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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 tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein to pay visits to LPDR, Vietnam

NAY PYI TAW, 7 NOV — At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and His Excellency Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein will pay official visits to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the near future. — MNA

UN Envoy holds talks with Spokes Authoritative Team of SPDC, meets NPED Minister, Foreign Minister, Religious Affairs Minister, Labour Minister, members of social organizations, representatives of national races

NAY PYI TAW, 6 NOV — Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari arrived here via Yangon on 3 November.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win hosted a dinner in his honour at Shwenandaw Hotel here on 3 November.

On 4 November, he called on Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi, who was assigned as Minister for Relations to liaise with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, at his office, responsible personnel of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the City Hall here.

(See page 8)

Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, holds talks with the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council. — MNA

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

**Wednesday, 7 November, 2007**

**Build more hydropower plants to improve people’s living conditions**

With the industrial development, it will improve the living conditions of the people and electricity consumption will be on the increase.

With the aim of helping feed domestic electricity demand, Yeywa Hydropower Plant Project is now being implemented over the Myitnge River near Yayayama Village, 31 miles south-east of Mandalay. So far, the construction of the main embankment has completed by 62 per cent. Upon completion, the project will be able to generate 790 megawatts.

The multi-purpose hydropower plants along Sittoung River Basin designed to supply irrigation water and generate electricity are Khabaung, Kunchaung, Shweyin and Yenwe. The Multi-purpose Yenwe Hydropower Plant Project was inaugurated recently. Now, it is producing 25 megawatts and benefiting more than 100,000 farmlands.

Multi-purpose Khabaung Hydropower Plant Project that will be able to produce 30 megawatts on completion and Multi-purpose Kunchaung Hydropower Plant Project that will be able to produce 60 megawatts are being implemented. On completion, they will irrigate a large number of acres of paddy fields.

Endeavours are being made to open hydropower plants one after another along Sittoung River Basin. These prudent projects will also contribute towards prevention of flooding and reclamation of low-lying areas for agricultural purpose along Sittoung River Basin.

In an attempt to transform Myanmar from agro-based nation to industrialized one, responsible persons are to work harder to complete the projects ahead of schedule for improving the industrial sector and living conditions of the people.

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**Minister inspects Agriculture Machinery Manufacturing Factory No 1 (Sinde)**

**NAY PYI TAW, 6 Nov—**Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, accompanied by officials, inspected Agriculture Machinery Manufacturing Factory No 1 (Sinde) in Padaung Township, Bago Division (West), yesterday morning.

At the briefing hall, the general manager of the factory reported to the minister on preparation for production services, sales of products, income and expenditures of the factory, distribution and production of new items.

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**Ministry of Electric Power No 2 holds Communal Kathina ceremony**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Nov—**Ministry of Electric Power No 2 held its 2nd Communal Kathina robes offering ceremony at the ministry here this morning. It was attended by members of the Sangha led by Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ardiccavamsa of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Sunanami Yanaunghmyin Monastery, Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wife Daw Win Win Nu, departmental officials, staff members, well-wishers and guests.

The ceremony was opened with the three time recitation of Namo Tassa.

Next, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ardiccavamsa and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

After the ceremony, the minister and wife presented Kathina robes and obertories to the Sayadaw and departmental officials presented offerings to members of the Sangha.

Later, Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ardiccavamsa delivered a sermon and the gathering led by the minister and wife shared merits gained for pious deeds. The ceremony ended with the recitation of Buddha Sasanaan Ciram Titthatu three times.

After the ceremony, the minister and wife offered ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha.—**MNA**

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**Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaks at the work proficiency course No-33 for the officials of Internal Revenue Department on 5 November. (News Reported)—**F & R

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**Myanmar delegation arrives back from PRC**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Nov—**Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thu Tha Aye Myint, after attending the 27th Asia Olympic Council General Meeting and 2nd Asian Indoor Games held in Macao, the People’s Republic of China from 26 October to 3 November, arrived back here by air at 9 am today.

They were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohm Myint, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and officials of the ministry.

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**Four of Sagaing Township NLD quit**

**YANGON, 6 Nov—**Four members of Sagaing Township National League for Democracy resigned from the party of their own accord on 8 and 10 October.

U Kyaw Min of Taear Taw Village, U Tar (a) U Hpy Maung and U Kyaw Myint of Nyaunghwun Village and U Khan Maung Lay of Tarta Village in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Division, sent their resignation letters to NLD headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In the resignation letter sent to Sagaing Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commissions, they said they quit NLD of their own volition as they were no longer interested in activities of NLD. —**MNA**

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**Minister Brig-Gen Thu Tha Aye Myint being welcomed back by Ministers Brig-Gen Ohm Myint and Dr Kyaw Myint.—**MNA
Mass grave containing remains of 40 found in western Iraq

RAMADI (Iraqi), 5 Nov— Iraqi police and anti-Qaida fighters have discovered some 40 corpses buried in a mass grave in Iraq’s western province of Anbar, a provincial security source said on Sunday.

“A joint force from Iraqi police and the Anbar’s Awakening Council fighters found remains of some 40 bodies in the Tharthar area, west of Ramadi City during a search operations in a village,” a source from the provincial anti-Qaida Awakening council told Xinhua.

The area where the mass grave found has long been under control by the al-Qaida terrorist network, the source said, adding that the security forces believe the victims were previously kid-napped and killed by the al-Qaida fighters.

The security forces also found dozens of civilian cars in a scrapyard, which the forces believe have been previously seized by al-Qaida militants, the source said.

Iraqis in Anbar and other cities have joined the US and Iraqi government backed Awakening Councils to fight al-Qaida’s militants, because of the al-Qaida’s adherence to a hardline form of Islam and indiscriminate killings.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier dies in non-combat related incident

BAGHDAD, 5 Nov—An American soldier died and another wounded in a non-combat related explosion in north of Baghdad, the US military said on Sunday.

The incident took place in Salahudin Province on Saturday, a military statement said.

The wounded soldier was transported to a medical facility for treatment, the statement said.

The name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, it said, adding the incident is under investigation. The latest deaths bring the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to about 3,850 since the breakout of the US-led war on Iraq in 2003, according to media account based on Pentagon figures. — MNA/Xinhua

Floods kill 46 in Vietnam, Typhoon “Peipah” nears

HANOI, 5 Nov— Floods have killed at least 46 people in central Vietnam in the last 10 days and a typhoon making its way across the South China Sea is forecast to dump more rain this week, reports said on Monday.

The region, which includes the Central Highlands coffee belt, has been hit hard by storms and floods since early October, killing nearly 200 people, causing property and crop damage of 300 million US dollars and delaying the coffee harvest by two weeks.

Floods since October 26 have killed 46 people in nine central provinces and Danang City, reports from provincial disaster management committees said.

Weather forecasters said Typhoon Peipah, which crossed the Philippines island of Luzon early on Monday, would bring rain again on central Vietnam.

A new wave of floods could hit in the next two to three days, the government said.

Rains delayed the start of Vietnam’s coffee harvest, squeezing supplies to global markets and thus raised prices on London robusta futures markets to a contract high on 1 November.

MNA/Reuters

Rescuers provide supplies of noodles to residents at a flooded area in Vietnam’s central Thua Thein Hue province on 5 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

Landmine explosion kills six in S-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 5 Nov—A landmine blast killed six people and wounded 13 in the southwestern Pakistani Province of Baluchistan, where nationalist rebels have been fighting for decades for autonomy, police said on Saturday.

A passenger van carrying civilians hit a landmine near Sui Town producing area, about 150 miles (240 kilometres) southeast of the provincial capital, Quetta, on Friday.

“All passengers were civilian and they were returning home when the blast happened. Five of them died on the spot,” Najam Tareen, a senior police officer in Sui, told Reuters, adding a sixth victim died later in hospital.

Police have arrested 10 men in connection with the blast, he said.

The Baluchistan militants regularly attack gas and other energy infrastructure, transport links and security posts.

