Prime Minister to attend First Mekong-Japan Summit in near future

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Nov—At the invitation of the Government of Japan, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, will be visiting Japan in the near future to attend “The First Mekong-Japan Summit” to be held in Tokyo.—MNA

Secretary-1 addresses ceremony to present certificates of honour and host dinner to mark 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—A ceremony to present certificates of honour and host a dinner to the maestros, who had judged the performances of the contestants at the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, and managers took place at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall yesterday evening, with an address by Patron for organizing the competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and (See page 9)

Tazaungmon Fullmoon Day marked across the nation

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—The whole Nay Pyi Taw saw rituals held on a grand scale to mark Tazaungmon Fullmoon Day (Samanna Phala Day) today.

The Uppatasanti Pagoda on Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Hill was packed today with visitors from far and near performing meritorious deeds such as offering flowers, water, fruit and alms food to the pagoda, making charities, observing precepts and doing meditation.

The Dhatucaya (Daithaungsu) Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw was teeming with Buddhists doing meritorious deeds the whole day. At night, people celebrated Tazaungdaing Festival by lighting oil lights and releasing hot air balloons. The roundabouts and Shopeik Dam on Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road in Nay Pyi Taw were illuminated.

(See page 8)

Uppatasanti Pagoda packed with visitors on Tazaungmon Fullmoon Day (Samanna Phala Day).—MNA
**PERSPECTIVES**

Monday, 2 November, 2009

**Work together to eliminate narcotic drugs from Myanmar soil**

A ceremony to destroy narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals seized in Kokang area, Special Region (1) of Shan State (North) took place in the compound of Kokang Region Drugs Elimination Museum on 31 October.

From time to time, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control held ceremonies to incinerate narcotic drugs seized across the nation in States and Divisions and Yangon.

Out of 46 different occasions held for destroying seized narcotic drugs at States and Divisions, five were actually in Laukkai, Kokang Region, during the years 1991, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 2002 and up to 2006, 20 occasions were held in Yangon.

The narcotic drugs, ATS tablets and related precursor chemicals destroyed were those seized within a short period after the significant incident that happened in Laukkai area in August. The total value of drugs, chemicals and related equipment destroyed is over 20 billion kyats (over US$ 20 million).

The government in its efforts to eliminate the illicit drugs as a national cause with its own resources had laid down the two strategies and three tactics. Now is the final year of the 2nd 5-year phase of the 15-year drug elimination plan and we can say the effort to eliminate narcotic drugs has gained momentum. While scaling up and prevention and elimination of drug production, the government is also taking speedy measures to ward off drug abuse.

The government is striving for prevention of the danger of narcotics and education and rehabilitation in accord with UNODC’s theme “No individual, family or community is safe where illicit drugs take control”. So the national people are to work together to eliminate narcotic drugs from Myanmar soil.

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**Respects paid to doyen sports journalists**

**Yangon, 1 Nov—**The second respect paying ceremony of Myanmar Sports Journalists Federation to the doyen sport journalists was held at the National Indoor Stadium No(1) Thawwunna this morning. It was attended by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

The minister extended greetings and Chairman of MSJF Dr Tin Tun Oo explained the purpose of holding the ceremony.

Southern Myanmar Football Club and Yangon United Football Club donated K 0.5 million each, Kanbawza Football Club, In Ar Media Group and Gold Media Group donated K 0.1 million each, Eleven Media Group and U Soe Moe (IBC) K 50,000 each, U Soe Win (Tetkatho Soe Win) K 30,000, Premier Coffee Co Ltd and Sweson Media Group K 0.15 million. The chairman of MSJF accepted the donation and presented the honouring certificates.

The minister and sport journalists paid respect to the doyen sport journalists.

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**Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association meets**

**Yangon, 1 Nov—**Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence addressed the 17th Annual General Meeting of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street in Lammadaw Township here this morning.

Before the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and officials inspected the edible oil shops stayed by the association.

During the meeting, the honouring of those who contributed towards the participation in the 6th China-ASEAN Expo was held. UMFCCI President U Win Myint gave an opening speech. Recognising persons reported on the participation of Myanmar in the expo, and winning a medal.

The official concern handed over the medal Myanmar had won in the expo to the chairman of the committee for participating in the expo. Officials presented certificates of honour to those who contributed and those who drew designs for the national pavilion and the commodity pavilion.

The meeting was opened with speeches by Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the UMFCCI president.

Next, cash donations were presented; the report and the financial statement of the CEC (2008) were submitted; members’ prior suggestions were responded, the expiry and resigning of the executive committee (2007-2008) were declared; and the new executive committee for 2009-2011 term was approved. The chairman of the meeting gave concluding remarks.—MNA

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**CSSTB Chairman U Kyaw Thu arrives back from Lao PDR**

**Yangon, 1 Nov—**A Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Kyaw Thu arrived back from Lao PDR by air yesterday after attending the 15th ACCSM meeting in Vientiane from 28 to 30 October.

The 15th ACCSM meeting opening ceremony was held on 28 October at the Donchan Palace Hotel, Vientiane. The meeting was attended by the Heads of ASEAN Civil Service Organizations and representatives and the opening address was delivered by H.E. Mr Somsavat LENGSAVAD, Deputy Prime Minister of the Lao PDR.

During the meeting, the Heads of ASEAN Civil Service Organizations and representatives discussed matters relating to their respective country reports, technical papers and update on ASEAN Resource Centre ARC projects.

The Chairman of the CSSTB exchanged views on implementation of Blueprint for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community 2009-2015, operationalization of ACCSM work plan 2008-2012 with the Heads of ASEAN Civil Service and also met with his counterparts from ASEAN+3 (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea).

Together with the Chairman of CSSTB, members of the Myanmar delegation Director U Zaw Moe Win, Deputy Directors Daw Thei Thei Kyaw and U Myo Lwin of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department also arrived back on the same flight.

