Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Boost food production to wipe out global hunger

Food security, wholesome food, and harmonious practice of own traditions are fundamental requirements for continued existence of world people irrespective of gender, age, wealth and region.

In spite of various endeavours to boost production of agricultural produce for food security, many people around the world are still suffering from hunger and poverty. Now, member countries are launching campaigns on a wider scale under the leadership of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization for eradication of poverty and hunger.

As for Myanmar, agriculture and livestock breeding and forestry are the major sectors for economic growth. It is now working hard in various sectors for food security of its growing population. In this regard, it is encouraging extensive reclamation of virgin and fallow lands, boosting per acre yields of crops, supply of irrigation water and extensive use of farm machinery.

Farmers get sufficient irrigation water thanks to effective encouragement of the government, so they are now in a position to grow paddy all year round. Furthermore, they are growing beans and pulses, edible oil crops, corn, long staple cotton and sugarcane extensively. At the same time, they are striving for boosting production of meat, fish and forest products, thus making significant contributions to ensuring food surplus and environmental conservation.

Everybody has the right to consume food. Therefore, all FAO members have to work together for boosting production of food in order to ward off global hunger.

Information Minister receives journalists from nine ASEAN countries

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives journalists of ASEAN nations.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan this afternoon received 17 journalists from nine ASEAN countries who were currently on tour of Myanmar under the ASEAN Journalist Visit Programme Phase-IV.

Together with the minister at the call were Managing Director U Aung Nyein of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise, deputy directors-general, general managers and officials of departments and enterprises under the ministry.

At the call, the minister explained matters relating to current situation of Myanmar and promoting of the role of media and replied to the queries raised by the journalists. In addition, the journalists called on Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min at the ministry at 10.30 am, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe at noon and Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw at 4 pm. — MNA

Foreign Minister felicitates Czech counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Oct — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Karel Schwarzenberg, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Czech Republic which falls on 28 October 2007. — MNA

Delegation of Myanmar Rice Millers’ Association seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for China. — UMFCCI

German firm to build biggest gas factory in Vietnam

HANOI, 27 Oct — Messer Group from Germany will invest 30 million US dollars in building a largest industrial gas plant in Vietnam, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Friday.

Under a contract signed here Thursday between Messer and Vietnamese Hoa Phat Group, the German company will construct the separation and liquefaction facility with capacity of 16,500 cubic metres of oxygen per hour to produce and liquefy oxygen, nitrogen, and argon in northern Hai Duong Province. — MNA/Xinhua

New York, 26 Oct — Afghan President Hamid Karzai wants the US military to limit airstrikes against insurgents because they are killing too many civilians, the Afghan leader says in a US television interview.

Civilian casualties in Afghanistan fuel resentment of foreign forces and Karzai’s Western-backed government. He has repeatedly asked US and NATO troops to do everything they can to minimize civilian deaths.

“The Afghan people understand that mistakes are made. But five years on, six years on, definitely, very clearly, they cannot comprehend as to why there is still a need for air power,” Karzai told CBS programme “60 Minutes”, in an interview to be broadcast on Sunday, according to a partial text released by the network.

Asked if he wanted less use of air power, Karzai said, “Absolutely. Oh, yes, in clear words and I want to repeat that, [there are] alternatives to the use of Air Force and I will speak for it again through your media.”

More than 370 civilians have been killed this year in NATO operations against militants, according to estimates by aid workers and Afghan officials.

Karzai, speaking in an interview to be broadcast on Sunday, said that civilians had been killed “in clear words and I want to repeat that, [there are] alternatives to the use of Air Force and I will speak for it again through your media.”

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San Francisco, 26 Oct — Insured losses from Southern California wildfires have exceeded one billion US dollars and could rival losses from some of the costliest fires in California’s history, a company that estimates catastrophic losses said on Wednesday.

“It all depends on the weather,” said Tom Larsen, a senior vice president with EQECA, a disaster modelling company. “If the wind keeps blowing, the dollars keep tallying.” Wildfires burned across Southern California for a fourth day on Wednesday.

More than 500,000 people have been evacuated, most in the San Diego area, and more than 1,436 homes have been destroyed. Another 25,000 structures were threatened state-wide.

Berlin, 26 Oct — German train drivers locked in a long-running pay dispute with rail operator Deutsche Bahn began a 30-hour strike on Thursday, escalating a period of serious disruption to rail services across the country.

A series of one-day stoppages have already delayed millions of commuters and other travellers this month and prompted Transport Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee to warn of a potentially disastrous impact on Europe’s biggest economy.

The GDL union, representing some 34,000 drivers, began walkouts at 2 am (midnight GMT).

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A firefighter walks past a burned out car as he mops up hot spots at a home in the Rancho Bernardo neighborhood of San Diego, California, on 25 Oct, 2007. California wildfires have exceeded one billion US dollars and could rival losses from some of the costliest fires in California’s history, a company that estimates catastrophic losses said on Wednesday.