They accuse the central government of exploiting the province’s resources without sharing the benefits among its people.

President Pervez Musharraf has promised to develop the province of sparsely populated deserts and mountains bordering Afghanistan and Iran. He has also announced an amnesty for rebels who surrender and has appealed to tribal leaders to help.

MNA/Xinhua

Two suicide bombers hit police checkpoint in northern Iraq

MOSSUL (Iraqi), 6 Nov— Two suicide bombers, one was driving a car while the other in a truck, struck a police checkpoint in northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Sunday, wounding at least 14 people, including policemen, a provincial police source said.

The twin suicide attack took place in the afternoon in Mosul’s western neighbourhood of Bab Sinjar, wounding 14 people, including eight policemen, Brigadier Wathiq al-Hamadi, police chief of Nineveh Province, told Xinhua.

The blasts also damaged several nearby civilian cars, the source added.

Nineveh province with Mosul, some 400 kilometres north of Baghdad, as its capital city, has been the hotbed of insurgency and sectarian violence since the US-led invasion broke out in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (left) tastes traditional bread and salt at an airport in Minsk, capital of Belarus, on 4 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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MNA/Reuters

Rescuers provide supplies of noodles to residents at a flooded area in Vietnam’s central Thua Thein Hue province on 5 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET
**UNICEF says Chad children affair breaches Int’l law**

KHARTOUM, 5 Nov—The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said on Sunday that a thwarted bid by European aid workers to fly 103 young Africans out of Chad to place them with new families in France breached international law.

“Our position is that this is not consistent with international norms or practices or laws,” said Ann Veneman, the head of UNICEF which is now involved in caring for the youngsters and tracking down their relatives.

Sixteen Europeans were arrested in the eastern Chadian town of Abeche last month, near the border with Sudan’s war-torn Darfur region, as they sought to fly out the children.

On Sunday Chad authorities released seven of those detained, but 10 others remain in jail. Six members of a French group called Zoe’s Ark are charged with fraud and abduction while three members of a Spanish air crew are charged as accessories, as is a Belgian pilot who was arrested later.

Zoe’s Ark, has said it intended to help the children, not abduct them, and that it acted legally. The group said it sought authorization from France to grant safe passage to the children it intended to bring back. 

MNA/Reuters

**Two ROK fishing fans rescued from cliff in east China**

JEJU, 5 Nov—Two fishing fans from the Republic of Korea (ROK) trapped on a seashore cliff on an island in east China’s Shandong Province were rescued on Saturday.

According to local marine rescue centre, the two Koreans were found trapped on a cliff at seaside of Zifu Island, Yantai City at 3:15 pm Saturday.

The centre informed the incident to the Dalian-based No 1 rescue aerocade under the Ministry of Communications. At 4:03 pm, a helicopter carrying rescuers took off from the northeast Chinese port. It arrived over the incident site in 30 minutes and lifted the two onto the helicopter.

The helicopter arrived at Laishan Airport in Yantai at 5:15 pm. The Koreans are now in stable condition with no injury.

MNA/Xinhua

**Mexico floods recede as thousands more evacuated**

VILLAHERMOSA (MEXICO), 5 Nov—Thousands more people were plucked from rooftops in southern Mexico on Sunday even as floods that have left 800,000 people homeless in Tabasco state began to recede, authorities said.

The Army evacuated 5,000 people in a four-hour operation with 14 helicopters, police official Daniel Montiel said, while trucks brought food and bottled water to some 600 overcrowded shelters struggling to provide enough meals and dry beds.

Army officials estimated another 80,000 people were still trapped in flooded homes, local media reported. Aerial images showed the area resembling a huge lake with just tops of rooftops poking through.

Despite fog and rain, nearly 40,000 people had been evacuated by Army and Navy teams in helicopters and boats, the local government in Tabasco said. Some flood victims even tried to grab onto hovering helicopters.

President Felipe Calderon was in Tabasco on Sunday to unveil plans for damage repair in the waterlogged region.

He called the flood, which affected around half the state’s two million residents, one of the worst natural catastrophes in Mexico’s modern history.

Only one death has been reported in Tabasco, although in the poor southern state of Chiapas, local government officials reported four fatalities on Sunday after rain-swollen rivers burst their banks, damaging thousands of homes and 16 bridges.

MNA/Reuters

**Explosion kills four policemen in central Afghanistan**

KABUL, 5 Nov—Four policemen were killed as their vehicle touched a mine planted by militants in Afghanistan’s central Ghazni Province on Sunday, a senior police officer said.

“It was around 3 pm (1030 GMT) when a mine struck police killing four and wounding two others,” deputy police chief of Ghazni Province Haji Mohammad Zaman told Xinhua via phone.

No one or group has claimed responsibility but usually Taliban insurgents carry out such attacks. More than 5,500 people mostly insurgents have been killed in militancy-related violence and conflicts so far this year in war-torn Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua

**British teenager killed in martial arts weapon attack**

London, 6 Nov—A teenage boy has died in hospital after being attacked with a martial arts weapon outside a party, police said on Sunday.

The 15-year-old suffered serious injuries in the attack in Horsham, West Sussex on Saturday. A boy of 16 was taken to hospital with head injuries.

Police said the victim was attacked with a pair of “nunchuks”, a weapon made up of two wooden sticks connected by a short metal chain.

“This was a very serious assault involving a number of people who had been at a party,” said Detective Chief Inspector Adam Hibbert, leading the investigation. “We would like to hear from anyone who attended the party.”

An 18-year-old local man has been arrested on suspicion of murder. Police appealed to the public to help find the murder weapon.

MNA/Reuters

The opening ceremony of 8th China Arts Festival is held in Hubei Province in central China on 5 Nov, 2007.—Xinhua

Two ROK fishing fans rescued from cliff in east China

People use boats to move around the flooded city of Villahermosa, state of Tabasco, Mexico. Anger and despair rose Monday as victims of southern Mexico’s disastrous floods, some perched on rooftops, complained of chaotic aid distribution and looting.—INTERNET

Mexico floods recede as thousands more evacuated

Clerks and security outside the facility check the ID cards of visitors to the International Human Rights Centre (CEF) said on Sunday that new families in France fly 103 young Africans out European aid workers to

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MNA/Reuters

The opening ceremony of 8th China Arts Festival is held in Hubei Province in central China on 5 Nov, 2007.—Xinhua
**Vietnam earns more from rice export in 10 months**

HANOI, 6 Nov—Vietnam earned nearly 1.4 billion US dollars from rice export in 10 months of this year, posting a year-on-year rise of 12.7 per cent, despite lower export volume.

Between January and October, Vietnam, the world’s second largest rice exporter, sold overseas nearly 4.3 million tons of rice, down 4 per cent over the same period last year, according to the General Statistics Office on Monday.

Vietnam’s paddy rice output is estimated at 35.9 million tons this year, equaling to last year, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Vietnam exported over 4.7 million tons of rice worth 1.3 billion dollars last year to nearly 100 markets, with the exports to the Philippines, Malaysia and Cuba accounting for some 60 per cent of the total.

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**Economic News**

**New Iran-Turkey gas pipeline construction to cost $5b**

TEHERAN, 6 Nov—It will cost Iran five billion US dollars to construct a new pipeline that carries its gas to Turkey and Europe, local English-language daily Teheran Times reported on Sunday.

Iran is to export 110 million cubic metres of gas to Turkey per day with the new-to-be-built pipeline, Seyyed Reza Kassaei-zadeh, Iran’s Deputy Oil Minister for gas affairs, was quoted as saying on Saturday.

The project will be done according to the build-own-operate (BOO) scheme, he added.

The official said that the private sector is in charge of operating the plan and will be allotted some privileges from National Iranian Gas Company for services it offers. Currently, there is already a 2,577-kilometre gas pipeline between Turkey and Iran, which was put into use in 2001 after five years of construction. The pipeline enables Turkey to import 20-22 million cubic metres of natural gas per day. By now, Iran has exported 20.74 billion cubic metres of natural gas to Turkey since then, Teheran Times said.

