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

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

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

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

Ceremonies to establish trust fund for Jivitadana Sangha Clinic and offer meals to members of Sangha to mark centenary of Maniyadanayama Myataungtaik held in Mandalay

The congregation led by Lt-Gen Ye Myint receives Five Precepts from a Sayadaw at a ceremony to establish trust fund for medical treatment and to offer meals to Members of the Sangha in Mandalay. — MNA

Dagon Bridge, pride of Myanmar engineers

The government is making all-out efforts for development of the State, prevalence of peace and tranquillity, fulfilling food, clothing and shelter needs of the people, improvement of the living standard of the people, bringing about better transport and development of trade, commerce and manufacturing.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For sustainable existence of biological diversity

Biological diversity consists of flora and fauna, tropical forests, hilly forests, Inle and Yangon lakes, mangrove swamps, and more than 100,000 species of flora and fauna. Myanmar is one of the countries that are rich in biodiversity in Asia. According to the records of research on biodiversity, Myanmar is home to more than 10,000 species of flora and fauna, more than 800 species of orchid, more than 1000 species of butterfly, more than 90 species of bat, and more than 1000 species of birds.

National resources and biodiversity are found on the large area stretching from the snow-capped mountains in the northern part of Myanmar and in the forests in the central Yoma mountain ranges to the southern coastal regions. The nation’s geographical features create favourable conditions for existence of various species of wildlife, birds and flowers and abundant marine products. Urbanization, excessive exploitation of forest products, cutting down trees for hillside cultivation, and environmental pollution cause adverse effects on sustainable existence of biodiversity.

Of the 144 species of fauna that are in danger of extinction in the world, nine species are peculiar to Myanmar. In Myanmar, various species of wildlife and flora and fauna are found in Haguaung Valley, Khakaborazi National Gardens, Alaungdaw Kasaba National Gardens, Shwesettaw Sanctuary, Inlay Lake Sanctuary, Indawgyi Sanctuary and Moeyunyi Sanctuary. Conservation of biodiversity is of great importance. Therefore, the entire people have to conserve natural forests, rare species of fauna, birds and various species of flowers in the region concerned for sustainable existence of Myanmar’s biodiversity.

Minister inspects higher institutions of learning in Meiktila

NAW PHU TAW, 30 Oct—Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein accompanied by Deputy Director-General Dr Maung Thin of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) and officials inspected Meiktila Institute of Economics and University of Meiktila yesterday. The minister gave instructions on academic matters, research and effective use of teaching aids. Next, the minister and party met the principal, vice principal and teachers of Education College in Meiktila and fulfilled the requirements. They also met the township education officer, assistant education officer and headmasters at No 1 Basic Education High School in Meiktila and discussed matters related to improvement of teaching and learning.—MNA

Banks urged to work hard to boost economy

NAW PHU TAW, 30 Oct —The supervisory committee for banks and Myanmar Banks Association held the 94th meeting at Ministry of Finance and Revenue here today. At the meeting, Patron of the committee Min-
ister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivered an address and called on presidents and executive directors of banks to work hard together with the ministry to further develop the growing economy of the country. Participants of the meeting discussed matters related to banking services.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Min-ister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials of private banks.

In the afternoon, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun also attended the coordination meeting of the ministry held at the ministry here.—MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAW PHU TAW, 30 Oct —The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Kim Sok Chol as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic People’s Re-
public of Korea to the Union of Myanmar. Mr Kim Sok Chol was born on 8 May 1955. He graduated from P’yongyang Foreign Language University. Starting from 1997, he served as an officer in the Committee for Foreign Cultural Relations of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1989, Mr Kim Sok Chol had served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2004, he has been serving as Deputy Director-General of Asia and Pa-
cific Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Mr Kim Sok Chol is married and has one son.

MNA

Annual Programme Review Meeting (2007) of National AIDS Control Programme held

YANGON, 30 Oct — Annual Programme Re-
view Meeting (2007) of National AIDS Control Programme jointly organized by Health Depart-
ment, Ministry of Health, UNAIDS and UNICEF was opened at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pa-
goda Road this morning. Present were directors and deputy directors of Health Department, the project manager Dr Min Thwe and officials, Medi-
cal Superintendents, pro-
fessors/heads of depart-
ment, AIDS control spe-
cialists of States and Divi-
sions, team leaders, repre-
sentatives of the UN
AIDS agencies, representatives of International and local social organizations and guests. Director Dr Nay Win of the Health Depart-
ment and WHO Public Health Administrator Ms Magaret Skold gave speeches. The meeting continues until 2 Novem-
ber.—MNA

Donors invited for paying respects to doyen literati

YANGON, 29 Oct — In commemoration of Sarsodaw Day 2007, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association will organize a ceremony to pay respects to the doyen literati aged 80 and above in the second week of December. A total of 120 doyen literati will be paid respects.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind may contact No 529/531 at the corner of Merchant Street and 37 Street, Sarpay Beikman (second floor) of MWJA, Ph 252417/385273.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivers an address at 94th meeting of the supervisory committee for banks and Myanmar Banks Association. — MNA

Dr Nay Win delivers an address at Annual Programme Review Meeting-2007 of National AIDS Control Programme. — HEALTH
Pakistani militants call ceasefire in Swat valley

MENGORA (Pakistan), 30 Oct—Pakistani troops killed up to 60 Islamist militants during fierce fighting in the northwestern Swat valley, the Army said on Monday, while the insurgents called a ceasefire to recover their dead and wounded.

Troops firing artillery and backed by helicopter gunships battled militants led by a pro-Taleban cleric seeking to impose strict Islamic code in the area on Sunday’s clashes. A suspected suicide attack that killed 21 people in the area last week triggered the fighting.

“We have registered with the Guinness Book of World Records to become the highest concert on earth,” Foley said late on Sunday, adding that the feat was the first of its kind.

Robots compete in the football game of the China Robot Contest in Jinan, capital of east China’s Shandong Province. The three-day 2007 China Robot Contest and Robo Cup China Open Contest opened on Friday in Jinan, attracting over 400 teams from home and abroad to attend 34 match items such as Robo Cup robot, water robot, and dance robot. —Xinhua

International News

Meng Jianzhu appointed China’s new Public Security Minister

BEIJING, 29 Oct—China’s top legislature on Sunday approved the Cabinet nomination of Meng Jianzhu, former Party Chief of east China’s Jiangxi Province, as the country’s new Minister of Public Security.

Meng, of Han nationality and born in 1947 in Wuxian County of Jiangsu Province, joined the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1971. He worked on Qianwei Farm in Shanghai for 18 years. In 1986 he became secretary of Chuansha County committee of the CPC, Shanghai. In 1993 he was appointed vice-mayor of Shanghai and became deputy secretary of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee in 1996.

