Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Four political objectives

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

Kuwait billionaire to table £300 million Newcastle bid?

NEWCASTLE, 31 Oct — A Kuwaiti billionaire is ready to offer Newcastle United owner Mike Ashley a way out of his nightmare at the North East club, with a reported £300 million offer for the Magpies, according to The Sun.

Despite the deadline for bids for the troubled Premier League club expiring a week ago on the 17th it is claimed that Kuwait businessman Nasser Al-Kharafi is in discussions with Ashley about a proposed takeover at the Toon and is ready to table a bid for Newcastle.— Internet
**Perspectives**

Saturday, 1 November, 2008

Equip more nationalities youths with technical and vocational skills

The government has launched the project for development of border areas and national races since 1989. In that regard, it is fulfilling a series of infrastructures in communications, education, health and economic sectors, while striving for development of human resources.

The Nationalities Youths Resources Development Degree College (Yangon) and the Nationalities Youths Resources Development Degree College (Manadalay) have been opened since 2000 for the emergence of intellectuals and technocrats out of nationalities youths. At present, nationalities youths holding arts and science degrees and those holding Diplomas in Engineering are discharging duties in the respective states and divisions.

In the meantime, the nationalities youths technical training schools were opened for the emergence of those who are equipped with technical skills as well as skilled workers in border area development projects.

The Nationalities Youths Technical Training Schools in which carpenter, mason, mechanics and welding are taught were opened in Sittway, Laukkai, Panghsan and Mongla.

Likewise, altogether 34 women’s vocational training schools were opened for the development of border areas and national races. Basic domestic science training course, advanced tailoring training course, vocational training course (cane) and vocational training course (bamboo) are being conducted at those training schools.

We firmly believe that with the opening of more technical training schools and women’s vocational training schools, the nationalities youths in border areas will be more equipped with vocational and technical skills all the more.

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**Vinaya oral examinations 14 Nov**

**Yangon, 31 Oct** — The 138th five-township Vinaya (codes of conduct for Buddhist monks) oral examinations of Bago Kyakhatwang Pariyatti Sarthintak established by Bago Tawya Sayadaw U Sila will be held on 14 November. The examinations will last till 17 November.

**Construction of Pyawbwe-Phaya Ngasu railroad section overviewed**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 31 Oct** — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than on 25 October arrived at the briefing hall of Pyawbwe-Phaya Ngasu railroad construction project in Lintzingon village of Pyawbwe Township.

Project Engineer U Lwan Thu and Project Director U Kyaw Wai reported on progress of construction of Pyawbwe-Phaya Ngasu railroad section to the minister and the deputy minister made a supplementary report. The minister gave instructions on timely completion of work.

Next, the minister and party went to Phaya Ngasu station and inspected passenger lounge and expansion of station yard.

At Aungban station, the minister gave instructions on matters relating to running of passenger trains and looked into the station yard.

**Myanmar delegation leaves for India to attend ASEAN traditional medicine conference**

**Yangon, 30 Oct** — Vice-President of the Myanmar Medical Association Prof Dr S Kyaw Hla and Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs’ Association U Thant Zin left here by air today to attend the Conference on Incorporation in Traditional Medicine with ASEAN Countries to be held in New Delhi, the Republic of India, from 31 October to 1 November.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by MPMEEA Chairman Dr Win Sithu, Joint Secretary Dr Thin Nwe Win and CEC members.

**Kayan to honour old teachers**

**Yangon, 31 Oct** — A ceremony to honour retired teachers of No.1 and No.2 Basic Education High Schools, Kayan, will be held in Kayan on 28 December.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the ceremony may contact U Saw Win Ph 0986 45331; U Naing Lin Ph 0986 45636; U Aung Kyaw Ph 0986 45707; U Aye Ko Ph 056 30145; U Maung Shwe Ph 0950 07162; U Thaung Tin Ph 0986 45216 and U Win Zaw Moe Ph 0986 01252.
Police detain suspects after India blasts

GUWAHATI, 31 Oct—Police on Friday were interrogating about a dozen people over suspected links to serial bombings that killed at least 71 people in India’s insurgency-hit state of Assam.

A total of 12 explosions within an hour shook the northeastern state on Thursday, six of them ripping through the main city of Guwahati.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which state officials said may have been the work of the rebel United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), which has been fighting for an independent homeland since 1979. Police were also investigating whether Islamist fundamentalist groups active in Assam—such as the Bangladesh-based Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Isami—could have been to blame.

Soon after the blasts, Assam government spokesman Himanta Biswa Sarma said “the needle of suspicion” pointed to the ULFA. However, the group denied it was involved.

A senior official said Friday detectives were making headway in their investigation.—INTERNET

Ecuador says CIA infiltrated its military

QUITO, 31 Oct—Ecuador charged on Thursday the CIA infiltrated its military and knew of a Colombian military raid against rebels in Ecuadorian territory—accusations that could fray ties with Washington.

A US embassy spokeswoman in Quito declined to comment on the charges. Defence Minister Javier Ponce said the CIA knew of the Colombian attack before the Ecuadorian government from agents inside its military.

“The CIA had full knowledge of what was happening in Angostura,” Ponce told reporters, referring to the border hamlet where Colombia troops killed a top leftist rebel leader in March.—INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,189

WASHINGTON, 31 Oct—As of Thursday, 30 Oct, 2008, at least 4,189 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,388 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.—INTERNET

Gunmen kill S African peacekeeper in Sudan’s Darfur

KHARTOUM, 31 Oct—Gunmen have killed a South African peacekeeper and wounded another in Sudan’s western Darfur region, the United Nations/African Union force (UNAMID) said on Thursday.

The killing brings to 11 the number of peacekeepers who have been killed in action since the beginning of this year when the joint mission took over from the African Union force.

Violence against the under-staffed force has surged in the last three months, during which 10 peacekeepers were killed, underlying the difficulty of securing the vast region.—INTERNET

Pakistan, Afghanistan reaffirm commitment to regional peace

ANKARA, 31 Oct—Pakistan and Afghanistan on Thursday reaffirmed commitment to peace, security and stability in their region, said a joint declaration released at the end of a trilateral summit with Turkey on Thursday.

Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan met Thursday in the largest Turkish city of Istanbul on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum’s “Europe and Central Asia” meeting. The declaration said that Karzai and Gillani also agreed to maintain dialogue and boost their cooperation.—INTERNET

Car bomb injures 21 in Spanish University

MADRID, 31 Oct—A car bomb exploded Thursday in the parking lot of the University of Navarre in northern Spain, injuring 21 and setting many vehicles ablaze.

Spanish officials blamed the Basque separatist organization ETA for the attack.

