**Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Austrian President**

**NAV PYI TAW, 26 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 Dr Heinz Fischer, Federal President of the Republic of Austria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Austria, which falls on 26 October 2007. —MNA

**Prime Minister Lt-Gen Thein Sein sends felicitations to Austria**

**NAV PYI TAW, 26 Oct—** Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Alfred Gusenbauer, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Austria, which falls on 26 October 2007. —MNA

**Sitha Supporting Dam inaugurated in PyinOoLwin Township**

**NAV PYI TAW, 25 Oct —** A ceremony to inaugurate Sitha Supporting Dam, built by Construction-2 of Irrigation Department in PyinOoLwin Township, was held at the pandal near the dam this morning. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw said that Sitha Supporting Dam was the 204th facility of its kind constructed after 1988 in the entire nation and it was also the 51st Dam in Mandalay. Thanks to completion, the dam will supply one million gallons of water to Yadanabon Myothit daily and contribute much to cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses and edible oil crops in 250 irrigated acres.

**Minister for Relations meets with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**

**NAV PYI TAW, 25 Oct —** Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi who was assigned duties as Minister for Relations to liaise with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with her at Seinle Kantha Guest House in Yangon from 2 pm to 3.15 pm today. —MNA

**Four political objectives**

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

**INSIDE**

As very limited number of the members of the Sangha (or the minority) are carrying out social activities in violation of the Vinaya rules the lay disciples are unhappy about it. They feel so since this may tarnish the image of the Sasana.

PAGES 8 & 9

PO YE CHAN

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

Recite and listen to Abhidhamma on Full Moon Day of Thadingyut

Today is Full Moon Day of Thadingyut or Abhidhamma Day, a day of religious significance for Buddhists.

The Myanmar month of Thadingyut falls in the beginning of the dry season. In the month, the weather is fine and pleasant and it rains once or twice throughout the country.

Five species of lotus flowers are in bloom in lakes. The air is fragrant with the sweet smell of water-lily flowers and jasmine. On Thadingyut Full Moon Day, the lighting festival and Mee-myn-mo lights offering ceremony are held as a gesture of welcoming the Lord Buddha who descended from Tavatimsa Celestial Kingdom.

In the seventh vasa after attaining Buddhahood, the Lord Buddha resided in the celestial kingdom of Tavatimsa with the purpose of repaying the gratitude to the celestial being Santusita, His mother in the previous existence, by means of preaching the Abhidhamma.

The Buddha expounded day and night the Abhidhamma discourse, the beginning of which is Kuwc Bal At∑k.

The Buddha expounded day and night the Abhidhamma discourse, the beginning of which is Kuwc Bal At∑k.

Abhidhamma is of great significance. With it, one can remove worries and anxieties and purify one’s mind. So, it can help one lead a peaceful life. While reciting or listening to Abhidhamma, one can stay away from such kinds of defilement as greed, anger, ignorance. The people are urged to recite and listen to Abhidhamma on the auspicious Thadingyut Full Moon Day, concentrating on the Extreme Attributes of the Lord Buddha to be able to enjoy fruits both in this very life and in next existences.

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**Thadingyut lights festival held at Shwedagon Pagoda**

* YANGON, 25 Oct — The Thadingyut lights festival, organized by Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, was held at the north-west corner of the pagoda, here, this evening.

* Members of the pagoda board of trustees, religious associations and service personnel conveyed oil lamps and multi-coloured paper lanterns round the pagoda.

* The ceremony commenced with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

* They offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks to the pagoda and dispensed Metta. The ceremony concluded with recitation of Buddha Sasanam Crem Tithi three times.

* Furthermore, portraits of Myanmar traditional festivals for 12 months and Buddhist Jatakas were illustrated at Chanthagyi Prayer Hall.

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**Tourist Maps of Myanmar (TMM-19) in circulation**

* YANGON, 25 Oct — Under the directives of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Design Printing Services Co Ltd (DPS) has been publishing over 1,350,000 copies of various tourist guide maps for development of the tourism industry.

* The TMM-19 comprises the maps of Myanmar, Yangon, Mandalay, PyinOolwin, Bagan, MraukU, Taunggyi, Inlay, Kyakhtiyoe, Myeik, Ngapali, locations of Ngwehsauk and Chaungtha. Airlines, transport companies, hotels and restaurants are included in the maps.

* The complementary copies of TMM-19 and other tourism guide maps will be distributed at TTM, PATA and WTF tourism shows. Furthermore, the maps are being sent to tourism services across the world and Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and foreign missions in Yangon through courier service. In addition, the maps are being distributed to tourists at Yangon International Airport.

* Private hotels and tourism services and tour guides may take out the complementary copies of the maps at Myanna Tourism Service (Sule) and Design Printing Services Co Ltd (DPS), at 165-167, the first floor, 35th street, Kyauktada Township, during office hours.

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**Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Austria**


* YANGON, 25 Oct — No 3/2007 Course of Laukkai Township Technical Training School of Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was opened at the school on 22 October.

* First, Brig-Gen Win Maung of Local Battalion made an opening speech on the occasion. Next, Deputy Director-General U Tin Win dealt with training matters. Afterwards, the Deputy Director-General and guests viewed practical the trainees are doing.

* A total of 30 trainees are attending the 24-week course. The food, accommodation and practical-related materials are free of charge. Next, the Deputy Director-General attended the ceremony to present education funds for Youth Development Training School in Kamlon Town.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

60 demonstrators arrested outside US Capitol

WASHINGTON, 23 Oct — About 60 peaceful demonstrators, including several dressed as polar bears, were arrested outside the US Capitol on Monday protesting the Iraq war and global warming, authorities said. “People are being arrested out here because you (Congress) are not doing your job,” antiwar activist Ann Wright shouted into a bullhorn. Demonstrators were arrested on charges of unlawful assembly and blocking entrances to the Capitol, which was ringed by members of the US Capitol Police. Sergeant Kimberly Schneider, a police spokeswoman, said, “We’ve had about 60 arrests.” She said she had received no reports of violence. About half a dozen demonstrators dressed in fluffy white outfits held a banner reading, “Polar bears for solutions to war and global warming.” MNA/Reuters

Airport near Washington evacuated for security scare

WASHINGTON, 24 Oct — The Dulles International Airport near Washington DC was briefly evacuated Monday due to a suspicious package. The upper level of Dulles, including the ticketing area, was evacuated after a suspicious bag was found shortly after 3 pm, the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority told reporters. Airport officials gave the all-clear shortly after 4 pm and passengers are being let into the airport and screening areas. It is not yet known how the incident will affect air traffic. The airport is located some 40 kilometres west of Washington DC, and handles 1,800 to 2,000 flights on a daily basis. — MNA/Xinhua

Somalia frees UN aid boss

MOGADISHU, 24 Oct — The Somali Government on Tuesday released a UN food aid official held for nearly a week after dozens of intelligence officers stormed the world body’s compound in Mogadishu, a witness said. “The coordinator has just come into the office,” an inhabitant who saw Osman, a local chief for the UN World Food Programme, said.

His detention, in an investigation for unspecified crimes, had brought international pressure on the government and led WFP to stop aid distribution in the Horn of Africa nation, many of whose nine million inhabitants are in dire need of food aid.