He was appointed as secretary of the CPC Provincial Committee of Jiangxi in 2001. Meng, with a masters degree in engineering, is recognized for restructuring high-risk industries, such as coal mining, and financing impoverished people during his tenure as Party secretary of Jiangxi Province.

Meng replaces Zhou Yongkang who was elected Politburo Standing Committee member of the CPC Central Committee at the first plenary session of the 17th CPC Central Committee early this week. —MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kidnap seven tribal leaders in N-E Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 29 Oct—Gunmen kidnapped seven tribal leaders from the volatile province of Diyala in northeastern Baghdad on Sunday after meeting top officials in the office of the Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, an official from the provincial media office said.

“Unknown gunmen on a faked checkpoint in the Husseiniyah neighbourhood, kidnapped the tribal leaders and fled the scene,” the source from the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) in Diyala told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The tribal leaders were representing Sunni and Shiite who came to the Prime Minister’s Office to discuss reconciliation efforts, the source said.

Diyala Province, which stretches from the eastern edges of Baghdad to the Iranian border to the east, has been the hot bed of insurgency and sectarian violence since the US-led invasion in 2003.

Afghan, foreign troops kill around 72 Taleban militants

KABUL, 29 Oct—Afghan and foreign troops in a combined operation have killed about six dozen insurgents in southern Afghanistan’s Helmand Province, a coalition spokesman said on Sunday.

Afghan troops and the US-led coalition forces while patrolling were attacked by a group of militants in Musa Qala Wadi area of Helmand on Saturday and they returned fire, killing six dozen Taleban militants during an around six-hour gun battle, Chris Belcher, a spokesman from the coalition forces told Xinhua. —INTERNET

INTERNET

A Russian RS-18 ballistic missile seen in a silo before launching at the Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, on 29 Oct 2007. Russia test-launched an older intercontinental ballistic missile from the Baikonur station in Kazakhstan on Monday.

ROBERT BOOTH looks on at his well digging truck which was also destroyed by last weeks wildfires in Ramona, Calif, on 28 Oct, 2007. —INTERNET

Anti-cancer group holds concert on Mt Everest slopes

KATHMANDU, 30 Oct—A US based anti-cancer group said international musicians had staged the kind of 18,500 feet (5,638 metres) by musicians who also included a cancer survivor, said Shannon Foley, a director of the Love Hope Strength Foundation, the Denver charity that organized the gig.

“We have registered with the Guinness Book of World Records to become the highest concert on
New York, 29 Oct—A new film about a meeting between two mothers over the deaths of their daughters in Jerusalem, a New York play set in the West Bank and a ceramic art exhibit are each being hailed for getting Israelis and Palestinians to talk to each other.

“To Die in Jerusalem,” which premiered in the United States this week after showing at international film festivals, takes a personal look at the Middle East conflict through the mothers of Palestinian Ayat-al-Akhras and Israeli Rachel Levy. Both girls made headlines in 2002 due to their similar age and appearance when Al-Akhras, 18, set off a suicide bomb in a Jerusalem market, killing herself and Levy, 17.

“It shows very clearly the difficulties and the bridges that need to be built,” said the documentary’s maker, Hilla Medalia, 30, who observed the four-hour meeting between the mothers that forms the climax of the film. “I really hope it creates the dialogue that we need.”—MNA/Reuters

Harbin, 30 Oct—Chinese police have detained a suspect in connection with a forest fire in northeast China early this month.

Wu Degui, the detained suspect, is a mushroom-picker who is suspected to have set more than 6,000 hectares of grassland and forests in Yichun City of Heilongjiang Province, on fire, local police said.

Wu, a migrant worker who was living in a village in the neighboring Heihe City, confessed that he smoked and tossed cigarette butts when he went into the forest to pick wild mushrooms, police said. MNA/Xinhua

One suspect detained for N-E China forest fire

Lanzhou, 29 Oct—Nine people were killed and 29 others injured after a bus crashed through a guard rail and tumbled off a highway in northwest China’s Gansu Province, according to the latest information from the local police.

The accident happened around 11 am Sunday on a highway near Tongwei County in central Gansu when the bus was overtaking a truck and found another car was right ahead. The driver tried to veer off the lane only to fell off the road, which is 11 metres above the ground. Seven people died at the scene and two others died after emergency medical treatment failed.

All the 29 injured people have been admitted into a hospital in the county.

The provincial health authorities have sent three experts with necessary medical equipment to the county to take care of seven severely injured. The coach was heading from Tianshui City in southeastern Gansu to Lanzhou, the provincial capital. MNA/Xinhua

Bus plunge kills nine, injures 29 in N-W China

Abeche (Chad), 29 Oct—Toys were scattered on the floor and dozens of drawings stuck to the walls of a compound where Chadian officials say nine French citizens kept dozens of children they intended to smuggle to Europe.

Many of the infants, aged three to eight and mainly from Sudan’s Darfur Region, were bewildered by the sudden rush of attention when journalists were taken to the dusty courtyard of an orphanage in Abeche on Saturday.

Some began crying, others lay sleeping in the arms of those caring for them since police arrested the nine they accuse of trying to take 103 children out of the central African country.

Chad grabbed the members of French charity Zoe’s Ark on Thursday as they were preparing to fly the children out of the eastern Chadian City on a charter plane. The seven members of the charter plane’s crew, all Spanish citizens, are also being held by police.

Chad is an organized country. Do you think someone can kidnap 103 children, put them on a plane, take off and leave, without the police intervening?” Justice Minister Padimi Padacke Albert told journalists.

The 16 Westerners were dishevelled and appeared not to have been allowed to wash or change their clothes since their arrests. Journalists were forbidden from interviewing the group.

The charity workers were wearing T-shirts with the logo “Children Rescue” while the Spanish crew were still in their flight uniforms. Some had torn clothing and one French man lay on a makeshift bed, apparently suffering from back pain. MNA/Reuters

Bus crash kills 23 in Cameroon

Yaounde, 29 Oct—A head-on crash at night between two buses killed 23 people and injured 36 others in Cameroon, state radio reported on Sunday.

A third bus crashed two people on a motorcycle and plunged into a ditch after swerving to avoid the collision, which happened on Saturday evening around 70 kilometres (45 miles) north of the central African country’s commercial capital Douala.

“They were all running at top speed and their headlights were fully on,” the radio said, quoting police sources and eyewitnesses. As in many African countries, Cameroon’s roads are generally in poor repair and vehicles are often not properly maintained.

The country’s Transport Ministry blames 70 per cent of road accidents on poor driving, saying motorists are sometimes drunk or exhausted and drive too fast.

Floods claim eight lives in Vietnam

Hanoi, 29 Oct—Flooding in Vietnam’s central region has killed eight local people in Vietnam’s central region since last weekend.