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Two US soldiers killed, eight injured in Iraq

Baghdad, 26 Oct — The US military said Thursday that two of its soldiers were killed and eight others injured in two incidents in Salahadin Province north of Baghdad on Wednesday.

A soldier was killed and five others were wounded during combat operations near the city of Besji, 200 kilometres north of Baghdad, a military statement said. A second soldier died of wounds sustained from a mine explosion while conducting operations in the province, another statement said. Three more soldiers were also wounded by the blast, it added.

The latest deaths bring the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to 3,837 since the US-led invasion on Iraq in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures. — MNA/Xinhua

China gives Cambodia more patrol boats

Phnom Penh, 26 Oct — China is giving Cambodia nine naval patrol boats to safeguard oil installations in the Gulf of Thailand, another sign of Beijing’s deepening ties with the Southeast Asian nation, military officials said on Thursday.

“Theese boats will enable us to prevent maritime crimes such as terrorism, but also to protect natural resources within our sea territory,” said General Nhim Sovath, who attended a signing ceremony in the Chinese city of Guangzhou this week.

An Army-run Cambodian TV channel heralded the deal as evidence of stronger military cooperation with China, which provided Phnom Penh with six naval patrol boats in 2005 to help combat people and drug smuggling.

— MNA/Reuters

Vehicles run on the Second Ring Road in heavy fog in Beijing, on 26 Oct, 2007.

— Xinhua

— MNA/Reuters

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— MNA/Reuters
Two prisons in Britain converted to “foreigners only”

LONDON, 25 Oct — Two prisons have been converted to house only foreign prisoners in an attempt to speed up the deportation process once they complete their sentence, the government said on Wednesday.

It follows the sacking of former home secretary Charles Clarke last year after it emerged 1,000 foreign prisoners had been freed without being considered for deportation.

Justice Minister David Hanson said more foreigners may be held separately if the experiment at Bullwood Hall in Essex and Canterbury Prison in Kent is a success.

“In the two prisons we have specialist immigration officers who are helping to ensure that we prepare during the sentence for early deportation,” he told BBC radio. The number of foreign inmates has doubled in the last 10 years to about 11,000, or one in seven of all prisoners in England and Wales, the government says.

Extra cells are being built to ease overcrowding after the prison population reached a record high of more than $1,000 earlier this year.

Researchers say HIV testing in US remains low

WASHINGTON, 25 Oct — HIV testing rates have remained low in the United States this decade, with only about one-fifth of people at high risk for infection getting a test in any given year, according to a study published on Monday.

The study also found that many more people at high risk of HIV infection — men who have sex with men, injection drug users and others — say they plan to get tested than actually do get tested.

“We know that there are about 1.1 million Americans infected with HIV. And we know that about 25 per cent of them don’t know that they’re infected,” Brian Pence, an epidemiologist at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and one of the researchers, said in a telephone interview.

Those people who are unaware they are infected may be causing more than half of new US human immunodeficiency virus infections, making an expansion of testing a key step toward curbing the spread of the virus that causes AIDS, Pence added.

The researchers examined responses from about 147,000 people nationwide aged 18 to 64 in US centres for Disease Control and Prevention health surveys from 2000 through 2005.

First test-tube baby born in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 25 Oct — The first test-tube baby in Bangladesh was born at Square Fertility Centre in the capital Dhaka on 30 September, local newspaper The Daily Star reported Wednesday.

Since its inception in December 2006, a large number of women sought treatment here and many of them conceived through intra-uterine insemination (IUI) method.

But Mrs Khan, 37, was the first mother who gave birth to a child through in-vitro fertilization (IVF) or test-tube method. She had been trying to have a baby since her marriage 18 years ago. In association with an expert physi- cian of Mount Elizabeth Hospital of Singapore and an Embryologist of Care IVF Centre, Dr Zakiru Rahman, a consultant gynaecologist of Square Fertility Centre, had accomplished this difficult task.

Both the mother and the baby are in sound health now. — MNA/Xinhua

Democrats worry Bush setting up war with Iran

WASHINGTON, 26 Oct — Some Democratic presidential candidates worried on Thursday the White House had begun a march to war by declaring Iran’s Revolutionary Guard a terrorism supporter while a top Republican said “bombardment” of Iran should be an option.

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney took a hard-line stance against Iran after the US State Department imposed sanctions on the Revolutionary Guard in a bid to pressure Tehran to stop enriching uranium.

Washington also accuses Iran of supplying explosive devices to Iraqi militants that are being used to kill US and Iraqi troops.

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Both the mother and the baby are in sound health now. — MNA/Xinhua

30 security men killed in blast in N-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 26 Oct — As many as 30 security men were killed when a truck was blown up in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) of Pakistan on Thursday, local TV channels reported.

The blast occurred when the security forces truck was passing through Mingora, a major city in Swat Valley of NWFP, leaving 30 security men dead and another 15 to 20 injured.

The injured were shifted to a local hospital and some of them were stated to be in critical condition.