More than 60 security officers stormed UN offices in the coastal capital last Wednesday to arrest Osman in what the United Nations condemned as a violation of its immunity. — MNA/Reuters

Subway blackouts disrupt rush hour in Tokyo

TOKYO, 24 Oct — Two successive blackouts hit Tokyo’s Toei Oedo subway line Tuesday morning, suspending operations and disrupting passenger traffic related with the line. The 7:55 am blackouts, which happened between Nakai Station in Shinjuku District and Toshimaen Station in Nerima District, also forced about 1,300 passengers to be evacuated, Kyodo News reported.

Subway traffic was restored shortly after the blackouts, which may have been caused by malfunction of a substation that supplies electricity, government officials were quoted as saying.

The specific cause of the incident was still under investigation. — MNA/Xinhua

Radio journalist missing in Baghdad, driver killed

PRAGUE, 23 Oct — A correspondent for the US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) went missing while on her way to an interview in Baghdad on Monday morning, the radio station said. “Police in Baghdad had no immediate comment on the report. The radio station, based in the Czech capital Prague, did not reveal the name or the nationality of the reporter, who works for RFE/RL’s Arabic-language Radio Free Iraq service.

“RFE/RL is focusing all attention now on finding out what has happened to our colleague,” RFE/RL President Jeffrey Gedmin said in the statement.

“We are working with the authorities in Baghdad and are in constant touch with friends and family. We remain hopeful we will get her back safely.”

RFE/RL said Radio Free Iraq had lost two journalists in Iraq this year, Nazar Abd al-Wahid al-Radhi and Khamail Muhisin Khalaf. MNA/Reuters

250 Milan flights cut as Alitalia workers strike

MILAN, 23 Oct — Striking Alitalia workers forced more than 250 flights at Milan’s airports to be cancelled on Monday in a protest at the struggling carrier’s cutback plans. Strikers blocked access to the main international airport, Malpensa, as part of the four-hour stoppage. Milan Airport operator Sea said. The strike was the latest in a string of labour actions to hit Italy’s national airline. At least 197 takeoffs and arrivals were cancelled at Malpensa, and another 57 at the smaller Linato Airport, Sea said. The stoppage coincides with a visit to Italy by officials of the International Exhibitions Bureau. They are evaluating Milan’s candidacy to host an international expo in 2015.

Alitalia said in August it would cut its presence in Milan, the hub of Italy’s industrial north, as part of a survival plan as it looks for a buyer.

MNA/Reuters

65 flights cancelled due to Portuguese pilot strike

LISBON, 24 Oct — A total of 65 domestic and international flights by Portugal’s airline TAP Air were cancelled Tuesday due to a strike by the company’s pilots who were protesting the government’s plan to delay their retirement until the age of 65 from 60.

In a statement issued after the end of the first day strike, the airline said that among the cancellations, 51 were in Lisbon Airport, 10 were in Porto. Many flights were delayed.

Tuesday’s strike, called by the Civil Aviation Pilots’ Union, began at 4 am (0300 GMT) and ended at 5 pm (1600 GMT). Thousands of passengers were stranded at the Lisbon Airport, where they queued up for changes to flights of other airlines.

The pilots are scheduled to strike again on Thursday and Saturday this week, and on 5, 7 and 9 November. MNA/Xinhua

Firefighters spray fire retardant foam on the smoking remains of a house that was destroyed during a wind-driven wildfire in Malibu, California, on 22 Oct, 2007. — INTERNET
US lawmaker accuses Blackwater of tax evasion

WASHINGTON, 23 Oct — The chairman of a congressional committee said on Monday that documents obtained by his panel suggest that private security contractor Blackwater USA “engaged in significant tax evasion”.

But the company — under scrutiny already because of deadly shootings in Iraq involving some of its personnel — told Reuters the lawmaker’s assertion was incorrect. Representative Henry Waxman, chairman of the US House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform Committee, accused Blackwater of “failing to withhold and pay millions of dollars in Social Security, Medicare, unemployment and related taxes”.

The California Democrat said the firm “sought to conceal its conduct from Congress and law enforcement officials.”

Blackwater spokesman Anne Tyrrell said in an e-mail that Waxman argues Blackwater cannot treat its personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan as “independent contractors” and contends they must be treated as employees for IRS purposes.

“One of the chairman’s contentions is incorrect,” Tyrrell said.

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates last week criticized security contractors in Iraq while Baghdad pressed the United States to pull Blackwater out of the country following the shootings.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was given the findings on Monday of a State Department review into security contractors in Iraq that also looked into a September 16 shooting incident involving Blackwater that killed 17 Iraqis.

Indonesian girl dies of bird flu

JAKARTA, 24 Oct — An Indonesian toddler from Tangerang, west of the capital Jakarta, has died of bird flu, bringing the country’s death toll from the disease to 89, a Health Ministry official said on Tuesday.

The four-year-old girl died on Monday after being admitted to hospital two days earlier, health ministry spokeswoman Lili Sulistyowati said by telephone.

The girl, who had been suffering from fever, died after being transferred to Persahabatan Hospital in Jakarta.

Officials were still investigating the case, but four chickens had previously died in the girl’s neighbourhood, another official at the ministry’s bird flu centre said.

Contact with sick fowl is the most common way for humans to contract the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus.

Blast at fireworks workshops kills 18 in China

BEIJING, 24 Oct — Explosions at two separate fireworks workshops in China have killed at least 18 people and injured 15, local media reported on Tuesday.

An explosion hit an unlicensed fireworks factory early on Sunday morning in remote Xiushan County, in southwestern Chongqing, destroying three nearby houses and leaving one person missing, the Beijing News said. “Casualties may rise as rescuers search through the wreckage,” Xinhua news agency said in a separate report, citing sources.

Three people among the injured, including two children, were “severely wounded”, the agency said.

Rescue work was under way, and the cause was being investigated, Xinhua said.

US State Department security chief resigns

WASHINGTON, 25 Oct — The US State Department’s security chief Richard Griffin resigned on Wednesday amid sharp criticism over his office’s poor supervision of private security firms in Iraq in the wake of the Blackwater shooting incident.

“He submitted his letter of resignation dated today,” the department’s spokeswoman Julie Reside told reporters, noting that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had accepted his resignation.

Griffin, assistant secretary of state for diplomatic security, announced his resignation one day after Rice ordered a series of measures to boost government oversight of the private guards the department uses to protect its diplomats in Iraq.

Blackwater is a major military contractor providing security services to US State Department personnel in Iraq. Its guards protecting a State Department convoy opened fire in a crowded Baghdad square, killing as many as 17 civilians on September 16.

Broccoli sprout extract protects skin from UV rays

CHICAGO, 23 Oct — Most people know eating broccoli is good for you but it also can help skin cells fend off damage from harmful ultraviolet radiation, US researchers said on Monday.

The extract derived from newly sprouted broccoli seeds reduced skin redness and damage by more than one-third compared with untreated skin, they said. The extract already has been shown to help skin cells fight UV damage in mice.

“This is a first demonstration that a human tissue can be protected directly against a known human carcinogen,” said Dr Paul Talalay of Johns Hopkins University, whose study appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. “This is not a sunscreen,” Talalay said in a telephone interview.

Instead, the extract helped fortify skin cells to fight the effects of UV radiation. Unlike sunscreens, which provide a physical barrier against UV rays by absorbing, blocking or scattering the light, the extract helped boost the production of protective enzymes that defend against UV-related damage, Talalay said.