Five of the victims came from Binh Dinh Province, three from Khanh Hoa Province, local newspaper Vietnam Agriculture reported Monday.

The floods also submerged many houses and hectares of subsidiary crops, and isolated some areas.

Natural disasters, including typhoons and hail, killed 339 people, left 274 people missing, and injured 2,065 others in Vietnam in 2006. The estimated losses totalled 18.6 trillion Vietnamese dong (nearly 1.2 billion US dollars) in the year. MNA/Xinhua
China, ASEAN ports handle $100b goods last year

NANNING, 29 Oct—Ports and shipping have become the important vessel for the friendly cooperation between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said Chinese Transportation Minister Li Shenglin here on Sunday.

“Last year alone, 100 billion US dollars of goods in the China-ASEAN bilateral trade are handled via ports and shipping, that’s more than half of the total trade volume,” Li said at a forum on port cooperation and development.

Bilateral trade between the two sides reached 160.8 billion US dollars in 2006, more than twenty-fold the amount in 1991. Statistics show that by the end of last year, China has more than 1,400 ports, handling 5.37 billion tons of cargo throughout in 2006. “Cooperation between China and the ASEAN ports is in the best time in history,” Li said.

China has signed shipping agreements with Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. The content of a shipping agreement between China and the ASEAN has been basically approved by two sides, according to the minister. Sun Chanthol, Transportation Minister of Cambodia, said that the agreement is expected to be inked at the 6th China-ASEAN Transportation Ministers Meeting to be held in Singapore early November.

Chinese telecom giant donates $130,000 equipment to Rwanda

KIGALI, 30 Oct—Huawei, a leading Chinese supplier of telecommunications network, has donated telecommunication equipment valued at 130,000 US dollars to the Rwandan Government.

The company has said that the donation is an act to honor its promises of serving Africa and help Rwanda develop information and technology industry.

Lou Qinjian, Deputy Minister of Information Industry of China, said at the ceremony held here on Sunday, that, as a developing country like many African countries including Rwanda, China has mutual benefits and interests with African countries.

“We have the same vision in deepening cooperation, and we hope Chinese companies will fulfill their social responsibility and make more contribution to the local government and people,” Lou said.

Rwanda’s State Minister in charge of Energy and Communication Albert Butare thanked the Chinese Government for continuous support for Rwanda in various domains, including the communication sector.

He said that the Rwandan Government hoped that Chinese companies will participate in Rwanda’s ambitious programmes of developing infrastructure.

China, Philippines sign import, export food safety deal

NANNING, 29 Oct—China and the Philippines on Sunday signed the minutes of meeting on import and export food safety in the southern Chinese city of Nanning.

The document was signed between China’s General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and the Philippine Department of Health during the first China-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Quality, Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine which opened here Sunday.

According to the document, the two sides reviewed the cooperation on food safety, especially the cooperation on dealing with the pupils uncomfortable issue in Cebu, the Philippines, as well as the latest progress. Both sides agreed to continue the cooperation to treat the issue justifiably and properly.

“The Chinese side informed the measures taken by the Chinese governments to ensure the food safety. The Philippines side appreciated for the introduction,” the document says.

Transportation cooperation key to China-ASEAN ties

NANNING, 29 Oct—Cooperation in transportation is a major factor in trade and economic development in China and countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyian said here on Sunday.

China and the ASEAN have achieved substantial progress in their cooperation in shipping, maritime affairs, road traffic, inner river shipping, air traffic and railways.

This contributed to the rapid growth in trade between China and ASEAN countries, Zeng said during a meeting with transportation ministers from the ten ASEAN countries who are here to attend a two-day forum on China-ASEAN port development and cooperation.

Statistics show trade between China and the ASEAN surpassed 160 billion US dollars in 2006, a rise of 20 times compared with 15 years ago when China and the ASEAN forged dialogue relations.

Of the total, some 100 billion US worth of goods were carried through ports and shipping.
Cuban solidarity meeting condemns US blockade

QUITO, 30 Oct — The fifth Continental Cuban Solidarity Meeting ended here Sunday with the approval of the Quito Declaration condemning the United States’s blockade against Cuba.

The meeting was held away from Cuba’s capital, Havana, for the first time and attracted Ricardo Alarcon, the leader of Cuba’s legislature, as well as 400 other delegates from 25 nations.

Alarcon opened the event, organized by the Ecuador Friendship Movement. In his opening speech, Alarcon condemned the US President, George W. Bush, for his hostile attitude towards Cuba.

He also called for the immediate release of five Cubans jailed in the United States. Cuba says they are heroes jailed for fighting the terrorism conducted by Cuban exiles against the island, while the United States says that the prisoners had been spying against it.

The meeting also called for the return of Guantanamano military base to Cuba.

Attendees included Sandinista commander Tomas Borge, relatives of the five jailed Cubans and writers Jorge Enrique Adoum and Raúl Perez Torres. — MNA/Xinhua

Schwarzenegger orders to help wildfire victims

LOS ANGELES, 29 Oct — Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Friday ordered quick efforts to help victims of the recent wildfires in Southern California, as firefighters around the region continued to battle blazes that have scorched over 200,000 hectares.

“We must do all we can to support the victims of this terrible disaster and help them get back to their normal lives,” Schwarzenegger said while announcing an executive order directing state agencies to take quick actions to help the fire victims return to their normal lives. He ordered state agencies to cut through the red tape to help the affected individuals, families and businesses recover from the devastation and get their lives back together as quickly as possible.

As people returned homes after most evacuation orders were lifted across the region, thousands of firefighters still battled blazes in some remote areas, hoping to gain full containment of the remaining fires within days under favourable weather conditions.

Officials said that nine active fires were burning in the region as of Friday evening, with the most active areas in San Bernardino, Orange and San Diego counties.

More than a dozen wildfires had been raging across large ruged areas from north of Los Angeles to the southern US-Mexico border since last weekend, leaving about 1,800 homes destroyed and forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee. Seven deaths have been confirmed. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese movie “Western Trunk Line” wins award in Tokyo

TOKYO, 30 Oct — “The Western Trunk Line”, a Chinese movie telling a story in a remote town at the end of 1970s, won Special Jury Prize at the 20th Tokyo International Film Festival on Sunday.

“I have been thinking to make such a movie since 1994,” said director Li Jixian at the awarding ceremony at Shibuya’s Bunkamura, Tokyo. “I met quite some challenges in making screenplay, but never thought of quitting.”

“The Band’s Visit”, a movie jointly produced by Israel and France, grabbed the top prize “Tokyo Sakura Grand Prix”. The film, directed by Eran Kolirin, tells a story of an Egyptian police band getting lost in Israel.