Spanish Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba said a telephone call in the name of ETA an hour before the blast had warned of a car bomb left in the university, but “the one who put the bomb did not warn correctly or wanted to mislead,” making it impossible to deactivate the device.—Xinhua

Iraq govt wants all US troops gone by end of 2011

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct—Iraq wants to eliminate any chance US forces will stay here after 2011 under a proposed security pact and to expand Iraqi jurisdiction over US troops until then, a close ally of Iraq’s military said before year’s end could force a suspension of operations, and US commanders have been warning Iraqi officials that could endanger security improvements.—INTERNET

Mexico border violence leaves 13 dead

CIUDAD JUAREZ, 31 Oct—Suspected drug-related violence left 13 dead, including two women, in separate incidents in Mexico’s violent northern Chihuahua state, local authorities said. Heavily-armed men attacked a man and a woman as they got out of a car in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, forcing them up against a wall and shooting them at least 15 times, including a coup de grace typically used by drug gangs, local police said. In a separate incident, police found a young woman’s body, also in the city across from El Paso, Texas, in which more than 1,000 have been killed so far this year.—INTERNET

A sign reading “We come to help you”, in allusion to the Mexican Army reinforcement operation, hangs in Ciudad Juarez, state of Chihuahua, north Mexico. INTERNET

A column of smoke rises above the University of Navarre building following a car bomb blast in Pamplona, on 30 Oct, 2008.—Xinhua

A Iraqi policeman walks in front of a damaged car from a roadside bomb in Palestine Street eastern Baghdad, Iraq, on 30 Oct, 2008.  INTERNET

Indian forensic officials collect evidence from wreckage at Pan Bazaar, one of the blast sites in Guwahati. Police on Friday were interrogating about a dozen people over suspected links to serial bombings that killed at least 71 people in India’s insurgency-hit state of Assam.—INTERNET

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A sign reading “We come to help you”, in allusion to the Mexican Army reinforcement operation, hangs in Ciudad Juarez, state of Chihuahua, north Mexico. INTERNET
Venezuela condemns US air attack on Syria

CARACAS, 31 Oct — Venezuela on Thursday strongly condemned a US air attack against the Syrian border region of al-Bukamal on 26 Oct. In a statement, the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry urged the international community to “strongly reject those actions that violate law and demand an immediate stop of operations which are a mock of the peaceful coexistence principles.” The statement also reaffirmed the Venezuelan stance to “support the initiatives of the Syrian government and its President Bashar al-Assad to seek justice within the framework of international law due to this barbaric act of the US government.”

US helicopters reportedly launched an attack on a building in Al-Sukkariyah village in Abu Kamal town near the Syrian border with Iraq on 26 Oct, killing eight civilians. —Xinhua

Indonesia operates first power plant fuelled by palm oil

JAKARTA, 31 Oct — Indonesian state-owned electricity company Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN) has started to operate a power plant fuelled by crude palm oil (CPO), the first one in the Asia Pacific Region, a newspaper said here Thursday.

The move follows a government regulation mandating the use of biofuel in all sectors. The firm director Murtaja Suyududdin quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying that the power plant had a capacity of 10 megawatts and was located in Dumai, Riau Province.

“The power plant has been operated, but is still at the commissioning stage,” Murtaja said. The directors said that the power plant was initially fueled with diesel but was later converted to a crude palm oil (CPO)-fuelled power plant by installing converter equipment at the plant. —Xinhua

New York-based American Express to cut thousands of jobs

NEW YORK, 31 Oct — American Express announced Thursday that it will cut 7,000 jobs worldwide as part of a cost-cutting initiative. The cuts represent about 10 percent of the company’s workforce, according to a report available on www.ny1.com.

American Express, sometimes known as “AmEx” or “Amex,” is a diversified global financial services company headquartered in New York City. The company is best known for its credit card, charge card, and traveler’s cheque businesses.

It is not clear how many of those lost jobs are from the company’s New York headquarters, the report said.

The move is part of a plan announced in July by the credit card issuer to slash 1.8 billion dollars in spending next year.

A hiring freeze will also be put in effect, no upper-level salary increases will be given, and the company will scale back technology and marketing investments, according to the report.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has said that sales tax revenues in the city will slow as AmEx’s business slows. —Xinhua
China, Switzerland economic ties developing well

BERNE, 31 Oct—Economic and trade relations between China and Switzerland have maintained a good development trend, with bilateral trade volume expected to reach 10 billion US dollars this year, Chinese Ambassador to Switzerland Dong Jinyi said here Thursday. Briefing a visiting delegation of Chinese entrepreneurs, Dong said bilateral trade between the two countries had registered an annual increase of almost 40 percent, reaching 9.4 billion dollars in 2007, while the first nine months of this year saw a 25.6 percent increase year-on-year.

Switzerland is the largest investor in China among non-EU European countries, with 3 billion US dollars and 1,128 projects, said Dong. He said China’s economic development had expanded the potential for economic cooperation between the two nations, and more and more Chinese entrepreneurs are now seeking investment opportunities in Switzerland.

IMF says Turkish economy more resilient

ANKARA, 31 Oct—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a statement on Thursday Turkish economy was more resilient than that in the past.

But the statement also warned that it would unavoidably be affected by the retrenchment of inflows to emerging markets. An IMF staff team, led by Turkey Desk Chief Lorenzo Giorgianni, held talks with Turkish officials and private sector representatives over the past two weeks in the context of post-program monitoring following the completion of a stand-by deal, according to the IMF.

“Buffers in bank and public balance sheets, the flexible exchange rate and greater diversification of export markets have increased Turkey’s ability to cope with shocks. However, its dependence on external financing exposes the economy to the effects of the global credit crunch,” Giorgianni was quoted as saying by the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

New Zealand businesses fear worse times ahead

WELLINGTON, 31 Oct—Many New Zealand businesses are warning of their bleakest year in terms of plans to hire staff, Radio New Zealand reported Friday. The National Bank’s business confidence figures for October have shown a plunge in confidence, with the largest one-month fall since the survey began in 1988.

The figures show pessimists outnumber optimists, with a net 42 percent of firms expecting economic conditions to deteriorate in the coming year.

Expectations businesses will hire more staff also fell to a historical low, with a net 21 percent expecting they’ll have fewer staff in a year’s time.

The National Bank’s chief economist Cameron Bagrie said the results were a direct fallout from the global credit crunch, “Buffers in bank and public balance sheets, the flexible exchange rate and greater diversification of export markets have increased Turkey’s ability to cope with shocks. However, its dependence on external financing exposes the economy to the effects of the global credit crunch,” Giorgianni was quoted as saying by the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

OPEC likely to cut output again

CARACAS, 31 Oct—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will consider a second output cut of one million barrels per day as of December, Venezuela’s Energy and Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said Thursday.