He has been studying sulforaphane — a compound in broccoli sprout extract — for more than 15 years. It has been shown to prevent tumor development in a number of animals treated with cancer-causing agents.

Talalay and colleagues tried it on six people, testing different doses of the extract on several small patches of skin, which was then exposed to a short pulse of UV radiation sufficient to cause varying degrees of sunburn. They compared the redness of the skin in the treated and untreated areas. “That redness is a measure of a series of processes that go on in the skin which are harmful, including DNA damage,” Talalay said.

MNA/Reuters

Technicians adjust a theodolite at the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China’s Sichuan Province. China is planning to launch its first moon orbiter at the center on 24 Oct, 2007. XINHUA

A “water bus” boat crosses the Twenty-fourth Bridge in Yangzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, recently. A 15-kilometre-long “water bus” route opened in Yangzhou on Monday passes some scenic spots including the Ancient Canal and Slender West Lake. — XINHUA

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters
ECONOMIC NEWS

China urges IMF reform to reflect position of members

WASHINGTON, 23 Oct — The International Monetary Fund’s quota and voice reform should reflect the relative position of its members in the world economy, a senior Chinese official stressed here Monday.

That means “the reform should aim at significantly raising the overall quota shares of developing countries, particularly emerging market economies, and strengthening the voice of the low income countries in the Fund,” Li Yong, China’s Vice-Finance Minister, said at the World Bank/IMF annual meeting.

Meanwhile, the voice and participation of the developing and transition countries in the decision-making process of the World Bank should be strengthened, he said.

The increasing contribution of the developing countries to the world economic growth should be duly reflected in the voice and representation in the decision-making of the two international institutions, Li pointed out. The vice minister also said that the two institutions should sharpen their comparative advantages of global nature and guide the economic globalization towards the right direction.— MNA/Xinhua

Air France cabin crew unions call 5-day strike

PARIS, 24 Oct — Unions representing cabin crew at French air carrier Air France have called a five-day strike to press management to review salary and working conditions, trade union sources told Reuters.

“There is a strike notice from 25 October to 29 October included. All unions are taking part in it, which is a first at Air France,” a union source said. The sources said unions were trying to pressure management into renegotiating an agreement on salaries and working conditions that will expire at the end of 2007.

“Talks are about salaries and working time. Air France has so far refused unions’ demands,” the first source said.

People are very motivated because some salaries have been frozen for 10 years, and working conditions have been affected to help the company recover. The company is now doing extremely well and we do not see the benefits of that,” she added.

Disruption at Air France would follow a nationwide strike over pensions which crippled train, metro and bus transport in France last week.

Separately, Air France flights from Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport were delayed on Monday morning because of a strike by staff responsible for loading bags on planes, passengers were told by cabin crews.

MNA/Reuters

Russia pays back US credit ahead of schedule

WASHINGTON, 23 Oct — Resurgent Russia, keen to erase memories of its economic crisis in 1998, has paid a 343-million-US-dollar credit back to the United States ahead of schedule, Deputy Finance Minister Sergei Storchak said on Monday.

Russia took out the agricultural credit in 1998, as its economy was falling apart under the strain of global financial turmoil. The final payment had been due in 2020.

“We were driven by political reasons when we took the decision to pay back ahead of time,” Storchak told reporters in Washington. “As far as financial effectiveness is concerned, the savings are not that big,” he added. “But it was unpleasant to keep in our debt portfolio a credit received at the bottom of the national decline.”

Storchak said Russia was saving only around 47 million US dollars by paying back the credit on 19 October.

MNA/Reuters

Saudi Co to build cement factory in Jordan with $400m

AMMAN, 23 Oct — Jordan and Saudi Arabia on Sunday announced an agreement on the establishment of a cement factory with a total investment of 400 million US dollars in southern Jordan.

The new cement plant, which will provide more than 300 job opportunities, is expected to start operation in the fourth quarter of 2009, with a production capacity estimated at about 5,000 tons per day.

The plant, which is Saudi company Arabian Cement’s first move outside the kingdom, will be located in Karak, about 90 kilometres south of Amman.

Speaking at a Press conference, Maen Nsour, director of Jordan Investment Board, welcomed the investment in Jordan, saying it was a reflection of the confidence of Arab investors in Jordan’s investment environment.

The Jordanian Government is keen to provide a stimulating environment to encourage local and foreign investments, particularly in infrastructure improvement and amendments of legislation and laws, he said.— MNA/Xinhua

Singapore’s CPI increase over 2% in September

SINGAPORE, 24 Oct — Singapore’s consumer price index (CPI) rose by 2.7 per cent in September over the same month of last year, according to figures released by the Singapore Department of Statistics (SDS) on Tuesday. The price index for clothing and footwear rose by 1 per cent on year and that for food grew by 3.7 per cent.

The CPI for health care and education & stationery grew by 5.9 per cent and 1.0 per cent respectively in the ninth month of this year, while the recreation and others price index rose by 4.6 per cent.

Housing cost rose by 0.4 per cent year-on-year while cost for transport and communication rose by 2.2 per cent in the same month. For the first nine months of this year, the CPI rose by 1.4 per cent over the same period of last year. — MNA/Xinhua

A handout photo shows the Dushuhu Tunnel of Suzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province. The construction of Dushuhu Tunnel, measuring 7.37-kilometre-long, has come to the end, which will open soon. — INTERNET

A model operates Suzuki PIXY singel-seat low-speed transportation tool during the press preview of the 40th Tokyo Motor Show in Makuhari Messe, Chiba Prefecture of Japan on 24 Oct, 2007. — Xinhua

Children sit on a horse as they head back to their village from summer pastures near the southern Turkish town of Cizre recently.— INTERNET

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Children sit on a horse as they head back to their village from summer pastures near the southern Turkish town of Cizre recently.— INTERNET
British student jailed on Internet terrorism charges

LONDON, 24 Oct — A British student, described by prosecutors as a “wannabe suicide bomber”, was jailed for eight years on Tuesday for possessing terrorism-related materials including bomb-making instructions.

Mohammed Atif Siddique, 21, from central Scotland, was found guilty last month of possessing and distributing terrorist material via websites.

He had argued he was only conducting research and was merely looking at Islamism terrorism material to find out “why young Muslim men like him act the way they do”.

“You told fellow college students that you intended to become a terrorist and one of your targets would be central Glasgow,” judge Colin Carloway said.

Siddique, born in Scotland to Pakistani immigrants, was detained and questioned by police at Glasgow Airport in April last year when about to fly to Pakistan with his uncle.

His passport, tickets and laptop were confiscated. Eight days later, he was arrested in a dawn raid at his home.

Evidence found in his possession and produced at his four-week trial included footage of Osama bin Laden urging holy war against the West, a video for recruiting suicide bombers, and computer materials on using weapons and explosives.

His case is unrelated to the drama in June when a jeep laden with petrol canisters was rammed into Glasgow Airport.

— MNA/Reuters

US-led coalition force detains 5 militants in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 Oct — The US-led coalition forces have detained five militants in southern Afghanistan’s Kandahar Province, a coalition statement said Tuesday.

The coalition forces intercepted Monday evening the militants who were preparing to leave for an unknown location, it said.