British film “Dangerous Parking” by Peter Howitt won award for best director, while the Best Actress and Best Actor went to Shefali Shah (Indian movie “Gandhi My Father”) and Damian UI (Polish movie “Tricks”) respectively.

Two popular films in the competition sector, the festival’s opening movie “Crossing Over”, which is jointly produced by Japan and China, as well as the US movie “Reign Over Me” featuring post-11 September story, did not win any award. — MNA/Xinhua

World’s first set of gold and silver models of the “Bird’s Nest”, or the National Stadium, issued by China Gold Coin Incorporation show up at Beijing International Coins Exposition on 28 Oct, 2007. The exposition attracts nearly 150 national and international coin dealers. —INTERNET

Indonesian toddler infected by bird flu

JAKARTA, 30 Oct — A 3-year-old Indonesian boy from Tangerang in outskirts of Jakarta was contracted by avian influenza, Health Ministry said here on Monday.

The boy has been treating in a bird-flu designed hospital of Sulianiti Suroso in Jakarta since Saturday, Director of Disease Control of the ministry Nyoman Kan-dun said here.

He was on a good condition, he said.

“Two laboratory tests showed today that the boy is positive of avian influenza,” Kandun told Xinhua. He said that the boy had historical contact with dead fowls around his residence.

MNA/Xinhua

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NASA ponders “Space station” power problem

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 29 Oct — Two spacewalking astronauts on Sunday found metal shavings inside a huge gear that spins a pair of the International Space Station’s solar wing panels, raising concerns about power supplies and the long-term health of the orbital outpost.

The inspection of one of the 100-billion-US-dollar Space Station’s two solar panel rotary joints was added to the second of five spacewalks planned during the space shuttle Discovery’s on-going construction and servicing mission to the station.

NASA immediately laid out plans to minimize the number of times the affected device rotates, cutting the amount of power the station can produce. The joint spins a pair of panels studded with solar cells to track the sun for power.

Space station program-me manager Mike Suffredini said he was hopeful engineers would come up with a plan to manage the station’s power that would allow NASA to launch Europe’s Columbus laboratory on schedule aboard the space shuttle Atlantis on 6 December. — MNA/Reuters

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Ceremonies to establish trust fund for Jivitadana Sangha Clinic and offer meals to members of Sangha...

(from page 1)
Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife Daw Khin Pyone Win and family, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and wife, senior military officers, officials of SPDC Office, disciples and guests.

First, the conggregation opened the ceremony with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Myataungtaik Shwe-wahwin Monastery President Sayadaw Abhidhajha Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sasaabhiwamsa and members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint offered robes and alms to Myataungtaik Shwe-wahwin Monastery President Sayadaw Abhidhajha Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sasaabhiwamsa and so did Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife. After that Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han offered alms to Yadana Theidhi Monastery President Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepulla, and senior military officers and departmental officials of the Sangha.

Next, the ceremony to establish trust funds for Jivitadana Sangha Clinic of Maniyadanayama Myat-aungtaik followed. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint accepted medical funds donated by Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife and then Shwewahwin Monastery President Sayadaw presented certificates of honours to them. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the congregation shared merits gained and offered a day meal to Sayadaws and 70 members of the Sangha.

People of Ayeyawady, Yangon Divisions and Kachin State, Shan State (South) condemn recent protests

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct—The people of Nyaungdon, Bogale, Wakela, Labutta and Hinthada towns in Ayeyawady Division, Momaik, Dawphoyan and Lwejel of Kachin State, Ywangan of Shan State (South), Lanmadaw, Latha, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), and Dagon Myothit (South) Townships of Yangon Division 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 walked in procession on 25, 28 and 29 October respectively after seeking permission from the authorities concerned to denounce recent protests.

In Ayeyawady Division, some 30,000 people of Nyaungdon, over 25,000 people of Bogale, about 50,000 people of Wakela, more than 33,000 people of Labutta and over 30,000 people of Hinthada walked in procession on 25 October shouting slogans calling for ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ and ‘The seven-step Road Map must be successful’ and holding placards, ‘We favour peace and stability’, ‘Prices are high and the people are in trouble due to the US economic sanctions’ and ‘We do not accept US hegemony’.

In like manner, about 30,000 people of Ywangan of Shan State (South) walked in procession, chanting slogans and holding state flags and placards on 28 October.

Similarly, on 25 October, 11,000 people of Momaik, some 5,400 people of Dawphoyan and over 5,000 people of Lwejel of Kachin State walked in procession shouting slogans calling for ‘Our Three Main National Causes’ and ‘The seven-step Road Map must be successful’ and holding placards, ‘We favour peace and stability’, ‘Prices are high and the people are in trouble due to the US economic sanctions’ and ‘We do not accept US hegemony’.

Similarly, over 5,500 people of Lanmadaw, more than 5,000 people of Latha, over 5,200 people of Dagon Myothit (South), and more than 10,000 people of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Townships of Yangon Division on 29 October, walked in procession, chanting 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 don’t want unrest and violence’, ‘BBC, VOA and RFA — Killers in the air waves’.

Residents of Latha Township express desire to denounce recent protests. — MNA

People marching in procession in Wakema to denounce recent protests. — MNA

People marching in procession in Hinthada to denounce recent protests. — MNA
The government is making all-out efforts for development of the State, prevalence of peace and tranquillity, fulfilling food, clothing and shelter needs of the people, improvement of the living standard of the people, bringing about better transport and development of trade, commerce and manufacturing.

Hence, it is building infrastructures across the nation to narrow development gap between one region and another. And it has built a large number of bridges, large and small for secure and better transport. It has opened altogether 228 bridges, 180 feet and above long, including the newly-opened Dagon Bridge.

The six-lane Dagon Bridge is the largest one among the reinforced-concrete bridges in Myanmar.

With regard to the construction of the bridge, an interview was conducted with Project In-charge Deputy Superintending Engineer U Tint Lwin of Special Bridge Construction Group-1 of Public Works, Assistant Engineer (Civil) U Tin Win Aung and SAE (Civil) U Saw Tin Oo.

Q: How much did the government spend on construction of Dagon Bridge?
A: The government spent altogether over K 20,000 million on construction of the bridge including the approach structures.

Q: What are the differences between Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) and Dagon Bridge?
A: The differences are so many as the technologies in construction of the two bridges are not the same. There were difficulties in construction of Dagon Bridge due to geographical condition.

Q: When did you put the finishing touches to the last concrete floor of the bridge?
A: We put the finishing touches to the last concrete floor on 16 June 2007. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected the finishing touches and gave instructions on timely completion of the work.

Q: When was the whole project completed?
A: The whole project was completed in July 2007.

Q: What are the salient points in construction of major bridges?
A: The salient points are the quality control and the close supervision. Only when there is the close supervision can the timely decision be made.

