Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, on the occasion of the National Day of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2009.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Algerian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—On the occasion of the National Day of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2009, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia, Prime Minister of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria.—MNA

Administrative and economic systems once practised but announced illegal by the State are to be mended in conformity with the law

Prime Minister inspects narcotics, precursor chemicals seized in Laukkai, tours Laukkai, Kongyan townships

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—Prime Minister General Thein Sein left here by special flight yesterday afternoon and arrived at Lashio Airport in Shan State (North). He was accompanied by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Electric Power No (2) and for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min. (See page 6)

Secretary-1 delivers address at prize presentation ceremony of 17th Performing Arts Competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—The prize presentation ceremony for the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the City Hall here at 9:00 am today, attended by Patron for Organizing the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo. On the occasion, he delivered an address and presented prizes to the winners in the competitions. Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and Lt-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, deputy ministers, senior military officers, the director-general of SPDC Office and departmental heads, secretaries of the Leading Committee and the Work Committee, officials of the subcommittees, members of the panel of judges, judges from States and Divisions, team managers, contestants, national races and others. (See page 7)
PERSEPTIVES

Perform meritorious deeds on Tazaungmon Fullmoon Day

The whole sky is clear with no clouds in Myanmar month Tazaungmon, the eighth month of Myanmar lunar calendar. The moonlight of Tazaungmon Fullmoon Day is brighter than that of any other fullmoon day.

At the sunset of a Tazaungmon Fullmoon Day, King Rajagaha visited the Lord Buddha, who was residing in the mango Park of royal physician Jiivaka from Rajagaha, and humbly requested that He expound a suitable sermon to him. In response to the request, the Exalted One expounded Samanna Phala (the fruits of the life of a recluse) Sutta.

After hearing the Samanna Phala Sutta, the king took refuge in the Three Gems with great delightful satisfaction. Referring to the expounding of Samanna Phala Sutta, Buddhists designated Tazaungmon Fullmoon Day as Samanna Phala Day.

In the month Tazaungmon, monsoon says goodbye, thus ushering in the cold season. So, it is neither too hot nor too cold in the transitional period. The tradition of Buddhists’ offering of Kathina robes dated back to the time of the All-Awakened One.

The members of the Sangha who have received donations of Kathina robes gain five benefits. Similarly, the donors get five other kinds of benefits: they can reach the destination safe and comfortably; they have easy access to first-class Nirvana; they are affluent with a lot of clothes, work easily in next existences till they attain peace; they can do all forms of work easily in next existences till they attain Nirvana; they are affluent with a lot of clothes, possessions and property and they can use them peacefully; they have easy access to first-class foodstuff in abundance and they never suffer food poisoning; and any thieves or robbers are unable to take or destroy their belongings and property.

On Tazaungmon Fullmoon Day, Buddhists should, therefore, hear Samanna Phala Sutta, donate Kathina robes and practise meditation all the more.

Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd opens new building, showroom

YANGON, 31 Oct—The opening ceremony of new building of Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd and showroom took place at the new building, No. (205-A), Wardan street in Lanmadaw Township, here, today.

The ceremony was attended by departmental officials, journalists, owners of supermarkets and stores. Follow Me lovers and guests.

Directors of the company, actors and actresses and officials, journalists, owners of supermarkets and stores, followed the ceremony.

Commander attends workshop in Taninthayi Division

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—A workshop on promoting of basic education for 2009-2010 academic year of Taninthayi Division took place at the hall of No. (1) Basic Education High School in Myeik on 24 October, attended by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo. On the occasion, the commander delivered an address and fulfilled the needs of workshop’s results.—MNA

Foreign Minister felicitates Algerian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Mourad Medelci, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, on the occasion of the National Day of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, which falls on 1 November 2009.

MNA

Home Affairs Minister’s Shield men/women volleyball contest held

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—The 13th Home Affairs Minister’s Shield men/women volleyball contest took place at Paung Laung sports ground, here, from 27 to 31 October.

Men and women volleyball teams from the units and departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs took part in the contest.

In the men’s final matches, Myanmar Police Force team won over the Myanmar Correctional Department team and Myanmar Correctional Department team lost to the Myanmar Police Force team in the women’s final round.

At the prize presenting ceremony, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo presented prizes to winners.—MNA

Commander, deputy minister look into provision of eye health care services

YANGON, 31 Oct—Secretary of National Health Committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo on 28 October looked into eye health care services being provided in rural areas and attended to the needs.

On arrival at Paungde People’s Hospital, the deputy minister met with eye patients and spoke words of encouragement.

After that, the opening of eye health care programme was held and Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command made a speech and the deputy minister explained about health care services.

Air Bagan Open Golf Championships continues

YANGON, 31 Oct—Air Bagan Open Golf Championships (PyinOoLwin), the third leg of Myanmar Golf Tour the third-day tournament (2009-2010) organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar P.G.A and mainly sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd, took place at PyinOoLwin Golf Club in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, this morning.

At the third-day 18-hole event, Zaw Zaw Lat (Srixon) fired 211 strokes to take the lead while Myo Min Aung (Pro Golf Shop) and Soe Kyaw Naing (Srixon) shared the second position with 215 strokes in the Professional Golfers Tournament.

In the men’s amateur level, Maung Maung Oo stood first on 207 followed by Bo Bo (Myanmar Selected Golfer) on 217 strokes and Naing Ye Lin on 221 strokes.

The main sponsor of the tournament is Air Bagan Ltd, and co-sponsors are International Beverages Trading Co Ltd (IBTC), KBZ Bank Ltd., Hotel Yangon, KM Golf Centre, HAN Golf Masters Pte. Ltd., Myanmar Thiba Trading Co Ltd, Bay of Bengal Resort (BOB), INAX‘T-H ot e, CEPSA Lubricants, ACCEL International Co Ltd (Canon), Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water, Lifeline Co Ltd, GP Watch and PyinOoLwin Golf Association.—MGF

Maung Maung Oo in the men’s amateur level.—MNA
West African girls worst victims of economic crisis

DAKAR, 31 Oct — Young girls in west Africa will be disproportionately affected by the global economic downturn, children’s charity Plan International warned on Friday. “The global economic crisis does threaten many of the recent advances we have seen in west Africa especially for girls,” Plan chief executive officer Niger Chapman told a press conference in Dakar. Young women are often the first victims of any economic downturn because they are already in a marginalised position and seen as being worth less to their families, according to Plan’s 2009 report titled “Because I’m a girl”. “They are the most vulnerable, the least likely to survive, be fed, go to school and stay healthy,” Plan said.