The world oil market is currently unstable and there has been a big decline in demand by around 900,000 barrels per day, Ramirez told state-owned TV, adding that the accumulated over-production must be reduced.

He said OPEC members are ready to hold an emergency meeting at any moment if necessary.

OPEC Secretary-General Abdalla Salem El-Badri said Tuesday in London that the organization could hold a new emergency meeting before its next scheduled session in December if the oil price slide continued.

Meanwhile, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said during a recent visit to Ecuador that his country would support any additional OPEC production cut to stabilize crude oil prices.

Russia’s China-bound pipeline may start paving next year

MOSCOW, 31 Oct—The paving of a China-bound branch line of the Eastern Siberia-Pacific oil pipeline may start at the end of the first quarter next year, Nikolai Tokarev, president of Russia’s state-run pipeline company Transneft said in a TV interview on Thursday.

The designing work of the pipeline has been completed after the coordination between Transneft and the China National Petroleum Corp, and the construction project has been presented to related department in Russia for appraisal, said Tokarev, adding that the result is expected soon. According to last year’s cost evaluation, the budget of the project was about 600 million US dollars, he said.

The construction is expected to encounter a series of technical difficulties, including the paving of the pipeline going through the bottom of the Amur (Heilong Jiang) River, but the current technologies can ensure the smooth running of the project, he said.

Iraq to pump more oil next year

BAGHDAD, 31 Oct—Iraq plans to pump more oil next year, an Iraqi official said here Thursday in Jordan’s capital of Amman.

Iraq is expected to increase its daily oil output by some 200,000 barrels next year as new oil wells will be put into operation, Iraqi Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani said. According to Shahristani, the daily oil output in 2008 stands at 2.3 to 2.4 million barrels. Meanwhile, Iraqi Finance Minister Bayan Jabor announced here that the country will trim down the 2009 budget spending from previous 80 billion US dollars to 67 billion dollars due to the slump of oil prices.

Japanese actress Aya Ueto displays Japanese mobile operator Softbank’s “Tiffany mobile phone”, studded with 537-piece, a total of 18.34 carats diamonds, produced by US jeweller Tiffany and Japanese electronics giant Sharp as Softbank announced the new line up. Tiffany mobile phones will go on sale only ten pieces with a price of 12.98 million yen (130,000 USD).

In this photo provided by Rome’s Bioparco zoo, Mimi’, left, and Carlo, two hippos in their thirties, approach carved pumpkins for Halloween, fed to them as a Halloween treat, on 30 Oct, 2008.

Tourists trek on the Perito Moreno Glacier at the Los Glaciares National Park in the Patagonia region, Southern Argentina, on 30 Oct, 2008. The park was declared by the UNESCO as a Natural World Heritage Site.
**Programme for parents improves kids’ lifestyle**

**New York, 31 Oct—** Educating parents on healthy lifestyle may help get their overweight children off the couch and moving more, a small study suggests.

In a pilot study testing a program called Families for Health, UK researchers found benefits for both children and their parents. The children, who were all overweight or obese at the study’s start, became less sedentary and managed to lose some weight.

Their parents, meanwhile, reported improvements in their relationships with their children, and in their own mental well-being.

The success suggests that the programme should now be tested in a larger study, the researchers report in the *journal Archives of Disease in Childhood*. The findings also highlight the importance of the parent-child relationship in combating childhood obesity, according to the researchers, led by Wendy Robertson of Warwick Medical School in Coventry.

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**Obama retains 7-point lead on McCain**

**Internet**

**WASHINGTON, 31 Oct —** Democrat Barack Obama’s lead over Republican rival John McCain held steady at 7 points as the race for the White House entered its final four days, according to a Reuters/CSpan/Zogby poll released on Friday.

Obama leads McCain by 50 percent to 43 percent among likely voters in the three-day national tracking poll, virtually unchanged from Thursday. The telephone poll has a margin of error of 2.9 percentage points.

“Essentially there is no difference in today’s tracking,” pollster John Zogby said. “Obama is holding firm and McCain is not making any gains.”

It was the second consecutive day Obama’s support has hit the 50 percent mark, and the eighth day out of the last 11. McCain’s support has not surpassed 45 percent in more than three weeks of polling.

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**Giant bat makes comeback in Tanzania**

**OSLO, 31 Oct—** A giant bat with a wingspan up to 5.5 feet has made a comeback from the brink of extinction in Tanzania in a rare conservation success, an environmental group said on Friday.

Numbers of the Pemba flying fox, a type of fruit bat, have risen to 22,000 since it was rated critically endangered two decades ago when “only a scant few individual fruit bats could be observed,” British-based Fauna and Flora International said.

In a release coinciding with Halloween, it said that the bat’s maximum wingspan was “greater than the height of the average British woman.” A conservation drive helped the species recover, an exception to mounting losses of animals and plant species caused by destruction of habitats linked to rising human populations.—Internet

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**Air ticket for Russian cost three times more than human fare**

One of Russia’s leading air carriers recently sold a ticket to a cat for three times the price it charged its owners, the Zapolarnyi Vestnik paper reported on Wednesday.

The owners of Zhora the cat told the paper that they had bought tickets with the price it charged its owners, the Zapolyarnyi Vestnik paper reported on Wednesday.

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Their parents, meanwhile, reported improvements in their relationships with their children, and in their own mental well-being.

**Billionaire Abramovich elected to head Chukotka legislature**

**Internet**

Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich was approved unanimous-ly on Wednesday to chair the legislature of Chukotka in Russia’s Far East, the local government said on its website.

Abramovich, 42, who has served as the province’s governor, was not present at the legislature’s vote.

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**Indonesian institute documents 746 languages**

The Indonesian National Language Centre has since the 1970s researched and documented a total of 746 different languages across Indonesia, an official with the language department said.

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**Mite-borne infectious disease confirmed in China**

**FUZHOU, 31 Oct—** Nearly 60 people in east China’s Anhui Province have been confirmed as having tropical typhus, an infectious disease caused by mite larvae, health authorities said on Friday.

A statement on the provincial health department website on Friday said 58 cases had been confirmed since 1 Oct, including 47 in Fuyang City, eight in Bengbu and three in Bozhou.

“All the patients received timely treatment and no deaths were reported. Some of them have recovered and been discharged from hospital,” it said.—Internet

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Prizes presented to winners in 16th Myanmar Traditional ...