“Late yesterday evening Coalition Forces successfully detained five militants before they were able to reach an as of yet unknown safe-haven,” the statement quoted a coalition spokesman as saying. “We believe these individuals are connected with several militant leaders,” the spokesman said. “However the extent of their involvement will not be known until after they have been fully questioned.”

— MNA/Xinhua

“Discovery” blasts off from Florida

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 24 Oct — The US space shuttle Discovery blasted off atop a cloud of smoke on Tuesday, soaring above Florida marshlands toward a rendezvous in two days with the International Space Station.

Discovery’s 14-day mission kicks off a two-month refurbishment of the 100 billion US dollars outpost that prepares the way for Europe’s first permanent laboratory in orbit. The shuttle soared through a partly cloudy sky at 11:38 am EDT (1538 GMT), defying predictions by meteorologists that clouds and rain could force a delay.

A buildup of ice on the external fuel tank, which could have fallen off and hit the shuttle, was ruled out as a threat by NASA engineers. Cameras showed a lot of debris coming off once the shuttle reached space, where there is little chance of it resulting in serious damage. “I’d like to wish you good luck, Godspeed and have a little fun up there,” launch director Mike Leinbach told the crew shortly before liftoff.

Seconds after the launch Discovery disappeared into the clouds and accelerated toward a top speed of 17,500 miles per hour (28,400 kilometres per hour) once in orbit. During the flight, astronauts will install a new module called Harmony to her new space station that will anchor the long-awaited Columbus laboratory, the European Space Agency’s main contribution to the project.

A woman was at the helm of the shuttle for only the second time in NASA’s history. Retired AirForce Colonel Pamela Melroy heads a five-man, two-woman crew.

“We are ready to take Harmony to her new home,” Melroy said minutes before launch.

The shuttle Atlantis will take the Columbus laboratory into orbit on 6 December, five years behind schedule. Columbus has already cost the European Space Agency 5 billion euros (7.08 billion US dollars) with another 4 billion euros (5.66 billion US dollars) to come.

— MNA/Reuters

China coal mine tunnel collapses, killing 12

BEIJING, 24 Oct — A tunnel in a north China coal mine caved in, killing 12 miners and causing five houses above the shaft to collapse, state media reported on Wednesday.

Workers were repairing and extending the 85-metre tunnel under a residential area in Shaxi Province, on Monday when the cave-in occurred, Xinhua said.

The cause of the accident was being investigated.

There was no mention of any casualties from the collapse of the homes.

— MNA/Reuters

China’s President Hu Jintao (L) and Costa Rica’s President Oscar Arias inspect the honour guard during a welcoming ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 24 Oct, 2007.—INTERNET

A model presents a creation by Bibi Russell during a fashion show at India Men’s Fashion Fair 2007 in Bangalore, India, on 24 Oct, 2007. —INTERNET

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Workers were repairing and extending the 85-metre tunnel under a residential area in Shaxi Province, on Monday when the cave-in occurred, Xinhua said.

The cause of the accident was being investigated.

There was no mention of any casualties from the collapse of the homes.

— MNA/Reuters

China’s President Hu Jintao (L) and Costa Rica’s President Oscar Arias inspect the honour guard during a welcoming ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 24 Oct, 2007.—INTERNET

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— MNA/Reuters
People of Bago and Sagaing Divisions, Shan State march in processions to denounce recent protests

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct—The people of Paungde and Letpadan Townships in Bago Division, Kawlin, Phaungpyin, Kani, Homalin Townships in Sagaing Division and Mongpyin and Tachileik Townships in Shan State who wish to see stability of the State, the rule of law and community peace and tranquillity regarded recent protests instigated by some monks and NLD members as a threat to peace and stability. So, they held mass rallies to denounce such protests on 16, 17, 20, 21 and 22 October after seeking permissions from the authorities. In his speech, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo urged local people to maintain Sitha Dam for its durability and to participate in environmental conservation. U Aung Htay Kyaw of PyinOoLwin Township spoke words of thanks for construction of the dam. The commander unveiled the stone inscription and opened the dam together with the minister. They posed for documentary photos with officials in front of the archway of the dam. Also present on the occasion were local authorities, minister inspected the earth embankment, the water control tower and the conduit. Sitha Supporting Dam is located on Sitha Creek, 3,000 feet upstream of Sitha Dam. The earth embankment is 95 feet high and 915 feet long. The dam can store 1,945 acre feet of water or 500 million gallons. The dam will supply one million gallons of water to Yadanabon Myothit daily and irrigate 130 acres of farmlands in Hsingaunggyi and Kekongyi villages and 250 acres of irrigated area of Sitha Dam.

Local people in Homalin denounce recent protests. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw unvels the stone inscriptions of Sitha Supporting Dam in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo formally open Sitha Supporting Dam in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

Newly-opened Sitha Supporting Dam in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

Sitha Supporting Dam inaugurated …

(from page 1) 7 acres will be irrigated. Mandalay Division needs to extend cultivable lands for ensuring local food sufficiency. Hence, the government is undertaking water supply tasks for cultivation of paddy. Therefore, all are to abide by laws, rules and regulations related to tunnels and dams for durability of the dam. In his speech, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo urged local people to maintain Sitha Dam for its durability and to participate in environmental conservation. U Aung Htay Kyaw of PyinOoLwin Township spoke words of thanks for construction of the dam. The commander unveiled the stone inscription and opened the dam together with the minister. They posed for documentary photos with officials in front of the archway of the dam. Also present on the occasion were local authorities, minister inspected the earth embankment, the water control tower and the conduit. Sitha Supporting Dam is located on Sitha Creek, 3,000 feet upstream of Sitha Dam. The earth embankment is 95 feet high and 915 feet long. The dam can store 1,945 acre feet of water or 500 million gallons. The dam will supply one million gallons of water to Yadanabon Myothit daily and irrigate 130 acres of farmlands in Hsingaunggyi and Kekongyi villages and 250 acres of irrigated area of Sitha Dam.

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The Buddha Sasana has existed in the world for more than 2550 years. Now, it flourishes in 50 countries, especially in Asian countries. According to British Encyclopaedia published in London in 1975, the world Buddhist population was about 250 million. According to the book “Buddha’s Way” (1971) by Abbot of London Buddha Vihara Monastery (Dr) H Sadhu Tissa (Sripitakacariya Pandita), the number of Buddhists around the world stood at 516 million.

The book “What Did the Buddha Teach?” (1972) by Researcher Sri Lankan Sayadaw Dr Wallpo Rahula (Ashin Vepulla Rahula) stated that the number of Buddhists throughout the world was more than 550 million. Today’s world population is over 2000 million more than that at that time. Some Socialist (Communist) nations impose restrictions on political destructionists, but bestow religious freedom upon the people concerned. Now, the world Buddhist population is more than 1000 million. (Today, the world’s population is 6500 million.)

The Buddha not only expounded sermons but also asked His monk disciples to deliver sermons to human beings, celestial beings and higher celestial beings.

In the time of the Buddha, Shin Devadat attempted to set up a separate religious sect and to jeopardize the Sasana. The Chapter “Sangha Bhedaka Vinayas” in the Treatise “Vinaya Pitakat” manifests the Vinaya rules the Buddha prescribed regarding the acts to set up break-away sects among members of the Sangha and to undermine the Buddha’s Teachings (Dhamma). The Buddha prescribed that any monk who tried to create dissunity among members of the Sangha was guilty of breaking Sangha Dhis Vinaya.