In west Africa the position of girls in society is even more fragile than in other developing regions because they suffer from more gender discrimination, Plan spokeswoman Stefanie Conrad said. “We know from our day-to-day work that once household resources get scarce girls quit school because a girl’s education is less valued,” she said.

West Africa already has far lower rates of enrolment and success for girls in school than other developing regions, she said.

INTERNET

Tanker spills oil in San Francisco Bay

SAN FRANCISCO, 31 Oct — A ruptured fuel line on a Panamanian-registered tanker released oil into San Francisco Bay before dawn on Friday, authorities said.

The US Coast Guard said the source of the spill, from the tanker Dubai Star, was contained within hours and that a cleanup was under way. It was not immediately clear how much fuel had spilled.

The Coast Guard sent patrol boats and a helicopter to the scene.

Coast Guard officials said the spill of heavy bunker oil occurred during fueling operations between the Dubai Star and a barge. It occurred near the Oakland Airport, across the bay from San Francisco.

Mike Hanson, a spokesman for Pioneer Ship Management Services that manages the vessel, said the double-hulled Dubai Star was built in 2007 and was carrying jet fuel for delivery to the San Francisco area. “He said there were no injuries to crew members even though the bunker oil spilled on deck.”

The spill occurred almost two years after the Cosco Busan tanker struck the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in 2007, which led to 53,000 gallons of bunker fuel being dumped into the bay. —Internet

INTERNET

Roadside bomb wounds three Afghan police

KABUL, 31 Oct — Three Afghan police sustained injuries as a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in Taleban birthplace Kandahar in south Afghanistan, provincial police chief Sardar Mohammad Zazi said on Saturday. “The gruesome incident took place on Friday on the way to Kandahar airport wounding three policemen,” Zazi told Xinhua.

Kandahar and the neighbouring provinces have been the scene of increasing Taleban-linked insurgency over the past couple of years. As part of new tactic, the Taleban fighters have resorted to roadside bombing and suicide attacks which often claim civilians’ lives.—Xinhua

12 militants killed, security established to 17 villages in N Afghan province

KABUL, 31 Oct — Afghan forces backed by the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) have eliminated a dozen Taleban militants and established government control over 17 villages in Darzab district of Jauzjan Province north of Afghanistan, police said on Saturday. “The operation began three days ago and until Friday night 12 rebels have been killed and 17 villages have been liberated from the clutch of the insurgents in Darzab district,” deputy to provincial police chief Mohammad Ibrahim told Xinhua. Taleban militants have yet to make comment. The aim of the operation, he added, was to ensure security ahead of the second round election between two top candidates set for 7 Nov.—Internet

INTERNET

S Korea planning troop deployment to Afghanistan

SEOUL, 31 Oct — South Korea announced plans to send troops to Afghanistan to protect its civilian aid workers, two years after withdrawing its forces following a fatal hostage crisis.

The South Korean government intends to expand a reconstruction team now helping to rebuild Afghanistan and will dispatch police and troops to protect them. Foreign Ministry spokesman Moon Tae-young said on Friday. The decision to dispatch troops is subject to approval in parliament, where the ruling Grand National Party has enough seats to guarantee passage. —Internet

INTERNET

Venezuela beefs up military presence in border area near Colombia

CARACAS, 31 Oct. — The Venezuelan government reinforced its military forces on Friday in its northeastern border state of Tachira to strengthen the security in border areas.

A total of 515 border guards have been deployed in this region, bordering Colombia, said Javier Rosales, deputy commander of the No.1 Regional Command of the Venezuelan National Guard (GNB) in Tachira, after announcing the detention of five members of a blackmail band in this region.

Rosales told the media that the detainees included four Colombians and one Venezuelan citizen who blackmailed farmers and businessmen in the border between Venezuela and Colombia.—Xinhua

INTERNET

A woman passes by an electronic board showing the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong, south China, 30 Oct, 2009. Gains in Wall Street led to a rebound in Hong Kong stock market, lifting the Hang Seng index by 487.88 points, or 2.29 percent, to close at 21,752.87 points on Friday. —Internet

INTERNET

Local residents stand beside an overturned car at the site of a car bomb attack targeting the building of Ministry of Justice in Baghdad, on 25 Oct, 2009. —Internet

INTERNET

INTERNET
Air France gets Europe’s first A380 superjumbo

PARIS, 31 Oct — Air France on Friday became the first European airline to take delivery of the new Airbus A380 superjumbo passenger jet, which it says will make it great savings in tough economic times.

The French flag carrier received the huge craft at the Airbus plant in the northern German city of Hamburg in a ceremony and then flew it to Paris’s Charles de Gaulle airport.

Its first commercial flight is scheduled for 20 November, from Paris to New York. The director of Air France, Pierre-Henri Gourgeon, told AFP that the A380 would enable it to save money by running fewer flights on long-haul routes.

“To New York, we can remove one Boeing 777-200 and one Airbus A340 and go from five flights a day to four,” he said.

“We will be able to use a plane that costs 20 percent less to run than the two others. In other words, we will save 15 million euros a year with an A380.” Air France has ordered 12 of the A380 model, but like other airlines has posted the purchase of some of them due to the economic slowdown.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on Thursday that an upturn in global air traffic stalled in September due to a “pause” in the economic recovery, with demand only up slightly compared to September 2008.

Typhoon Mirinae barrels through Philippines, worsen flooding

MANILA, 31 Oct — Typhoon Mirinae, the fourth in a month to hit the Philippines, barreled through the main island of Luzon in just a few hours early on Saturday morning, the country’s weather forecast bureau said. There is not yet report of casualties.

The storm made landfall at the eastern Quezon province before 1am local time on Saturday morning (1700 GMT Friday) and by 5 pm the eye of the storm was tracked 60 kilometres south of Metro Manila and is moving further west at 24 kilometres per hour (kph), the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

“The worst is over,” Nathaniel Cruz, the chief weather forecaster said in a radio interview. “We can expect improving weather as typhoon continues to move farther away from the country.”

Less diabetes risk if moms ate vegetables

GOTHENBORG (Sweden), 31 Oct — Expectant mothers in Sweden who ate vegetables daily had children less likely to develop type 1 diabetes, researchers found.