Reports said that the truck was also loaded with weapons. The explosion also destroyed 15 shops and some vehicles.

There is no immediate confirmation about the incident from the authorities.

The security forces on Wednesday deployed thousands of soldiers in Swat to curb activities of a militant leader Maulana Fazalullah and his followers.—MNA/Xinhua
China, Zimbabwe set up JV on mineral marketing

HARARE, 26 Oct — The Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ) and a Chinese company have entered into a joint venture to market Zimbabwe’s minerals in the Asian country, local media The Herald reported on Thursday.

The two companies have since formed a company called Shanghai Jinchuan Zimbabwe Minerals Corporation Limited which is responsible for marketing the minerals in China. MMCZ chief executive Onesimo Moyo told Zimbabwe’s state news agency New Ziana on Wednesday that the company commenced operations three months ago.

“The logic behind the establishment of the company is that we realized that people who buy our minerals re-price them. By opening the company, we will be able to have part of that re-pricing margin which has all along been going to other parties,” he said.

He said the company was also opened following adoption of the “Look East” policy. The Zimbabwean Government in 2000 adopted the “Look East” policy as a strategy to establish good relations with Asian countries following a fallout with Western countries over its implementation of the land reform programme.

A worker demonstrates how to use the seat in the first-class cabin of the Airbus A380 superjumbo at the Pudong International Airport in Shanghai, east China, on 25 Oct, 2007. The A380 was open to public here on Thursday. The Airbus A380 superjumbo is on its week-long demonstration tour of China, which includes Guangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing. — XINHUA

Iraq oil flows to Turkey despite threats, attacks

DUBAI, 26 Oct — Oil keeps flowing from Iraq to Turkey through a pipeline skirting Iraq’s Kurdish region despite threats to infrastructure from Kurdish rebels and insurgent sabotage attacks further south, an oil shipper said on Thursday. Iraq was pumping around 400,000 barrels per day of Kirkuk crude to Turkey on Thursday for the seventh consecutive day, the shipper said.

“The flow is about 18,000 barrels per hour,” he said. “They are having some success at keeping it going. Concerns that the flow might be halted due to clashes between Turkish troops and Kurdish rebels helped take oil futures to a record of over $90 a barrel last week.

A pro-rebel news agency quoted one of the leaders of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) last week as saying the guerrillas could strike oil pipelines if Turkish troops attacked them.

“We have no specific policy on pipelines but we are waging a defensive war... Since pipelines that cross Kurdistan provide the economic resources for the Turkish Army’s aggression, it is possible the guerrillas target them,” the Fırat news agency quoted PKK commander Murat Karayilan saying.— MNA/Reuters

Russia urges EU to help bid for WTO membership

LISBON, 26 Oct — Russia’s Economy Minister urged the European Union on Thursday to support its bid to join the World Trade Organization, saying it was a necessary prerequisite to increased EU-Russian trade.

“The reason there have been delays in increasing the EU-Russia relationship has to do with Russia not joining the WTO,” Russian Economy Minister Elvira Nabiullina told an EU-Russia business conference.

US mortgage firm sees $1.2bn loss

LONDON, 26 Oct — US mortgage giant Countrywide Financial has reported $1.2bn (£584m) in losses during the third quarter.

The loss, the first for the firm in 25 years, comes after profits of $647.6m a year earlier. The latest quarter included $2.9bn in credit losses.

But the firm said it was through the worst of the slowdown that has dogged the US housing sector and expected to make a profit in the fourth quarter. The improved outlook sent shares surging nearly 25% higher.

“We view the third quarter as an earnings trough, and anticipate that the company will be profitable in the fourth quarter and in 2008,” said David Sambol, Countrywide’s chief operating officer.

Rising interest rates in the US have made it harder for many borrowers to make payments. Earlier this week, Countrywide promised to set new terms or refinance $16bn worth of mortgages, in a bid to help those struggling to make payments. — Internet

Kenyan farmers seek to block new EU trade deal

NAIROBI, 27 Oct — Small-scale Kenyan farmers went to court on Thursday to try to stop a controversial new trade deal with the European Union that they said perpetuated a “master-servant” relationship with their former colonisers.

They believe that if new tariff systems proposed in the pact — known as an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) — are implemented at least 300,000 Kenyan farmers would lose their jobs.

“The anticipated EPAs will (perpetuate) a master-servant relationship because we continue to be producers of primary goods and commodities,” said Kenyan lawyer James Orengo, who filed the case following a fallout with the government on behalf of the farmers and the Kenya Human Rights Commission.

Kenya and 80 other African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries have enjoyed preferential trade access to the EU. But the World Trade Organization says those rules must be changed to establish a new free trade regime before January 1, 2008.