In Kosambi Province, members of the Sangha became disunited with reference to cups used in latrines, the monks failed to respect the admonition of the Buddha in that regard. So, that year, the Buddha sojourned in solitude during the Buddhist Lent in Palake forest, rather than in Kosambi Province.

Despite attempts Shin Devadat made to set up a separate religious sect, the Buddha managed to maintain the integration among more than 700,000 members of the Sangha.

In BC 543, the Buddha attained Nirvana. At that time, His great monk disciple Shin Maha Kassapa was away in Pava Province. Hearing the news about the Lord Buddha, he returned to Kusinara. On the way, he heard the words of monk Subhad of Atuma, who told weeping ordinary monks, “Hey, don’t cry. Don’t be worried about that. Now, we are all liberated from the suffering.” Being shocked at such irresponsible words, Shin Maha Kassapa murmured, “Buddha has just attained Nirvana, but there has emerged someone whose irresponsible words can tarnish the image of the Sasana.”

Three months and four days after Buddha’s Parinibbana, an assembly of 500 arahats under the patronage of Shin Maha Kassapa and under the leadership of Shin Upali, Shin Ananda and Shin Anuruddha held the First Buddhist Synod in the cave at the foot of Waibara Mountain in Rajagaha Province. The monks recited the whole body of the Teachings of the Buddha and Vinaya Rules for seven months at the Synod.

One hundred years after the First Buddhist Synod in BC 442, the Second Buddhist Synod was held for eight months by arahat members of the Sangha led by Shin Maha Yassa, Shin Revata and Shin Sabbakami at Palakyaon Monastery in Vesali Province with the sponsorship of King Kala Soka due to the fact that monks from Vijj Province submitted ten points designed to make amendments to the Teachings of the Buddha.

In 235 Buddhist Era, 1000 members of the Sangha led by Shin Moggali Putta Tissa led the Third Buddhist Synod for nine months at Asokayon Monastery in Patialaputta Province with the sponsorship of King Asoka (Siri Dhamma Soka). The Third Buddhist Synod passed a resolution for members of the Sangha to take sabbath. The bogus monks of some Ganas were forced to leave the religious order. Shin Moggali Putta Tissa prescribed Katha Treatise, one of the Seven Abhidhamma Treatises, to standardize the different principles. As a result, the Sasana came to flourish and the number of members of the Sangha reached about six million.

In 485 Buddhist Era, the Fourth Buddhist Synod was held under the patronage of Shin Yasumitra with the sponsorship of King Kanakabala (Kanita) in Kasamaya (Kashmia region, north of India). Gandhara Province. Treatises written by Shin Asvaghosa and other eminent monks were submitted to the Synod. The monks from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) did not accept the submission and held the Fourth Buddhist Synod simultaneously in Ceylon. The Gana led by Shin Asvaghosa of northern India was named Mahayana Gana while the Gana from southern Ceylon, Hinayana Gana. The people of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) said that they were Theravada Buddhists (members of Theravada Gana).

The Fifth Buddhist Synod was held for five months and three days by 2400 monks at Mandalay Yadanaon Royal Palace in 1856 with the sponsorship of King Mindon. To mark the 2500th anniversary of the Sasana, the Sixth Buddhist Synod was held under the patronage of Nyaungam Sayadaw with the sponsorship of the government of Myanmar at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon from 1954 to 1956. Eminent monks from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Laos and Cambodia also took part in the Synod.

In the times of Pyu state cities such as Tagaung, Srikestra, Beikthano and Hanlin, Buddhism spread to Myanmar through various routes. In Bagan Period, the number of religious edifices, pagodas, stupas, temples, monasteries and Buddha images was on sharp increase. King Anawrahta of Bagan Period, like King Asoka of India, took measures to purify and promote the Sasana. He drove members of deviant sects of Buddhism out of the Sasana. In olden days, the breaking away of Sangha sects was based on the Teachings of the Buddha or on Vinaya Rules. Some kings such as Asoka and Anawrahta got rid of such kinds of monks with misconduct. In Sri Lanka also, the Buddhist monks who had deviated from Buddhism were driven out of Abhaya Giri Monastery.

After Buddha’s Parinibbana, His discourses were conveyed to the next generations by word of mouth. As the discourses were not properly documented or recorded due to lack of facilities such as cameras, video cameras, tape recorders and movie cameras, (See page 9)
Certain internal politicians and various party groups have employed all means to organize the monks. They have instigated the monks to make them take interest in politics and participate in the political activities under their control. The monks begin to put aside their normal parayatti and patipatti duties. This way the monks are persuaded to go out of the monasteries and are exploited.

Some political groups have planted their cadres among the monks in advance. Those decays posing as fellow monks persuade others to realize the desired objectives. Majority of the monks know the trick and they do not fall victim but some have been unfortunate. Even the ignorant few began to realize the trick and tried to free themselves from the political trap.

Similar incidents were common in the history of the nation.

May Buddha Sasana be flourishing...

(from page 8)

disputes often arose over the authenticity or originality of the Teachings. Among the members of the Sangha there occurred cracks followed by forming of different sects. As such, members of the Sangha had to prove the authenticity or originality of the Pitaka treatises by convening the Buddhist Synods.

Violation of Vinaya rules and deviation from the Buddha’s Teachings such as the Four Noble Truths and Anattalakkhana were committed by Alajis and Addhamma vadis only.

Members of the Sangha, who have renounced the worldly affairs, practising ganthadhura and vipassanadhura are more than 500,000 in Myanmar and more than one million in the entire world. On the other hand as very limited number of the members of the Sangha (or the minority) are carrying out social activities in violation of the Vinaya rules the lay disciples are unhappy about it. They feel so since this may tarnish the image of the Sasana. After regaining independence in Myanmar, there were four or five different cliques among the Communists, as many as ten party factions among the Socialists, and various rightists and leftists trying for gaining power for the parties they supported. Clashes finally broke out with the use of arms as the rivalry grew unchecked. This led to the internal strife causing the losses of lives and property of the people.

Party factions were determined to seize the power. Under the democracy system, those who win the public support through votes or the majority support would be elected to take hold of the power. However, many were not sure of themselves to win public support. Under the circumstances, they attempted to create public riots to seize power through a short cut. A study of events past and present of the nation reflects this.

In seeking power they have discarded the trick and tried to free themselves from the political trap. This way the monks are persuaded to go out of the monasteries and are exploited.

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Some monks were involved in the incidents that took place in August and September 2007.

Those days, many noticed that when the monks

members of the Sangha (especially the young monks) to serve their purpose. This is a subversive act against the nation and the Sasana (religion).

Certain internal politicians and various party groups have employed all means to organize the monks. They have instigated the monks to make them take interest in politics and participate in the political activities under their control. The monks begin to put aside their normal parayatti and patipatti duties. This way the monks are persuaded to go out of the monasteries and are exploited.

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Those days, many noticed that when the monks

in procession went to the Shwedagon Pagoda, several men with bald heads bought saffron robes from the shops at the foot of the pagoda close to the eastern stairway and mingled with the monks wearing robes themselves. Well, it was not the honest procession of the genuine monks. It was an act of stupidity committed in accordance with the dictates from abroad designed to create an incident similar to the one in 1988.