In July this year, Ankara and Teheran reached a preliminary agreement on the exploration of the natural gas reserves of South Pars on the southern Iranian coast.

With the agreement, Turkey said its state-controlled oil company would invest some three billion dollars over seven years in the construction of operating equipment.

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**Sixth Lao Handicraft Festival organized in Vientiane**

VIETNAM, 6 Nov—The Sixth Lao Handicraft Festival was officially opened 1 November at the International Trade Exhibition Convention Centre (ITECC) in Vientiane in the presence of Mr. Duangchai Phichith, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of National Defence, high-ranking officials and International Organizations representatives.

Ms. Chanthao Phathavong, Honourable President of the Lao Handicraft Association said at the opening ceremony that the exhibition was a major opportunity for artisans around the country to display and sell their work.

The five days function was attended by more than 115 booths from 11 provinces to display their products which comprises of garment, materials, furniture, jewelry and food processing.

The first festival was held in 2002, co-organized by the association and the Lao National Chamber for Commerce and Industry. The main objective is to bring together people of different ethnic groups producing handicrafts from the north to the south of Laos. The event also provided a useful meeting point for artisans and their customers.

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**Beijing builds world’s largest Ferris wheel**

BEIJING, 6 Nov — Beijing started on Monday to build the world’s largest Ferris wheel, hoping to offer tourists a bird’s-eye view of the city.

The Ferris wheel, with an investment of 99 million US dollars, will stand 208 metres high. It will be built in Chaoyang Park in eastern Beijing as part of facilities to commemorate the 2008 Olympic Games.

Beijing intended to have the landmark wheel completed and opened to tourists ahead of the Games, however, the project was delayed several times for further improvement of designing, said sources with the Beijing Great Wheel Corporation.

There is no exact timetable yet for its completion. The Beijing Great Wheel Corporation, wrote on its website that the project will be completed in 2009. The wheel’s foundation was originally laid in May 2006.

**Jiang Jiemin (front), President of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), knocks the gong in Shanghai, east China, on 5 Nov, 2007. Share in PetroChina Company Limited, China’s largest oil and gas producer, opened on 5 Nov, 2007 at 48.6 yuan on their first day of trade in the mainland A share market, up 191 percent from their IPO prices of 16.7 yuan. —XINHUA**

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**INTERNET**

A computer-generated image released by the Beijing Great Wheel Corp on Monday shows the Beijing Great Wheel which will stand in eastern Beijing’s Chaoyang Park.
Filipino students win golds at Maths Competition in India

MANILA, 6 Nov — A team composed of 18 Filipino students, led by a Chinese-Filipino teacher, reaped golds and other awards during the recent Wizards at Mathematics Trainers Guild (WIZMIC) 2007 held in Lucknow, India. Dr Simon Chua, president of the Mathematics Trainers Guild of the Philippines, chair of the Chinese High School in Zamboanga, said that team Philippines won four gold medals, eight silver medals and five bronze medals for the individual contestants and three gold and two silver trophies for the team in the competition.

A total of 13 countries and a region participated in WIZMIC which was held from 28 to 31 October, 2007 at the famous City Montessori School (CMS) in Lucknow, India. This is one of the most prestigious math contests in the world for elementary and high school students.

More than 100 grade school math wizard participants came from Bulgaria, Bangladesh, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Organized in 1995, the Philippine Mathematical Teaching Guild is a non-stock, non-profit organization of Mathematics teachers “committed to develop and promote excellence in Mathematics education and training in the Philippines.”

MNA/Xinhua

At least six killed in latest Brazil air crash

SAO PAULO, 5 Nov — At least six people were killed when a small plane crashed into a residential district of Sao Paulo city just after taking off on Sunday, officials said, the latest accident in Brazil’s crisis-ridden air system.

The plane, a Learjet 35 belonging to the Reali taxi company, had just taken off from Campo do Marte airfield on the outskirts of Sao Paulo for Rio de Janeiro, according to an official from the state airport authority Infraero. The cause of the crash was not immediately available for comment. The plane had the capacity to carry 10 people but it was not known how many people were aboard. A rescue official said the first three victims identified were not passengers. Campo do Marte serves as an airport for small charter planes and helicopters.

The crash was the fourth in Sao Paulo, Brazil’s business capital, in four days and the latest of several in the past 14 months.

The cause of the blaze is not yet known. Police say it may have been started deliberately. A police cordon is in place.

MNA/Reuters

Crews search for missing firefighters in England

LONDON, 5 Nov — Rescue teams resumed their search on Sunday for three firefighters missing feared dead after a suspicious blaze destroyed a warehouse in Warwickshire.

One firefighter was confirmed dead after the roof collapsed as he tackled the massive fire in a noted industrial estate near Stratford upon Avon on Friday.

Fire crews will work with structural engineers to make sure it is safe to enter the gutted building before a full search can take place. Preliminary checks were made late on Saturday before the search was called off for the night.

“The specialist search and rescue team were only able to enter a few feet into the building, where they remained for only a few minutes to carry out an initial visual assessment,” said a Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service spokesman.

The names of the dead firefighters from Warwickshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and the West Midlands worked through the night to bring the fire under control.

The cause of the blaze is not yet known. Police say it may have been started deliberately. A police cordon is in place.

MNA/Reuters

Research finds onions cut heart disease risk

LONDON, 5 Nov — Eating a meal rich in compounds called flavonoids reduces some early signs of heart disease, new research shows. Researchers at the British Institute of Food Research focused on one of the compounds, quercetin, which is found in onions, tea, apples and red wine, and found that in the case of one inflammatory process, a lower dose of the compounds, achievable by eating 100 grams to 200s gram of onions, actually had a bigger impact, the institute said in a statement Monday.

Onions are a good source of quercetin, which according to previous research is metabolized very quickly by the intestine and liver and is not actually found in human blood. The researchers concentrated on the compounds that enter the bloodstream after quercetin is ingested, absorbed and metabolised.

The compounds were used, in concentrations similar to those that would be produced following digestion, to treat cells taken from the lining of the blood vessels. The researchers tested compounds that are actually found in the blood, rather than the flavonoid in food before it is eaten, as only these compounds will actually come into contact with human tissues and have an effect on arterial health.

Internet

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Billboards set up in Nay Pyi Taw, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe to hail USDA AGM-2007

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Nov—To hail the Annual General Meeting-2007 of Union Solidarity and Development Association, billboards were erected near Thapyaygon Round-about here and in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe today.

The ceremony to set up the billboard near Thapyaygon Round-about was held at 8 am and Ma Su Yadana Htoo, a six-distinction winner for the 2006-2007 academic year of Yezin Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township, formally opened the billboard. Similarly, a billboard was set up near Thiri Yadana Myoma Market in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe at 8.30 am and a four-distinction winner for the 2006-2007 academic year of Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township Basic Education High School formally opened the billboard. Also present on the occasions were secretaries, executives and members of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana and Nay Pyi Taw Lewe district and township USDAs, member of the district and township PDC, executives and members of Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire brigade, teachers, students and local people.

Similarly, billboards will be setup at designated places in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District.

Families of Information Ministry offer day meals

YANGON, 6 Nov—Under the patronage of Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win, families of the Ministry of Information held a ceremony to offer day meals to Lecturer Sayadaws of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at Mogok Refectory on Kaba Aye hill this morning.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. Next, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Rector Sayadaw of State Pariyatti Sasana University Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Vandita. On behalf of the minister, Myanma Radio and Television Director-General U Khin Maung Htay offered alms to the Rector Sayadaw and presented cash donation for the day meals through Deputy Director U Soe Min Tun of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasasa. After that, the congregation shared merits gained.

Afterwards, the Director-General and officials offered day meals to members of the Sangha.