Tatiana Khalina (behind) brings her baby Nadia, possibly the world’s fattest baby, to a clinic in the Siberian city of Aleisk on 26 Oct, 2007. Tatiana gave birth on 17 September to Nadia, who weighed a whopping 7.75 kg (17.1 lb) at birth. The heaviest baby ever born weighed 10.8 kg in the United States in 1879 but it died within 11 days. — INTERNET

African mobile connections up 6.6% in third quarter

NAIROBI, 26 Oct — Africa’s mobile connections rose by 15 million subscribers or 6.6 percent in the third quarter of 2007, according to figures from an industry business conference.

The GSM Association (GSMA) said subscribers to GSM and CDMA technologies totalled 241.2 million in the third quarter, compared with 226.2 million in the second quarter, but added that market penetration remained low at 26 per cent. — MNA/Reuters
Standing at an altitude of 3519 feet, Pwinttamar (Anya Region) is a mountain resort that is 42 miles from Mandalay by motor road and 46 miles by railroad. Initially, PyinOoLwin was just a large village and was founded into a town by U Maung Maung Dwe, a royal staff member of Amarapura as well as the village head, and Danu national U Kham Oo in 1210 Myanmar Era. Singu Township in PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division, has an annual average rainfall of 43 inches only. So, it did not have enough rain water for agriculture in the rainy season, and was a region where water was scarce in the hot season. The Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation thus conducted a feasibility survey in the region to help solve the problem. It found a place near Marlenattaung Village suitable for a dam project. It launched Marlenattaung Dam Project in 2004-2005 with the permission of the Special Projects Committee. Now, it has completed the project.

The inauguration of Marlenattaung Dam took place on 22 July this year. It is intended to supply irrigation water, one of the major requirements to improve the economic growth of farmers. It is the 201st irrigation facility built from 1988 across the nation and the 49th, in Mandalay Division. The facility secures cultivation of monsoon paddy, summer paddy, beans and pulses, as the third crop pattern. It means multiple cropping capacity has increased by two folds or about 4400 acres or has achieved 144 per cent. Therefore, the dam is helping improve the living conditions of local people.

Some of the 10,000 acres of farmlands near the facility will also be put under summer paddy as the second crop pattern, and beans and pulses, as the third crop pattern. It means multiple cropping capacity has increased by two folds or about 4400 acres or has achieved 144 per cent. Therefore, the dam is helping improve the living conditions of local people.
NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct — The Maha Doat Drama for the Marionette Contest of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the hall of Agricultural Research Department on Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University Campus, here, this evening.

Zeyathiri Marionette Troupe of Sagaing Division participated in the contest.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command May-Gen Wai Lwin and wife, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife, members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Soe Oo and U Kyaw Aung and their wives, Secretary of the Work Committee for Organizing the Competitions Director-General of Fine Arts Department U Yan Naing Oo, Lt-Col Nyo Saw of Nay Pyi Taw Command, departmental personnel and local people enjoyed the performance of the marionette troupe at the contest. — 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.
In his address, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Thein Sein said Dagon Bridge, the second bridge linking Yangon and Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan and Thongwa, was successfully opened. Although there is Thanlyin Bridge which links Yangon and Yangon East regions, a new bridge was built for more progress in those regions.

He said the six-lane bridge which can withstand 75 tons of loads will contribute towards the development of economic, commercial, education and health sectors in Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan and Thongwa Townships. Ten-wheel and 12-wheel container trucks can go from Myanmar International Thilawa Terminal to South Dagon Industrial Zone, Hlinethaya Industrial Zone, Tharkayta International Container Yard. The government has smooth transport, he said. He said the government is also fulfilling economic, production, commercial, education, health and social needs for each region. Therefore, much progress has been made in national and local development.

In transport and communication sectors, there are nearly 70,000 miles of tarred, gravel and earth roads. There are 3,150 miles of railroads in states and divisions. In aviation there are over 70 airports including two international ones.

Realizing the perpetration and atrocities of internal and external destructive elements with the intention of undermining national development, blocking the flow of foreign investment into the nation and trade, closing down factories and mills, making jobless and economic dislocation, the entire people are to ward off all the destructive acts.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin cut the ribbon to open the Dagon Bridge. — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveils the stone inscription of Dagon Bridge. — MNA

He said new roads and bridges, airports, water supply, electric power supply and communication services indicate better socio-economic life of the people. Before 1988 there were Sagaing and Sittaung Bridges. Now there are 15 major bridges. Yadanabon Bridge across Ayeyawady River is under construction, he said.

There are now 228 bridges that are over 180 feet and above long.
In water transport there were 13 ports in the past and now there are 28 ports and three modern container yards. Wharves for vessels has increased to 70 from 57, he said.

There were 204 dams built after 1988 and over 2.65 million acres of lands can be irrigated. With the consumption of power of 1,500 million units there were 14 hydroelectric power plants in 1988. At present, a total of 50 hydroelectric power plants have been built and the consumption of power is 6,100 million units.

In addition, the implementation of 17 hydroelectric power projects that can generate 10,000 megawatts is well under way. In the education and health sectors, there are more than 40,550 basic education schools and 160 universities and colleges, and a total of 839 hospitals are being put into operation.