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**3.7m acres put under monsoon paddy in Ayeyawady Div**

**Yangon, 30 Oct—**Up to 29 October, Ayeyawady Division has put 3,700,017 acres under monsoon paddy.—MNA

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Cyprus supports India’s bid for UN Security Council seat

NICOSIA, 1 Nov—Cyprus voiced its support on Saturday for India’s aspiration to be a permanent member in an expanded UN Security Council. Cyprus President Demetris Christofias told a state banquet in honor of visiting Indian President Pratibha Devisingh Patil that Cyprus considers India as a very important country, at the regional as well as at the international level. “Should a decision on the reform of the UN Security Council be made, India would deserve a permanent seat in such a body which would have enhanced authority and would enjoy the highest possible approval,” he said.

The Indian President, on her part, thanked Cyprus for “deep understanding” of India’s national aspirations. “India values the consistent support that Cyprus has extended on issues of vital concern,” she added. India and Cyprus have enjoyed traditional friendship. The two sides agreed that bilateral trade, at 68.7 million US dollars in 2008, was far below potential. India wants to explore cooperation opportunities in fields of IT, technology and pharmaceuticals.

Iraqi police officer killed by Baghdad bombing suspect

BAGHDAD, 1 Nov—An Iraqi police officer was killed by a suspect being questioned over Baghdad’s twin suicide bombings last week, an Interior Ministry statement said on Saturday.

The incident at the Criminal Investigations Directorate resulted in the killing of an officer and the suspect, along with wounding another policeman.

During the interrogation, a policeman offered the suspect water, but the suspect stole the policeman’s gun and shot and wounded him; the suspect then fired on Major Arkan Hachim and killed him, the statement said.

The suspect himself was seriously wounded and was later announced dead in hospital, the statement added.

Philippines repairs damage after deadly storm

MANILA, 1 Nov—Philippine authorities on Sunday scrambled to restore power and repair damage after Typhoon Mirinae smashed into the storm-weary nation, killing at least 12 people.

A day after Mirinae brought heavy rains and winds, crews were clearing roads of fallen trees and power lines in capital Manila and nearby areas. Efforts were being made to repair four bridges that collapsed in urban areas south of Manila, while power was slowly being restored to most of the 22 towns that were blacked out at the height of the typhoon, the Red Cross said.

We have been told that power in most areas has been restored and in terms of flooding, the waters receded within hours,” national Red Cross secretary general Gwen Pang told AFP.

She said a pre-emptive evacuation that saw the transfer of about 115,000 people in the typhoon’s direct path to safer ground days ahead of its landfall had meant fewer casualties compared with two recent deadly storms.

Nine militants killed in Pakistan tribal area operation

ISLAMABAD, 1 Nov—At least nine militants were killed and two others arrested during the ongoing military operation in Pakistan’s South Waziristan tribal area in the last 24 hours, an army statement said on Sunday.

Pakistan security forces have surrounded militant’s hub Sararogha from three directions and operation is progressing smoothly, the Inter Services Public Relations said in a daily press release. Security forces have surrounded Makeen, another key town controlled by Taleban militants, from three directions and cleared Litta Sar area, the army said.

Consolidation is in process. Two security men were killed and two others injured during the operation.

During last 24 hours security forces have recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition in search and clearance operations along all three axes. On relief activities, 7,203 cash cards have been distributed amongst the displaced families of Waziristan. Army Field Hospital has been established at nearby D I Khan district and treated 50 patients. According to local newspaper Daily Times, military forces said on Saturday that the army will wrap up the operation coded Rah-e-Nijat within two weeks, bringing down the terrorists in South Waziristan.

“We will clear South Waziristan within the next two weeks and accomplish the objectives of the operation ahead of the stipulated time,” the sources said.

Pakistan security forces launched the ground assault on 17 Oct in the South Waziristan, advancing towards the main base of Taleban militants in Pakistan. The army said that about 30,000 soldiers are in place to take on an estimated 10,000 hard-core Taleban militants in the lawless area. —Xinhua

Cyprus supports India’s bid for UN Security Council seat

Syria reviews Syrian-European Partnership Agreement “with care”

DAMASCUS, 1 Nov—Syria is rethinking “with care” the Syrian-European Partnership Agreement and its effects on Syrian economy, Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Abdullah al-Dardari said on Saturday, the official SANA news agency reported.

Dardari made the remarks at a joint press conference with visiting Italian Minister of Economic Development Claudio Scajola.

Syria and Italy signed on Saturday a number of memoranda of understanding (MOU) to boost bilateral cooperation on trade, agriculture and transport, which includes establishing an Italian Technological Center in Damascus, SANA said.

As the top trade partner of Syria in Europe, the trade volume between Italy and Syria in 2008 amounted to 20 percent of Syria’s total trade with the European Union.

Scajola affirmed his country’s desire to increase investments in Syria in various fields such as technology and tourism and expand cooperation in technical training, in addition to cooperation in exporting agricultural products, according to the report.

The Italian minister also stressed the importance of signing the Syrian-European Partnership Agreement, though, he said Syria “has the right to think it over.” —Xinhua
UK to shake up banking, 100s of branches for sale

LONDON, 1 Nov—The Royal Bank of Scotland, Northern Rock, and Lloyds Banking Group are to sell off as many as 700 branches in the next few years in exchange for the public aid they received during the economic meltdown, a government official told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The assets being put up for sale would be reserved for new entrants to the British banking market, effectively creating three new banks over the next five years or so, the official said.

The official said that the banks were in negotiations with Britain’s treasury and European regulators over how many assets they would have to give up in return for the help they received from taxpayers.

“Essentially, they are expected to have to divest — each of them — some of their branches,” he said.

