop had been detained, Zhu said. Sources from Xiuyu District government said the factory was operating without a licence. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam Airlines to launch trans-Indochina route

HANOI, 24 Oct—Vietnam Airlines, the country’s national flag carrier, will open a route linking three cities of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia on 28 October, and resume flights from Hanoi capital to Chinese Guangzhou City on 29 October, local newspaper Pioneer reported Tuesday. Every week, there will be five flights linking Hanoi with Laos’ Luang Prabang and Cambodia’s Siem Reap, and three flights from Hanoi to Guangzhou. The Hanoi-Guangzhou route used to operate ineffectively. Vietnam Airlines reaped revenues of nearly 14.48 trillion Vietnamese dong (905 million US dollars), and pre-tax profits of 301 billion Vietnamese dong (over 18.8 million dollars) in the first nine months of this year. — MNA/Xinhua

Women dressed in traditional Belarusian clothes dance during a harvest festival in a town of Rechitsa, some 290 km (180 miles) southeast of Minsk. —INTERNET
China builds giant dam to protect dinosaur fossils

HARBIN, 23 Oct—Workers have spent three years building a huge earth dam to protect valuable dinosaur bones from being washed away by one of China’s most famous rivers. A horde of dinosaur bones lies buried in a mountain that sits right on the river that forms the boundary between China and Russia’s Heilongjiang Province.

So far, thousands of dinosaur fossil bones have been unearthed from the mountain and assembled into 13 dinosaur skeletons, which are now exhibited in several museums nationwide.

Archaeologists believe there are enough fossil bones buried in the mountain to put together at least 100 more dinosaur skeletons. Every summer, rising waters and strong currents erode parts of the mountain, leaving dinosaur fossils exposed. Many fossils have been washed away in the past.

So the Land and Resources Department of Heilongjiang Province ordered the building of a 1,450-metre-long embankment on the Chinese bank of the river to stop the fossils being washed away.

Building the embankment has been hard, with workers battling cold and long winters at a high altitude in China’s cold northernmost province. Rising water levels in the summer also limit construction times, and it has taken workers three years to complete the 1.450-metre-long, 5.5-metre-high and 10-metre-wide embankment around the dinosaur fossil site. — MNA/Xinhua

US study shows emotions do not affect cancer survival

WASHINGTON, 23 Oct—People who are depressed about their cancer are no more likely to die than people who keep a positive outlook, US researchers reported on Monday.

Cancer patients are often encouraged to stay as happy as possible and many people believe that a positive outlook helps recovery and survival.

Dr James Coyne and colleagues from the University of Pennsylvania set out to see if this was really true. They analyzed data from two studies of the emotional states of 1,093 patients with head and neck cancer.

Over the time of the two studies, 646 patients died.

The analysis showed that emotional status was not associated with survival rate. A person’s emotions were not associated with survival even after taking into account other factors, such as gender, tumour site or disease stage. Coyne and colleagues report in the journal Cancer.

“The hope that we can fight cancer by influencing emotional states appears to have been misplaced,” Coyne said in a statement.

“If cancer patients want psychotherapy or to be in a support group, they should be given the opportunity to do so. There can be lots of emotional and social benefits. But they should not seek such experiences solely on the expectation that they are extending their lives.”

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam sees highest rate of COPD sufferers in Asia-Pacific

HANOI, 23 Oct — Some 5 per cent of Vietnam’s 84 million population suffer from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the highest rate in the Asia-Pacific Region, local newspaper Saigon Liberation reported Monday.

Ninety per cent of the in-fection cases are caused by smoking, the paper quoted a recent national meeting on tuberculosis and lung diseases as reporting. — MNA/Xinhua

Tourists to Jordan’s ancient city Petra increasing

AMMAN, 24 Oct—About 2,000 tourists visit the ancient red-rose city of Petra every day since the beginning of this month and the number increases to 3,000 in the weekends, a tourism official told on Monday.

Director of Petra Tourism Department, Malek Al Amrat, told the Press that the number of visitors for Petra this year has approached 500,000, which is a record-breaking number in the history of the city. All departments concerned in Petra are exerting double efforts to present the best services for visitors in a way that reflects the bright image of Jordan, he added.

Meanwhile, Director of Petra Hotel Mohammad Al Tweisi also said that the city’s tourism movement improved by 20 per cent this year compared to previous years, adding that choosing Petra to be one of the New Seven World Wonders had a very good impact on the city.

Petra was named one of the New 7 Wonders of the World in Lisbon on 7 July, 2007, along with the Great Wall of China, Brazil’s Statue of Christ Redeemer, Peru’s Machu Picchu, Mexico’s Chichen Itza pyramid, the Colosseum in Rome and India’s Taj Mahal. — MNA/Xinhua

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S Korean scientists find “Trigger gene” that can kill cancer cells

SEOUL, 23 Oct— South Korean scientists on Monday said they have found a gene that could be exploited to suppress or kill off cancerous growth in the human body, the local daily newspaper Korea Herald reported on Monday.