It can be seen that more infrastructures have been built with momentum in a short period. In doing so, the development of infrastructures reflects the genuine goodwill of the government towards the people. Such development will contribute a lot to the interests of the people.

The youth today are having the opportunity of pursuing higher education linking up with the world nations.

Moreover, the emergence of factories and mills as well as construction undertakings have created job opportunities for local people.

In the same way, better conditions for educated people and businessmen to extensively engage in trade, services were created, thereby contributing much to development of services based on modern communications technology and production based on high tech.

Quality painting, sculpture, movie and music as well as creative arts of high standard are in the offing and on the path to international market.

At a time when progress has been made in various sectors there are still attempts to undermine peace and national development. Hence, the entire people are to exercise a constant vigil against such perpetration with national awareness and outlook.

Realizing the perpetration and atrocities of internal and external destructive elements with the intention of undermining
Dagon Bridge, built by Myanmar engineers, will contribute to the smooth transportation of export and import commodities of industrial zones in Yangon Division including Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Industrial Zone and Dagon Myothit (South) Industrial Zone that are supporting industrial zones for construction of Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Dagon Bridge inaugurated in Dagon …

(from page 9)

... national development, blocking the flow of foreign investment into the nation and trade, closing down factories and mills, making jobless and economic dislocation, the entire people are to ward off all the destructive acts.

In conclusion, he stressed the need for the entire national people to distinguish between the right and wrong and stay away from destructive acts and actively take part in nation-building endeavours in order to fully enjoy the fruits of national development created by the government with own resources.

In his address, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win said that after 1988, roads were upgraded and new roads constructed in Yangon Division. In addition, thirty-one over-180-foot-long major bridges including Maha Bandoola Bridge, Thanyin Bridge, Bayintnaung Bridge, Aungzeya Bridge, Shwepyitha Bridge, Panhaing Bridge and Twantay Bridge were built in the division for ensuring smooth transportation of the people and speedy flow of commodities.

It can be said that construction of Dagon Bridge on Bago river linking Dagon Seikkan Industrial Zone and Thanyin was the undertaking of rural development task. Thanks to completion, Dagon Bridge can withstand 75-ton vehicles on its six-lane motorway to be free from traffic jam. Furthermore, the bridge will contribute much to development of four industrial zones in Dagon Myothit township on Yangon bank and Thilawa Industrial Zone on Thanyin bank. Moreover, the bridge was constructed with the aim of enabling local youth to easily pursue education not only at Yangon East University, Myanmar Maritime University, Technological University and Yangon Cooperative Degree College in Thanyin Township but also at University of Culture, Institute of Economics, Dagon University and Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College in Dagon Myothit townships.

In addition, agricultural products, fish and meat from Kayan, Thonwya, Thanyin, Kyauktan townships and Thanatpin and Kawa townships of Bago Division can be sent to Yangon through the bridge in a short time. Likewise, the people in the division will enjoy fruits of transport facilities through Dagon Bridge to receive medical treatment at specialist hospitals in Yangon. In conclusion, the commander urged local people to help maintain the bridge for its durability.

Opening ceremony of Dagon Bridge in progress.—MNA

Afterwards, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivered an address. He said that in the past, the government granted permission to Public Works and national private companies to take charge of constructing only some main roads through agreements under the build, operate and transfer system (BOT). But since September 2007, permission has been granted to private entrepreneurs to take charge of building any roads through agreements with Public Works under BOT system. The newly-opened Dagon Bridge was built with 19 piers, 398 RCD piles and 240 pre-stressed RC beams. Especially, the government successfully built the bridge for serving the interest of the people without assistance of foreign countries.

U Thein Kyaw of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township spoke words of thanks.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Thein Sein, together with Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, formally opened Dagon Bridge.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party posed for documentary photos together with officials and local people.

The Prime Minister unveiled the stone inscription and sprinkled scented water on it. The commander and the ministers also sprinkled scented water on the stone inscriptions.

Dagon Bridge across the Bago River links Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and Thanyin Township. The bridge is 4,540 feet long and its clearance is 130 feet wide and 18 feet high. The bridge can withstand 75-ton loads.

The six-lane motorway of the bridge, flanked by six-foot pedestrian, is 72 feet wide. The upper structure of the bridge is of RC beams and concrete floor, and the lower structure is of RC piers and RC bored piles.

Dagon Bridge, built by Myanmar engineers, will contribute to the smooth transportation of export and import commodities of industrial zones in Yangon Division including Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Industrial Zone and Dagon Myothit (South) Industrial Zone that are supporting industrial zones for construction of Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Thanks to completion, the bridge will serve the interest of local people in smooth transportation of commodities.

MNA
Drama Contest continues for fourth day

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct — The Drama Contest of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the fourth day at the convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin this evening.