As many as 700 branches could be sold off, the official said. That figure would include all of Northern Rock’s 100 or so branches, as well as chunks from the Lloyds Banking Group PLC’s approximately 3,000 branches and just over 2,200 branches operated by the Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC.

Established players such as Barclays PLC or the Spanish Banco Santander SA, which owns three UK banking businesses, would not be allowed to bid.

India government to import rice

NEW DELHI, 1 Nov—India’s government plans to import 30,000 tonnes of rice to offset an expected production shortfall following the worst monsoon in nearly four decades, a report said on Saturday.

The move comes as the US Department of Agriculture has forecast India’s rice output will fall between 15 million and 17 million tonnes in the crop year from October 2009 to September 2010 following two years of bumper harvests.

India is the world’s second-largest rice producer. The country of nearly 1.2 billion people produced a record 99.15 million tonnes of rice last year.
Chinese NPC vice chairman leaves for African visit

BEIJING, 1 Nov.—A delegation of the National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s parliament, left here on Sunday for an official goodwill visit to South Africa, Mauritius and Kenya. The delegation was led by Wang Zhaoguo, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee. The delegation was invited by the parliaments of the three countries. (Xinhua)

Cellphone ban in vehicles comes into effect in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 1 Nov.—It is an offence for motorists to use a hand-held cellphone while driving in New Zealand from Sunday morning.

The ban on making or receiving calls from a cellphone, texting and e-mailing is one of a raft of new road rules under the Land Transport (Road User) Amendment Rule 2009 which came into effect from Sunday, local media reported.

Motorists can make calls legally if they have a fully voice activated phone, or the device is secured in a fixed mounting.

Genuine emergency calls are also allowed. Those caught breaking the law can be given an 80 NZ dollars (59US dollars) infringement ticket and 20 demerit points. New Zealand Transport Minister Steven Joyce said that the cellphone ban had been needed for some time and New Zealand’s roads would be much safer for it. He said most people were aware of the new rule, so there was no excuse for breaches.

Police are also enforcing new drug-driving rules from Sunday, with compulsory tests on motorists suspected of being under the influence of drugs, according to Radio New Zealand. (Xinhua)

Most of Gaza water unsuitable for drinking

GAZA, 31 Oct.—Most of Gaza water is unsuitable for drinking, a report by Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) said on Saturday.

“From 90 percent to 95 percent of underground water does not meet the standards recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), so it is unfit for human usage,” the report said. The daily quota of water for each person in Gaza is 80 liter, half of the amount the WHO standard.

“The Gaza Strip suffers from a water shortage of up to 70 million cubic meter per annum due to the natural increase of population,” the report added.

The 1.5 million people of the coastal strip rely on one aquifer as their sole source of water, the report said. However, the sea water has mixed up with the underground water, making it salty. The bad ways of draining sewage water has also contributed to the crisis, the study showed. (Xinhua)

Five drown, ten missing as boat capsizes in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 1 Nov.—At least five persons were drowned and 10 others remained missing after a boat sank into the Morichbunia river in Bangladesh’s southern coastal district of Patuakhali, 204 km south of capital Dhaka on Saturday evening carrying 60-70 passengers.

Sadar sub-district chief executive Khorsheed Alom confirmed the boat capsize with Xinhua over phone on Sunday morning, saying the overcrowded boat overturned as it was passing through a bend of the river near the bank while returning from Padma village in another coastal district Barguna, some 247 km south of Dhaka.

Ten persons were injured while they jumped out of the boat and swam to safety. The injured were getting treatment at different hospitals in Patuakhali. The divers of the district and the local people picked up the bodies of five persons and began a search on Sunday. (Xinhua)

HK Sai Kung District named safe community by WHO

HONG KONG, 1 Nov.—Sai Kung District of Hong Kong has been named the 170th Safe Community in the World by the World Health Organization (WHO) and a designation ceremony was held here on Saturday. The ceremony was held to certify Sai Kung’s status, making it the seventh international safe community in Hong Kong after Tuen Mun, Kwai Tsing, Tai Po, Tsuen Wan, Sham Shui Po and Tung Chung.

Speaking at the ceremony, Hong Kong’s Secretary for Home Affairs Tsang Tak-sing praised the Sai Kung District Council for its commitment to community participation and safety awareness.

Initiated by WHO, the safe community programme aims to promote a health and safety culture through close collaboration among governments, local organizations and the public. (Xinhua)
China’s Geely confident on Volvo bid

Shanghai, 1 Nov— China’s Geely is confident its bid for Ford Motor’s Volvo car unit will be successful, chairman Li Shufu said on Friday, as it seeks to lead China’s automakers onto the global stage.

Zhejiang Geely Holding Group, the parent of Geely Automobile was named by Ford Motor as a preferred bidder for its loss-making Swedish unit Volvo Car Corp late Wednesday.

Li told Reuters on the sidelines of a business event in Shanghai that the talks were still at an early stage and were proceeding at a cautious pace.

Geely, which means ‘auspicious’ in Chinese, is discussing the bid as head of a consortium whose financing would come from both domestic and foreign banks, Li said.

Ford and Geely have not disclosed a possible sale price for Volvo, but media reports suggested it could be closer to $2 billion than the $6.45 billion Ford paid for the Swedish car maker in 1999.

Beijing, 1 Nov— China’s ‘father of space technology’ Qian Xuesen, widely acclaimed as the country’s ‘father of space technology’ and “king of rocketry”, died of illness here on Saturday morning at the age of 98.

In 1956, based on Qian’s position paper on the country’s defence and aviation industry, the central government set up an aviation industry committee, which later became the leading organization for China’s missile and aviation programmes.

Under the guidance of Qian, also known as Tsien Hsue-shen, China finished the blueprint on developing jet and rocket technology.