One day protestor monks of about 300 were walking in procession from north to south on Botahtaung Pagoda Road. On reaching the point between Merchant Street and Strand Road a monk with fair complexion and plump body was seen distributing K 1000 notes to each of the monks. All the onlookers on the pavement saw this and were saying who had given such a large amount of cash.

During those days, 18 monasteries were searched. At some monasteries things that had nothing to do with the monks were seized.

Destructive elements at home and abroad were found to have exploited monks to seize power. Meanwhile, the eminent Sayadaws have issued directives asking members of the Sangha including novices to practise Ganthadhura and Vipassanadhura only; instructions for the perpetuation of all levels of Sangha organization; directives prohibiting members of the Sangha including novices from engaging in party politics; directives warning the members of the Sangha that action would be taken against acts sacrilegious to the Sasana; and directives informing members of the Sangha that due action would be taken if they committed violent acts in violation of Vinaya rules or the existing laws individually or in groups.

As the State has profound reverence for the members of the Sangha, the latter will have to uphold the prestige of Myanmar that is respected by the international community for its being a leading Buddhist nation.

May Buddha Sasana be flourishing and perpetual.

Translation: MS + AK
Kyemon: 25-10-2007

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In the times of Pyu state cities such as Tagaung, Srikestra, Beikthano and Hanlin, Buddhism spread to Myanmar through various routes. In Bagan Period, the number of religious edifices, pagodas, stupas, temples, monasteries and Buddha images was on sharp increase. King Anawrahta of Bagan Period, like King Asoka of India, took measures to purify and promote the Sasana. He drove members of deviant sects of Buddhism out of the Sasana.

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8th Day programmes of 15th Performing Arts Competitions organized

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Oct — The eighth day programmes of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the designated places in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin yesterday.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Thein Zaw enjoys the basic education level (15-20 age group) women's orchestra contest. — MNA

U Tin Shein from Rakhine State participates in the amateur level (second class) men’s violin contest. — MNA

Ma Lwin Lwin Cho Tun from Ayeyawady Division participates in the amateur level (second class) women’s violin contest. — MNA

Daw Mya Win Kyi from Kachin State participates in the amateur level (second class) song composing contest. — MNA

Ma Khin Mar Ni from Ayeyawady Division participates in the amateur level (second class) women’s marionette contest. — MNA

In the singing contest, supervised by Chairperson of the panel of judges Assistant Director (Music) (Retd) Daw Tin Tin Mya and party, at University of Agriculture, seven students participated in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ classical song contest.

Leader of the panel of judges marionette expert U Ye Dwe and party supervised the marionette contests at University of Veterinary Science. Seven contestants took part in the amateur level (second class) men’s and women’s marionette contest.

At Agricultural Research Department, 15 persons competed in the amateur level (second class) women’s classical song contest supervised by Chairman of the panel of judges Chairman of Myanmar Music Asiayon U Maung Maung Latt and party.

At Forest Research Division, Leader of the panel of judges violinist U Tin Ngwe and party supervised the violin contest. The amateur level (second class) men’s violin contest was held with the participation of nine contestants. In addition, four women competed in the amateur level (second class) violin contest, five students in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ and girls’ guitar contests and three boys and two girls in the basic education level (5-10 age group) guitar contests.

Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Satin and party supervised the orchestra contests at University of Agriculture. Three troupes took part in the amateur level (first class) women’s orchestra contest, three troupes in the basic education level (15-20 age group) girls’ contest and four troupes in the higher education level orchestra contest. — MNA

The guitar contest took place at the University of Agriculture. Chairman of the panel of judges U Yee Nwe and party supervised the contests. Six men and two women from states and divisions participated in the amateur level (first class) guitar contests, five boys and two girls in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ and girls’ guitar contests and three boys and two girls in the basic education level (5-10 age group) guitar contests.

Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenues Col Hla Thein Swe, Secretary of the Work Committee for Organizing the Competitions Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of the Fine Arts Department and members, officials of the subcommittees, departmental personnel, national race cultural troupes, family members of regiments and units under Nay Pyi Taw Command, students from townships in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District and people enjoyed the performance of contestants in the competitions.
Mass rallies to support and welcome National Convention and Constitution held in Yangon North District

YANGON, 25 Oct — Mass rallies to support and welcome the National Convention and the Constitution was held in Mingaladon, Hmawby, Hlegu and Taikkyi Townships in Yangon North District yesterday.

Some 10,000 people marched in procession to Htaungkyan No 9 BEMS Sports Ground yesterday. Director-General of Prisons Department U Ba Myint (Retd) presided over the mass rally together with members of panel of chairmen U Ohn Thaung of War Veterans Organization, Daw Hla Myaing of Township Women’s Affairs Organization, Daw Mya Thein of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, U Soe Min of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association and townselders U Tun Myint and U Soe Myint.

Next, U Thein Lwin of Township USDA tabled a motion calling for the support of the National Convention and the Constitution. Afterwards, Daw Kyi Kyi Hlaing presided over the mass rally together with the members of panels of chairmen Captain Aye Myint (Retd) of WAO, Daw Hla Hlay of Township WAO, Daw Than Than of Township MCWA, U Win Myaing of Township USDA and townselders U Hlaing Win and U Htin Kyaw.

Next, U Ni Ni Aung of Township USDA tabled a motion calling for the support of the National Convention and the Constitution. Afterwards, Daw Hlaing Zarchi Oo of Township MCWA, Daw Khine Lwin Aye of Township MCWA, Major Aung Ngwe Nyunt (Retd) of Township WVO, townselders U Hlaing Than and U Hsan Myint seconded the motion and the mass rally ended with shouting the slogans after seeking the approval of those present.

Similarly, over 22,500 people marched in procession to Hmawby Township NanU Sports Ground yesterday. Principal Dr Sai Kyaw Naing Oo of Government Technological College presided over the mass rally together with members of panels of chairmen Major Aye Min Maung (Retd) of War Veterans Organization, Daw Thiri of Township Women’s Affairs Organization, Daw Thein Aye of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, U Hla Oo of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association and townselders U Saw Maung Toat and U Kyaw Min.

Next, U Tin Oo of Township USDA tabled a motion calling for the support of the National Convention and the Constitution. Afterwards, Daw Ei Than Dar Myo of Township WAO, Daw Than Than Aye of Township MCWA, Captain Kyi Win (Retd) of Township WAO and townselders U Kyaw Htwe and U Htay Aung seconded the motion and the mass rally ended with shouting the slogans after seeking the approval of those present.

Over 11,500 people walked in procession to Hlegu Township Sports Ground yesterday. Schoolhead U Win Hlaing presided over the mass rally together with members of panels of chairmen Captain Aye Myint (Retd) of WAO, Daw Hla Htay of Township WAO, Daw Than Than of Township MCWA, U Win Myaing of Township USDA and townselders U Hlaing Win and U Htin Kyaw.

Next, U Ni Ni Aung of Township USDA tabled a motion calling for the support of the National Convention and the Constitution. Afterwards, Daw Hlaing Zarchi Oo of Township WAO, Daw Khine Lwin Aye of Township MCWA, Major Aung Ngwe Nyunt (Retd) of Township WVO, townselders U Hlaing Than and U Hsan Myint seconded the motion and the mass rally ended with shouting the slogans after seeking the approval of those present.