Q: U Tin Win Aung, let me ask you some questions as to your role in this project?
A: I am Assistant Engineer for the project. The project was the most difficult job for me during my 33 years’ service.

Q: What was the most difficult part of the construction process?
A: A stake for the bridge was driven on 2 May 2000. The most difficult part of the construction process was the laying of pillars in mid river. We had to take utmost care as it was a risky task. Frankly speaking, the laying of Pillar-12 and Pillar-13 was the most difficult and dangerous because the current of Bago River is strong, and the two pillars were in the middle of a whirlpool.

Q: What kind of whirlpool did you come across?
A: It was the whirlpool with a vortex imparting a strong centripetal force. Because of the special nature of the whirlpool, we had to get rid of the rubbish first before laying the two pillars.
Dagon Bridge, pride of…
(from page 8)

Q: What are the natural difficulties stemming from Bago River?
A: As there is a hilllock near Kalawe Village where the bridge was being constructed the current of the river flows erratically. As such, bank erosion had to be prevented. Stand pipes were to be sunk only when the river’s water subsided. We had about 45 minutes to sink a stand pipe. It took two days to sink a stand pipe.

Q: How did you sink the stand pipe?
A: We sank the stand pipe only after setting up a scaffolding. The stand pipes had to be handled with great care so that there can be no loss and damage. A stand pipe is worth about K 5 million.

Q: How did you manage the use of the CRC piles?
A: Bore piles are used on land and RCD piles are used in the water. We used 398 105-foot-long RCD piles and 240 110-foot-long reinforced concrete beams to build the 19 pillars of the Dagon Bridge.

Q: Is there any salient point in the Dagon Bridge?
A: Yes, there is. The pillars of the bridge were built with the use of cantilever so that the maximum distance between two pillars was as wide as 160 feet.

Q: How many pillars does the bridge consist of?
A: It consists of 19 main pillars, plus 15 pillars for the approach structure on Thanyin side and 13 pillars for the approach structure on Yangon side.

Q: May I know the exact length of the bridge?
A: The length of the main structure is 2740 feet, the approach structure on Thanyin side is 960 feet, and the approach structure on Yangon side is 840 feet. So, the total length of the bridge is 4540 feet.

Q: I would like to know the role new generation engineers played in the construction of the project.
A: Learning from our seniors, we Myanmar engineers have built many large and small bridges through innovations without any foreign assistance and experts. Many new generation engineers took part in the project. The purpose was to share our experiences with them. They showed their enthusiasm in the work. And they learnt the art of construction in earnest.

Q: SAE U Saw Tin Oo, let me know your experiences.
A: All right. I have got 20 years’ experience with construction. I have taken part in the 400 projects for construction of bridges under 180 feet long and 20 projects for construction of bridges above 180 feet long.

Q: Would you please share your experiences with us about the Dagon Bridge Project?
A: We wanted to make the distance between two pillars of the Dagon Bridge as wide as possible. So, we used PC girder reinforced-concrete beams. I had to take responsibilities for that. In the process, we had to take great care because the beams had 0.5-inch flexible steel string in them. We installed pieces of steel string only after making concrete slabs to reinforce the capacity of the pieces of the steel string.

Q: How many beams did you use for the bridge?
A: We used 240 beams at the rate of 15 beams a span. A beam is 110 feet long. The purpose was to reinforce the six-lane motor road. According to my experiences, the Dagon Bridge is the longest among the concrete ones. And it is designed to withstand 75 tons of loads for a cargo truck. So, it is the most reliable facility for container trucks.

Q: Myanmar engineers have constructed such large bridges without any foreign assistance. How do you feel about it?
A: In that regard, Myanmar engineers worked hard with patriotic spirit and determination in the interests of the State and the people. I am one of them, so I am very proud of our performance.

Q: How does the Ministry recognize your brilliant performances?
A: Well, the Ministry promotes, and sends outstanding engineers abroad for excursion or further studies in recognition.

Q: What is your future plan?
A: I think I will continue to construct bridges in the interest of the nation and the people. Indeed, bridges secure smooth transport.

On my way home, I remembered the condition in which the people had to travel between Thanlyin and Yangon. Now, such difficulties are no more thanks to the goodwill and projects of the government.

There have been two large bridges through which the people can travel directly from Yangon to Thanyin, Kyauktaung, Kayan and Thongaw region. In the near future, the region will enjoy rapid development and that will contribute towards national progress.

Translation: TS + MS

Two RCD machines are used in tandem to drill two holes for setting piles at main pillar No 12.

Workers at work to cap Pillar No 13.

One hundred and ten feet long PC beams (girders) are laid on the main bridge.
Minister meets participants in 15th Performing Arts Competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Enterprise, Managing Director U Soe Win of the University of Printing and Publishing, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with participants in the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions from Sagaing Division at the convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin this afternoon.

At the meeting, the minister provided cash to them through Group Leader U Tin Than Win of Sagaing Division troupe. Managers, judges and participants of the troupe representing Sagaing Division attended the meeting.

Also present on the occasion were Managing Director U Aung Nyein of Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, and Group Leader of Sagaing Division Head of Sagaing Division Information and Public Relations Department Deputy Director U Tin Than Win. Later, the minister warmly greeted participants of the meeting. — MNA

Contestants and managers go on study tour

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — The contestants from the states and divisions who are participating in the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and managers, accompanied by Chairman of Subcommittee for Administration and Welfare Lt-Gen Naing Aung and officials concerned went on study tour of No 2 and No 3 Sugar Mills in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana this morning.

They were conducted by Assistant Managers U Hla Myint Than and U Aye Ko round the mills. Next, they proceeded to No 2 Yeni Paper Factory in Yedashe Township of Bago Division and they were conducted by Project Director U Zaw Win and Manager U Aung Hsan round the factory. Afterwards, they went on study tour of Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone and they were conducted by Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Hay Aung and Director U Hlaya Myint.

MNA

15th Performing Arts Competitions conclude

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — The last day programmes of 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were held at the designated places in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin yesterday.

Present on the occasions were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Secretary of the Work Committee Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of the Fine Arts Department, officials of the leading committee, the work committee and subcommittees, national races cultural troupes, service personnel and local people.

Chairman of the panel of judges for classical song contest Assistant Director (music) Daw Tin Tin Mya (Retd), Leader of the panel of judges Daw Thin Myat and party supervised the contests at the assembly hall of the Agriculture University.

Ten contestants participated in the higher education level women’s classical song contest and fourteen students in the basic education level (10-15 age group) boys’ classical song contest. Chairman of the panel of judges for kwatseik (narration of Jataka) contest Rector U Tin Soe of the University of Culture (Yangon) and party supervised the contests. The last day programmes of kwatseik contest took place at the convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science. A total of six contestants from States and Divisions competed in the amateur level (first class) men’s kwatseik contest.