Researchers at the Sahlgrenska Academy at the University of Gothenburg and Linkoping University in Sweden found of 6,000 children given blood tests, 3 percent had either elevated levels of antibodies that attack insulin-producing cells or fully developed type 1 diabetes at the age of 5.

The study, published in Pediatric Diabetes, found the diabetes risk markers were up to twice as common in children whose mothers rarely ate vegetables during pregnancy.

Man wins $1,000 for eating 25 hot dogs

A Las Vegas man won $1,000 by downsing 25 hot dogs, more than six pounds of meat, at the West Coast Hot Dog Eating Contest in California.

Thomas Gilbert, 28, ate 18 hot dogs in the 15-minute first round of the event Sunday and chased them with seven more frankfurters during the finals at the Derby Deli & Dueling Pianos in Mission Viejo, the Orange County (Calif.) Register reported.

Gilbert faced a field of 24 eaters in the first round and the competition was narrowed to only three people, including Gilbert, for the final 15 minutes.

“I’m ready for dessert,” Gilbert joked after being awarded his $1,000 prize.

German police investigate kebab sauce after attack

German police are investigating a chili sauce to determine whether it was so spicy that it was capable of causing grievous bodily harm when used in an attack.

Police took a sample of the sauce from a kebab stand in Bremen’s central train station after a kebab salesman threw it into the eyes of a customer during a fight over napkins. “Legally, the question of whether the spiciness of the kebab sauce constituted ‘normal’ or grievous bodily harm must be addressed,” local police in the northern city said.

Officers broke up a scuffle that kicked off after a 23-year-old wiped his kebab-soiled hands on the stand because the salesman refused to give him a paper napkin. The seller responded by flinging a ladle of sauce in the man’s face.

The victim’s eyes became bloodshot and police are investigating why the napkin dispute broke out, a spokesman said. Both men could end up facing charges, he added.
Festive Month of Tazaungmon

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Every month of Myanmar Lunar calendar has its own festival but the eighth month, Tazaungmon which usually coincides with November is the most festive month. It is the first month of the cold season called Heinam, covering Tazaungmon, Nadaw, Pyatho and Tabodwe, November, December, January and February respectively. The north-west cold wind turning the entire country chilly and the natural environment pleasant, this month has the clearest night firmament where all heavenly bodies are visible. In Myanmar Zodiac, this month is named Vrischiky which is called "Netkhat Thabin" = horoscope. There is Shin Ma Lei festival on fullmoon night of Tazaungmon. This year it falls on 11th November. It is the miserable month of Hindu people who lived in Myanmar in the past. They were treated as lower class people and were not allowed to rise from their seats in the presence of high caste people. They were only allowed to hold the lower parts of seats. They used to call the month "Tazaungmon" = illumination by oil lamps. According to Hindu astrology, the period is 'from the first waning moon of Wazo to fullmoon of Thadinkyut'.

Monks who have resolved to practice the ticivara minor rules of Vinaya [ Monks' Discipline ], such as:
- merits—the privileges of enjoying relaxation certain deeds.
- donor's property and possessions are safe from destruction, robbery and theft.
- donor would recover long lost or long forgotten property or possession.
- without much difficulty donor would get wealth.
- donor would have a good luck.

There are set period and strict rules for offering and receiving of Kathein robes. From the first waning moon of Tazaungmon [ November ] is the period for offering and receiving of Kathein robes. The donor must have good and sincere will and intention to donate Kathein robes. Donor offers Kathein robes to all members of Buddhist Order not to individual monk or a group of monks. Monks must never request directly or indirectly anyone, parents, relatives or friends to donate them robes. Kathein robes are new ones, not second hand nor borrowed ones.

The deserving recipients of Kathein robes are those monks who have:
1. observed Purima wa or first lent [ first waning moon of Wazo to fullmoon of Thadinkyut ].
2. performed Pawarana on fullmoon of Thadinkyut.
3. no record of breach of Wa Vow.
4. shortages property.
5. most senior monk among those in need of robes.

There is a committee for selecting the deserving recipient monks that performs its duties in the ordination Hall in accordance with the rules of Vinaya. Associated with Kathein robe offering festival are other festivals such as weaving and offering of Matho-thiangan, Kya-thiangan and Pantthaku-thiangan. Literally translated Matho-thiangan means "non-stale" robe. A priestly garment is woven all at once within the period—on the night of Fullmoon of Tazaungmon. If the weaving takes longer than the prescribed time, the garment is "stale". Gotama Buddha’s foster mother Gotami started weaving and offering of Matho-thiangan in Buddha’s life time. Myanmar kings and people observe this event as their tradition by holding Matho-thiangan weaving competitions on Tazaungmon fullmoon night. Light refreshments and music and dance are served and performed to cheer up the competitors.

Panthhaku is a Pali word meaning robe, or anything to offer to monks, left on the ground, with a note "Panthhaku". Monk who finds it can take and use it. Before Kathein robes were prescribed, during the first twenty ordained years of Lord Buddha there was no donor of robes. Lord Buddha and His disciple monks had to go round to collect clothing discarded on ground.

There is Shin Ma Lei festival on fullmoon night of this month. Shin Ma Lei was a post Buddha saint monk who in his intense mental concentration reached Tavatimsa where at Sulamani Pagoda, he met the monk who in his intense mental concentration reached Tavatimsa where at Sulamani Pagoda, he met the

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Tazaungmon at specially constructed tower like pagodas in which are statues of Miteya and Saint Shin Ma Lei. Tazaungmon is a month of second hand Kathein robes. Lord Buddha used in narrating Vessandara Jataka, one thousand lotus flowers are thrown up into the image houses on such pagodas.

Two social festivals which Myanmar people hold on the fullmoon Tazaungmon night are (1) Kathein Kathein, or salad feast and (2) Myanmar national education became leaders of the national independence movement in the next decades. Every year National Day is fittingly commemorated.

The following folk song epitomizes the festiveness of Tazaungmon:

"Old man bent and double,
Don't die so soon,
For watch again the pews [festivals]
At next Tazaungmon's Fullmoon."

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1-11-09 NL
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 1 November, 2009
Administrative and economic systems once practised but...

(from page 1)

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office and departmental heads.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, senior military officers and state level officials.