(from page 1)

Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Information, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsian, Minister for Industry-2, Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Minister for Construction, Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Energy, Brig-Lieu Thuri, Minister for Religious Affairs, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe and Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun awarded prizes to the winners in the harp, xylophone, piano, guitar and mandolin contests respectively.

Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut presented prizes to the winners in the domrín contests: U Kyaw Htay of Magway Division who stood first in the amateur level (first class) men’s contest, U Maung Han of Ayeyawady Division, second and U Tin Kyawt of Yangon Division, third; U Than Tun of Magway Division and U Maung Wan of Yangon Division, joint first in the amateur level (second class) men’s contest, U Tin Maung of Bago Division, second and U Thaung Maung Tun of Rakhine State, third; Maung Moe Wai of Ayeyawady Division, first in the higher education level men’s contest, Maung Aung Si Min Htet of Yangon Division, first in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ contest, Maung Than Lwin of Mandalay Division, second and Maung Zeya Soe Oo of Yangon Division, third; Maung Sithu Htet Aung of Yangon Division, first in the (aged 10-15) boys’ contest, Maung Thant Zaw Aung of Bago Division and Maung Po Thingyan of Yangon Division, joint second, Maung Banyar Oo of Yangon Division, first in the basic education level (aged 5-10) boys’ contest, Maung Wai Yan Phyo of Yangon Division, second and Maung Thar Htet San of Mandalay Division, third; Ma Lwin Lwin Cho Tun of Ayeyawady Division, first in the amateur level (first class) women’s domain contest, Daw Sein Sein Yin of Mandalay Division, second and Ma Yi Phone Swe of Yangon Division, third; Ma Khung Thunda Soe of Bago Division, first in the amateur level (second class) women’s contest, Ma Het Lay Shwe Bo of Yangon Division, second and Daw Nilar of Magway Division, third; Ma Sein Moe of Bago Division, first in the higher education level women’s contest, Ma Su Pyae Phyo Mon of Yangon Division, second and Ma Zin Mar Wai of Mandalay Division, third; Ma Nang Kyaw Nyi Kyawt of Yangon Division, first in the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ contest, Ma Thin Thin Han of Bago Division, second and Ma Khin Myint Myat Maung of Yangon Division, third; Ma Su Myat Phyo of Yangon Division, first in the (aged 10-15) girls’ contest, Ma Phybu Phway Thant of Mandalay Division, second and Ma Hsu Pyae Phyo of Bago Division, third; Ma Hnin Ei Khaing of Mandalay Division, first in the (aged 5-10) girls’ contest, Ma Mie Mie Naing Soe of Yangon Division, second and Ma Khin Pyae Son Aung of Yangon Division, third.

Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Chairman of the Work Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint presented prizes to the winners in the oboe and violin contests: U Hla Htay of Yangon Division, first in the basic education level (aged 15-20) boys’ contest, Maung Bo Naing of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for higher education level men’s contest, Maung Kyaw Soe Han of Bago Division and Myo Aung Tun of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for higher education level women’s contest, Ma Su Pyae Phyo Mon of Yangon Division, second and Ma Zin Mar Wai of Mandalay Division, third; Maung Soe Min Thu of Mandalay Division, second and Maung Nyi Nyi Lwin of Yangon Division, third; Maung Ga Yaung Yaow Ba of Kayah State, first in the (aged 10-15) boys’ contest, Maung Min Thaha Aung of Yangon Division, second and Maung Min Aung Kyaw Thu of Mon State, third; and Maung Jaw Hsai Lat Aung of Kayah State, first in the (aged 5-10) boys’ contest, Maung Zeya Aung of Yangon Division, second and Maung Pyae Phyo Zaw of Mandalay Division, third.

Chairman of the Leading Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin presented first, second and third prizes for amateur level (first class) women’s violin competition to Ma Aye Su Mon of Kayah State, Daw Lwin Cho Cho Tun of Ayeyawady Division and Ma Ei July Aung of Yangon Division; first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ violin competition to Ma Aye Su Mon of Kayah State, Daw Lwin Cho Cho Tun of Ayeyawady Division and Ma Ei July Aung of Yangon Division; first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ violin competition to Ma Shwe Yin Nyein of Yangon Division, Ma Yadana Htay of Mandalay Division and Ma Han Su Lab of Yangon Division; first prizes for basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ violin competition to Ma Aye Su Mon of Kayah State, Daw Lwin Cho Cho Tun of Ayeyawady Division and Ma Ei July Aung of Yangon Division; first, second and third prizes for higher education level (aged 15-20) boys’ violin competition to Ma Zaberi Phyu of Yangon Division, Ma Grace Gyar Sai Gyar and Ma Pan Pan Shwe Soe of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 5-10) girls’ violin competition to Ma Shwe Yi Yadana of Taninthayi Division, Ma Naw Mu Se Gin of Yangon Division and Ma Hnin-U Shwe Yi; first, second and third prizes for amateur level (first class) men’s orchestra (individual) competition to U Ye Lin Bo of Yangon Division, U Kyaw Thant of Mandalay Division and Myo Aung Aye Min Aung of Yangon Division; first, second and third prizes for amateur level (second class) men’s orchestra (individual) competition to U Aung Myint Bo of Yangon Division, Maung Kyaw Soe Han of Bago Division and Maung Bo Naing of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for higher education level men’s orchestra (individual) competition to 

(See page 8)
Prizes presented to winners in 16th Myanmar Traditional ... (from page 7)