At the lecture hall of the Agriculture University, Chairman of the panel of judges for the music contests U Yi Nwe, Leader U Khin Hla Hla and members supervised the xylophone contests. Five participants took part in the amateur level (first class) women’s xylophone contest and five contestants in the higher education level men’s xylophone contest.

In the afternoon six contestants competed in the basic education level (15-20 age group) girls’ xylophone contest and eleven students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls’ xylophone contest. Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Satin and party supervised the competitions of the contestants in the orchestra contest at the convocation hall of the Agricultural University.

Three persons participated in the amateur level (first class) women’s orchestra(solo) contest, two contestants in the higher education level women’s orchestra (solo) contest and five students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls’ orchestra (solo) contest.

MNA
Saudi King says Britain failing to tackle terrorism

LONDON, 30 Oct — Britain failed to act on information passed to it by Saudi Arabia which might have helped prevent suicide bombings in London in 2005 that killed 52 people, Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah said on Monday.

In an interview with the BBC on the eve of a state visit to Britain, King Abdullah accused London of failing to do enough to combat international terrorism and said al-Qaeda remained a major threat.

“We have sent information to Great Britain before the terrorist attacks in Britain but unfortunately no action was taken,” he said, speaking through an interpreter. “And it may have been able to maybe avert the tragedy.”

The July 7, 2005 suicide bombings on London’s transport system were Britain’s most devastating peacetime attack.

The Saudi monarch said in his interview that most countries — including Britain — did not view terrorism seriously enough.

“It will take 20 to 30 years to defeat the scourge of terrorism with vigilant effort,” he said.

“And I strongly urge all countries in the world, including Great Britain, to take the matter of fighting terrorism very, very seriously.”

Security threat to US, UK in Azerbaijan

BAKU, 30 Oct — Azerbaijan detained a group of militant Islamists preparing an armed attack near the US Embassy in Baku, the Security Ministry of the former Soviet state said on Monday.

“Several people belonging to a Wahhabi group have been detained. They were planning terrorist attacks near the US Embassy in Baku,” National Security Ministry spokesman Arif Babayev told Reuters.

Wahhabism originated in Saudi Arabia in the 18th Century. It is rooted in the idea of restoring Islam’s purity by purging it of its foreign and corrupting influences, and is associated in the West with Islamic extremists.

Britain closed its diplomatic office in Baku on Monday because of security concerns, and the US moved its embassy to limited operations.

“The embassy is closed due to some local security concerns. The situation will be kept under review,” a spokeswoman for the British Embassy said.

A spokesman for the US Embassy said: “The embassy has gone to limited operations in connection with a threat against the embassy.”

Somali pirates hijack Japanese ship

NAIROBI, 30 Oct — Somali pirates have hijacked a Japanese-owned ship off the Indian Ocean coast with unidentified crew members aboard, Kenya’s maritime said on Monday.

Andrew Mwangura, the programme coordinator of the East Africa Seafarers Assistance Programme (SAP), said the Panama-flagged Golden Mori was seized early Sunday at Socotra, a Yemeni island in the Indian Ocean.

“The Japanese owned Golden Mori was hijacked on Sunday some eight nautical miles from Socotra. We don’t have information yet on the number of crew members aboard and their nationalities,” Mwangura told Xinhua by telephone.

“We also don’t know the destination of the vessel which is being held captive by pirates in Somalia.”

The incident comes barely two weeks after the Somalia pirates hijacked the Comoros-flagged Almarjan which was on its way to Mogadishu from Dubai when it was hijacked by pirates.

The Dubai-based vessel operated by Biyat International which was bound to Mombasa after discharge from the war-ravaged Mogadishu had over 2,500 tons of general cargo.

Iranian police kill 7 drug smugglers

TEHERAN, 30 Oct — Iranian police have killed seven drug smugglers in clashes in a northeastern region close to Afghanistan, the official IRNA news agency reported on Monday.

Seven other bandits were arrested and 135 kilos (300 pounds) of opium were seized during police operations in the province of Khorassan Razavi, IRNA said, without giving further details.

Iran is a transit route for drugs smuggled from Afghanistan to Western countries and elsewhere. Afghanistan is the world’s top producer of the opium poppy, which is the key ingredient for heroin.
Over 7,000 die of “AIDS” in N-E Nigeria over past two years

LAGOS, 29 Oct—No fewer than 7,792 people died of HIV/AIDS in the past two years, in north-east Nigeria’s Bauchi State. The figure was derived from a survey on which showed that 146,350 persons are living with the disease, according to a workshop on HIV/AIDS for pastoralists in the North-East zone in Bauchi. According to a report by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Saturday, the figure was based on a recent HIV/AIDS survey carried out by the state Ministry of Health.

Mallam Mohammed Shuwa, the Zonal Officer of the National Commission for Nomadic Education (NCNE), said more than 11,000 children were made orphans in the 20 Local Government Areas of the state. “The battle is, therefore, not only for one organization but to ensure that all hands must be on deck to fight the spread of the scourge, especially in this sub-region,” he said.

About 3,263 nomads had benefited from similar workshops in Taraba, Yobe, Adamawa and Gombe states. He said NCNE would collaborate with UNICEF to organize more of such workshops and to enhance greater participation by stakeholders.

NCNE Executive Secretary, Hajya Nafisatu Dahuri, said the commission had recognized the important role of nomads’ community leaders in the activities of the commission.

Dahuri, who was represented by Mallam Mohammed Dan-Iya, an assistant director in the commission, explained that community leaders were effective in disseminating information on the dangers of HIV/AIDS. “I am pretty sure that this workshop will raise the level of awareness of the pastoralists as a migrant group and by extension, improve the awareness of other people in the region,” she said.

About 140 nomadic community leaders, from the six states of the zone, attended the workshop. MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh administers polio vaccines to 22 mln children

DHAKA, 29 Oct—Bangladesh on Saturday administered over 22 million under-five children polio vaccines and Vitamin A capsules in a bid to eradicate polio virus from the country.

Bangladesh has procured 30 million doses of oral polio vaccines, 20 million doses of high-protein Vitamin A capsules and 13 million doses of Albendazole tablets for this purpose.

The vaccines were administered through more than 60,000 health workers and volunteers in 140,000 vaccination centres, including mobile centres and outreach sites across Bangladesh.

Besides, a four-day house to house search will follow to make sure that no children of the age group miss the immunization campaign.

The first case of polio in Bangladesh was detected in March 2006 after a recess of five years. Eighteen polio cases have so far been detected in 12 out of 64 districts of Bangladesh with the last one being reported on 22 November 2006. MNA/Xinhua

Hong Kong Wetland Park wins ULI Global Award

HONI KONG, 29 Oct—Hong Kong Wetland Park has won the Urban Land Institute’s (ULI) 2007 Global Awards, the 14th award of the project, according to a Press release from the Information Services Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government on Sunday.