The Prime Minister and party left Lashio by helicopter at 9.10 am and arrived at Laukkai at 10 am. They were welcomed there by Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Brig-Gen Hla Myint of the local station, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, of Myanmar Police Station, Deputy Minister Hla Myint of the local station, Deputy Minister of Defence, Brig-Gen Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Min Aung Than Htut, senior military officers and state level officials.

In front of the Laukkai Station Yeiktha, U Pe Sauk Chain of Kokang Provisional Leading Committee greeted the Prime Minister and party. Next, the Prime Minister and party met U Pe Sauk Chain and leading committee members of Kokang Provisional Leading Committee and members cordially greeted the Prime Minister and party. Next, the Prime Minister and party met U Pe Sauk Chain and leading committee members at the meeting hall of Laukkai Station Yeiktha at 10.10 am. In his briefing at the meeting, the Prime Minister said the provisional leading committee is to carry out the four tasks—ensuring regional stability, security, smooth and secure transport and regeneration of local people's businesses—in cooperation with the administrative staff employed by the State. Administrative and economic systems once practised but were announced illegal by the State are to be mended in conformity with the law.

As Kokang region is within the boundary of Myanmar and is a part of the Union, there are people to cultivate Union Spirit without sticking to racism and localism regardless of whatever part of the region they live in. As Myanmar shares the long border with China, the two peoples need to live in amity. The Prime Minister then spoke of the need to fight against producing and smuggling narcotic drugs and to try to improve the regional economy based on agricultural productivity.

Next, the Prime Minister cordially greeted diplomats, ambassadors and officials of foreign embassies and officials from UN agencies and the UN resident representatives.

After viewing the display of the narcotics and precursor chemicals to be incinerated, the Prime Minister greeted the local nationals.

The Prime Minister attended a ceremony to incinerate narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals held on the lawns of Kokang Region Drug Elimination Museum in Laukkai and presented cash assistance for the staff shouldering their duties in Kokang Special Region (1) to the chairman of District PDC.

The Prime Minister also stressed the need for the service personnel not only to perform administrative duties but also to have economic and security outlooks. All the staff members are to work together in unity and amity, urged the Prime Minister.

In his briefing at the meeting, the Prime Minister said that being service personnel, they are to be loyal to the State and serve the people. They are to protect the public interests in accord with the law. The Prime Minister also stressed the need for the service personnel not only to perform administrative duties but also to have economic and security outlooks. All the staff members are to work together in unity and amity, urged the Prime Minister.

After that, the Prime Minister and party went to the office of Kongyan Township PDC and met with township level departmental officials. In meeting with them, the Prime Minister said that being service personnel, they are to be loyal to the State and serve the people. They are to protect the public interests in accord with the law. The Prime Minister also stressed the need for the service personnel not only to perform administrative duties but also to have economic and security outlooks. All the staff members are to work together in unity and amity, urged the Prime Minister.

(See page 7)
The Prime Minister and party went to Kongyan Station Hospital (16-bed) where they were welcomed by medical in charge Dr Lin Htin Kyaw and nurses. Dr Lin Htin Kyaw reported on the location of the station hospital and the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. Then he went round the hospital.

The Prime Minister and party paid homage to hilly missionary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandava residing in the princt of Seindamuni Pagoda and donated offertories. Later, the Prime Minister and party left Kongyan by helicopter for Lashio in the afternoon. They arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw by special flight via Lashio later in the afternoon.—MNA

The Prime Minister General Thein Sein views the display of narcotics and precursor chemicals to be incinerated.—MNA

Secretary-1 delivers address at prize...

(from page 1)

U Hla Win, Daw Lein Maung Pan and Daw Mya Kyay Mon of Myanmar Radio and Television acted as MCs and read out the agenda of the ceremony.

On the occasion, the Secretary-1 delivered an address.

He said that Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions filled with the deep national cause and noble objectives have been held yearly, and the 17th has successfully been held this year.

Year by year, the number of contestants in various subjects of the competitions at different levels as well as that of genres has increased. It can also be found that the younger generation have made more and more efforts to show their artistic talent in handing down the good legacy of traditional culture to next generations.

The study of the Myanmar culture has revealed that according to the evidence found in ancient Pyu cities such as Tagaung, Beikthanoe, Hanlin and Srikestra on Myanmar soil, the civilization has emerged with high literature, music and fine arts for the past 2000 years.

The national characteristics of a country or a people such as faith, way of thinking, lifestyles and social status are based on the cultural values of that country or people. And those cultural values can be judged from their literature and fine arts.

The Myanmar culture that has passed through the various eras has flourished relying on the Buddhist teachings, national unity and successful experiences in trying to thwart the alien invasions. So the Myanmar literature and fine arts embrace the Buddhist teachings such as blessings, the seven virtues of a saint, the four cardinal virtues and the two deterrent principles of shame and fear as well as the would-be Buddha’s ideals practices for attaining the virtues in Buddhahood and customs of royal and Dhamma affairs.

Uggasena drama in this year's drama contest featured educative plots about mudane and supramudane affairs with the life of dramatists in the background showing their artistic skills.

Similarly, Illid Dvicitta marionette drama featured the good practices of following ancestral traditions and artistic skills of marionette in Buddhist teachings with high marionette standards to the accompaniment of an orchestra attracting the audience.

(See page 8)

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers an address at prize presentation ceremony of 17th Performing Arts Competitions.

MNA

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents a prize to Daw Myint Myint Kyi of Yangon Division.—MNA

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents a prize to a winner.—MNA

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents a prize to Maung Thiha Kyaw of Yangon Division.—MNA
Secretary-1 delivers address at prize...

(from page 7)

In Kwet Seik (narration) contest, Tomiya drama featuring the would-be Buddha Prince Temi’s efforts to attain Nikkhama virtue and Saspttjtosema Sambula drama depicting the duties of married women to follow the example of morally good women were the efforts of the narrating artistes to educate the people and organize the younger generation to preserve and maintain such a kind of art.

It was also found that the artistes of the young generation actively participated in the Thakaung Yadana drama contest that was held based on the four social objectives and patriotic spirit. The contest attracted the audience as it featured colourful plots about the role of new generation youths on whom the future State will have to rely with customs and traditions of the national people from the plains and hilly regions of the Union and the beautiful scenery in the background.