Harvard brand takes a hit in tough times

New York, 1 Nov— Tough economic times have hurt Harvard University’s public standing in the media over the past nine months, while schools perceived as a safer educational investment have benefited, a research firm said.

Global Language Monitor, which ranks colleges and universities based on their appearances in print and other media, said the venerable Ivy League institution has fallen from first to third behind University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The firm said it recorded a 20 percent decline in media representations of Harvard, America’s richest university by endowment, which has allowed some technical schools and state-run “public Ivies” to improve their standing.

Among the major news on Harvard in recent months has been the tumbling value of its endowment. The university, located in Cambridge, Mass.-sachusetts, said its endowment fell 27.3 percent, or $11 billion, to $26 billion in the year ending on 30 June.

China’s “father of space technology” dies at 98

Mind you, 1 Nov— Li Jiaxiang, China’s ‘father of space technology’ and “king of rocketry”, died of illness here on Saturday morning at the age of 98.

In 1956, based on Qian’s position paper on the country’s defence and aviation industry, the central government set up an aviation industry committee, which later became the leading organization for China’s missile and aviation programmes.

Under the guidance of Qian, also known as Tsien Hsue-shen, China finished the blueprint on developing jet and rocket technology.

Cat doubles up as alarm clock for master

Beijing, 1 Nov— A pet cat in Nan’ao county, Guangdong Province, doubles up as an alarm clock for its master every morning.

Each morning, except on Saturdays and on Sundays, Li’s brown cat meows to wake her master for work. The cat pulls on the mosquito net and quiff if Li tries to linger on in bed.

The cat even ensures Li leaves for work on time and does not waste time chatting up neighbours on her way out.

Li, who brought home the cat some 10 months ago, said she can’t imagine life without the animal.

The couple posed for photos at the wedding celebrations.

A man observes the restored statue of Madame Xinzhui from the ancient Mangwundui Tomb of the Western Han Dynasty (202 BC-25 AD), at the ongoing 2009 Heritage Preservation China, International Trade Fair of Heritage Conservation, Restoration and Museum Technology, which opens at the Xi’an Qiangjiang International Convention and Exhibition Center, in Xi’an, northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, on 29 Oct, 2009. The fair, with the theme of Effective Protection, Legal Exploitation and Permanent Utilization, draws the presence of over 100 specialized relics protection institutes from Germany, Italy, France, the United States, Japan, etc, together with prominent exhibitive pavilions for China’s Palace Museum, Terra Cotta Army Museum and Dunhuang Art Museum, and etc.
Nay Pyi Taw sees a growing number of buses and trucks day by day. There, straight and wide roads are coping with a constant stream of traffic including buses. That implies Nay Pyi Taw is developing rapidly.

For our knowledge of private bus lines commuting in Nay Pyi Taw, we staff members from the Myanma Alin conducted an interview with Chief of Nay Pyi Taw District Transport Planning Department U Sein Win Hlaing from the Transport Planning Department under the Ministry of Rail Transportation.

He said, "Nay Pyi Taw is developing rapidly, so the number of buses is on the sharp increase, and local people can travel from one place to another Mandalay was higher than that of any other bus line; and that Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon line had 20 bus lines, and in maximum, 47 buses plying systematically in Nay Pyi Taw.

In addition, buses ply between Nay Pyi Taw and many townships such as Pyay, Taungdwingyi, Magway, NyaungU, Meiktila, Myingyan, Monywa, Lashio, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Loikaw. He said that major bus lines plying in Nay Pyi Taw were Taw Win, Shwe Myodaw, Arman Thit and Taungnyo; that all the bus lines commute as far as strategic places, especially between Nay Pyi Taw Central Railways Station and Nay Pyi Taw staff quarters, Myoma Market, Thabyegon Market, Mingalar Market, Sibin Yeiktha, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Myoma Market, Shwe Nyaungbin Junction, Bawga Thiri Bus Terminal, Ahara Thukha Market, Pinlaung Junction, and Thaikchaung. Taw Win bus line has 65 buses; Arman Thit bus line, 100 buses; Taungnyo bus line, 41.
Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing tours Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut and departmental officials, arrived at the briefing hall of Lashio-Hsenwi-Kunlong-Chin Shwe Haw Road maintenance project on 28 Oct and heard the reports on progress of works presented by the officials.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing gave necessary instructions and inspected the extension and upgrading of Lashio-Kunlong road and situation of Kunlong suspension bridge. On arrival at Chin Shwe Haw People’s Hospital, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing presented cash and foodstuff to the patients and presented prizes to the nurses and medicines to the hospital.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing visited Chin Shwe Haw Basic Education High School. Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, the commander and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and officials inspected the development of Laukkai.

At the briefing hall of the hospital in Laukkai, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing heard the reports presented by the official.

He also visited Laukkai No (1) Basic Education High School and met with members of Kokang Region Provisional Leading Committee and stressed the need for the development of the region. —MNA

Tazaungmon Fullmoon Day...

(from page 1)

All Nay Pyi Taw Pyimnana Township’s 38th Kathina-robe offering ceremony was held at Tabaung ground on Yan Aung Ward (2) in Nay Pyi Taw Pyimnana Township. The pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw Pyimnana were thronged with visitors performing meritorious deeds individually as in groups.

Staff families of the Ministry of Information held charity bazaar in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township’s 38th Kathina-robe offering ceremony was held at Tabaung ground on Yan Aung Ward (2) in Nay Pyi Taw Pyimnana Township. The pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw Pyimnana were thronged with visitors performing meritorious deeds individually as in groups.

Visitors at Lotus roundabout on Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon.—MNA

Colourful lights bright at Lotus roundabout on Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon.—MNA
Secretary-1 addresses ceremony to present certificates of honour and host dinner...