People of Thandaunggyi, Kawkareik, Papun and Kya-in-Seikkyi denounce recent protests

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Nov—People of Thandaunggyi, Kawkareik, Papun and Kya-in-Seikkyi townships in Kayin State who favour peace and stability of the State, the rule of law and community peace and tranquillity walked in procession on 29, 30 and 31 October by expressing their desire to denounce the recent protests in September as they believed that the protests were aimed at harming peace and security of the people.

They walked in procession in accord with the law after seeking permission from the authorities concerned. Over 10,000 residents in Thandaunggyi Township on 29 October and over 15,000 people in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township on 31 October held the placards that read, “We don’t accept US’ bully scheme”, “US launches a bloody battle in Iraq”, and “Ward off the danger of internal and external destructive elements” and shouted slogans while walking in procession in the townships concerned and expressed their desire to denounce the recent protests.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.
UN Envoy holds talks with Spokes Authoritative Team...

(from page 1)

Mr Ibrahim also met with officials of Myanmar Red Cross Society and representatives of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states at the city hall yesterday.

He met with the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council at Ministry of Information here today.

He also met with U Soe Thu, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, and Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Minister for Religious Affairs, at the latter’s offices here separately.

Clarification on Myanmar’s situation to UNSG’s Special Envoy Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari

At this meeting, we will discuss frankly as intimate friends. Our discussions and your suggestions will be put on record and news be released.

As we have already explained at the previous meeting, ours is the Spokes Authoritative Team mandated to the task by the State Peace and Development Council. We will explain the governmental affairs. Moreover, we, on behalf of the State Peace and Development Council, will give clarification concerning your suggestions and make decisions as necessary. In our country, national affairs and policies are passed by the State Peace and Development Council and cabinet members through collective leadership under the guidance of the Head of State. Hence, our team will apply the same method in extending relations with the UN Secretariat.

The visit of Your Excellency is happily welcomed by the Myanmar people. And it is hoped that Your Excellency will provide the best advice fair and square for Myanmar’s affairs as you are a well-experienced diplomat and the Special Envoy to UNSG serving the interests of the global nations.

To discuss the Myanmar’s affairs, you should have thoroughly studied not only the current situation of Myanmar but also the significant facts throughout the history, we would like to suggest. In fact, Myanmar’s affair is subtle and very complicated. We have over 100 national races who have been residing all over the country together since long long ago. Our nation has suffered the internal armed insurrection for many years and it is still in existence till today. Politically, we are not mature and there are a variety of parties. Thus, it would be a very serious mistake if Myanmar’s affair is viewed superficially for seeking a solution like that of other nations. Hence, in addition to current situation of our country, other matters such as the nationalities’ affairs, internal insurgencies, political, economic and social affairs, etc along the history are to be studied thoroughly and reviewed correctly. In this way, correct and proper review and assessment can be made.

In this context, we would like to convince that the State leaders at the helm of the nation know very well in detail about the country. They have passed through three periods namely the parliamentary democracy period, Burma Socialist Programme Party period and the Tatmadaw Government period as well as encountered and overcome internal multi-coloured insurgencies in the post-independence period, Kuomintang nationalist Chinese intrusion, various events of internal insurgencies and various kinds of political crises and splits. Hence, they know very well about the current situation of Myanmar together with background history and they are well-experienced in it. Based on these experiences, they are at the helm in the best way for the nation and the people through many hardships and difficulties. We would like to convince you this fact.

And Your Excellency should seriously pay attention to the fact that the Government and the entire people are expecting your visit to be constructive for the nation and the people. However, your previous visit did not bear fruit as we had expected. The presidential statement of UNSC, the further sanctions of US and EU, etc sowed suspicions on your efforts among some of our people. If you bring along the instructions of the leaders of a big power and demands of internal and external anti-government groups, it will in no way contribute towards the seeking of solution to Myanmar’s affairs. It will rather increase the existing suspicions of the people. When the suspicions lead to antagonism, the Government would not ignore the desire of the majority of the people. We would like you to understand this.

Now, the State Peace and Development Council with the aim of peacefully implementing the democratic reforms in accord with the seven-point Road Map and harmoniously striving for peace, stability and progress of the nation has issued the Announcement No (1/2007) to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the Announcement No (2/2007) to assign the Minister for Relations to ensure smooth relations with her. Minister for Relations U Aung Kyi has already met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 25-10-2007. He is going to hold further meetings with her.

Based on the four major plans, the government exerted endeavours for national
Clarification on Myanmar’s situation to …

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development and improvement of the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people. These endeavours are achieving unprecedented success. Due to the endeavours, our nation has witnessed concrete developments in economy and significant improvement in living standard.

The government, in combating poverty, is also taking into account the improvement of human development indicators, the creation of more occupational and educational opportunities and so on, in addition to increasing income. The aforesaid border area development project, the 24 special development zones project and the five rural development tasks are being implemented on self-reliant basis to realize the UN’s Millennium Development Goals.

Anti-government groups, global powers that are supporting them and even some UN officials are slandering the government’s efforts to implement the task including our Millennium Development Goals to develop the people’s socio-economy. We openly say that we cannot accept such biased slanders. In reality, not only the developing countries like ours but also the developed countries are also facing the problem of poverty which is an international dilemma. So our country may have a few problems of poverty. It is true that the national economy and public socio-economy are not developing as they should even though the government has been exerting efforts. Collective attempts within and without the country to impose sanctions on investments, international financial assistance and loans, trade and tourism are one of the main causes in this matter. Now, US and EU impose further sanctions. Australia has now imposed sanctions against Myanmar. It had not involved in the sanctions before. You should understand that no other government can do better than us in such a tightrope situation.

Imposing economic sanctions will bear rather disadvantages than advantages. Hence, you have been pointed out by regional countries, ASEAN countries and neighboring countries that constructive engagement is better than sanctions. Yet, those countries do not stop but increase the sanctions. We regret that you have not mentioned any criticism that such sanctions are not appropriate and they should be relaxed. We would like to see your stance fair and square. Instead of blaming and suggesting that a poverty alleviation commission for Myanmar only should be formed, you should play a leading role in organizing and persuading others to relieve and lift sanctions. In this way, the commission you suggested will not be required.

Our country has been facing sanctions and restrictions so we are unable to freely develop our economy. And we are being censured that our efforts are not effective. So, is it fair to put such blame on us? You should consider that those who are blocking all development and humanitarian aids with various political reasons and those who despite their knowledge that sanctions are unfair, are acting in accord with the wish of powers should also be blamed. If we receive assistance from international organizations including the UN and developed nations, our development pace will gain greater momentum and democratic reforms will reach their goal sooner.

Thanks to the efforts of the personnel responsible for peace and stability of the State and the rule of law and the assistance of the members of the Sangha and the people who are against disturbances, the protest in which the people and true monks did not take part has been under control and stability has been restored in the entire nation. So, we have already lifted the martial law order or section 144 as peace and stability is prevailing in the whole nation since situation has returned to normal. Furthermore, troops have also been withdrawn.

The government called in the persons who took part in the protest for questioning. It has been releasing as soon as possible monks and people, who joined the protesters unknowingly under the influence of instigation from all angles. In Yangon, of the 2284 persons under questioning, 2235 persons have already been released and there remain only 49 persons. In other towns, of the 643 persons who were called in for questioning, 601 have been released and only 42 remained under questioning. As the remaining persons are actually involved in violence and terrorist acts in one way or another, we are taking necessary measures to take action against them in accord with the law.

We confirm that there are no more arrests, night apprehensions and search of monasteries in connection with the incident. What I would like to inform you here is that although the disturbances that occurred in September had already ended we have been calling in some persons for questioning. But the cases do not have any connections with the disturbances. Action has been taken against some persons for their involvement in terrorism or violence or other acts to violate the law.