According to the report, the discovery was made by the Seoul National University team led by Professor Jung Yong-keun. It revealed that the adenylosine kinase 2 (AK2) gene released through the mitochondria membrane could cause errant cells to self-destruct.

Mitochondria are found inside almost all living cells and are cellular power plants that generate vital chemical energy.

Ordinary cells follow a set lifecycle in which they die off after a certain period of time and are replaced by new cells. Cancer cells do not adhere to this pattern, but continue to grow until they threaten the life of the host.

The findings published in the latest issue of the Nature Cell Biology journal said there was a distinct absence of the AK2 gene in patients suffering from liver cancer. — MNA/Xinhua

Foreigners make up 30% of Singapore’s population

SINGAPORE, 23 Oct — Foreigners living in Singapore make up 30 per cent of the city-state’s population, up from 14 per cent in 1990, following a decade-long policy of attracting people to boost economic growth, according to government figures released on Monday.

Minister for Home Affairs Wong Kan Seng said Singaporeans accounted for 70 per cent of the city-state’s population, up from 14 per cent of last year, said statistics released on Monday.

Airstrikes are up in Baghdad kill four

A group of Islamic Jihad gunmen have failed to kidnap a Hamas member and opened fire at a group of Hamas military wing who were not far from the scene of the attempted kidnapping, said the sources.

The US military has increased airstrikes in Iraq fivefold this year, according to military statistics.

The United States and its allies launched 1,140 airstrikes in Iraq in the first nine months of this year compared with 229 in all of last year, said statistics reported by the USA Today Monday.

Air strikes are up in Afghanistan, too. The US military and its NATO allies have made 2,764 bombing runs this year, up from 1,770 last year.

Roadside bombs in Baghdad kill four

BAGHDAD, 23 Oct— Roadside bombs killed four people and wounded 21 others in Baghdad on Monday morning, while the police picked up six corpses across the capital, an Interior Ministry source said.

Two roadside bombs detonated coordinately in Baghdad’s southern neighborhood of Zaafaraniyah, killing two people and wounding five others, including policemen, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The first bomb went off in the area, killing two civilians and wounding five others, while the other bomb went off near a police convoy arrived the area to secure the scene, wounding three policemen, the source said.

In separate incident, a roadside bomb went off near the Elwiyah communication centre in central Baghdad, killing two people and wounding 13 others, the source added. — MNA/Xinhua

Hamas sources said that the clashes erupted after Hamas police forces arrested 12 members of the Islamic Jihad.

A group of Islamic Jihad gunmen have failed to kidnap a Hamas member and opened fire at a group of Hamas military wing who were not far from the scene of the attempted kidnapping, said the sources.

At least 12 people were wounded when infighting between Hamas and the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) renewed again in southern Gaza town of Rafah on Sunday evening, breaking a short-lived deal of calmness.

The US airstrikes in Afghanistan this year allegedly killed dozens of civilians, angering the population and drawing criticism from Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Roadside bombs in Baghdad kill four

WASHINGTON, 23 Oct — The US military has increased airstrikes in Iraq fivefold this year, according to military statistics.

The increasing use of air power reflects a steep escalation in combat operations aimed at Al-Qaeda and other militants, US analysts said.

It also stems from improved accuracy and smaller munitions that allow commanders to launch airstrikes against insurgents who travel in small groups and sometimes hide among civilians, they said.

However, the enhanced airstrikes caused more civilian casualties and incurred criticism from the international community.

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Romario named as Vasco’s interim coach

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Oct — Former Brazil striker Romario, who has still not officially retired from playing, was named as interim coach of his club Vasco da Gama on Monday.

Romario, 41, was given the job hours after Celso Roth was fired following the team’s slide down the Brazilian championship table.

"Vasco have only taken five points out of the last 30 so I had to do something," club president Eurico Miranda said in a radio interview. "I spoke to Romario and he accepted the responsibility."

Romario will take charge of Wednesday’s match at home to Mexico’s America in a Copa Sudamericana quarter-final second leg.

It was not immediately clear whether Romario, who this year scored what he claimed to be his 1,000th career goal, would pick himself for the game.

Although many people expected him to retire after scoring the landmark goal in May, Romario has recently begun training again after four months out of action with an ankle injury. — MNA/Reuters

PSV held to goalless draw by 10-man Fenerbahce

EINDHOVEN (Netherlands), 24 Oct — PSV Eindhoven were held to a goalless draw at home by 10-man Fenerbahce in their Champions League Group G match on Tuesday.