(from page 1)

Development Council General Thitha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Leading Committee for organizing the competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Chairman of the Work Committee for organizing the competitions Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint. In his address, the Secretary-1 said: First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the artistes for their wholehearted contribution with performing arts to successful completion of the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. Traditional cultural performing arts play an important role in the fields that reflect the culture of a nation or a people. The arts that have been a source of high-standard arts for tens of thousands of years.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented certificates of honour to judges through the International Community. The Secretary-1 cordially hosted to the artistes, maestros, judges and attendances. In conclusion, I would like to urge you artistes to continue your generation of the fact in relaying fine traditions to the younger generations.

Minister U Aung Thaung supervises regional development tasks in Taungtha Township

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Nov—Bags of rice were donated to Myingyan Home for the Aged by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and family on 30 October.

Next, the minister attended the opening ceremony of the tube-well in Nan Myint Village in Taungtha Township. The tube-well can supply 12000 gallons of water per day for 608 households in Nan Myint Village.

In the afternoon, the minister attended the rice donation ceremony organized by social organizations to the home for the aged and hospital and donated 60 bags of rice for home for the aged, 50 bags of rice for the hospital and 3085 bags of rice for 243 villagers in the township.

This was followed by the hand-over ceremony of a new building for East Thazi Village BEMS (Branch) which the minister inspected the new school building.

In the evening, the minister attended the final match of the Fifth Industry-1 Ministry’s Trophy Football Tournament and presented prizes to the winners.

Opening of new building and sales centre of Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd at No (205) A, Wardan Street in Lannadaw in progress. [News reported.]
Secretary-1 awards winners of 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

(from page 16)

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htun presented prizes to the winners in the dancing and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe presented prizes to the winners in the basic education level (aged 15-20) women's xylophone contest, the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' xylophone contest and the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' xylophone contest. Chief Justice U Aung Toe presented prizes to the winners in the amateur level (first class & second class) men's piano contest and the amateur level (aged 15-20) men's piano contest. Auditor General U Aye Maung presented prizes to the winners in the basic education level (aged 15-20) women's piano contest, the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' piano contest and the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' piano contest. Brig-Gen Than Soe of the Ministry of Defence presented prizes to the winners in the amateur level (first class & second class) men's guitar contests and the basic education level (aged 15-20) men's guitar contest. Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn of the Ministry of Defence presented prizes to the winners in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' guitar contest, the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys' guitar contest and the amateur level (first class & second class) women's guitar contests. Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu presented prizes to the winners in the basic education level (aged 15-20) women's guitar contest, the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' guitar contest, the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' guitar contest and the amateur level (first class & second class) women's guitar contests.

Kweteik contests.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 presented the prizes to the winners in the amateur level marionette contest (first class) Illisa Dwicitta Drama contest, the amateur level (first class) Thakaung Yadana drama contest and the amateur level (first class) Uggasena Jataka Drama contest.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint presented prizes to the winners in the amateur level (first class & second class) song composing contests and the higher level song composing contest. Next, Daw Mu Mu Swe of Yangon Division, the gold medalist of the amateur level (first class) song composing contest sang the song with which she competed in the contest.

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo presented prizes to the winners of the amateur level (first class & second class) men's harp contests and the basic education level (aged 15-20) men's harp contest. Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Pension Maj-Gen Hlaing presented prizes to the winners in the basic education level (aged 15-20) women's xylophone contest, the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' xylophone contest and the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' xylophone contest. Chief Justice U Aung Toe presented prizes to the winners in the amateur level (first class & second class) men's piano contests and the basic education level (aged 15-20) men's piano contest. Auditor General U Aye Maung presented prizes to the winners in the basic education level (aged 15-20) women's piano contest, the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' piano contest and the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' piano contest. Brig-Gen Than Soe of the Ministry of Defence presented prizes to the winners in the amateur level (first class & second class) men's guitar contests and the basic education level (aged 15-20) men's guitar contest. Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn of the Ministry of Defence presented prizes to the winners in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' guitar contest, the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys' guitar contest and the amateur level (first class & second class) women's guitar contests.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu presented prizes to the winners in the basic education level (aged 15-20) women's guitar contest, the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls' guitar contest, the basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' guitar contest and the amateur level (first class & second class) women's guitar contests.

2nd U-18 Asian Youth Men’s Hockey Contest on 11-12 November

YANGON, 31 Oct—A press meet on organizing the second U-18 Asian Youth Men’s Hockey Contest took place at Park Royal Hotel Ball Room (3) here today.

First, President Col Htin Zaw Win of Myanmar Hockey Federation explained the purpose of the contest to be held at Myanmar. India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, China (Taipei), and Thailand.

The first prize winner team in this contest will be a chance to participate as an Asian representative team in the first World Youth Olympic Game to be held at Singapore from 14 to 26 August and 170 countries will participate in it. —NLM

President of MHF Col Htin Zaw Win explained the purpose of holding second U-18 Asian Youth Men’s Hockey Contest—NLM

2-11-09 NL 10 07/18, 4:02 PM
Beijing’s first snow of season ‘artificially induced’

BEIJING, 1 NOV—Chinese meteorologists covered Beijing in snow on Sunday after seeding clouds to bring winter weather to the capital in an effort to combat a lingering drought, state media reported.

The unusually early snow blanketed the capital from Sunday morning and kept falling for half the day, helped by temperatures as low as minus 2 Celsius (29 Fahrenheit) and strong winds from the north, Xinhua news agency reported.

Besides falling in the northeastern provinces of Liaoning and Jilin and the northern province of Hebei, the eastern port city of Tianjin also got its first snow of the autumn, the report said.

“We won’t miss any opportunity of artificial precipitation since Beijing is suffering from the lingering drought,” the report quoted Zhang Qiang, head of the Beijing Weather Modification Office, as saying.

Chinese meteorologists have for years sought to make rain by injecting special chemicals into clouds.