Similarly, over 22,500 people walked in procession to Taikkyi Township Sports Ground yesterday. Li-Col Soe Myint (Retd) of WVO presided over the mass rally together with members of panel of chairmen Captain Kyaw Hlaing (Retd) of WVO, Dr Aye Thet Hlaing of Township WAO, Daw Khin Htar Nwe of Township MCWA and U Thein Win of Township USDA and townselders U Tun Yi and Dr Hoat Sein.

Next, U Khin Maung Myint of Township USDA tabled a motion calling for the support of the National Convention and the Constitution. Afterwards, Daw Thein Thein Phyu of Township WAO, Daw Myint Myint Yi of Township MCWA, Captain Aung Myint (Retd) of Township WVO, townselders U Than Myint and U Tin Maung Than seconded the motion and the mass rally ended with shouting the slogans after seeking the approval of those present.

Local people marching to the mass rally to support the National Convention and the constitution in Mingaladon Township. — MNA
Sri Lanka targets Indian tourists with Agni-1 ballistic missile parade in New Delhi

A truck carrying the Agni-1 ballistic missile is seen during India's Republic Day Parade in New Delhi on 24 Oct, 2007, test fired its nuclear-capable Agni-1 ballistic missile for the second time in less than a month and said the latest experiment was a "major success."

INTERNET

HONG KONG, 25 Oct — Poor and often illiterate populations may be saddled with more health problems simply because they are not aware of public health services that are available, a study in India suggests.

Underlining the need to improve the delivery of health resources, researchers at the World Bank and United States carried out a study to aggressively inform villagers in northern Uttar Pradesh State about services that were available to them.

After a year, they found that these villages, using markedly more services, such as vaccinations and prenatal examinations, than villages not involved in the study.

"The finding ... could be an overlooked, relatively easy way to boost health and well-being in developing countries around the world," the researchers wrote in the latest issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The researchers randomly selected 105 village clusters in Uttar Pradesh.

Over a period of a year, four to six public meetings were held in each cluster to give out information on entitled health and educational services.

WHO says safe syringes could avert 1.3 mln deaths a year

GENEVA, 24 Oct — Safer syringes could avert 1.3 million deaths a year, especially in poorer countries where 40 per cent of all injections involve unsterilized reusable needles, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the UN agency linked 33 per cent of new hepatitis B infections and 2 million new cases of hepatitis C each year to unsafe needles each year.

Many countries cannot afford to use syringes with safety features, which cost about 15 US cents each compared to 3 cents for less sophisticated needles.

Howard Zucker, the WHO's assistant director-general for health technology and pharmaceuticals, said public health experts and donor governments would seek to encourage more procurement of safer syringes by poorer countries during a three-day conference in Geneva that opened on Tuesday.
Sri Lanka records higher trade deficit in August


The statement attributed the higher trade deficit to the declined export earnings, saying export earnings for August declined by 3.3 per cent compared with July 2007.

“This indicates a decline of 9 per cent on a point to point basis over August 2006,” the statement added.

Sri Lankan economy is affected by the ongoing armed conflict between government troops and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the north and east. More than 5,000 people have been killed in the new cycle of violence since December 2005.

The Norwegian backed process of direct negotiations remains stalled since April 2003 despite pleas by the international community to resume the process.

Traffic queues on a highway in Germany, on 18 Oct, 2007. California will delay filing a lawsuit on car emissions against the Environmental Protection Agency until next week, a state official said on 23 Oct, 2007. — INTERNET

Seven oilfield hostages freed in Nigeria

ABUJA, 24 Oct — All seven hostages seized by gunmen from an offshore Nigerian oilfield were released on Monday after two days in captivity, a state government spokesman said. “All seven have been freed. They are in a government house,” said Ebimbo Amungo, a spokesman for Bayelsa state government, where the kidnapping had taken place.

The four Nigerians, a Briton, a Russian and a Croat were all in good health. The attack on Shell’s EA field was the first big raid on an oil facility since President Umaru Yar’Adua took office in May and the government worked fast to ensure it did not derail a nascent peace initiative in Africa’s top oil producing region. The attack had no immediate impact on oil output because the field was halted after an earlier militant attack in February 2006. It had been expected to resume production of 115,000 barrels per day (bpd) by the middle of next year.

A spokesman for a prominent militant group, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), claimed responsibility for the abduction.

Kenya’s relief worker named UN Person of Year

NAIROBI, 24 Oct — The United Nations has awarded the 2007 UN in Kenya Person of the Year to Abbas Gullet, Secretary-General of Kenya Red Cross Society.

In a statement issued on Tuesday ahead of the UN Day which falls on Wednesday, UN Resident Coordinator Elizabeth Lwanga said Gullet was recognized for his key contributions in making the relief organization the best one.

“Today the United Nations family in Kenya recognizes Abbas Gullet for his important contributions in making the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCs) the first place the Government of Kenya and locally-based humanitarian organizations look to for leadership in times of national emergencies,” said Lwanga.

Lwanga added that “it is also our judgment that Gullet’s many years of professional and personal sacrifice exhibits a character of extraordinary accomplishment, integrity and courage — and one determined to relieve human suffering and misery in his country.”

She said Gullet’s timely interventions and leadership has made the KRCs the leading national humanitarian organization in the country, recognized across the world as one of the best performing National Red Cross Societies, and an example of what local relief groups can achieve.

Under his leadership, the KRCs has experienced phenomenal growth.

With regional warehouses around the country, offices linked by radio, telephone and Internet, the KRCs has the capacity to handle 120,000 people in situations requiring humanitarian intervention.

UAE satellite telecom firm postpones launch of third satellite

ABU DHABI, 24 Oct — Thuraya, a satellite telecom firm in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has decided to postpone the launch of its third satellite to mid-November, local newspaper Gulf News reported on Tuesday.

This is the second postponement of the launch of the Thuraya-3 satellite, which was first delayed by six months to 28 October due to problems with the launch service, the report said.

Thuraya-3 satellite is part of the company’s plans to expand coverage to countries in the Asia Pacific Region, including China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia. It will be launched from an ocean-based platform along the equator by Sea Launch, a joint venture of American, Russian, Norwegian and Ukrainian firms. “The launch schedule was revised several times based on the availability of launch services from Sea Launch,” a spokesman of Thuraya said.

MNA/Xinhua
Arsenal demolish Slavia in goal blitz

LONDON, 24 Oct — Arsenal demolished Slavia Prague 7-0 in Champions League Group H on Wednesday with one of the most brilliant displays of attacking football since the Champions League began 15 years ago.

The English league leaders were breathtaking to watch at times, especially in a 13-minute spell just after halftime when they scored three times to double their lead from 3-0 to 6-0 with less than an hour played.

Two goals from Cesc Fabregas, two from Theo Walcott, one from Alexandr Hleb, an own goal and a late tap in from substitute Nicklas Bendtner secured Arsenal their 12th successive win in all competitions and their third successive win in the group.

“We wanted three points and to play well but you can’t predict that,” said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. “Every thing went for us.”

It was Arsenal’s biggest win in the Champions League and equals their biggest ever European win, a 7-0 win over Standard Liege in the old European Cup Winners’ Cup in 1993. It was the perfect birthday present for manager Arsene Wenger who was 58 on Monday.

They crushed Slavia with such style, pace, panache and lethal finishing it is hard to see them failing to advance from the group which they lead with nine points.