What I would like to continue to explain here is that the government on its part has taken necessary measures in accord with the Aids to Civil Power procedures and the existing laws in handling the disturbances. The government has already released official news reports saying that only ten persons died and another 14 wounded in the whole incident. And not a single member of the Sangha is included in the persons who died in the incident. Only one member of the Sangha was wounded and he had already been discharged from the hospital. Authorities have sent him back to his monastery. On the other hand, some foreign media are distributing exaggerated news reports as if the number of persons dead or wounded is much higher than the official list. If the accusations are authentic, complaints can be made together with names and addresses. The government has been providing intense care to the persons who were wounded in the incident. Moreover, under the active role of the Myanmar Human Rights Committee, many organizations such as the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the Union Solidarity and Development Association and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, etc are also providing assistance to them.
Clarification on Myanmar’s situation to …

(see page 9)

Regarding the recent incidents in August and September, international media neglected the true facts and made exaggerations as desired by the anti-government groups. In 1988 disturbances also, all attempts were made through the might of foreign media to tarnish the image of our nation. Due to the one-sided broadcasts of some media, Myanmar was affected by having its image tarnished among the world’s nations. Hence, to address the Myanmar’s affairs, coordination and cooperation should be based not only on news coverage of international media but also on actual situation and conditions of our country. In this way, just and correct solution can be achieved.

In addition to constantly cooperating with the UN, our nation has been maintaining cordial relations with all countries, regional and global. Our nation’s situation is not even threatening the region, let alone international stability and security. The ASEAN countries, NAM countries and the neighboring countries have agreed that Myanmar’s internal situations do not pose any threat to the region. Actually we do have some internal problems, but they are not in a position to harm international and regional peace and security. However, Western countries that have the intention of finding fault with and exert pressures on our nation have been applying various means to present Myanmar affairs to the UNSC to adopt a Resolution. They exerted pressures till the UNSC Presidential statement had to be issued.

Although we pay serious attention to the good offices of UNSG in Myanmar affairs, we object the act of putting Myanmar affairs on the UNSC agenda without seeing any threat to regional and international peace and security. If the Myanmar affairs are to be put on the UNSC agenda and the UNSC resolutions, the body would also have to handle the situations of the nations similar to or worse than Myanmar’s. Even in the South Asia and Southeast Asia, there are some nations in which the Armed Forces have to take over the State duties due to certain reasons, martial law is still in force, hundreds of people died when protests were crushed and hundreds of people including children were killed when mosques were raided.

It is obvious that the situations in some countries in the Middle East and Central Asia are far worse than that in Myanmar. I don’t think it is fair to force or pressure us being applied on Myanmar without addressing the problems of those countries.

What we have heard is that the government’s action to permit Your Excellency and Mr Pinheiro to visit Myanmar and its endeavours for national re-consolidation have never been considered to be a progress, but as a concession the government has to make due to international pressures; and that there are more pressures and calls for them. We want to clearly state that the government exerts efforts in the interest of the nation and the people on its own will and not due to any pressure or sanction. I would like to point out that the previous pressures and sanctions did not provide any assistance to our democratization process, and nor did the new pressures and sanctions of the US and EU.

Actually, the Tatmadaw has been striving for the emerging of discipline-flourishing genuine democracy in Myanmar since 1988. It has been implementing the task not because of anyone’s urging or pressures but because of the will to serve the interest of the nation and the people best in every aspect. So, if you wish to see democracy flourishing in Myanmar you should try to persuade other nations to cooperate with us in asssisting the task. Here, what we would like to say is that we will welcome positive coordination and cooperation for Myanmar affairs, but will never accept any interference that may harm our sovereignty. I would like you to know that Myanmar is a small nation and if a big power bullies her with its influence by putting Myanmar’s affairs on UNSC, we will have no other way but to face and endure.

We have noted that you have visited regional and neighboring countries before coming to Myanmar. And we have noted what you have said during the visits. We have also heard the media saying as though you were drumming up pressures on Myanmar government. But we believe that an experienced envoy like you will never speak like that.

What we have understood is that good office of the UN Secretariat is to act as facilitator or mediator for bringing about discussions between the two sides. You should not force or pressure us by harming the role of UN to shape us as an appeaser by a big power. If so, your role of negotiator will be spoiled, we are worried.

Seeking of solution to Myanmar’s affairs should be home-grown one based on prevailing situation. At present, it is found that one-sided pressure is put on the Government according to the wishes of anti-government groups while ignoring the desire of the majority of the people. Moreover it is also urged on the need to re-structure the regions as developments. Instead of solving the Myanmar’s affairs within the country, efforts are being made to shape Myanmar into the form stipulated by big countries and drumming up other nations to put pressures on us. If the means of putting external pressure on Myanmar continues, we could not longer sustain it. The majority of the people will support and applaud your fair and square performance only. If your process is unfair and one-sided, the people would see it as biased pressure on Myanmar. We are worried that because of the said public view, your opportunity to play a constructive role in the matter may be in harm’s way. You should be aware of the fact that there are certain countries and organizations trying to misuse your efforts to apply more pressures on Myanmar.

Anchow, Myanmar people have understood the objective conditions and are supporting the government with full trust in it. Till now, the government has been gaining progress in successfully implementing democratic reforms. It will continue to march till reaching the democracy goal without fail. In this regard, we hope to receive good advice from the UN Secretariat as well as from Your Excellency. We also hope that as you have already visited Myanmar for three times and met with persons deemed necessary, you have known Myanmar’s delicate and complicated political situation to a certain degree. Finally, we are confident that you will be able to give good advice and cooperation that are in conformity with our prevailing situation while putting aside the pressures some powers are putting on the UN.

Thank you.

Suggestions of Mr Gambari

Next, Mr Gambari expressed thanks to the Government and the people for hospitality as well as arrangements for important meetings for him during this visit. He also expressed thanks to the Minister for Information for his frank clarifications in detail. And he would also discuss frankly and brotherly, he said. Before coming to Myanmar, he met with UNSG Mr Ban Ki-moon at Istanbul of Turkey, he said. He went on to say that he conveyed a message from the UNSG to Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and he asked the Minister to convey that message to the Head of State.

He mentioned that the lifting of curfew recently by the Government to relieve tensions, the release of detainees and taking of initial steps for meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were welcomed and recognised as developments. He would submit it to UNSG and UNSC after arriving back to UN, he said. He also expressed his satisfaction for having opportunities to meet with not only governmental officials but also representatives of national races and civil societies. He would also meet political parties and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. He said that he was pleased as the Minister for Foreign Affairs while meeting with him reaffirmed that to cooperate with the UN is the cornerstone of Myanmar’s foreign policy. As the good office of UNSG is now involving in Myanmar’s affairs, the appointments of nation-wise special envoys proposed by some nations are no longer required, he observed. The cooperation with the UN would decrease pressures from surrounding and some nations, he said. Due to the mentioning in his report, the attitude and opinions of UK and France have become flexible, he said. He continued to say that ASEAN countries, China, Japan and India which he had visited recently also did not prefer sanctions against Myanmar. Those countries encouraged and supported the constructive engagement and he had reported this matter to the UNSG, he said. He would also submit that matter at the forthcoming East Asia Summit, he said. He suggested to start meetings with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as early as possible. When he met with her, he asked her to be flexible and not to look back the past but to look ahead by doing what should be done in the interests of the nation, he recounted. He suggested to lift restrictions against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as soon as possible. Mr Gambari also suggested to consider whether it is appropriate or not for arranging the meeting of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Aung Kyi who has been assigned duties to liaise with her and himself. He also suggested to release the remaining persons who were called in for questioning regarding the recent protests except those against whom action was to be taken.

He also suggested that he would like to meet with some members of the Constitution Drafting Commission and discuss how views and opinions of those who did not attend the National Convention can be considered in drafting the Constitution. He continued to suggest that poverty alleviation commission like 3-D Fund should be established. He said that the foreign minister of France had also suggested to set up a similar fund.