Maung Nyi Nyi Lwin of Sagaing Division, Maung Lwin Ko Ko Oo of Ayeyawady Division and Maung Bo Hein of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 15-20) men's orchestra (individual) competition to Maung Zaw Min (a) Po La Pyae of Yangon Division, Maung Chit Phyu Hlyan of Mon State and Maung Bo Bo Kyaw of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 15-10) men's orchestra (individual) competition to Maung Wai Yan Maung of Yangon Division, Maung Naing Zar Lin of Sagaing Division and Maung Zaw Win Naung of Bago Division; and first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 5-10) boys' orchestra (individual) competition to Maung Si Thu Tun (a) Si Thu Maung Tin of Sagaing Division, Maung Win Ko Ko Zin of Bago Division and Maung Soe Nyi Nyi of Ayeyawady Division.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung presented first, second and third prizes for amateur level (first class) women's orchestra (individual) competition to Daw Khang Zaw Win of Yangon Division, Daw Khin Khin Myint of Rakhine State and Ma Hlaing Htar Htar Myint of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 15-20) women's orchestra (group) competition to Maung Zaw Min (a) Yangon Duwun and party of Yangon Division, U Aung Min and party of Yangon Division and Padmya Kalar (a) Kyaw Kyaw Lin and party of Bago Division; first, second and third prizes for higher education level men's orchestra (group) competition to Maung Aung Bo Min and party of Mandalay Division, Maung Myo Zaw Hein (a) Myo Zaw Aung and party of Yangon Division and Maung Hlaing One Two and party of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 15-20) men's orchestra (group) competition to Maung Aung Bo Htet and party of Mandalay Division, Maung Bo Shine Kyaw and party of Yangon Division and Maung Bo Htoo and party of Mandalay Division; and first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 5-10) boys' orchestra (group) competition to Maung Aung Bo Htet and party of Mandalay Division, Maung Pyae Sone Aung and party of Yangon Division and Maung Hein Myitta and party of Yangon Division.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence presented first, second and third prizes for amateur level (first class) women's orchestra (group) competition to Ma Khang Zaw Win and party of Yangon Division, Pauk Kyaw Ma and party of Yangon Division and Ma Shwe Sin Kalayar Htet Kyaw and party of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for amateur level (second class) women's orchestra (group) competition to Ma Aye Nandar Win and party of Mandalay Division, Ma Khin Mar San and party of Ayeyawady Division and Ma Shwe Myi Aung of Mon State; first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 15-20) women's orchestra (group) competition to Ma Wint Thinzar Sten and party of Yangon Division, Ma Aye Myat Oo and party, and Ma Khin Khin Bo and party of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 10-15) women's orchestra (group) competition to Ma Chit Su Wai Sten and party, Ma Myu Phway Thant and party of Mandalay Division, and Ma Ei Thinzar Aung and party of Mandalay Division; and first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 5-10) girls' orchestra (group) competition to Ma Thet Hla Wu and party of Yangon Division, Ma Yun Wady Aung Kyaw Soe and party, and Ma Pa Pa Pyae Phyo and party of Yangon Division.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence presented first, second and third prizes for amateur level (first class) men's Ozi competition to U Sein Kalar and party of Mandalay Division, U Kyaw Kyaw and party of Ayeyawady Division and U Kyaw Min and party of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for amateur level (second class) men's Ozi competition to Maung Ye Win Tun and party of Sagaing Division, Maung Pyae Phyo Maw and party of Mandalay Division and Maung Lin Htawk Aung and party of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for higher education level men's Ozi competition to U Aung Than Zaw and party of Sagaing Division, Maung Lin Htawk Aung and party of Mandalay Division and U Chit Kyaw Kyaw and party of Ayeyawady Division; first, second and third prizes for higher education level men's dobat competition to Maung Win Htet and party of Sagaing Division, Maung Myo Thu and party of Mandalay Division, Maung Wai Yan Cho and party of Yangon Division; and first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 15-20) men's dobat competition to Maung Sein Bo Htaw and party of Mandalay Division, Maung Zaw Min (a) Po La Pyae and party of Yangon Division and Maung Thaung Zin Myo and party of Sagaing Division.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence presented first, second and third prizes for amateur level (first class) men's dobat competition to U Sein Kalar and party of Mandalay Division, U Kyaw Min and party of Mandalay Division and U Kyaw Kyaw and party of Ayeyawady Division; first, second and third prizes for amateur level (second class) men's dobat competition to U Aung Than Zaw and party of Sagaing Division, Maung Lin Htawk Aung and party of Mandalay Division and U Chit Kyaw Kyaw and party of Ayeyawady Division; first, second and third prizes for higher education level men's dobat competition to Maung Win Htet and party of Sagaing Division, Maung Myo Thu and party of Mandalay Division, Maung Wai Yan Cho and party of Yangon Division; and first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 15-20) men's dobat competition to Maung Sein Bo Htaw and party of Mandalay Division, Maung Zaw Min (a) Po La Pyae and party of Yangon Division and Maung Thaung Zin Myo and party of Sagaing Division.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence presents first prize to Maung Win Htet of Sagaing Division in higher education level men's Dobat contest. — MNA

San Lwin of Sagaing Division and Ma Shwe Yi Soe Bo of Mandalay Division.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence presented first and second and third prizes for amateur level (first class) men's orchestra (group) competition to U Hein Yazar and party of Yangon Division to U Htoo Bo and party of Sagaing Division, and third prizes to Bo Bo Thein and party of Mandalay Division and Dagon Myat Zin Aung and party of Bago Division; first, second and third prizes for amateur level (second class) men's orchestra (group) competition to Maung Kyaw Zin Min (a) Yangon Duwun and party of Yangon Division, U Aung Myint Bo and party of Yangon Division and Padmya Kalar (a) Kyaw Kyaw Lin and party of Bago Division; first, second and third prizes for higher education level men's orchestra (group) competition to Maung Aung Bo Min and party of Mandalay Division, Maung Myo Zaw Hein (a) Myo Zaw Aung and party of Yangon Division and Maung Hlaing One Two and party of Mandalay Division; first, second and third prizes for basic education level (aged 15-20) men's orchestra (group) competition to Maung Aung Bo Htet and party of Mandalay Division, Maung Pyae Sone Aung and party of Yangon Division and Maung Hein Myitta and party of Yangon Division.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence presents first prize to Ma Yun Wady Aung Kyaw Soe of Mandalay Division in (aged 5-10) girls' orchestra (individual) contest. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut presents first prize to Ma Sein Moe of Bago Division in higher education level women's Dommin contest. — MNA
Coord meeting for Yadanabon Myothit project held

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct — A coordination meeting for construction of Yadanabon Myothit near PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Division was held at the meeting hall of Yadanabon Teleport here on 29 October. Present at the meeting were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and departmental heads and entrepreneurs.

First, Commander Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe made a speech, and then the minister discussed measures taken for allocation of land to 35 local and foreign companies on Softbase Factory Area on 372 acres of plot and accomplishment for necessary infrastructures.

Next, the mayor explained completion of roads in Yadanabon Myothit project area, power and water supply tasks and future tasks.

Departmental officials and entrepreneurs reported on necessities and the commander and the minister fulfilled the requirements.— MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw addresses coordination meeting for construction of Yadanabon Myothit. — COMMUNICATIONS

Staff of MOGE receives English proficiency skills

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct — Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise of Ministry of Energy opened a 10-week course on English proficiency at the ministry here on 29 October.

The course was opened with an address by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi. The opening ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htuy, departmental officials and course instructors and trainees.

A total of 50 staff of MOGE are attending the course. The course is conducted with the aim of improving four skills of English of the trainees. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi makes a speech at opening of English Proficiency Course.