The new generation youths actively participated in the modern song genre of the singing competition that started the previous year with the songs featuring the national unity and peace and stability of the State as well as the songs with aesthetic values.

In every contest at various levels, those individuals and groups were able to show their artistic talent, know more about Myanmar cultural performing arts and create new ideas without harming the original style. Moreover, mutual understanding, cooperation and unity among the national contestants have more consolidated.

By maintaining the fruitful results achieved from the competitions, all the participants are to make continued efforts to develop fine Myanmar traditions and national character along with novel ideas.

More prizes are awarded yearly for Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts. Therefore, new generation youths are not only to maintain the national culture but also to hand it down to the next generations as a national duty assigned by the State.

Although Myanmar cultural performing arts have their own individual characteristics, they are regarded as the noble performing skills when performed before the audience due to the mutual cooperation, understanding and unity of the artistes.

Likewise, a peaceful, modern and discipline-flourishing democratic nation can be built in a short time only if the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are to work together in unity based on Union Spirit. This is why Myanmar traditional cultural performing forces with a fine tradition of having mobilized the strength of the people in successive periods are to strive for ensuring more consolidated national forces.

In conclusion, I would like to urge those from the arts field to continue to maintain Myanmar cultural performing arts that have improved in both quality and quantity with innovative ideas without harming the traditional national culture; to try to forge national unity through the might of traditional cultural performing arts; and to actively participate in building up a peaceful, modern and discipline-flourishing democratic nation based on true patriotism and Union Spirit through the cultural sector. Thank you.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented first, second and third prizes for amateur level (first class) men’s Maha Gita contest to U Kyaw Kyaw Han and U Saw Win of Yangon Division and U Tin Oo Hlaung of Ayeyawady Division; prizes for amateur level (second class) men’s Maha Gita contest to U Win Aung of Kayah State, Maung Htan Lywan Kat of Sagaing Division and U Htein Lin Aung and U Chan Myae of Yangon Division; prizes for higher level men’s Maha Gita contest to Maung Thi Ha Kyaw of Yangon Division, Maung Kyaw Myo of Ayeyawady Division and Sai Thein Myint Tun of Kayin State; prizes for basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ Maha Gita contest to Maung Phone Myint Kyaw of Yangon Division.

It was also found that the artistes of the young generation actively participated in the Thakaung Yadana drama contest that was held based on the four social objectives and patriotic spirit. The contest attracted the audience as it featured colourful plots about the role of new generation youths on whom the future State will have to rely with customs and traditions of the national people from the plains and hilly regions of the Union and the beautiful scenery in the background.

The new generation youths actively participated in the modern song genre of the singing competition that started the previous year with the songs featuring the national unity and peace and stability of the State as well as the songs with aesthetic values.

In every contest at various levels, those individuals and groups were able to show their artistic talent, know more about Myanmar cultural performing arts and create new ideas without harming the original style. Moreover, mutual understanding, cooperation and unity among the national contestants have more consolidated.

By maintaining the fruitful results achieved from the competitions, all the participants are to make continued efforts to develop fine Myanmar traditions and national character along with novel ideas.

More prizes are awarded yearly for Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts. Therefore, new generation youths are not only to maintain the national culture but also to hand it down to the next generations as a national duty assigned by the State.

Although Myanmar cultural performing arts have their own individual characteristics, they are regarded as the noble performing skills when performed before the audience due to the mutual cooperation, understanding and unity of the artistes.

Likewise, a peaceful, modern and discipline-flourishing democratic nation can be built in a short time only if the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are to work together in unity based on Union Spirit. This is why Myanmar traditional cultural performing forces with a fine tradition of having mobilized the strength of the people in successive periods are to strive for ensuring more consolidated national forces.

In conclusion, I would like to urge those from the arts field to continue to maintain Myanmar cultural performing arts that have improved in both quality and quantity with innovative ideas without harming the traditional national culture; to try to forge national unity through the might of traditional cultural performing arts; and to actively participate in building up a peaceful, modern and discipline-flourishing democratic nation based on true patriotism and Union Spirit through the cultural sector. Thank you.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented first, second and third prizes for amateur level (first class) men’s Maha Gita contest to Daw Thu Zaw Aung of Yangon Division, Daw Aye Hnin Khine of Rakhine State and Daw Ku Kyu Kyu Khine of Sagaing Division; prizes for amateur level (second class) women’s Maha Gita contest to Ma May Thet Shin of Mandalay Division, Maung Aung Naing Oo of Yangon Division and Maung Phone Myint Kyaw of Yangon Division; prizes for basic education level (aged 5-10) boys’ Maha Gita contest to Maung Sai Thein of Mandalay Division and Maung Hnin Hnin Aung of Kayin State; prizes for higher level women’s Maha Gita contest to Maung Thi Ha Kyaw of Yangon Division, Maung Kyaw Myo of Ayeyawady Division and Sai Thein Myint Tun of Kayin State; prizes for education level (aged 15-20) boys’ Maha Gita contest to Maung Phone Myint Kyaw of Yangon Division.

Secretary-1 delivers address at prize...
Secretary-1 delivers address at prize…

(Sagaing Division: prizes for basic education level (aged 10-15) girl's Maha Gita contest to Ma May Tha Zin of Mon State, Ma Phyu Hnin Khine of Sagaing Division and Ma Pyae Pyae Phyo of Rakhine State and Ma San Nilar Nyen of Shan State; prizes for basic education level (aged 5-10) girl's Maha Gita contest to Ma Mai Mai Khanti of Mandalay Division, Ma Mya Thazin of Sagaing Division and Ma Khin Phone Pwint San of Yangon Division.

Lt-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence presented first, second and third prizes to nineteen winners in amateur level (first class), amateur level (second class) and higher education level men's classical/modern song contests and basic education level (aged 15-20), basic education level (aged 10-15), basic education level (aged 5-10) boy's classical/modern song contests.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin presented first, second and third prizes to thirty-three winners in amateur level (first class), amateur level (second class) and higher education level women's classical/modern song contests; basic education level (aged 15-20), basic education level (aged 10-15), basic education level (aged 5-10) women's classical/modern song contests; amateur level (second class), higher education level men's modern song contest and amateur level (second class), higher education level women's modern song contest.

After that, gold medal winner Ma Khin Mya Thein Hnin of Yangon Division in amateur level (first class) and in orchestra contest for supporting Kwetseik contest at the amateur level (second class) and in orchestra contest for supporting Kwetseik contest at the amateur level (second class).