He also mentioned that he as well as UNSG did not reject the seven-step Road Map and what he would like to suggest were inclusiveness and time frame. He said he wished to see Myanmar as peaceful, developed and democracy-flourishing nation and he requested for understanding his constructive suggestions.
Clarification made by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Leader of Spokes Authoritative Team

(from page 10)

In his clarification, Leader of the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said: thank you very much for your frank discussions. We have already mentioned our attitude in the clarification as to the forming of the Poverty Alleviation Commission. The main problem is that our country can not make progress as much as it should since the US and EU imposed a series of sanctions on her. It is like one being forced to run after being tied with rope. As he is being tied with rope he will not be able to run as fast as he can. In the same way, they are blaming the country for lack of development, lower income and poverty while imposing sanctions on her. If they are doing so, they will not get the right answer. And all the sanctions are to be lifted and cooperation is to be made. Only then, the alleviation of such poverty will be possible. Hence, the lifting of sanctions is a must.

As regards the lifting of restrictions on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the Spokes Authoritative Team said that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was put under restrictions for the first time in 1989 as she created unrest like the 1988 disturbances. During her restrictions, the Head of State met her twice and explained prevailing situations of the nation and the prospect of cooperation. And then, the restrictions on her were lifted. However, a day after the restrictions were lifted she stated that choose either dialogue or utter devastation. And she was put under restrictions again, for she stuck to imposing of sanctions on the nation, course of confrontation and utter devastation.

During her second restrictions, the Head of State met her four times and a team led by a minister ten times. As the understanding between the two sides was reached the restrictions on her was lifted. This time also, a team led by a minister met her three times. As she continued perpetrating acts leading to unrest she was again put under restrictions. At present, the government has already issued Announcement No 1/2007. The contents of the announcement are the basis for all conditions.

Out of those who were called in for questioning, all those who merely got responses from her.

With regard to considering the attitude of those organizations that did not participate in the National Convention in the drafting of the State constitution, the delegates to the National Convention unanimously approved the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles and the State constitution is to be drawn on the basis of the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles without harming the original essence. Those who did not take part in the National Convention will have the right to express their attitudes and to freely cast votes at the referendum, the fourth step. If the Constitution had been approved by the people, they would have had the right to form parties in accord with the law in proper time, to stand election and to carry out organizational work. This is the right for all the people to enjoy.

Mr Gambari replied that he thanked for the response to his explanation and for letting him know the follow-up procedures; that regarding the Poverty Alleviation Commission, the government considered that the sanctions should be lifted first; that some nations said that they would lift their sanctions only when there had been remarkable progress in Myanmar; that it was needed to coordinate to settle the disagreement in that regard; that he would tell Daw Aung San Suu Kyi what the Minister had explained to him when he met her; that he would try to achieve positive responses from her; that what was important was that the two sides marched forward without considering past events; that the countries he had visited did not oppose the seven-step Road Map; that those countries had suggested to seek ways for all to participate in the processes and to set a time frame; and that opinions on the forthcoming constitution should be taken into consideration in the time of drafting it rather than in the time of the referendum.

The minister said the government tried to build national reconsolidation in cooperation not only with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi but with other organizations. As a result, the government has made peace with 17 major armed groups and 23 small groups. Among the groups, some unconditionally abandoned armed insurgency. During the previous trip, Mr Gambari had opportunities to visit some regions where there prevailed peace and regional developments were made. There were many difficulties in building national reconsolidation. Expatriate groups and other countries threatened or dissuaded the peace groups and there were even assassination attempts. Members of KNU Brigade-7 led by Maj-Gen Htay Maung and battalions under the brigade that tried to make peace with the government and all agreed to return to the legal fold. However, only some managed to return to the legal fold because the secret groups of a big nation, some organizations from other country and the expatriates intimidated and stopped the groups.

Similar events also happened among the national race armed groups that have returned to the legal fold. The Member of KNU Central Committee, Phado U Aung San, who Mr Gambari has once met, while he was planning to enter the legal fold, a big power persuaded him to serve as KNU adviser in that country by promising him a luxury car and a house. But their instigation was unknown to the world and there was no opposition and criticism. Likewise, government efforts for building national reconsolidation were ignored. Therefore, I would like both you and UN Secretariat to make the world know our efforts as well as the acts to hamper those efforts.

Anyhow, thanks to our efforts, the majority of national races, the people and political parties have built national reconsolidation. The proof is the successful completion of the National Convention and mass rallies that are being staged across the country in support of the forthcoming constitution. There are a few people opposing the government’s policies. So, the UN should consider the wishes of the majority.

The government does not keep the door to democracy transition closed for those opposing it. As mentioned above, they will be allowed to participate in the referendum and elections according to the seven-step Road Map.

Discussions of Mr Gambari

Mr Gambari said that he had been trying to see the members of the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution, he can meet Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and him as they are members of the commission.

He said if Mr Gambari wishes to see the members of the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution, he can meet Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and him as they are members of the commission.

The minister told the guest about the government’s efforts for national reconsolidation and attempts to disrupt such efforts. Although the government made the announcement No 1/2007 for national reconsolidation, the government had not received any response from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The government assigned duties to the Minister for Relations who met her. As the government made efforts in building national reconsolidation, it was necessary for the other side to give response to such measure. The minister asked Mr Gambari to explain this point to her.
**Germany imposes 12% deposit on suspect imports from Bangladesh**

**Dhaka, 5 Nov—** Germany, one of the largest destinations for Bangladesh garments, has imposed a 12 percent deposit on suspect imports due to fears over the widespread abuse of certificates that allows Bangladesh products duty-free access.

Earlier this year, a Bangladesh Government investigation confirmed that several companies from Asian countries had been exporting products to European countries using fake Bangladesh GSP (generalized system of preference) certificates.

To counter this fraud, German Customs imposed the 12 percent security deposit from August on consignments they suspect have fraudulent Bangladesh GSP certificates, local newspaper The Daily Star reported Sunday.

Following the imposition, Bangladesh’s government decided to launch a diplomatic initiative to resolve the issue. “Bangladesh is not liable for any forged GSP certificates,” Feroz Ahmed, secretary of the Commerce Ministry, was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh’s Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Saturday launched a new type of certificate that should be more difficult to forge.

European Union Trade Adviser in Dhaka Zillul Hye Razi was quoted as saying that the imposition is not random or routine, but that German Customs may use it on suspicious consignments.

Bangladesh exported around 1.5 billion US dollars worth of goods in the last fiscal (July 2006-June 2007) of which 75 per cent came from exporting readymade garments. In 2006, Bangladesh exports to Germany increased by 33 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

**Death toll rises to 31 in fire at Russian home for elderly**

**Moscow, 6 Nov—** At least 31 people died in a fire in a Russian home for the elderly and officials blamed the toll on slow evacuation procedures.

“Firefighters received a very late fire warning because the personnel had waited for some reason for 30 minutes before calling,” Russian Emergency Ministry spokesman Viktor Beltsov said, adding that more than 200 people lived in the residence.

There were 287 elderly people, many of them disabled, and 12 staff in the residence when the blaze broke out at lunchtime on Sunday near the city of Tula, 200 kilometres (120 miles) south of Moscow.

Thirty-one bodies had been recovered from the rubble by 1630 GMT on Monday and up to eight people were still unaccounted for, Russian news agencies quoted local officials as saying. Four people were taken to hospital.

The tragedy is the latest of a series of fires in Russia where state institutions have been criticized for poor management and inadequate attention to safety procedure.

Beltsov said the residence in Tula, built in 1952, had neither the warning system nor the equipment to combat the blaze.

“They had nothing at all. And yet when the fire broke out, the personnel had plenty of time to evacuate the old people. Investigators will now need to find out why it was not done,” he said.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov ordered an immediate inquiry into the tragedy. The government’s Federal Environmental, Labor, and Welfare Agency’s head Vyacheslav Dudka said he believed the building was too old to serve as a home for the elderly, Russian news agencies reported.

MNA/Reuters

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Dated: 7 November 2007

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**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves, warehouses and chailn offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 8th November 2007, being the public holiday, Goods will be received, shipped or delivered on payment of Holiday Fees.