100 buffalos sent to Bogale

YANGON, 31 Oct—Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, accompanied by officials of FAO, on 28 October, observed loading of 100 buffalos onto a ship at the jetty of Bayintnaung Brokerage in Mayangon Township to distribute the animals to local farmers of storm-hit Bogale Township.

The local farmers will be provided with buffalos and feedstuff for one month. Veterinarians of township and district LVBDs will give health care for draught cattle.

The LBVD and FAO jointly distributed 598 draught cattle to Kungyangon, Ngapudaw, Mawlamyine, Pyapon and Bogale townships in August for the first time, 706 draught cattle to Kungyangon, Dedaye, Pyapon and Bogale townships for the second time, totalling 1,304 together with 2,670 bags of feedstuff to the local farmers.

Plan is under way to supply packages of poultry to the households of farmers.— MNA

Training Course No. 4/2008 of Laukkai Nationalities Youth Technical Training School concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—The Training Course No. 4/2008 of the Nationalities Youth Technical Training School in Laukkai of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs concluded at the training school on 24 October.

Brig-Gen Win Maung of Laukkai Station made a speech on the occasion while Director General U Nan Aung of Education and Training Department clarified the salient points of the course.

Before inspecting the practices of trainees, Brig-Gen Win Maung presented prizes to outstanding trainees and completion certificates through a trainee.

The 20-week course was attended by 34 trainees.— MNA

Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt and party view loading of buffalos onto a ship for farmers of Bogale. — MNA

DON'T SMOKE
**H&T Minister receives Laotian Dy Minister of Foreign Affairs**

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Oct—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing received Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Bounkeuth Sansomsak and party together with Laotian Ambassador Mr KouYou A. Souphaket at the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

They discussed cooperation in promotion of tourism industry between the two countries in accord with the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS).

MNA

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**Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu attends ESCAP/ASEAN Regional High-level Expert Group Meeting on Post-Nargis Recovery & Livelihood Opportunities in Myanmar.**

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**TCG Chairman attends ESCAP/ASEAN Regional High-Level Expert Group Meeting**

YANGON, 30 Oct—At the invitation of Dr Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Myanmar Delegation led by Chairman of Tripartite Core Group Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu attended the ESCAP/ASEAN Regional High-Level Expert Group Meeting on Post-Nargis Recovery and Livelihood Opportunities in Myanmar, held in Bangkok from 27th to 28th October 2008.

The deputy minister attended the opening ceremony of the meeting held at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) on 27 October and delivered an opening speech.

At the meeting, the Myanmar delegation presented matters on resettlement plans of Myanmar and revitalizing livelihood opportunities in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, small business, trade and commerce and the role of microfinance perspectives from Myanmar. On 28 October, the delegation continued to attend the final day of the meeting and delivered a closing speech.

The deputy minister and members of the Myanmar delegation attended the closing ceremony.

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**Respects paying ceremony and get-together to be held**

YANGON, 30 Oct—Old students who graduated in Engineering and Architecture from Yangon Institute of Technology in 1981 will hold a ceremony to pay respects to teachers at M-3 Food Centre from 5 to 9 pm on 7 February 2009.

To compile records, those wishing to attend the ceremony may send two photos, address, phone numbers and cash to U Saw Maung (Mining) (Tel-095156515), U Maung Ohn (Mech) (Tel-095121036), U Kyaw Oo (Mech) (Tel-0264063) (Mandalay), U Kyaw Hsan (Civil) (Tel-095003816), U Tin Aung (Civil) (095134449) (Mandalay), U Aung Naing Myint (EC) (Tel-01549583), U Sein Aung (EC) (Tel-095003420), U Ye Myint (EP) (Tel-095006371), Daw Thaw Zar Myint (Chem) (Tel-095130450), U San Lwin (Petrol) (Tel-0234154) (Mandalay), U Than Aung (Met) (Tel-01290677), Daw Tin Tin Thwin (Textil) (Tel-0233091) and U Hlaing Myint (Arch) (Tel-095117754).
To ensure better transportation in all regions of the Union and to uplift the social-economic life of the national people, the government has been building various sizes of bridges across rivers and creeks throughout the country.

For enabling over 300,000 local people residing in 480 villages located in Kyaukpyu and Yanbye including Yanbye Island to enjoy fruits of better transport, Minkyaung Bridge coupled with Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road was put into service on 17 April 2006.

Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road was constructed during over four years period with might and main by engineers of Public Works, Tatmadawmen and local people. Before construction work, mangroves and swamp lands in the area had to be dealt with for the road. Therefore, responsible persons and engineers sought various ways and means to convert the lands of mangroves and swamps into the earth works that were suitable for construction of the road. By overcoming difficulties, the bridge construction workers made their utmost efforts in construction of the bridges, while the road construction workers faced enormous tasks.

The Bridge Construction Project Special Group (11) built Minkyaung Bridge Creek in Yanbye Township of Rakhine State. The bridge, 2,704.4 feet long, was the longest one out of 13 bridges along the road between Taungup and Kyaukpyu.

Minkyaung Creek Bridge has 24 feet wide motorway flanked by three feet wide pedestrian ways. Its clearance is 171 feet wide and 31 feet high. The upper structure of the bridge was constructed with steel frames and reinforced concrete. The lower structure was built with reinforced concrete bored pile foundation.

Thanks to construction of Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road and Minkyaung Creek Bridge, the local people have easy access to various regions of Rakhine State and have the opportunity to extend their businesses. More cultivable lands, lakes and farms have been reclaimed on either side of the road. Today, the local people are enjoying the fruits of economic, education, health and social development thanks to the bridge.

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Translation: TTA
Myanmar Alin: 27-10-2008

Minister Col Zaw Min receives President Mr. Wu Jing of Datang (Yunnan) United Hydropower Developing Co Ltd (DUHD) and party of PRC. — MNA

MWAF holds educative talks on legal affairs

YANGON, 31 Oct—Educative talks on legal affairs organized by Legal Affairs working group of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at the office of Taikkyi Township Peace and Development Council this morning.

First, Leader of the working group Daw Ni Ni Win made a speech. Next, secretary Daw Myint Swe gave talks on the Anti-Human Trafficking Law, member of the working group Director Daw Lwin Lwin Aye of the Supreme Court on matters related to the Gambling Law and deputy leader of the working group Professor Dr Daw Than Nwe on the Juvenile Law. They replied to the queries raised by the attendees.

It was attended by members of Yangon Division and Taikkyi Township Women’s Affairs Organizations, Taikkyi Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Red Cross.