Danyawady Soe Paing (Bank) and troupe of Bago Division took part in the drama contest.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Marlar Tint, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and wife, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Nyi Tun and wife, Secretary of the Work Committee Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture families of regiments and units of Nay Pyi Taw Command and committee members, heads of department, students of townships, wards and villages in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District enjoyed the performance of artistes in the drama contest. The drama was directed by Danyawady Soe Paing (Bank) with scripts of Captain Soe Paing (Retd) and depicted the strength of unity of national races and strong Union Spirit. — MNA

People of Ayeyawady Divisions and Kachin State condemn recent protests

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Oct— The people of Sedoktara and Yesagyo in Magway Division, Nyaungdon, Bogale, Wakema, Labutta and Hinthada in Ayeyawady Division and Phakant and Karmaing in Kachin State who wish to see stability of the State, the rule of law and community peace and tranquillity regarded recent protests initiated by some monks and NLD members as a threat to peace and stability. So they held mass rallies to denounce such protests on 25 October after seeking permission from the authorities concerned.

In Sedoktara and Yesagyo of Magway, over 5,500 and 12,500 people respectively walked in procession shouting slogans calling for ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ and ‘The seven-step Road Map must be successful’ and holding placards that read ‘We support the National Convention and the constitution’, ‘Adoption of constitution’ and ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ and ‘The seven-step Road Map must be successful’ and ‘The seven-step Road Map must be successful’ and holding placards that read ‘We support the National Convention and the constitution’, ‘Adoption of constitution’ and ‘Our Three Main National Causes’.

Similarly, some 30,000 people of Nyaungdon, over 25,000 people of Bogale, some 50,000 people of Wakema, about 35,000 people of Labutta and over 30,000 people of Hinthada, Ayeyawady Division, walked in procession shouting slogans calling for ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ and ‘The seven-step Road Map must be successful’ and holding placards that read ‘We favour peace and stability’, ‘We oppose unrest and violence’ and ‘Don’t destroy peace and stability’.

In like manner, more than 35,000 people of Phakant and some 6,500 people of Karmaing of Kachin State, walked in procession, chanting slogans and holding placards to condemn recent protests. — MNA

People of Sedoktara expressing their desire to denounce recent protests. — MNA

Local residents of Phakant condemning recent protests. — MNA
Israel to reduce power supplies to Gaza strip

JERUSALEM, 26 Oct — Defence Minister Ehud Barak approved on Thursday the reduction of Israel’s power supplies to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip in response to Palestinian rocket attacks which the Israeli military has failed to stop.

Those political sources said Barak’s decision cleared the way for electricity cuts to begin immediately, although it was not immediately clear exactly when power would be reduced to the impoverised territory, where 1.5 million Palestinians live.

Barak, a former prime minister who heads the Labour Party, gave his approval a day before Israeli and Palestinian leaders planned to meet again to try to narrow differences in preparation for a US-sponsored conference on Palestinian statehood.

With the ruling coalition under strain over the possibility of concessions to Palestinians in the talks, the government has faced calls to demonstrate it is acting against militants.

But the United Nations has told Israel it must not inflict collective punishment by denying Palestinians in the Gaza Strip vital supplies and services. Israel pulled troops and settlers out of the territory in 2005 but still controls its borders.

Palestinian militants frequently fire short-range rockets into southern Israel from the Gaza Strip — attacks that Israeli incursions and airstrikes have not halted. Israeli forces killed at least three gunmen on the Gaza border on Thursday.

“Because this is an entity that is hostile to us there is no reason for us to supply them with electricity beyond the minimum required to prevent a crisis,” Deputy Defence Minister Matan Vilnai told Army Radio. — MNA/Reuters

Schwarzenegger announces reward for arsonist arrest

LOS ANGELES, 26 Oct — California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday announced a 50,000-dollar reward toward arrest and conviction of any suspected arsonist. He made the announcement as more than 10 wildfires were raging across Southern California.

“I announced a 50,000-dollar reward for information leading toward the arrest and conviction in a California court of the person or persons responsible for setting the Santiago Fire,” he said in a statement.

At least one of the more than 15 fires burning in Southern California is suspected of being the work of an arsonist, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Two boys killed across motorway in Britain

LONDON, 26 Oct — Two boys aged six and seven were killed as they tried to push their scooters across a motorway in Cheshire, police said on Thursday.

The children were hit by several cars as they crossed the westbound carriageway of the M56 near Runcorn on Wednesday evening.

A police spokeswoman said the boys were declared dead at the scene. Their families have been informed, but their names have yet to be released.

“Officers found that two boys ... had been pushed on their scooters by vehicles while apparently trying to cross the carriageway with their push-scooters,” she said.

“There were no other casualties. There were a number of other witnesses who were distressed and traumatized at what they’d seen.” — MNA/Reuters

One dead in explosion at drug plant in Finland

HELSINKI, 26 Oct — One person was killed late on Thursday in an explosion of a pressure boiler at Finnishdrugmaker Orion’s subsidiary Ekokem’s plant in Hanko, southern Finland, the fire brigade and company officials said.