Until the dismissal of Deivid, who was shown a straight red card in the 64th minute for kicking an opponent, Fenerbahce had dominated the match but could not fashion a goal.

The draw saw the Turkish side slip to second place in the group a point behind Inter Milan, who moved top on six points after a 2-1 win at CSKA Moscow in Tuesday’s early match.

PSV stay in third place with four points from their three matches above the Russian side who have just a point. PSV also looked shaky in defence but Fenerbahce nevertheless found it hard to translate pressure into clear chances although their manager Zico was happy with a share of the spoils.

"I’m satisfied with a point today," said the Brazilian. "We played well and eliminated their dangerous players. We defended well and also created chances but to win you have to score."

"Our chances in this group are good. We still have two home matches to play and have to make sure we stay in control." — MNA/Reuters

Inter come from behind to win 2-1 in Moscow

MOSCOW, 24 Oct — Inter Milan came from behind with two second-half goals to snatch a 2-1 away win at CSKA Moscow in their Champions League match on Tuesday.

Hernan Crespo equalized in the 52nd minute and fellow Argentine Walter Samuel capitalized on the goalkeeping blunder by CSKA’s Veniamin Mandrykin 10 minutes from time to secure victory for the Italian champions.

Brazilian striker Jo opened the scoring for the Russian champions in the 32nd minute but the home side lost their way in the second half, extending their wireless streak in the Champions League to six games. The win moved Inter top of Group G with six points from three matches, two points ahead of Turkey’s Fenerbahce. CSKA remain rooted to the bottom of the group with just one point from three matches.

The Russians, looking for their first victory in Europe’s premier club competition since they beat Arsenal 1-0 in Moscow a year ago, pushed forward from the start.

They wasted their first good chance after half an hour when Yuri Zhirkov stole the ball from Luis Figo, who was making his 100th Champions League appearance, to set up Dudu, but the Brazilian international just missed from close range.

However, Jo made no mistake two minutes later when he freed himself from Inter fullback Ivan Cordoba and beat goalkeeper Julio Cesar with a rising shot from 15 metres.

At the other end, Mandrykin made a great diving save to deny Zlatan Ibrahimovic with a point-blank header.

Inter were forced to reshuffle their midfield after just 16 minutes when France international Patrick Viera made way for Dejan Stankovic after not fully recovering from a hamstring strain.

The Russians also had to make two changes due to injury in the first half, losing Dudu and Russia international fullback Fedor Smolov.

Alexei Berezutsky.

Inter began to pile the pressure on the home side and drew level early in the second half. Crespo was left unmarked in front of the goal and the former Argentina striker calmly converted his chance to make it 1-1. The game remained level until 10 minutes from time when Mandrykin unexpectedly fumbled a simple-looking header by Samuel to gift the visitors the three points.

Sevilla stay strong at home with win over Steaua

SEVILLE (Spain), 24 Oct — Sevilla maintained their brilliant record at home in Europe with a high-class 2-1 win over Group H rivals Steaua Bucharest in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Frederic Kanoute put the UEFA Cup holders in front just after five minutes when he headed home from close range and fellow striker Luis Fabiano added a second soon after when he drilled a low shot in off defender Iecaney Emeghara.

Sevilla appeared out of it in the first half, but they posed more of a threat in the second and pulled a goal back when midfielder Ovidiu Petre steered into an empty net after a deflected shot fell into his path just after the hour.

The win meant that Sevilla, who have lost just one of their last 37 European home games, cemented their hold on second place in the group with six points from three games, three points behind leaders Arsenal who thrashed visiting Slavia Prague 7-0.

MNA/Reuters

Arsenal’s Nicklas Bendtner (L) scores to make it 7-0 against Slavia Prague as Prague’s Daniel Padil (C) and Marek Suchy (R) look on during their Champions League Group H soccer match at Emirates Stadium in London, on 23 Oct, 2007. — INTERNET

Manchester United’s Wes Brown (L) fights for the ball with Dynamo Kiev’s Artem Milevskiy during their Champions League Group F soccer match in Kiev on 23 Oct, 2007. — INTERNET

Ireland put 7 past Pakistan in World Cup qualifier

BANGKOK, 23 Oct — Mahdi Karim scored four goals to help Asian champions Pakistan to a 7-0 victory over Pakistan in their opening 2010 World Cup qualifier in Lahore on Monday.

Hoping to reach the finals for the first time in 24 years, Iraq took control from the start, with striker Karim’s performance making up for the absence of injured captain Younis Mahmoud.