Although the technique often gets results, a drought in the north of the country has continued for over a decade.

Besides the snow, which the Beijing Evening News said was the earliest to hit the capital in 10 years, the cold weather and strong winds also delayed air travel from Beijing’s Capital Airport, while interrupting passenger shipping services off the coast of Shandong province in the east, Xinhua said.

Eleven killed in Russian plane crash

MOSCOW, 1 Nov—All 11 people on board a Russian transport plane died after the aircraft crashed early Sunday in Russia’s far-eastern region of Yakutia, RIA Novosti news agency reported.

The plane, an Ilyushin transport plane of the Interior Ministry, fell and caught fire minutes after takeoff at around 2:40 am (2340 GMT Saturday). It crashed at about three km from Marya airport. The plane was bound for the city of Irkutsk.

“The explosion of the aircraft was so powerful that it bordered the airport.”

A man carries a blue ribbon as he participates in the annual Halloween parade in Greenwich Village in New York on 31 October, 2009. —INTERNET

“Eleven people on board died in the air crash,” a spokesman for the ministry’s regional center said.

The spokesman said six bodies had been found at the site, and the search was continuing for more bodies.

Russian TV channel Vesti said on its website that the flight recorders of the crashed cargo plane have been found by rescuers.

Investigation into the incident is currently underway.—INTERNET

Thomas Cook to launch ten new products in India

MUMBAI, 1 Nov—Travel and financial services company Thomas Cook India plans to make “significat” investments in the country this year, including 10 new product-launches over the next six-months.

“We are looking at nothing less than 10 new leisure products over the next six-months — just for Indians traveling domestically and overseas. We are getting quite serious on international expansion for the in-bound business (foreign tourists into India). So we’ll try and build new destinations for the international markets,”

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd Executive Director-Travel Businesses Rakshit Desai told PTI here.

The BSE-listed company said it will embark on a marketing campaign from this month-end.—INTERNET

Honors student killed after H.S. game

LONG BEACH, 1 Nov—A 16-year-old honors student wearing a “Supergirl” costume was mortally wounded by gunfire as she left a Homecoming football game in Long Beach, Calif. Melody Ross was shot as she left the Wilson High stadium with friends on Friday night, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Her uncle, Sam Che, said she was pronounced dead about half an hour later in the hospital.

Two young men, ages 18 and 20, were wounded.—INTERNET

Tribal girls test positive for swine flu in Orissa

BHUBANESWAR, 1 Nov—Two tribal minor girls have been tested positive for swine flu in Orissa’s Sundargarh district, health officials said here today.

Swab samples of the girls, aged 13 and 7 years, had been sent to the Regional Medical Research Centre here which tested positive for H1N1 virus, they said.

The girls, students of the Government Girls’ High School at Jamapalli village, were among the over 200 students of the school who had undergone treatment for fever, cold and sore throat since October 28, the officials said.

Internet

Up to six killed, 37 wounded in south Baghdad bike bombing

BAGHDAD, 1 Nov—The death toll from a bike bomb explosion at a marketplace in south Baghdad on Sunday rose to six and 37 people were injured, a local police source said.

“Our latest report said that six were killed and 37 injured by the bike bombing in the town of Mussayab,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Earlier the source put the toll at five killed and 20 injured when a booby-trapped bicycle left at a crowded market in the town detonated at about 9:00 am (0600 GMT), Iraq security forces have sealed off the area to secure the scene, while ambulances and civilian cars transported the victims to the town’s hospital and medical centers, the source said.

The blast damaged several nearby stalls and shops, he added.

Mussayab, some 60 km south of Baghdad, is part of the once restive area, dubbed Triangle of Death, which is a cluster of towns scattered north of Hilla City, the capital of Babel province, some 100 km south of Baghdad.

Sporadic attacks continue in Iraq as part of recent deterioration in security which shaped a setback to the efforts of the Iraqi government to restore normalcy in the country after more than three months of US troops pullout of cities and towns.

Trading specialists work at the Goldman Sachs booth on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 30 October, 2009. —INTERNET

Internet

Pedestrians make their way across the snow in Tian’anmen Square in Beijing on 1 Nov.—Xinhua

A woman looks at a sculpture “Dying for a drink” by Phill Hall as part of the Sculpture By The Sea exhibition at Tamarama beach in Sydney on 31 October, 2009. —INTERNET

A man pulls the trigger of his gun on the 31 October, 2009. —INTERNET

“Artificially induced” weather in Beijing.
Mobile revolution finally reaches Pacific

WELLINGTON, 1 Nov—The Pacific islands are the last frontier for mobile telecommunications but the arrival of Irish-owned Digicel Pacific in the past three years has brought about a revolution.

Residents of the islands and visitors all have horror stories about the poor service and sky-high charges of telecoms monopolies in the Pacific.

But the arrival of competition through Digicel means Pacific islanders are beginning to experience some of the benefits taken for granted elsewhere in the world.

Digicel opened its first Pacific operations in Samoa on 1 November, 2006—exactly three years ago. Now it has expanded to Nauru, a total market of 7.5 million people, and the company has invested more than 500 million US dollars and now employs 1,100 people.

Digicel shows no sign of slowing down, planning to expand to the Solomon Islands, East Timor and Tahiti over the next year, Digicel Pacific chief executive Vanessa Slowey said.

“Maracanazo”, when the host team lost the World Cup final 2-1 to Uruguay. According to local television, Amario lived in precarious conditions in Jaia, municipality of Bahia. —Xinhua

Fifteen shot dead at Mexico ranch

MEXICO CITY, 1 Nov—Fifteen people have been killed on a remote ranch in northern Mexico, with a prominent union leader among the dead.

The body of Margarito Montes, an organiser of agricultural workers, was among those found riddled with bullet holes in southern Sonora state.