The park, designed and developed by Hong Kong Architectural Services Department, is one of the five developments to win the award. The other four winning projects are Seattle’s High Point and Philadelphia’s Urban Outfitters Corporate Campus, Poland’s Manufactura, and Paris’ Meudon Campus.

The Wetland Park is the only development in the Asia-Pacific region to win the award, the department said. The prize presentation ceremony was held at the ULI Fall Meeting in Las Vegas on 26 October. The jury said the park has succeeded on all counts, demonstrating a sound investment of public funds.

“Having started out as a prosaic wetlands conservation initiative, the Hong Kong Wetland Park blossomed in its planning stage into an educational facility to demonstrate best practices in environmental reclamation and sustainability and also into a tourist attraction,” the Press release quoted the jury as saying.

Speaking at the prize presentation ceremony, Hong Kong Director of Architectural Services Yue Chu-hang said it is a great honour to accept the prestigious award. MNA/Xinhua

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO SEALED TENDERS

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following stores which will be purchased in Euro:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
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<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>12(T)/ 29 (MR/ML)</td>
<td>Solid Wheels for LE Rail Buses</td>
<td>2 Items</td>
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<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>DD 51 Locomotives</td>
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<td>ii</td>
<td>12(T)/ 30 (MR/ MC)</td>
<td>Steel Materials for New Construction</td>
<td>69 Items</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>Passenger Coaches, (CQ, Welding Wire, Electrodes, Steel Plates, Angles, Round Bars, Channels, Pipes &amp; Accessories, Coach Wheel and Axles, Coil Springs, Axle Box and Pulley, etc.)</td>
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Closing Date & Time: 16-12-2007 (Friday) (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon from 30.10.2007 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 01-291982, 291985, 291988 (201555 Ext 601, 602, 605)

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botahtaung, Yangon

China, ROK launch new air route between Shanghai, Seoul

SHANGHAI, 29 Oct—A new air route between Shanghai and Seoul was launched Sunday, aiming at cutting travel time. Four airlines—China Eastern Airlines, Shanghai Airlines, and Korean Air and Asiana Airlines from the Republic of Korea (ROK)—will each offer a roundtrip every day between Shanghai’s Hongqiao Airport and Seoul’s Gimpo Airport.

Compared to the Incheon-Pudong route, Hongqiao-Gimpo is expected to save a minimum of one hour since Gimpo Airport is just 12 kilometres from the downtown of Seoul while Incheon Airport is 52 kilometres away, said a spokesman with the Hongqiao Airport. This is the second international air route at Hongqiao after the Hongqiao-Haneda (Tokyo) route went into operation on September 29 with two airlines each from Japan and China flying once a day.

Meanwhile on the Gimpo-Haneda route, four airlines are all running two roundtrips per day.

The Hongqiao-Gimpo Haneda routes will cut travel time as the airports are closer to Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo respectively than Incheon, Pudong and Narita, which will make it possible to travel between Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo in a single day. MNA/Xinhua
SAS plane crashlands in Denmark, no serious injuries

COPENHAGEN, 29 Oct — The landing gear of an SAS turboprop plane collapsed upon landing in Copenhagen on Saturday, Danish media said, but no serious injuries were reported.

News agency Ritzau quoted Copenhagen police as saying no passengers had been seriously injured when the right main landing gear of the Q400 plane collapsed.

SAS and airport officials were not immediately available for comment.

Ritzau said one of two runways at Kastrup Airport had been closed after the accident which took place around 1500 GMT.

The Scandinavian airline last month grounded its entire fleet of 27 Q400 planes, built by Canada’s Bombardier, after two crash landings, one in Lithuania on 12 September and one in Denmark on 9 September.

MNA/Reuters

New study shows smoking increases risk of psoriasis

WASHINGTON, 29 Oct — Another disease can be added to the list of smoking-related disorders — psoriasis. Researchers have found that smoking increases the risk of developing psoriasis, heavier smoking increases the risk further, and the risk decreases only slowly after quitting.

This study is the largest prospective assessment of multiple markers of smoking status, duration, and intensity in relation to the risk of psoriasis.

Using data from a longitudinal study of 116,608 female registered nurses from 15 states between the ages of 25 and 42 years at baseline, who completed and returned an initial questionnaire in 1989, the researchers documented 887 incident cases of psoriasis during the 14 years of follow-up.

Lifetime smoking exposure was measured in pack-years, equal to smoking a pack of cigarettes per day for one year.

Compared with women who never smoked, the risk of psoriasis was 37 percent higher among past smokers and 78 percent higher among current smokers.

Pack-years were associated with an increased risk of psoriasis.

INTERNET

WHO: 40% of global births go unregistered

GENEVA, 29 Oct — Every year nearly 40 percent of the 128 million global births of new babies are not officially registered due to the lack of civil registration, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday.

“The situation is even worse for death registration. Globally, two-thirds of 57 million annual births go unregistered,” said the UN agency in a statement. The lack of civil registration is especially serious in developing countries, which makes it difficult to produce vital statistics on the number of births, deaths and the causes of deaths, WHO said. “Such statistics are needed to show whether health programs are working. They are also essential to assess whether development aid is well spent,” it added.

According to WHO, the Health Metrics Network, a global partnership hosted by WHO, has launched a drive aimed to encourage developing countries to improve civil registration. The drive marks the start of intensive work to help a number of countries most in need to improve civil registration, among them Cambodia, Sierra Leone and Syria.

INTERNET

New bacteria species could help produce ethanol

BEIJING, 29 Oct.— Thermal pools in America’s Yellowstone National Park are home to a newly discovered bacteria species that could improve the use of bacteria to produce ethanol.

Researchers found the bacteria in Octopus and Mushroom springs as well as in Green Finger Pool. The bacteria thrive in hot water, growing best between 120 and 150 degrees.

The discovery is rare because the bacterium is photosynthesizing, which means it converts sunlight into energy.

Scientists have discovered just three similar bacteria species within the past century, according to Don Bryant, a professor of biotechnology, biochemistry and molecular biology at Penn State University and leader of the research team.

“Among microbiologists, this would be considered a big deal,” Bryant said. He speculated that the bacteria could be used by researchers who are looking for new ways to use bacteria to produce ethanol, which can be burned like gasoline.

The bacteria, he said, likely obtain carbon not from the atmosphere, but by removing the waste of other bacteria. That could help other types of bacteria grow much more quickly. “It’s really not all that complicated to get a little more bang for your buck,” he said. —INTERNET

INTERNET

A beach house that burned in Ocean Isle, N C, is shown on 29 Oct, 2007. An early morning fire on Sunday, 28 Oct, 2007 ravaged the house occupied by more than a dozen college students on Sunday, killing seven and sending several more to a hospital. —INTERNET
LONDON, October 30 — Arsenal regained first place in the Premier League on Sunday thanks to a Cesc Fabregas equalizer in an entertaining 1-1 draw with Liverpool at Anfield.