Leader of Legal Affairs working group Daw Ni Ni Win makes a speech. — MNA

Copies (Bilingual) of the State Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on sale

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information is selling the copies (bilingual) of the State Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. There are 15 chapters in the book and each chapter is stated in Myanmar and English. The copies can be purchased at Sarpay Beikman Bookshop (Nay Pyi Taw) No. (Ta-55), Thabyegon Market, Nay Pyi Taw Ph-067-414681, Sarpay Beikman Bookshop (Yangon) No 529/531, Merchant street, Yangon Ph-01-249031, 01-381448, Sarpay Beikman Bookshop (Mandalay) Ph-02-62931, 02-62925, 02-62932, Tun Oo Book House, No. 101, 84th street between 29th-30th, Mandalay, Ph-02-39891, 02-39801, Naga Book House, No. 290 (Kha), 83rd street between 29th-30th, Mandalay, Ph-02-35267, 02-39869 and the News and Periodicals Enterprise Bookshop, No.212 on Theinbyu road, Yangon, Ph-01-294306. Those from other states and divisions may purchase the copies through respective Township Information and Public Relations Department offices.

Those wishing to purchase the copies in large quantities may contact the sales manager, No. 228 on Theinbyu road, Botataung Township, Yangon, Ph-380804, 382070. — MNA

Neill Foundation extends date for entries of painting competition

YANGON, 31 Oct — The Tun Foundation Best Painting of the year 2008 will be held on a grand scale in December with the assistance of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans’ Association (Central). Artists are invited to compete in the contest with two paintings. The measurements of entries must be between 3 feet by 4 feet and 4 feet by 6 feet each.

Two photos or CD for the paintings are to be sent to the office of the Tun Foundation at the corner of Strand road and Theinbyu road. The committee for organizing the competition issued an announcement today that those paintings will be accepted up to 15 November instead of 31 October.

— MNA
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGPAKA EW VOY NO (162)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGPAKA EW VOY NO (162) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.11.08 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will be at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONG SAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO., LTD

Phone No: 256910/256916/256912

Naras delays shuttle’s February Hubble repair mission
WASHINGTON, 31 Oct—US space agency NASA said it had indefinitely delayed a February shuttle mission to repair the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope, which was back in business after a four-week break to fix transmission problems.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration also announced the next shuttle launch for 14 November, when an Endeavour mission will deliver more equipment to the International Space Station.

The Hubble’s instruments were suspended automatically on 27 September due to a technical problem with Side-A of its Science Data Formatter, a unit that stores and transmits data back to Earth.

New diabetes rate up 90 percent in past decade
WASHINGTON, 31 Oct—The rate of new cases of diabetes soared by about 90 percent in the United States in the past decade, fueled by growing obesity and sedentary lifestyles, US health officials said on Thursday. Diabetes experts said the findings show there is no end in sight to the diabetes epidemic.

Newly diagnosed cases of diabetes rose to 9.1 per 1,000 people annually between 1995 to 1997, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Quakes give trampoline line effect
HONG KONG, 31 Oct—Earthquakes not only shake the ground from side to side, they hoist it up and down as though the earth is bouncing on a trampoline, researchers in Japan found.

The scientists found evidence of the jarring vertical movements from analyzing data recorded by seismographs during a powerful earthquake that struck northern Japan on 14 June.

That 7.2 magnitude quake struck a remote hot spring resort, killed at least 9 people and left more than 200 injured. The scientists likened the vertical movement of the quake to an athlete bouncing on a trampoline.

Vietnam floods kill 14 as Hanoi streets under water
HANOI, 31 Oct—Floods from heavy rain in Vietnam’s central provinces have killed at least 14 people in the past week, including four children, the government and state media said on Friday.

Many roads in the capital, Hanoi, were submerged, with up to 1 metre (yard) of water in some places, and some residents had abandoned cars and motorcycles. Torrential rain pounded northern Vietnam early on Friday, threatening dangerous flash floods in six mountainous provinces, state weather forecasters said.

Seven people died in Ha Tinh province, three in Quang Ngai and two in Nghe An, while Quang Nam and Phu Yen provinces each reported one death. Up to 330 mm (13 inches) of rain had pounded Nghe An province, 300 km (186 miles) south of Hanoi, since Wednesday, halting traffic, while landslides had eroded many sections of the north-south Ho Chi Minh highway in Thua Thien-Hue province.

Residents try to remove a wall that collapsed due to an earthquake in Kuritama, northern Japan.

A doctor checks blood pressure in a file photo.

Technicians make final checks to Hubble servicing equipment in September in the Payload Hazardous Servicing facility at Kennedy Space Centre, Florida. Several large pallets of equipment and parts will be loaded aboard the US space shuttle Atlantis for its planned launch to the Hubble.
Archeologist says he found oldest Hebrew writing

HIRBET QEIYAF, 31 Oct — An Israeli archaeologist has discovered what he believes is the oldest known Hebrew inscription on a 3,000-year-old pottery shard — a find that suggests Biblical accounts of the ancient Israelite kingdom of David could have been based on written texts.

A teenage volunteer discovered the curved shard bearing five lines of faded characters in July in the ruins of an ancient town on a hillock south of Jerusalem. YossiGarfinkel, the Israeli archaeologist leading the excavations at Hirbet Qeiyafa, released his conclusions about the writing Thursday after months of study.

He said the relic is strong evidence that the ancient Israelites were literate and could chronicle events centuries before the Bible was written. This could suggest that some of the Bible’s accounts were based on written records as well as oral traditions — adding credence to arguments that the Biblical account of history is more than myth.

In this photo taken on 26 Oct, 2008, Archeologist Yossi Garfinkel displays a ceramic shard bearing Hebrew inscription at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Nasty fungus may be killing thousands of bats

WASHINGTON, 31 Oct — A previously unknown fungus that thrives in chilly temperatures may be the culprit behind the deaths of at least 100,000 bats hibernating in caves in the northeastern United States, scientists said on Thursday.

The fungus is a white, powdery-looking organism found on the muzzles, ears and wings of dead and dying bats hibernating in caves in New York state, Maine, Vermont and Connecticut in the past two years, they wrote in the journal Science.

“Essentially, hibernating bats are getting moldy as they hang from their cave ceiling,” David Blehert, a microbiologist with the U.S. Geological Survey who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

“It’s decimating the cave-bat populations,” he said.

This handout image shows a bat affected with a disease called white-nose syndrome that is killing off thousands of the winged mammals as they hibernate in caves in four northeastern US states — New York, Maine, Vermont and Connecticut.

Brain’s “hate circuit” identified

WASHINGTON, 31 Oct — People who view pictures of someone they hate display activity in distinct areas of the brain that, together, may be thought of as a “hate circuit,” according to new research published in the latest issue of US online journal PLoS One, available here on Thursday.