“A boiler has exploded and one person has died.” — MNA/Reuters

Grenade found near Thai Government House

BANGKOK, 26 Oct — An M72 hand grenade was found in a shop near the Government House in Thailand on Friday morning, a police source said.

The hand grenade was found in a noodle shop located at the Ngang Loeng Intersection in central Bangkok, not far from the Government House, the source said. — MNA/Xinhua

Gas poisoning kills three in E China glass factory

HEFEI, 26 Oct — Three people are dead and three are in hospital after an toxic gas discharge in east China’s Anhui Province.

The accident occurred at 4:00 a.m. on Wednesday in Xinnin Glass Co Ltd, in Bengbu City, when five workers tried to rescue a colleague who was poisoned after inhaling carbon monoxide discharged from a coal furnace.

The gas accumulated after a coal-feeding machine overloaded and broke down, stopping the ventilation at the opening of the furnace.

The worker was attempting to fix the machine when the accident occurred.

The six were all poisoned because they took no safety precautions, such as gas masks, according to local work safety officials.

The workers were rushed to local hospitals after being found unconscious by morning shift workers, but three died despite emergency medical treatment.

The three survivors are in hospital. — MNA/Xinhua
**Environment ministers target 2009 climate treaty**

Bogor (Indonesia), 26 Oct — An informal meeting of environment ministers in Indonesia has accepted the need for negotiations on a new treaty to fight climate change to be wrapped up by 2009, an official said on Tuesday.

“The meeting has indicated very clearly that negotiations need to be completed in 2009 and it will give enough time for ratification of the long-term agreement by governments and its entry into force before the Kyoto period ends in 2012,” said Yvo de Boer, the head of the UN Climate Change Secretariat.

De Boer has been pushing hard for talks to be wrapped up by 2009, although there are concerns the timetable could slip because of the US presidential election next year and the complexity of dividing emission limits between rich and poor.

There have been tensions between developed and poorer industrialized nations over who should bear the burden for cutting emissions, seen by many scientists as vital to slow global warming and effects such as floods, droughts and rising sea levels.

“There was a strong agreement here that industrialized countries must continue to take the lead by reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases given their historic responsibility for the problem,” he told a news conference at the UN conference in Bali, Indonesia.

The gathering of environment ministers and officials from about 40 nations this week comes ahead of a key meeting in Bali in December aimed at hammering out a new global climate deal to curb carbon emissions after the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012.

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“Because there are concerns the timetable could slip because of the US presidential election next year and the complexity of dividing emission limits between rich and poor,” said Stephen Matlin, executive director of the Global Forum for Health Research, which pushes for more spending on health research and resources for poorer nations.

“It’s where most of the investment and research has been the last few decades and it’s where most of the big industry money goes in developing treatments for diabetes, heart disease and cancer and so on,” he told a news conference in Beijing.

“Today a large extent these solutions which may not be very readily applicable in poor resource settings,” Matlin said. “They’ve not been created with poor people in mind very often. We need to learn how to be able to translate the knowledge we’ve got into settings where it can be applied in developing countries.”

Even getting people to eat better, exercise and stop smoking in the developed world has been hard, he added.

Sotheby’s expert August Uribe had featured the painting on “antiques Roadshow FYI”, a companion programme to the PBS show “Antiques Roadshow”.

The inquest in London that Princess Diana died in a Paris car crash was an accident caused by an inebriated Paul driving too fast, but under British law an official inquest is needed when someone dies unnaturally. — Jacques Morel, who is writing a book about his conspiracy theory, told the inquest in London that there had been a plot by photographers to bring Diana’s car to a halt in the tunnel so that they could obtain an exclusive story.
**SPORTS**

Reds hit by Pennant blow

Pennant set for ten weeks out with leg surgery

**CROSSWORDS PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

1 Chummy
4 Ah, rice! (anag.)
9 Reddish purple
10 Cotton yarn
11 Nobleman
12 Small house
13 Playing
14 Keenness
16 Tried to rival
18 Primate
20 Egyptian monument
21 Way off
24 Witches’ gathering
25 Delete
26 Most senior
27 In want

**DOWN**

1 Thump
2 Light beer
3 Tug sharply
5 Comparative
6 Person held as pledge
7 Levelled
8 Ornate
10 The end
15 Traced origin
17 Parisian suffian
18 Viper
19 Covetous
22 Keep off
23 Twirled

**Estes and Armour set pace at Tesoro**

Miami, 26 Oct — PGA Tour veteran Bob Estes rolled in a 40-foot birdie putt on his final hole to share the first-round lead with fellow American Tommy Armour III in the Ginn sur Mer Classic at Port St. Lucie, Florida on Thursday. Despite breezy conditions at Tesoro Club’s Palmer Course, Estes and Armour fired matching nine-under-par 64s to take early control in the 2007 Tour’s penultimate event.