The Gunners trailed to Steven Gerrard's seventh-minute free kick but the inspirational Fabregas stoned in with 10 minutes remaining to give the visitors a deserved share of the points.

Arsenal has 26 points from 10 matches while champions Manchester United, 4-1 winners at home to Middlesbrough on Saturday, also have 26 from 11 but have scored fewer goals. Liverpool are sixth with 20 points from 10.

Earlier Tottenham Hotspur suffered a third defeat in a turbulent week to stay in the relegation zone, this time losing 2-1 at home to Blackburn.

Rovers for whom Christopher Samba scored a stoppage time winner.

Liverpool and Arsenal, both undefeated in the league this season, served up a treat in the weekend's outstanding fixture which was seen as a major test of Arsenal's credentials.

The home side, looking to hit back from a damaging 2-1 Champions League defeat by Besiktas on Wednesday, made a stirring start with Gerrard forcing a fine early save from goalkeeper Manuel Almuna.

A minute later they went ahead when Gerrard's fierce free kick from the edge of the area flew through a hole in the Arsenal wall into the bottom left corner.

Rogerio in action at both ends as Sao Paulo win

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 Oct — Goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni scored from a free kick, missed a penalty and made two crucial saves to help Brazilian championship leaders Sao Paulo win 2-1 at Sport Recife on Sunday.

Sao Paulo stretched their lead over Santos and Palmeiras to 15 points with five matches to play and need one more point to clinch their second successive title.

On a hot, sticky afternoon in Recife, the visitors went ahead in the 29th minute when Rogerio curled the ball around the wall to score one of his trademark free kicks.

It was his sixth goal of the competition and the 77th of his remarkable career.

Seven minutes later, Rogerio was in action at the other end as he brilliantly turned Everton's header over the crossbar.

Bolton edge off bottom with point against Villa

LONDON, 30 Oct — Bolton Wanderers moved off the foot of the Premier League on Sunday with a 1-1 home draw with Aston Villa in Gary Megson's first match in charge.

Nicolas Anelka's pinpoint free kick gave Bolton a first-half lead but Villa hit back seven minutes after the break when Luke Moore chested in Gabriel Agbonlahor's driven cross. The point was enough to lift Bolton, who appointed Megson on Wednesday to replace Sammy Lee, above Derby County who suffered a 2-0 home defeat by Everton.

Mikel Arteta and Yakubu Aiyegbeni were the Everton goal scorers as they moved up to ninth in the table with 16 points. Bolton are on six points from 11 matches, the same as Derby, but have a superior goal difference.

Wenger talks up title chances after draw at Liverpool

LIVERPOOL (England), 30 Oct — Arsenal proved their Premier League title-winning credentials with their performance in Sunday's 1-1 draw at Liverpool, manager Arsene Wenger said.

The Gunners came from behind to take a deserved point when midfielders Cesc Fabregas's goal cancelled out an early opener from Steven Gerrard and move back to the top of the standings.

I have been confident since the beginning of the season and I hope we have convinced a few more people," Wenger told reporters.

"There is a long way to go but in my opinion we have the talent to fight to be champions," he said.

"We have come out of this big test a stronger team. We played without any handbrake or restrictions."

The win capped a good week for Arsenal, who had beaten Slavia Prague 7-0 in the Champions League in midweek.

"We played how we wanted to play, using our technical qualities and our movement," Wenger said.

"What is different from last season? We have confidence now and we are more mature."
**IAEA chief sees no evidence of Iran making N-weapons**

WASHINGTON, 30 Oct — There is no evidence that Iran is actively building nuclear weapons, said Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in an interview with CNN on Sunday.

“My fear is that if we continue to escalate from both sides that we will end up into a precipice, we will end up into an abyss,” he said.

The IAEA chief said he will continue to work through “creative diplomacy” to try to resolve Iran’s nuclear issue. “I do not see any other solution than diplomacy and inspections,” he said.

ElBaradei made the remarks after senior Bush Administration officials, including President George W. Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney, had attacked Iran in sharply tougher rhetoric recently.

Moreover, the United States imposed sweeping sanctions on Iran on Thursday to keep pressure on Teheran.

Washington has accused Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons under the cover of a civilian nuclear program. Iran has denied US charges and insisted that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only.

**Canadian soldiers get mental problems after Afghan mission**

OTTAWA, 30 Oct — Hundreds of Canadian soldiers are suffering from a range of mental-health problems after returning from Afghanistan, military health officials said.

About 28 per cent of the 2,700 soldiers who were screened recently after serving in Afghanistan were found to have symptoms of one or more mental-health problems, including depression, panic disorders and suicidal tendencies, Canadian Television (CTV) reported Sunday quoting Dr Mark Zamorski, head of the military’s deployment health section.

Among the patients, 17 percent exhibited signs of high-risk drinking, about 5 percent showed symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and another 5 percent had symptoms of major depression.

Besides those experiencing mental problems, another 31 per cent said their health had deteriorated over the period of their staying in Afghanistan, according to Zamorski.

An official with Veterans Affairs said since Canada started to deploy troops in Afghanistan five years ago, the number of clients receiving care for PTSD at the clinic’s departments has risen to 6,500 from 1,800.

Canada now has 2,500 soldiers based in southern Afghanistan. Since 2002, 71 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in the country.

**Visitors look at lighting products at a booth at the Hong Kong International Lighting fair in Hong Kong Monday, on 29 October, 2007.**

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**WEATHER**

**Summary of observations recorded at 00 hours MST:**

During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder showers have been scattered in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Rakhine State and Yangon Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pathein (0.63) inch, Gwa (0.24) inch and Yangon (Central) (0.11) inch.

Maximum temperature on 29-10-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 30-10-2007 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 30-10-2007 was 79%. Sunshine hours on 29-10-2007 was (2.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 30-10-2007 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (0.11) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mingaladon, (140.75) inches at Kaba-Aye and (142.83) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southeast at (13:30) hours MST on 30-10-2007.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 31-10-2007:**

Like-likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers in Rakhine, Mon States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin States, Bago and upper Sagaing Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:**

Continuation of isolated rain or thunder showers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 31-10-2007:**

Practically cloudy. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-10-2007: Possibility of rain or thunder showers.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-10-2007:** Generally fair weather.

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**“Untimely Rainfall Warning” (Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 30-10-2007)**

According to the observation at (06:30) hrs MST today, due to the influence of the Easterly waves, isolated to scattered rain or thunder showers are likely in Mon State and Taninthayi Division within next (48) hours commencing noon today.
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