Correspondents say the killings bear the hallmarks of drug gang murders, but the link has not officially been made.

More than 15,000 people have died in drug-related violence since a concerted push against drug gangs began in 2006. President Felipe Calderon has so far deployed some 45,000 extra security forces in key areas across Mexico in a bid to tackle the cartels. —Internet

Algeria seizes 3.5 tonnes of cannabis

ALGER, 1 Nov—Algerian security forces have seized 3.5 tonnes of cannabis as well as weapons and two all-terrain vehicles in the south of the country, press reports said on Saturday.

Customs and police officers intercepted the two vehicles and the drugs “in a well-prepared” raid on their way from Morocco near Taous, about 1,300 kilometres (800 miles) south-west of Algiers on Thursday, the reports said.

Liberte newspaper reported the suspects had been carrying two machine guns.

Security forces acted on a tip-off, said Le Jour d’Algerie.

The two drivers fled toward the border between Algeria and Morocco, abandoning the vehicles and their cargo.

In December last year Algerian customs officers seized nearly nine tonnes of cannabis in the same region. —Internet

Brazilian national team defender in 1950 died at age of 86

BRASILIA, 1 Nov—Former defender Juvenal Amario, the sole holder of the Brazilian team in the 1950 World Cup that was alive, died on Friday at age of 86 in the northern city of Salvador, local television reported on Saturday.

Amario had been hospitalized for fifteen days in a hospital at the capital of the northeastern state of Bahia, where he died of physiological complications, reported on Saturday the local channel BandNews.

The former defender was the only survivor of Brazil’s starting eleven at the historic 1950 World Cup. —Xinhua

Internet

Dancers perform at the opening ceremony of the traditional Loi Krathong Festival or the Water Festival in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 31 Oct, 2009. Tens of thousands of Thai people released water lanterns for peace and luck on the day. —Xinhua
A Chinese sailor waves goodbye as the fourth Chinese navy flotilla depart from the Zhoushan Islands in east China's Zhejiang Province, on 30 Oct, 2009. The flotilla departed from the Zhoushan Islands on Friday to escort merchant vessels and protect them from pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden, the fourth task force China has deployed to the region since the end of last year. — Internet

Anti-oxidants may aid lungs with influenz

CHICAGO, 1 Nov—Simvastatin, a widely used cholesterol-reducing drug, may halt the progression of Parkinson’s disease, researchers in Chicago said. In a study using mice, researchers at Chicago’s Rush Medical Center found simvastatin halted the advance of biochemi
cal, cellular and anatomi
cal changes seen in Parkin
son’s, said Kalipada Pahan, a Rush professor of neurological studies. In the brains of mice, simvastatin blocked the activity of a toxic protein called p21Ras and improved motor functions, Pahan said on Thursday in the Journal of Neuro
sciences.

“If we are able to repli
cate these results in Par
kinson’s patients in the clinical setting, it would be a remarkable advance in the treatment of this devastating neuro-degen
erative disease,” Pahan said. Pahan’s work was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Michael J Fox Foundation for Par
kinson’s Research. Parkin
son’s is a progressive dis
case that slows movement, stiffens limbs, unbalances the body and produces tremors. An estimated 1.2 million residents of North Americans suffer from the disease. — Internet

Evidence found on oxygen production in oceans long before GOE

LOUIS ANGELES, 1 Nov—US scientists have found evidence that oxygen produc
tion began in Earth’s oceans at least 100 million years before the Great Oxidation Event (GOE) around 2.4 billion years ago. Evidence further demonstrates that even very low concentrations of oxygen can have profound effects on ocean chem
istry. It is widely accepted by scientists that around 2.4 billion years ago, the Earth’s atmosphere underwent a dramatic change when oxygen levels rose sharply. Called the “Great Oxidation Event,” the oxygen spike marks the transformation from an oxygen-poor atmosphere to an oxygen-rich one, thus paved the way for complex life to develop on the planet.

But scientists were unable to answer questions on when oxygen production via photosynthesis got started and when it began to alter the chemistry of Earth’s ocean and atmosphere. The new findings were made by geoscientists at the University of California, Riverside. A team of researchers analyzed 2.5 billion-year-old black shales from Western Australia. — Xinhua

19 US children die of A/H1N1 flu this week, CDC report

HOUSTON, 1 Nov—The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Friday reported that 19 more children died of the deadly A/H1N1 flu in the current week, bringing the pediatric death toll of the flu confirmed by laboratory to 114 since the new virus breakout in late April. “Twenty-two flu-related pediatric deaths were reported this week. 19 of these deaths were confirmed 2009 H1N1. The CDC said on Friday on its website, adding altogether it has re
ceived reports of 114 laboratory-confirmed pediatric 2009 H1N1 deaths since 26 April, 2009.

The latest statistics released by the CDC show that the death rate for US children under 18 years old has rose 20 percent in the past week, from 95 reported on 23 Oct by the federal health agency. — Internet
Mowbray satisfied as Celtic end home win drought

Glasgow, 1 Nov—Tony Mowbray says he is happy with his side’s progress as his Celtic side brought to an end a four match run without a win at Parkhead with a 3-0 victory over Kilmarnock. The Celtic manager had been under pressure going into the game having led his side to just two wins out of nine games at Celtic Park this season, a run which had seen his side defeated in three European ties and knocked out of the League Cup by Hearts.

His misfiring players also came in for criticism after they had failed to find the back of the net in their previous three home appearances.—Internet

**S P O R T S**

Benitez on backfoot after Reds flop at Fulham

London, 1 Nov—Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez admits he has plenty of thinking to do after an already troubled season took another turn for the worse with a 3-1 defeat by Fulham here at Craven Cottage. Saturday’s setback was Liverpool’s fifth reverse in just 11 Premier League fixtures and they trail leaders Chelsea by nine points, with champions Manchester United, Arsenal and Tottenham all ahead of them in the table.