**Tottenham sack manager Jol**

London, 26 Oct — Tottenham Hotspur have sacked their Dutch manager Martin Jol, the Premier League club said in a statement on Thursday. "We can confirm that the board has this evening decided to remove Martin Jol as manager of Tottenham Hotspur," the statement read.

**Estes and Armour’s five-wood feat**

**Estes hunting his fifth title on the world’s most lucrative circuit, picked up shots at the 11th and 16th to reach the turn in two-under 34. The 41-year-old Texan then took control with a sizzling run of six birdies from the par-four first before signing off in style with his long-range putt at the ninth.**

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The 51-year-old has been tipped for the sack all season since highly fancied Tottenham lost their opening Premier League game against newly promoted Sunderland.

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"I was just trying to roll it down there close to the hole and sometimes they go in," Estes told reporters of his final putt. "But it's only Thursday. That's the deal." — MNA/Reuters

**Ramos looks set for Spurs after quitting Sevilla**

Madrid, 27 Oct — Juande Ramos hinted on Friday he was set to take charge of Tottenham Hotspur after resigning as coach of Sevilla.

"This has been the hardest decision of my life. My heart remains in Seville but for the sake of my family and career it is impossible not to leave for London," he said on his personal Web site (www.juanderamos.com). "My time at Seville has been the most important period of my life personally and professionally. I will be eternally grateful." The 53-year-old Spaniard, who has won five trophies with Seville in the last two seasons, has been strongly linked by media reports with a move to Spurs after the London club sacked Dutchman Martin Jol on Thursday. — MNA/Reuters

**Tottenham sack manager Jol**

London, 26 Oct — Arsene Wenger believes Martin Jol should have had more time at Tottenham to turn the club’s fortunes around.

Jol was sacked on Thursday after a difficult start to the season which has Spurs sitting in the Premier League’s bottom three with seven points from 10 games. Although many Arsenal fans are enjoying Tottenham’s turmoil, Wenger is disappointed the sacked Jol was axed so soon into the season.

"It is tough and I feel very sorry and sad when a manager does not get the opportunity to work the whole season and show what he can do," the Gunners manager told Sky Sports News.

"Because we all have difficult periods in the season and that’s when you need the support of everybody inside the club. "Sometimes when it happens at the start of the season, especially when the expectation level is very high, you’re not given the time to turn things around. That’s what happened to Martin Jol." — Internet

**Wenger saddened by Jol exit**

Frenchman calls for managers to be given more time

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After consecutive fifth-placed finishes in his two full seasons in charge of the north London club, this season has been a huge letdown. Tottenham are currently third from bottom with just one win from their opening 10 games. "I can understand the position of the club in light of the results," Jol said on the club’s Web site. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. Tottenham Hotspur is a special club and I want to thank the terrific staff and players." — MNA/Reuters

**Strengthening the London club’s squad...**

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Estes swept to the top of the leaderboard with a scorching homeward nine of seven-under 30 before being joined by Armour shortly before play was suspended for the day in fading light.

Armour birdied four of the last five holes, sinking an 11-footer on the 18th green, to move into contention for his third PGA Tour title.

Of the 22 players yet to complete the opening round on a soggy day at Tesoro, American Bryce Molder was four off the pace with three holes remaining.
Iran condemns US move to brand guards "terrorist"

TEHRAN, 27 October — Iran condemned on Thursday a US move to brand the country’s elite Revolutionary Guard Corps a proliferator of weapons of mass destruction and its Qods force a supporter of terrorism, the state broadcaster IRIB’s Website reported.

“Thet hostile policies of America against the respectable Iranian nation and its legal organizations are against international regulations and have no value,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini was quoted as saying.

“Such policies have always failed.”

Washington on Thursday imposed sanctions on more than 20 Iranian companies, major banks and individuals as well as the Defence Ministry in a bid to force Teheran to stop uranium enrichment and curb its “terrorist” activities.

Some within the US Administration had wanted to label the entire Guards Corps a foreign terrorist group — the first time the United States would place the Armed Forces of any sovereign government on such a list.

Such measures are opposed by allies such as Russia who believe dialogue rather than more punishment or military action to halt Iran’s nuclear programme, which the West fears is a cover to build nuclear bomb.

MENA/Reuters

Dutch mission in Afghanistan to cost twice as planned

BRUSSELS, 27 October — The Dutch Military and reconstruction operations in Afghanistan will cost the Dutch Government at least 1.2 billion euros (1.7 billion US dollars), twice the government’s planned budget, Dutch newspaper De Volkskrant reported Thursday.

The Dutch Defence Ministry initially budgeted 580 million euros for the Afghan mission as a whole. But the newspaper, after doing a research into the total costs, said much more would be needed.

The paper quoted sources in the Dutch Government as saying that 600 million euros have been spent so far in Afghanistan. The two-year mission does not expire until August next year.

The costs are higher than expected primarily because of the loss and damage to equipment. An extra 100 million euros are needed to replace equipment due to wear and tear, and another 191 million euros to replace helicopter and other aircraft that have crashed.

MENA/Inhouse
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