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**MNA/Xinhua**

**China’s lunar probe enters moon’s orbit**

**Beijing, 6 Nov—** A Chinese lunar orbiter entered the moon’s orbit on Monday, 12 days after takeoff, a feat hailed as a new milestone in China’s exploration of space. Chang’e One was given instructions to slow down by mission control when the probe was 200 kilometres (124 miles) from the moon, so it could be captured by the moon’s gravity, Xinhua news agency said.

Chang’e One is scheduled to scan the lunar surface from Wednesday in preparation for an unmanned moon vehicle planned for 2012 and a manned landing within 15 years. Sun Laiyan, head of the China National Space Administration, hailed the probe as a new milestone in China’s space programme.

“We are all very excited. The orbiter has completed all its moves perfectly... This marks the first step in exploring deeper space,” Sun told state television.

In 2003, China became only the third country after the former Soviet Union and the United States to launch a man into space aboard its own rocket. In October 2005, it sent two men into orbit and plans a space walk by 2010.

But China’s space plans have faced increasing international scrutiny. Fears of a potential space arms race with the United States and other powers have mounted since it blew up one of its own weather satellites using a ground-based missile in January.

**MNA/Reuters**

**Angolan Govt to build power transmission line**

**Luanda, 6 Nov—** The Angolan Government has recently approved the project of building a 220-kilovolt power transmission line between Gabela and Quileva as well as the construction of corresponding infra-structure. Angola’s official news agency ANGOP reported on Sunday that the government’s resolution also approves the construction contracts for the project worth of over 77.78 million euro (about 116 million US dollars) and another contract of service rendering technical assistance and inspection.

**ANGOP**

In the past five years since the 27-year civil war ended, the Angolan Government has made greater efforts to rehabilitate infrastructure which was almost destroyed during the war.

**MNA/Xinhua**

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**Drive safely**

**MNA/Reuters**

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**MNA/Reuters**
Spacewalking astronaut fixes station’s wing

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 5 Nov — A spacewalking astronaut fixed a damaged solar power wing on the International Space Station on Saturday during a daring and unprecedented outing that clears NASA to continue construction of the orbital outpost.

Shuttle Discovery’s lead spacerocket Scott Parazynski, anchored on an extension boom on the station’s robot arm, snipped snarled wires and attached five home-made braces to replace hinges that broke while one of the station’s 110-foot-long (33.5-metre-long) solar power wings was extended on Tuesday.

The shuttle and space station crews cheered when the last of the golden panels were pulled out of their storage box and the wing reached its full length, providing structural rigidity.

NASA had said it could not continue construction of the station if the wing had remained partly retracted.

The unprecedented repair, planned on the fly, clears the US space agency for launching Europe’s Columbus laboratory next month. “What an accomplishment,” Parazynski said. “Congratulations to the whole flight team that came up with this brilliant concept.”

Throughout the seven-hour spacewalk, flight directors kept a worried eye on the clock.

The 45-minute commute from the worksite to the airlock was a concern — NASA likes keep travel time under 30 minutes — and the extension boom, which was borrowed from the shuttle, risked being damaged if it remained unpowered and without heating for too long in the cold of space.

Hurricane “Noel” leaves 85 dead, 48 missing in Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, 6 Nov — Heavy rainfall caused by Hurricane Noel has left 85 people dead and 48 missing in the Dominican Republic, the country’s Emergency Operations Centre said on Sunday.

A total of 137 communities were still isolated and some 16,642 houses have been partly damaged and 737 houses completely destroyed, it said. Over 110 aqueducts and drinking water systems were still out of service, it said.

The emergency centre estimates that Noel has affected 66,512 people in the Caribbean country.

A red alert is still in force for the Distrito Nacional, Santo Domingo and 28 other provinces, even though weather condition has improved considerably and rainfall have decreased in the past hours.

Noel has left at least 142 people dead and tens of thousands homeless in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas and Jamaica, making it the deadliest storm of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season.

The North’s state-run news agency KCNA said South Korea’s Hyundai Group had been granted the right to conduct package tours to Mt Paektu from May 2008 using direct flights from Seoul. A top Hyundai official met North Korean leader Kim Jong-il in Pyongyang on Saturday, KCNA said.

At present, South Koreans can only visit the Chinese side of the 2,744 metre (9,000 foot) mountain, which Koreans consider sacred because they believe it is the place of their ancestral origin.

The mountain is on the northern tip of the Korean Peninsula. Hyundai, the largest investor in the North, operates tours to another scenic mountain, Mount Kumgang, on the east coast, earning the impoverished country much-needed hard currency.

UN says population increasing risks in dangerous small cities

MEXICO CITY, 5 Nov — Fast population growth in small cities is “considerably increasing” the risk of catastrophes in the world, the United Nations warned on Sunday.

Half of the world’s urban population lives in cities of less than 500,000 people, the world body said in its Human Settlement Global Report 2007 published in Mexico City.

The report added that settlements of this size are proving to be the most hazardous places to live.

Government officials and society lack the capacity to face natural disasters in these “small” settlements, which have been growing fast and disorderly, the UN report said.

“The poorest, (along with the most) politically and socially isolated are always more vulnerable,” it said, adding that disasters almost always occur in cities where construction codes are not respected.

“This situation, more than any other political challenge, underlines the need to relate social policies with technical and engineering solutions to avoid risks,” the report said.

Children look at the model of an Extra-Terrestrial on the science and technology popularization exhibition with the theme of “Mystic Universe” held in the Shangyu Museum, Shangyu, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 3 Nov, 2007. —INTERNET

North Korea opens symbolic mountain to S Koreans

SEOUL, 5 Nov — North Korea, which carefully controls access by foreigners, will allow South Koreans to visit a sacred mountain by a direct air link, state media reported, a rare concession by the North to its capitalist neighbour.

The decision comes a month after only the second summit between leaders of the two Koreas, divided by a fortified border since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

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Korean axed from award shortlist after drinking ban

SINGAPORE, 6 Nov — South Korea captain Lee Woon-jae has been axed from the Asian Player of the Year shortlist after receiving a one-year ban for a late-night drinking session during the Asian Cup in Jakarta in July.

The Asian Football Confederation said on Monday it had decided to exclude Lee from the nominees shortlist. Lee had been among 15 candidates for the award which will be presented in Singapore on 28 November.

The 34-year-old was last week suspended from the Korean team for one year along with three other players.

Lee was also banned from games hosted by the KFA for three years and has been told to perform 80 hours of community service before the end of 2007.

The goalkeeper led South Korea to a third-place finish in the Asian Cup after beating Japan 6-5 on penalties, earning an automatic place in the 2011 AFC Asian Cup finals.

Lalas said in a statement.

general manager Alexi
tory,” Galaxy president and
leading period in our his-
pick in the 2008 MLS
Earthquakes.

take charge of the San Jose
will leave Los Angeles to
in July on a five-year deal,
Beckham joined the club
next year after the Los
Soccer (MLS) campaign
in his second Major League


Manchester City win
at home again to go third

LONDON, 6 Nov — Manchester City chalked up their seventh win in seven home league games by beating Sunderland 1-0 on Monday to climb back up to third in the table.

After a dire first half, Sven-Goran Eriksson’s side upped the pace and made the breakthrough in the 67th minute when substitute Darius Vassell crossed from the left for midfielder Stephen Ireland to volley his first goal of the season.

The victory takes City to 25 points in the Premier League, one above Chelsea and two behind Manches-
ter United and Arsenal.

Last season City won only five home games, scor-
ing a top-flight record low of 10 goals. They have already surpassed both those marks less than a third of the way through this campaign. — MNA/Reuters

Yallop leaves Galaxy, Beckham to coach Earthquakes

CARSON (California), 6 Nov — David Beckham will play under a new coach in his second Major League Soccer (MLS) campaign next year after the Los Angeles Galaxy released Frank Yallop from his con-
tract on Monday.

Former Canada interna-
tional Yallop, head coach at the Galaxy when Beckham joined the club in July on a five-year deal, will leave Los Angeles to take charge of the San Jose Earthquakes.