Three of their goals, including the pick of the night from Hleb, and a stunning sweeping move that saw Fabregas net his second of the game, came at the start of the second half.

Arsenal either scored or threatened to do so with almost every attack and on the rare occasions Slavia threatened goalkeeper Manuel Almunia was never seriously troubled.

Arsenal took a firm grip on the game after only five minutes when Fabregas scored with a brilliantly executed curling right-footed shot from 12 metres out for his eighth goal of the season and his fourth in this competition including the qualifying round.

Barcelona frustrated by Rangers in goalless draw

GLASGOW, 24 Oct — Rangers were indebted to goalkeeper Allan McGregor for keeping Barcelona at bay in a goalless draw at Ibrox in their Champions League Group E encounter on Tuesday.

The Spanish side dominated for most of the match but could not beat McGregor. A draw left both sides on seven points from three games.

Argentine Lionel Messi had an angled shot cleared off the line on 14 minutes by Rangers’ Spanish defender Carlos Cuellar.

Brazilian forward Ronaldinho struck the bar with a fierce 25-metre freekick after 23 minutes although McGregor appeared to manage a touch on the ball. McGregor came to his side’s rescue again just before halftime with a fine near post save as he flipped a diving header by Carles Puyol over the top following a magnificent diagonal ball from the left by Ro-

United thump Kiev to maintain perfect start

KIEV, 24 Oct — Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Manchester United romped to a 4-2 away win at Dynamo Kiev on Tuesday to make it three wins from three in Champions League Group F.

United had returned from all three previous away games against teams from the former Soviet Union with a goalless draw, but the Premier League champions showed their attacking prowess.

“Our attacking play was excellent. I can’t ask for better than that,” United manager Alex Ferguson told ITV. “We could have scored a lot of goals, we had to defend some moments in the second half when they were a bigger threat but all in all very pleased with that result.”

United won their first three games in the tournament last season before successive defeats meant they only secured their passage to the knockout stage in the final group game.

“I think this team is more mature now,” added Ferguson, whose team can qualify if they beat Dynamo at Old Trafford next month.

England defender Rio Ferdinand headed home a Ryan Giggs freekick on 10 minutes and an unmarked Wayne Rooney doubled the lead with a simple tap-in from a Wes Brown cross eight minutes later after a strong run from Ronaldo. — MNA/Reuters

Real Madrid’s Michel Salgado (L) fights for the ball with Olympiakos’ Predrag Djordjevic during their Champions League Group A soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 24 Oct, 2007. — INFOPHOTO

Olympique Marselle’s Benoit Cheyrou (L) challenges Porto’s Lucho Gonzalez during their Champions League Group A soccer match at the Velodrome stadium in Marselle on 24 Oct, 2007. — INFOPHOTO

Besiktas’s Ali Tandogan (L) and Liverpool’s Steven Gerrard fight for the ball during their Champions League Group A soccer match at Inonu Stadium in Istanbul on 24 Oct, 2007. — INFOPHOTO

French-Dutch in joint-memorandum over EU sports policy

STRASBOURG (France), 24 Oct — France and the Netherlands will put forward proposals to regulate soccer agents and over the numbers of locally based players in teams involved in European club competition, a French minister said on Tuesday.

The EU is currently reviewing its sports policy which will be discussed by ministers in Lisbon on Thursday.

“There will be a Franco-Dutch memorandum on sport,” French European Affairs Minister Jean-Pierre Jouyet told reporters.

“The memorandum will recognize the special character of sport and ensure there is a collective distribution of broadcasting rights reserved for financing all sport,” Jouyet said. EU sports ministers are due to discuss the implications of the bloc’s new reform treaty — agreed by EU leaders last Friday — for sport.

Sports bodies such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and soccer’s governing body FIFA claim a new clause in the treaty gives them more autonomy in running their affairs and allows them to be exempt from interference by Brussels. — MNA/Reuters

AC Milan’s Gennaro Gattuso (R) challenges Brandao of Shakhtar Donetsk during their Champions League Group D soccer match at San Siro stadium in Milan on 24 Oct, 2007. — INFOPHOTO

AC Milan’s Daniele Bonera (L) challenges Ukraine’s Andriy Shevchenko during their Champions League Group D soccer match at San Siro stadium in Milan on 24 Oct, 2007. — INFOPHOTO

Vucinic fires Roma to victory over Sporting

ROME, 24 Oct — AS Roma substitute Mirko Vucinic scored a splendid second-half goal to earn a 2-1 win over Group F rivals Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League on Tuesday.

The Montenegrro forward, on for injured captain Francesco Totti, powered past Sporting’s Marat Izmailov and stepped inside Tonel before firing into the far corner in the 70th minute.

Roma, who inflicted a penalty just after the break, had taken the lead in the 15th minute thanks to Brazilian defender Juan, but they surrendered it almost immediately to a Liedson goal.

The Italian side are now second in the group with six points, three behind leaders Manchester United who won 4-2 at Dynamo Kiev, while Sporting are third with three points.

“Roma were not great tonight, they were really great,” their coach Luciano Spalletti told a news conference.

“We always knew it was going to be a difficult match because of the quality of the opponents and because of the difficult period we have been going through recently. “So I compliment my team because they were ordered, they showed character and they had the patience to wait for the right moment (to attack)”,

Roma, who had conceded eight goals in their last two Serie A games at home, almost scored in the 13th minute with a strike by French centre back Philippe Mexes that skimmed the bar. — MNA/Reuters

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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Sports bodies such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and soccer’s governing body FIFA claim a new clause in the treaty gives them more autonomy in running their affairs and allows them to be exempt from interference by Brussels. — MNA/Reuters
Croatia rejects IMF assessment of financial crisis

BELGRADE, 25 Oct — Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader dismissed on Tuesday the International Monetary Fund’s assessment that Croatia was risking a financial crisis.

Sanader said the government was servicing the central government debt and that it would reduce the budgetary deficit to zero by 2010.

“Furthermore, we have to ask what the monetary policy is doing,” he said, adding that his party supported the central bank’s firm currency policy and was against a floating currency and depreciation of the kuna, Croatia’s currency.

According to a working document which the IMF released this month, southeast Europe including Croatia was risking a financial crisis over rapid credit growth, high external deficits and dependence on foreign currency loans.

“Traditional vulnerability indicators for southeast Europe are at levels that historically have been associated with risks for growth reversals,” said the authors of the IMF report which does not represent the IMF’s official position, recalling that external imbalances were now larger than those seen in East Asia before the 1998 crisis.

Croatia’s external debt is around 30.7 billion US dollars and has exceeded 85 per cent of GDP, while the external deficit is over 8 per cent of GDP.

Asleep in Jesus

Dr Saw Maung Maung Shwe (a) Dr Bryan Shwe (Toungoo)
Divisional Medical officer (Retd:)
Myanmar Railways
Age (70) years


The Bereaved Family
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

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

☆ Due to violence and unrest
  Only ordinary people have to suffer
  Daily wage earners become jobless
  Poor business for shopkeepers and vendors
  Taxi drivers and trishaw men have hard times
  Stores and restaurants have to be kept closed
☆ Due to violence and unrest
  Only the notorious neo-colonialists benefited
  Colonialist-funded media and expatriates earning dollar rewards
  Only saboteurs reap the benefits

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