State will carry on fight…

(From page 16)

Brig-Gen Khin Yi in his speech said: Our Committee has been holding similar occasions for destroying seized narcotic drugs which are from the whole country, both at respective States and Divisions as well as in Yangon. Altogether, a total of 46 different occasions have been held at States and Divisions where these drugs were seized and up till 2006, 20 occasions in Yangon alone.

Out of 46 different occasions held for destroying seized narcotic drugs at States and Divisions, 5 were actually in Laukai, Kokang Region during the years 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 2002 and this is the first time held here again as a special event after 7 years lapse. The narcotic drugs, ATS tablets and related precursor chemicals that we are about to destroy are those seized within a short period of time after the significant incident that took place in Laukai area.

Prior to my presentation on seizures of drugs in Laukai area, I would like to brief the cause of the incident.

Based on the information shared at the third Ministerial Meeting on Combating Transnational Crimes and Maintaining Social Order between Myanmar and China held at Mandalay this year in July, our security forces were able to seize a factory at Yan-lon-kyai village, Laukai, Kokang Special Region-1 on 11 August 2009, which is owned by U Phone Kyar Shin, U Phone Kyar Phu, U Phone Tar Le and U Phone Tar Shin.

In connection with this incident, U Phone Kyar Shin and his three associates were called upon repeatedly by the Government to appear before the law in connection with this matter but resulted in vain. Instead, they, with their followers loyal to them, went out and captured members of our police force who were engaged in their own enforcement activities, took them as hostages and killed some, leaving 14 dead and 11 wounded in Laukai area.

Our security forces who tried to release the remaining hostages met with arms resistance from U Phone Kyar Shin, his three associates and the some Kokang armed group who encourage; and this eventually led to open battles.

We also learnt that, even while armed battles were taking place between the security forces and groups loyal to Phone Kyar Shin these groups were moving out their drugs and precursor chemicals from their strong holds to safe places. Those that they were unable to move out, they left it hidden in their farms and plantations. Through follow up measures with the information from local people and some Kokang troops who opposed their unlawful manner, our security forces, in cooperation with local people, were able to seize narcotic drugs, ATS tablets, precursor...
Chief of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi explains the tasks on fighting against drugs.—MNA

State will carry on fight...

Diplomats of foreign embassies, resident representatives from UN agencies, officials and local and foreign journalists observe seized drugs.—MNA

2009. You can observe detail of incidents through Power Point Slides and recorded photos that are displaying outside.

I will highlight some significant cases of those incidents.

During the search undertaken on 11 August 2009, our security forces found illegally imported 200 gallons of Sulphuric acid and 75.38 gallons of Acetone, liquid chemicals inside the seized factory owned by Phone Kyar Shin and his three associates.

On 3 September, we joint team managed to confiscate 3,000 WY brand psychotropic tablets from the residence of U Phone Kyar Phu in Si Aw village, Laukai town ward, Laukai, who is a brother of Phone Kyar Shin and in hiding.

On 19 September, our security force seized a machine that used to produce stimulant, 38 iron rod moulds, 2 cylinder containers at a store owned by Phone Kyar Kyain @ Phone Chi, youngest brother of Phone Kyar Shin who absconded; and 1.27 gallons of Chloroform, 5.49 gallons of thionyl chloride, 12.74 gallons of acetic, 3.51 gallons of ether, 38.8 gallons of hydrochloric acid and 4.4 gallons of phosphoric acid in a garden beside of his house.

There are 10 different cases of ATS and chemical seizures at houses owned by U Phone Kyar Shin and his family and 7 cases of liquid chemical seizures at Si Aw village where Kokang army headquarters is situated.

A review of the incidences will show that the 4 absconders, including Phone Kyar Shin, (See page 11)
State will carry on fight…

(from page 10)

together with their armed followers of Kokang army
are either manufacturing narcotic drugs and ATS
tables themselves and have allowed narcotic drug
and ATS production at their own residences, build-
ing and neighboring areas.

The following are the types an amount of
narcotic drugs, ATS, precursor chemicals and related
instruments seized in 50 cases in the region during the
period from 11 August to 24 October 2009 in Laukai
area close to these groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATS tablets</td>
<td>11,944,837 tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICE</td>
<td>0.44 kilos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>0.13 kilos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opium</td>
<td>0.899 kilos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketamine Powder</td>
<td>83 kilos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 kinds of acids</td>
<td>6814 litres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acid powder</td>
<td>23.24 kilos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephedrine tablets</td>
<td>7,965,200 tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephedrine</td>
<td>246 kilos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudo-Ephedrine tablets</td>
<td>64000 tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephedrine contained liquid</td>
<td>124707 nos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caffeine</td>
<td>45 kilos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thionyle Chlorine</td>
<td>568 litres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ether</td>
<td>3076.50 litres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acetone</td>
<td>7056 litres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>680 litres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethyl Alcohol</td>
<td>2161 litres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloroform</td>
<td>9979 litres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium Hydroxide crystal</td>
<td>200 kilos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ammonium Chloride</td>
<td>45 kilos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone charcoal</td>
<td>3079.4 kilos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bags of Poppy bulb</td>
<td>231 nos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other related equipments</td>
<td>33 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of more than (11.9) millions ATS tab-
lets seized during two-month period is found to have
exceed the total amount seized during the period from
1 January to end August 2009, which is (8.4) million
tablets.

I would also like to inform that the total values
of drugs, chemicals and related equipment going to
be destroyed is over 20 billion kyats (over US$ 20
million).

Myanmar Government, in her efforts to elimi-
nate the illicit drugs as a national cause with her own
resources, laid down the 2 strategies and 3 tactics, and
has launched a 15-year drug elimination plan from
1999 to 2014 following with the guideline of the
Head of State. Since this is the final year of the 2nd 5-
year phase of the plan we can say efforts to eliminate
narcotic drugs have gained achievement to a certain
extent.

The Government is scaling up not only drug
supply elimination and law enforcement but also
demand elimination to be in line with UNODC’s
theme “No individual, family or community is
safe where illicit drugs take control” through
preventive education, drug treatment and reha-
bilitation.