The Galaxy, in compensa-
tion, will receive the Earthquakes’ third round pick in the 2008 MLS SuperDraft.

“Frank steered our team through a unique and chal-
lenging period in our his-
tory,” Galaxy president and
general manager Alexi
Lallas said in a statement.

“He is a friend and a
gentleman, and I want to
personally thank him for
his contributions. We wish
him nothing but the best in
his return to San Jose.”

Yallop became the fifth
couch in Galaxy history in
June 2006, guiding them to the 2006 Lamar Hunt US Open Cup final and this year’s SuperLiga Final.— MNA/Reuters

Indonesia meet AFC over federation poll

BANGKOK, 6 Nov — An Indonesian delegation met with Asia’s top soccer official on Monday to discuss a way ahead for the country’s beleaguered soccer federation.

The visit followed last week’s demand by world governing body FIFA that Indonesia hold fresh elections for a new president after the incumbent, Nurdin Halid, was jailed for two years for corruption.

In April, Indonesia’s soccer federation (PSSI) re-elected Halid, a prominent businessman and politician with the country’s powerful Golkar Party, in hastily-arranged polls not recognized by FIFA.

The PSSI said it had no plans to remove Halid from the post after the Supreme Court found him guilty of misusing 169 billion rupiah (18 million US dollars) belonging to a logistics company he headed.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Mohamed Bin Hammam said he was optimistic the PSSI would change its laws to fall in line with FIFA’s statutes.

“The statutes of PSSI must be changed to suit what is being requested,” he said in a statement. “We would very much like to see
model statutes for PSSI.” — MNA/Reuters

Wigan sack manager

Hutchings after six months

LONDON, 6 Nov — Wigan Athletic said on Monday they had sacked manager Chris Hutchings 12 games into the Premier League season and just six months after he was appointed. Wigan lost 2-0 at home to Chelsea on Saturday to slip into the bottom three with eight points.

“This has been a very difficult deci-
sion for me and the board to make but
I felt we had to act in the best interests of the club and its long-term future,”
chairman Dave Whelan said in a state-
ment on the Lancashire club’s Web site
(www.wiganlatics.premiumtv.co.uk).

Argentina’s Guillermo Coria returns a shot to his compatriot Max Gonzalez during their first match in the Copa
Petroleras tennis tournament in Asuncion, on 5 Nov, 2007. — INTERNET

Sweden, AC Milan great
Liedholm dies, aged 85

MILAN, 6 Nov — Former Sweden and AC Milan
great Nils Liedholm died in the Italian town of Cuccaro
on Monday, aged 85.

“Heaven makes room for Nils Liedholm,” AC Mi-
nan said on their Web site (www.acmilan.com).

“Maestro of irony, a true, irreplaceable soccer cham-
pion, a winning, innovative coach. Milan, like the rest of the soccer world, bows to the figure of the great
Sweden.”

Liedholm was a member of the Sweden side that
won the 1948 Olympic title and also captained the
1958 World Cup final team which lost to Brazil.

MNA/Reuters

Double sprint World Champion
Gay heads nominations

LONDON, 6 Nov — World 100 and 200
metres champion Tyson Gay is one of
three finalists in the running for the Inter-
national Association of Athletics Federa-
tion’s (IAAF) male athlete of the year
award.

American Gay, who also won gold in the
4x100 relay at the world champion-
ships in Osaka, is joined by Ethiopian
Haile Gebreellassie and China’s Liu Xiang.

Gebreellassie set a marathon world
record in Berlin in September while Liu
became China’s first male track world

champion with victory in the 110 hurdles.

Distance runner Meseret Defar,
heptathlete Carolina Kluit and high jumper
Blanka Vlasic are the nominees for the
women’s award.

In triumphant season, Ethiopia’s Defar
smashed her own 5,000 world record,
took gold over the distance in Osaka and
twice set a world best for two miles.

Sweede Kluft extended her unbeaten streak in the heptathlon to 19 competi-
tions, securing her third world title with a
European record.— MNA/Reuters

Inter’s Figo fractures right leg

MILAN, 6 Nov — Inter Milan’s Luis
Figo fractured his shin in Sunday’s 1-1
Series A draw at Juventus, tests showed
on Monday.

“The midfielder has fractured the fibula in his right leg,” the Serie A champions
told their Web site (www.inter.it). “Figo will undergo surgery tomorrow.”

The former Real Madrid and Portugal player came off in the second half after a foul by Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved, who was booked.

Inter, who entertain CSKA Moscow in the Champions League on Wednes-
day, did not say how long Figo would be out. The 34-year-old joins the club’s
long list of injured midfielders.

MNA/Reuters
Report says British Armed Forces “overstretched”

London, 6 Nov — The British Armed Forces are “overstretched” by the long-running operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a report released on Monday.

“The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have seriously diminished the ability of the Armed Forces to meet future challenges,” said the report by Demos, a London-based think-tank.

With such pressures affecting the forces, the current situation is “unsustainable financially, organizationally, operationally and in terms of military-society relations,” said the report.

“British Armed Forces need a sustained period of time—perhaps a decade—to recover from the intensity of operations undertaken since 2000,” Demos said.

According to the report, in a time of turbulence and risk, British Armed Forces are on a dangerously unsustainable course, and the men and women of the Armed Forces are being let down by under-investment.

The Armed Forces have an unfocused brief, insufficiently linked to the threats of the future, and the nation itself is divorced from them and their needs.

Stretched budgets remain tied up in high-cost, high-profile hardware while the “software,” the men and women who make up the ArmedForces are overworked.

Unsustainable course, and their needs. For the future of the Armed Forces, it looks bleak, the report said.

Five US air crew fall ill on Boston flight

The crew and 81 passengers on Flight 2022, Airbus A319 shuttle service, left Washington’s Reagan National airport at 7:30 am EST. The crew then reported a sulfur-type odor in the cockpit, the Federal Aviation Administration said.

The plane returned to Washington where they switched to another Airbus jetliner and proceeded to Boston. A spokesman for Boston’s Logan Airport said the smell on the first airplane was possibly smoke or rubber, but the airline said it had not yet confirmed the origin of the problem.

The FAA said the crew did not report any problems to air traffic controllers during the flight but complained of feeling sick when they arrived at Logan at 10:20 am. The FAA is investigating whether the sickness was caused by the odor on the first plane.

The nature of their illness was not disclosed. The crew was treated on board by paramedics and then taken to a hospital.

MinA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

WEATHER

Tuesday, 6 November, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Bago Division, scattered in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, isolated in Shan State, upper Sagra Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3ºC) below November average temperature in Chin State, (3ºC) to (4ºC) above November average temperatures in Kachin, Northern Shan and Southern Shan States and upper Saga Division and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Meikhtila (1.46) inches, Yamethin (1.37) inch, Taungu (0.75) inch, Co Co Island (0.55) inch, Katha (0.39) inch, Kalabu (0.35) inch and Shwebo (0.28) inch.

Maximum temperature on 5-11-2007 was 89ºF. Minimum temperature on 6-11-2007 was 71ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 6-11-2007 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 5-11-2007 was (1.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 6-11-2007 was (N) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-11-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mingaladon, (140.75) inches at Kaba-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (14:30) hours MST on 5-11-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 7-11-2007: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Tanintharyi Division, isolated in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy 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: Likelihood of rain or thundershowers in Tanintharyi Division.


Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-11-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-11-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).
People’s Desire

☆ We favour stability.
☆ We favour peace.
☆ We oppose unrest and violence.

☆ RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies
☆ RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!
☆ The public be warned of
   killers in the air waves —
   RFA, VOA and BBC

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

☆ Due to violence and unrest
   Only ordinary people have to suffer
   Daily wage earners become jobless
   Poor business for shopkeepers and vendors
   Taxi drivers and trishaw men have hard times
   Stores and restaurants have to be kept closed

☆ Due to violence and unrest
   Only the notorious neo-colonialists benefited
   Colonialist-funded media and expatriates earning dollar rewards
   Only saboteurs reap the benefits

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