Despite being at full-strength with six European-based players in their starting line-up, Pakistan were powerless to stop the war-ravaged country from taking an unassailable lead going into Sunday’s second leg. Playmaker Nasrat Akram opened the floodgates on 18 minutes before Karim netted his first six minutes later. He added Iraq’s third four minutes after the break and found the net twice more in the 88th and 90th minute after Jasim Mohammad and Emad Mohammed had found the target in the 71st and 83rd minutes.

The victory was the first for new coach Egil Olsen, who took Norway to the 1994 and 1998 finals and to second place in the FIFA world rankings. — MNA/Reuters

Barcelona’s Lionel Messi (L) and Carles Puyol gesture during their Champions League group E soccer match against Rangers at Ibrox Stadium in Glasgow, Scotland Oct. 23, 2007. — INTERNET

Sevilla’s Gary O’Connor (L) and Alejandro Dominguez fight for the ball during their Champions League Group H soccer match at The Emirates Stadium in London, on 23 Oct, 2007. — INTERNET

Sevilla’s Gary O’Connor and Alejandro Dominguez fight for the ball during their Champions League Group H soccer match at The Emirates Stadium in London, on 23 Oct, 2007. — INTERNET

Inter Milan’s Ibrahimovic scores their second goal against CSKA Moscow during their Champions League Group G soccer match in Moscow on 23 Oct, 2007. — INTERNET
French rail unions threaten national strike

MONTREAL (France), 23 Oct—France’s rail unions threatened on Monday to repeat last week’s national walk-out that crippled public transport if President Nicolas Sarkozy’s Government did not alter its pension reform plans.

The unions said they would meet at the end of this month to assess the government’s response to Thursday’s walk-out, which virtually shut down public transport across the country, and could hold another strike in mid-November.

Trade union resistance to the proposed pension reform is seen as the first test of Sarkozy’s ability to push through the changes that were a central part of his campaign pledges.

“The eight rail workers’ trade unions have decided to meet again on 31 October in order to assess the answers provided by the government,” Didier Le Reste, head of the CGT union’s rail branch, told reporters after a meeting of rail unions. “If the plan... is not revised, the federations have committed themselves to holding a strike in mid-November that could be extended,” he added after the talks in a Paris suburb.

The decision was a show of unity after a split emerged between most rail unions, which have since ended their strike, and two hardline groups that continued their walk-out on Monday.

Metros, buses and trams were back to normal but regional train services were still heavily disrupted in some places.

Official says Afghan family killed in Western raid

PUL-I-ALAM (Afghanistan), 24 Oct—Foreign forces have killed eleven members of an Afghan family in an airstrike near Kabul, the head of a provincial council said on Tuesday.

Civilians casualties in Afghanistan fuel sentiment of foreign forces and the Western-backed government of President Hamid Karzai who has repeatedly beseeched NATO troops to do everything they can to minimise civilian deaths.

“We welcomed the NATO and the international community to Afghanistan to launch a joint campaign against terrorism and the Taliban,” Karzai told Channel 4 News on a visit to London.

“But six years on the continuation of civilian casualties is something the Afghan people cannot understand, and rightly so,” he added.

“It is becoming increasingly a difficult subject for us and is going to cause friction.”

Provincial council leader Haji Janan told Reuters the latest incident occurred on Monday in Jalrez, 30 kilometres (20 miles) west of the capital.

“In the bombardment... 11 people from one family, including women and children were killed,” Janan said.

“The only survivor from the family is a man who is hospitalized and can’t speak,” he said. Eleven neighbours were wounded, he added.

NATO said it had carried out an air raid against militants in auremate area of Wardak Province, to the southwest of Kabul, killing a number of insurgents.

Official says Afghan family killed in Western raid

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 25 October, 2007

WEATHER

Wednesday, 24 October, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan State, isolated in Mon State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Taninthayi Division and weather and has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawkhong (3.34) inches, Myek (0.51) inch and Taunggyi (0.47) inch.

Maximum temperature on 23-10-2007 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 24-10-2007 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 24-10-2007 was 81%. Total sunshine hours on 23-10-2007 was (7.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 24-10-2007 was (Nil) at Mingladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mingladon,(140.75) inches at Kaba-Aye and (142.72) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from northeast at (13:30) hour MST on 23-10-2007.

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 25-10-2007: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, isolated to scatter in Kayin, Kayah, Shan and Rakhine States, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather is partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.


Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-10-2007: 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.

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

☆ Due to violence and unrest
  Peace-loving people have to live in state of alarm
  Learning of students disrupted
  Commodity flow stagnant
  Vendors have hard times
  Passenger transport services delayed

☆ Due to violence and unrest
  Only the notorious neo-colonialists benefited
  Instigators covertly earning dollars
  Expatriates and ax-handles living in luxury
  Followers of colonialists earning handsome dollar rewards

☆ 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