(See page 12)
The Government, in accordance with drug control strategies, strives the development of border areas and livelyhood of national races; and elimination of poppy cultivation. The Government has spent 288.753 billion kyats for the development of border areas including this Laukai area from 1989 to the end of September 2009.

Kokang region, since 1989 after signing peace agreement with the State, have worked closely with Government in developing Laukai area. They also opted to combat the menace of narcotic drugs and in 2003, announced publicly that they have abandoned poppy cultivation. Just before that since 2002, they have opened a museum in commemoration of eliminating narcotic drugs.

However, the amount of narcotic drugs, ATS, precursor chemicals and related instruments sized within a very short time frame in Laukai area evident to the fact that, while the State is actively engaged in combating the threat of narcotic drugs as a national cause with sincere intentions to benefit its national races, these people took advantage of the State's goodwill.

It is revealed that U Phone Kyar Shin and his associates were disloyal to the Government and local people; and not only committed themselves but also permitted their associates the production and trafficking of ATS within the region freely and openly like a Mafia gang; and also treated competitors with vengeance ruthlessly.

In conclusion, the State will carry on fight against the illicit production, and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in cooperation with sincere local Kokang people and Kokang troops who oppose bad manners and drug menace within this Kokang region, an area which has been for an extended period—under the influence of U Phone Kyar Shin and 3 associates. On the other hand, we will continue to maintain peace and stability, law and order and enhance the development of this Kokang region and make every effort to achieve the 15-year Drugs Elimination Plan with added momentum.

Next, the Vice-Chairman of Kokang Special Region-1 Provisional Leading Committee U Lu Kwe Shee explained the condition of the region. The ambassadors, and those present inspected in details the drugs to destroy by seating fire.

Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong, Brig-Gen Khin Yi and the Chairman of Kokang Special Region-1 Provisional Leading Committee U Pe Sauk Chain set fire the narcotic drugs and the ceremony came to a close at 12:30 pm.

The drugs and chemicals destroyed today were 11944677 stimulant tablets, 0.44 kilo of ICE, 0.13 kilo of heroin, 0.899 kilo of opium, 83 kilos of ketamine powder, 6814 litres of five kinds of acid, 23.24 kilo of acid powder, 7965200 Ephedrine tablets, 246 kilos of Ephedrine powder, 64000 Pseudo-ephedrine capsules, 124,707 two-dium hydroxide crystals, 45 kilos of ammonium chloride, 3079.4 kilo of bone charcoal, 231 bags of puppy bulbs, and 33 different other types of related items.

The value of narcotic drugs, chemicals CC bottles of Ephedrine liquid, 45 kilos of caffeine, 568 liters of Thyonyle chloride, 3076.30 liters of ether, 7056 liters of acetone, 680 liters of spirit, 2161 liters of ethyl alcohol, 5979 liters of chloroform, 200 kilos of so-

The foreign diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies and journalists at the ceremony, accompanied by ties of local people, stores and hotels.

Next, they observed Yan-lon-kyang Myanmar-China border checkpoint and posed for group photos. They left Laukkai in the afternoon.

Chemicals and paraphernalia.—MNA

Ambassadors, representatives from UN agencies, Chairman and members of Kokang Special Region (1), departmental officials and journalists at the ceremony.—MNA

MPF Chief Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and officials, viewed by car progress, stability and peace of Laukkai, activ-

Stimulant Tablets.—MNA

Poppy bulbs.—MNA

Stimulant Tablet
Panama, Costa Rica sign cooperation agreement

PANAMA CITY, 31 Oct—Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli and his Costa Rican counterpart Oscar Arias on Thursday signed a bilateral cooperation agreement to boost ties. The two leaders pledged to deepen and expand political and social dialogue on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest, the commercial ties, and cultural exchanges to achieve integration between the two countries.

Martinelli said the partnership will bring great benefits to both countries and their peoples. Arias said Costa Rica and Panama are united with this agreement because they share the values of democracy, freedom and pluralism.

“This agreement will expand our cooperation from economy to other areas where there are long ways to go and we are going to do it,” Arias said after signing the document. According to Arias, the ties between the two countries have been transparent and fraternal, because they are based on mutual trust and the pursuit of common welfare for both countries.

Wind energy loads Western power grid

PORTLAND, 31 Oct—Aging transmission lines and power stations in western US states are loaded to the limit with power from wind turbines, authorities said.

Future wind projects mean the region’s electrical grid must be expanded, which won’t be without controversy, said Brent Fenty, who heads the Oregon Natural Desert Association, which is tracking transmission proposals.

“There’s no question that we are changing the face of the state right now. And the important part is that we do that in a way that is responsible and reflects our values,” Fenty told The (Portland) Oregonian. Hundreds more wind turbine projects are planned for Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, most of them on private land. New power lines to carry that energy, which won’t be without controversy, said Brent Fenty, who heads the Oregon Natural Desert Association, which is tracking transmission proposals.

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Clement shocks Tsonga

Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) on Friday to reach the semi-finals of the Grand Prix de Tennis de Lyon ATP event here. Clement recovered from dropping the opening set as he edged a tough three-hour encounter, saving a match point in the tiebreak in the deciding set to book a meeting with Croatian third seed Ivan Ljubicic.

Internet

Race on in Italy to peg back Inter

Rome, 31 Oct.—It will be a case of damage limitation this weekend for Inter Milan’s Serie A title rivals.

The reigning four-in-a-row champions went four points clear of the pack on Thursday following a thrill-a-minute 5-3 win over Palermo. And the worry now for Inter’s rivals and neutrals alike is that the gap could keep on growing if the leaders don’t slip up soon.

Inter travel away to newly-promoted Livorno on Sunday in a game they will be expected to win comfortably, even if they do ring the changes to keep some players fresh ahead of a long trip to Ukraine to tackle Dynamo Kiev in midweek.

Internet

HIN1 virus causes postponement of Spanish soccer match

Madrid, 31 Oct.—The Spanish Football Federation on Friday cancelled Sunday’s league match between Betis and Villarreal B because of an outbreak of the A/H1N1 virus in the Betis squad.

The Spanish Second Division club has 13 players infected with the A/H1N1 virus and has been unable to train for the past three days to prevent a spread of the disease.

The infected players are Sergio Garcia, Arzu, Sunny, Carlos Garcia, Nelson, Juande, Dani, Nano, Caffa, Pavone, Emanna, Fernando Vega and Israel Bascon. Betis was relegated from the BBVA Primera Liga last season and is currently looking to gain promotion back to Spain’s top flight. The match will now be played at a later date.