The study, by scientists at University College London, examined the brain areas that correlate with the sentiment of hate and shows that the “hate circuit” is distinct from those related to emotions such as fear, threat and danger — although it shares a part of the brain associated with aggression.

Displaced residents renovate their mud house after it was damaged by the rain in Baghdad’s Doura district, southern Baghdad, on 29 Oct, 2008. Picture taken on 29 Oct, 2008.
Bayern bosses dark on Podolski

MUNICH, 31 Oct — Germany striker Lukas Podolski faces another stint on Bayern Munich’s bench after a further tick- ing off from manager Hu- hoeness and his departure from the German giants looks increasingly likely.

With Italy striker Luca Toni injured, Podolski played in the last two league games against Wolfsburg and Frankfurt, but poor performances means he can expect to be back on the bench against Arminia Bielefeld on Sat- urday.

Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City have both expressed interest in signing Podolski and the player himself has hinted at a return to former club Cologne when the trans- fer window opens in January.

After Bayern’s 2-1 win over Eintracht Frankfurt on Wednesday, Munich manager Hoenness again criticised Podolski and the chances of seeing out his contract, which runs until June 2010, look slim.

“He had two chances and did not use them,” fumed Hoeness, who told the 23-year-old to “stop whining” earlier this sea- son when Podolski com- plained about being left on the bench for a second consecutive season.

Ballack meets Loew to apologize

Ballack criticised Loew last Tuesday in a newspa- per interview here saying the coach should show his senior players more loyal- ity and respect after vet- eran midfielder Torsten Frings was dropped.

Ballack, 32, apolo- gised last weekend in a press release, but Loew, insisted the Chelsea midfielder fly to the Ger- man Football Federation (DFB) offices in Frank- furt to meet face-to-face on Thursday and explain his comments.

Ballack returned to London immediately after the meeting and the DFB are expected to make an announcement on Thursday to reveal whether Ballack will keep his role as cap- tain of die Mannschaft or even his place in the team.

Munich newspaper Abendzeitung claimed on Thursday that Ballack is set to resign as Germany captain, but remain in the team with Bayern Munich defender Philipp Lahm taking over as captain.

Germany captain Michael Ballack, flew from London to Frankfurt, Germany, on Thursday to apologize directly to Joachim Loew for comments he made last week criticising the national coach.

Ballack criticised on Twitter

Germany’s striker Lukas Podolski.

Germany’s striker Lukas Podolski.

Ballack criticised Loew last Tuesday in a newspa-

Internet

Tennis ace Roddick China-bounded as top stars advance in Paris

PARIS, 31 Oct — US star Andy Roddick clinched his season-ending Shanghai Masters Cup berth Thurs- day, while world number one Rafael Nadal, second-

Internet

Dechy upsets Govortsova to reach WTA quarter-finals

Lato elected head of Poland’s troubled federation

WARSAW, 31 Oct — Ex-

Internet

Ex-Poland international Grzegorz Lato reacts in Warsaw, after being elected head of Poland’s corruption-ridden PZPN football federation. —INternet

POLISH INTERVIEW

Internet

Price, Eger take 1st-round lead at Schwab

PALM COAST, 31 Oct — Kent Jones recovered from a tee shot in the rough to birdie the 15th hole Thurs-

Internet

Nick Price reacts after making a birdie putt on the 18th green of Sonoma Golf Club during the first round of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship golf tournament in Sonoma, Calif, 30 Oct, 2008. —INTERNET

Internet

Dechy upsets Govortsova to reach WTA quarter-finals

France’s Nathalie Dechy.

France’s Nathalie Dechy.

Dechy upsets Govortsova to reach WTA quarter-finals

Dechy upsets Govortsova to reach WTA quarter-finals

WIHILE RUSIAN TOP SEED NADIA Monfils, whom he had already beaten twice this year

Internet

Internet

Internet
Thousands of Syrians held in a central government school, workers and students of fighters into Iraq. Those believed to have killed a concern. Syria says the ambassador, which was pelted with stones during a protest in 1998 over US-led air Raids in Iraq. The crowd shouted. The raid was pelted with stones by other protesters. Down with America," some members of the crowd shouted. The raid was pelted with stones by other protesters. Some demonstrators carried banners denouncing the United States and Israel and praising Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. We sacrifice our blood for you, Bashar.

NATO forces step in to rescue hijacked Turkish ship

ANKARA, 31 Oct—NATO forces stepped in to rescue crew of hijacked Turkish ship offshore of Somalia, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Thursday. Yasa Neslihan, a Turkish ship of Marshal Island registry, was hijacked by pirates offshore of Somalia on Wednesday. The Maritime Under secretariat officials were quoted as saying: There were two Turkish crew members on board of the ship which was carrying iron ore from Canada to China. Under the request of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NATO forces join the rescue operation of the crew on the hijacked cargo ship.

Turkish officials are trying to work out a solid plan to rescue hostages alive as the hijacked ship is still navigating off shore of Somalia. MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Friday, 31 October, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Shan State, scattered in Kayin State, isolated in Rakhine State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (1.22) inches, Kawwayne (1.06) inches, Lashio (0.95) inch and Namsan (0.55) inch. Maximum temperature on 30-10-2008 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 31-10-2008 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 31-10-2008 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 30-10-2008 was (3.9) hrs approx. Rainfall on 31-10-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (108.54) inches at Mingaladon, (120.28) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.47) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at (Kaba-Aye) was (5) m/s from Southwest at (15:15) hours MST on 30-10-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay, West Central Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 1st November 2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Shan and Kayin States, isolated in Rakhine and Kayah States, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 1-11-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (40%). Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-11-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (60%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-11-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Weather outlook for first weekend of November 2008: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division. Scattered in Yangon Division.
10th Anniversary ICT Exhibition opened

YANGON, 31 Oct — The 10th Anniversary ICT Exhibition kicked off at Tatmadaw Convention Centre here today.

The exhibition was opened in the presence of Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence and Chairman of e-National Task Force Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivered an opening address.

Chairman of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association U Khun Oo and Chairperson of Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs’ Association Daw Wah Wah Tun formally opened the exhibition.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force Member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint, ambassadors and officials visited booths displayed at the exhibition.

A total of 65 companies and Myanma Posts and Telecommunications have staged 156 booths at the exhibition which will be opened from 9 am to 5 pm daily up to 2 November. — MNA

Minkyaung Creek Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road

benefiting people of Rakhine State

Article: Nu Nu Yi & Aye Thanda Thein, Photo: Myanma Alin

Photo shows an aerial view of Minkyaung Creek Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road in Rakhine State.—(Byline on page 11)