Benitez also has Champions League qualification to secure and cannot afford another defeat on Wednesday away to French club Lyon, who earlier in the competition won 2-1 at Anfield. Steven Gerrard and Fernando Torres, the undisputed top talents in his squad, are both struggling for fitness so Benitez is not short of problems. —Internet

Ten-man Real Madrid beats Getafe to save coach’s job

Madrid, 1 Nov—Real Madrid striker Gonzalo Higuain scored two goals to give 10-man Real Madrid a 2-0 home win against local rivals Getafe in the Spanish soccer league on Saturday.

Higuain struck twice in the second half to give his side a well-deserved win after playing for over an hour with a player less after the controversial sending off of defender Raul Albiol.

The win almost certainly saved the job of Real Madrid coach Manuel Pellegrini after a run of only one win in five games.—Xinhua

Barcelona draw allows Madrid to close gap in Spain’s Primera Liga

Madrid, 1 Nov—Spanish Primera Liga leaders Barcelona could only draw 1-1 away to Osasuna to allow Real Madrid to close the gap at the top of the league table on Saturday night.

Seydou Keita looked to have given Barcelona the three points with a goal in the 71st minute, but an own goal from Gerard Pique, in what was virtually the last action of the game, allowed Osasuna to take a share of the points. That result allowed Real Madrid to move up over the club and move to within a point of the top of the table.

Goals from Gonzalo Higuain after 53 and 56 minutes gave under pressure coach Manuel Pellegrini some breathing space.—Internet

Williams sisters to vie for WTA Championship title

Doha, 1 Nov—American Venus Williams beat Serbian Jelena Jankovic 5-7, 6-3 and 6-4 to enter the final of the season-ending WTA Championship here on Saturday.

With her sister Serena advancing earlier, it will be their 23rd meeting in the women’s tennis.

Serena, who will end the year as world number one for the first time since 2002, got past Caroline Wozniacki after the Dane pulled out with a stomach injury when trailing 6-4, 0-1.—Xinhua

Everton and Villa share spoils

Liverpool, 1 Nov—Everton and Aston Villa drew 1-1 at Goodison Park here on Saturday in a Premier League match where both sides finished with 10 men.

Diniyar Bilyaletdinov put the Toffees in front after being set up by Ayegbeni Yakubu before substitute John Carew levelled for Villa. But in the closing stages Bilyaletdinov was sent off for a two-footed challenge and Villa’s Carlos Cuellar then saw red.—Internet

Napoli stun Juventus as Milan win in Serie A

Rome, 1 Nov—Napoli fought back from a two-goal deficit for the second time in three days to shock Juventus 3-2 in Turin on Saturday and prevent Ciro Ferrara’s team from closing the gap on leaders Inter Milan.

Marco Borriello scored a brace as improving AC Milan moved up to fourth with a 2-0 defeat of newly-promoted Parma, who dropped to sixth.

Having scored two injury-time goals to earn a 2-2 draw at home to Milan on Wednesday, Napoli produced another dramatic and ultimately even more successful comeback.

Marek Hamsik scored a brace while substitute Jesus Datolo scored one and created one as Napoli moved up to fifth while second-placed Juve remain four points behind Inter. —Internet

Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle

**CROSSWORDS PUZZLE**

Juve’s midfielder Diego L (jumps for the ball with Naples’ defender Salvatore Aronica during their Serie A football match at Turin’s Olympic Stadium, Napoli fought back from a two-goal deficit in the second time in three days to shock Juve 3-2 in Turin.—Internet

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SNAIL DO F T 2 5 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 18 20 22 23 24 28 30 31 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

A T F R A G M E N T 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 30 31 32 33 35

P L O Y S T E E R Y 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 34 35 36 37 38 40
Palestinian killed in Gaza tunnel collapse

GAZA, 1 Nov—A Palestinian was suffocated to death on Sunday when a smuggling tunnel along the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt collapsed, medical sources said.

Two other Palestinians were injured in the collapse which happened when the workers were bringing in fuel from Egypt, witnesses and the sources added.

The killed was identified as Mohammed Abdeen, 35, according to the sources who demanded anonymity.

The Palestinians depend on hundreds of tunnels beneath the border to get fuel and various other products since Gaza has been sealed off from all except the few automobile market still growing despite the global financial crisis.—INTERNET

WEATHER

Sunday, 1 November, 2009
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Ayeyawady Division, isolated in Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Nigh temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below November average temperatures in Shan State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below November average temperatures in lower Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) above November average temperatures in Kachin and Mon States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and about November average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Loliong (5°C) and Haka (6°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pathein (1.38) inches and Nyaungdon (0.30) inch. Maximum temperature on 31-10-2009 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 1-11-2009 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-11-2009 was 71%. Total sun shine hours on 31-10-2009 was (8.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 1-11-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (111.06) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (21:30) hours MST on 31-10-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 2nd November: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin and Rakhine States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbourong area for 2-11-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-11-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-11-2009: Partly cloudy.
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

Secretary-1 awards winners of 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Nov — The prize presentation ceremony for the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the City Hall here at 9.00 am yesterday. Patron for Organizing the 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo 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 guests.

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

First, the Secretary-1 delivered an address. Next, the Secretary-1 presented prizes to the winners in the amateur level (first class) men’s Maha Gita contest, the amateur level (second class) men’s Maha Gita contest, the higher level men’s Maha Gita contest, the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ Maha Gita contest and the basic education level (aged 5-10) boy’s Maha Gita contest.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence presented prizes to the winners in the women’s Maha Gita contests at different levels. Lt-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence presented prizes to the winners in the men’s classical/modern song contests at different levels. Chairman of the Leading Committee

(See page 10)