Internet

3rd Asian Indoor Games opens in Vietnam

Hanoi, 31 Oct.—The 3rd Asian Indoor Games (AIG) opened in Hanoi on Friday, with participation of athletes from 43 countries and regions. Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh Triet announced the official opening of the games.

Delivering a speech at the opening ceremony, President of the Olympic Council of Asia Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah said that he expected athletes could perform to their best at the AIG and demonstrate sports friendship. Hoang Tuan Anh, minister of culture, sports and tourism of Vietnam said at the opening ceremony that he hoped the event could contribute to the solidarity, cooperation and development of Asia.

Xinhua

Six Spaniard candidates to FIFA World Player

Madrid, 31 Oct.—Six Spain’s soccer players are among the 23 candidates for the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) World Player prize, FIFA sources said on Friday.

According to the sources, the Spaniard candidates are Casillas, Iniesta, Puyol, Xavi, Torres and Villa; and the winner will be announced during the 19th FIFA Gala of World Player to be hosted on Dec. 21 in Zurich, Switzerland.

Xinhua

Cese Fahregas scores Arsenal’s second goal against Tottenham Hotspur.—INTERNET

Arsenal 3-0 Tottenham Hotspur

London, 31 Oct.—Arsenal secured the bragging rights over north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur with a comprehensive victory. Spurs held out strongly for the first 42 minutes at the Emirates Stadium but then conceded twice in less than a minute.

Robin van Persie forced home the first from close range and then Cese Fahregas stole the ball straight from kick-off and ran clean through to slot the second just 11 seconds after the re-start. Van Persie poached the third from close range on the hour and it could have been worse for Tottenham as Eduardo missed two golden chances after Nicklas Bendtner had gone off injured. Arsenal are now unbeaten in their last 20 meetings with their neighbours.—INTERNET

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Internet

C Ronaldo, Messi on FIFA player of the year list

Zurich, 31 Oct.—Real Madrid winger Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona forward Lionel Messi are on a 23-player shortlist for this year’s FIFA player of the year award. Other contenders include Barcelona teammates Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Andres Iniesta, Xavi Hernandez, Carlos Puyol and Thierry Henry. Samuel Eto’o, who won the Champions League title with Barcelona before moving to Inter Milan, is also on the list.

Champions League runner-up Manchester United is represented by Wayne Rooney. Ronaldo, last year’s winner, left United in the offseason and is joined by Madrid teammates Iker Casillas and Kaka. Brazil forward Marta won the last women’s awards and has been nominated again. The award ceremony is scheduled for 21 Dec in Zurich.—INTERNET

S P O R T S

Marta and Cristiane celebrate FIFA’s nomination to MVP

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 Oct.—Two of Brazil’s best products of women’s soccer, Marta and Cristiane, were nominated on Friday by FIFA to compete for the award of the world’s most valuable female soccer player. Marta looks to win her fourth straight title.

Both Marta and Cristiane are members of the first ever women’s Libertadores Cup title, winning the championship with Santos. The two athletes, also members of the Brazilian national soccer team, will be up against eight other candidates from throughout the globe. “I am thrilled to be able to participate once again in the nomination. I hope that I was able to catch the attention of the members of the commission during my performance in the United States as well as with my participation in winning the Libertadores Cup with Santos,” declared Marta.—Xinhua

C Ronaldo shocked Tsonga

LYON, 31 Oct.—Arnaud Clement shocked top seed and fellow Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) on Friday to reach the semi-finals of the Grand Prix de Tennis de Lyon ATP event here. Clement recovered from dropping the opening set as he edged a tough three-hour encounter, saving a match point in the tiebreak in the deciding set to book a meeting with Croatian third seed Ivan Ljubicic.

Internet

Across

5 Purchaser 1 Break up
8 Greater part 2 Throw out
9 Religious house 3 Dignified
10 Sequestered 4 Emphasis
11 River of forgetfulness 5 Portable shelter
14 Beast of burden 6 Large animal
16 Easy gallop 7 Large animal
17 Rectangular 10 Other part
18 Cry like a cat 11 Tiny tree
20 Small fruit 13 Tiny tree (anag.)
22 Slow mover 14 Beast of burden
25 Slow mover 15 Pig
26 Small piece 16 Limb
27 Manoeuvres 17 Rectangular

Down

10 Barrenness 22 Thin biscuit
12 Fatherly 23 Pier
13 Tiny tree (anag.) 24 Uneven
14 Limb 25 Slow mover
15 Pig 26 Small piece
19 Repeat performance 27 Manoeuvres
21 Elbow 28 Enterprise
Researchers ask how best to engineer the planet

Massachusetts, 31 Oct—A group of academicians on Friday considered the ultimate engineering challenge: building machines to stabilize the earth’s climate.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology convened a symposium here to discuss the potential benefits and pitfalls of geoengineering, also called climate engineering. Everything from spraying light-blocking particles into the atmosphere to “artificial trees” is being seriously studied, despite trepidation among researchers and opposition from others. During talks Friday morning, academicians said climate engineering techniques are not well understood and, because of the complexity of the global climate system, individual approaches are pockmarked with uncertainties.

Still, speakers at the event said it’s time to step up research in geoengineering to sort out which approaches are worth serious consideration. But they cautioned against expecting easy fixes or abandoning efforts to ratchet down the growth of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere.

INTERNET
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
We favour peace and stability
We favour development
We oppose unrest and violence
Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

State will carry on fight against illicit production, traffic in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances in cooperation with sincere local Kokang people and Kokang troops

Special Region-1, Shan State (North) witnesses destruction of over 20 mln US$ worth narcotic drugs, chemicals

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct.—A ceremony to destroy narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals seized in Kokang area, Special Region (1) of Shan State (North) was held in the compound of Kokang Region Drugs Elimination Museum this morning. Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and party, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong and ambassadors, responsible persons from foreign embassies, Resident Coordinator of UN Mr Bishow Parajuli, resident representatives and responsible persons from UN agencies, Chairman of Kokang Special Region-1 Provisional Leading Committee U Pe Sauk Chain and party, local and foreign correspondents, social organizations, guests and local people attended the ceremony.

Chief of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi and party and Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong set fire the seized narcotic drugs.—MNA