Established 1914

Volume XVI, Number 179                                         Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut 1370 ME Tuesday, 14 October, 2008

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

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

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

Ploughing of monsoon paddy completed in Meiktila

YANGON, 13 Oct — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe visited cultivation of Hsinweyin paddy on the farm of farmer U Bo Myint in Ywamontha Village in Thazi Township, Meiktila District on 6 October.

The commander attended a ceremony to complete ploughing of monsoon paddy and presented prizes to farmer U Than Lwin of Wundwin Township for high yield of monsoon paddy, U Ye Naing of Mahlaing Township for high yield of summer paddy and U Htay Kyaw Lwin of Wundwin Township for production of quality strains.

The commander inspected inflow of water to Minhla Lake in Thazi Township and maintenance of the lake. He also inspected Kanma Lake and Mya Lake embankment in NyaungU Township and drinking water pond in Nyaungto Village and 100-acre monsoon paddy model farm.

Grow oil palm to strengthen economy

YANGON, 13 Oct — Article: Kyi Win (MPCE) (See page 9)

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Grow oil palm to strengthen economy

YANGON, 13 Oct — Article: Kyi Win (MPCE) (See page 9)
Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut

Today, the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut or the Abhidhamma Day, is a day of religious significance for Buddhists all over the world, marking the end of Buddhist Lent. During the Lent, members of the Sangha go into retreat or are confined to their respective monasteries for serious meditation or study of religious scriptures.

Seven years after attaining the spiritual enlightenment, Lord Buddha ascended to the celestial abode of Tavatimsa to preach the Abhidhamma to celestial beings, including Santusita, who had been His mother in the previous existence, as a token of paying His gratitude to the latter.

The preaching of the discourse lasted for three months, from the month of Wason ending on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. To mark the end of the three-month Buddhist Lent, during which Lord Buddha preached the Abhidhamma to celestial beings, the Thadingyut Festival or the Festival of Lights has been held in commemoration of the return to earth of Lord Buddha. To welcome Him back to the human abode, many disciples of celestial abodes and of human world offered lights and paid obeisance to Him.

Nowadays, the Thadingyut Festival is usually held for three days during which Buddhist devotees offer flowers, lights and water to the pagoda. And there is an age-old tradition of the young to pay respects to their grandparents, parents, teachers and elders on this occasion.

The Thadingyut Festival is indeed an auspicious occasion for Buddhist devotees and the occasion should be observed in accord with the fine traditions.

Blast occurs on passenger car of Taikkyi-Yangon line

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct—In front of the Seeds Division of Myanma Agriculture Service, East Gyogyone Ward, Insein Township, an explosion occurred on a passenger Hilux pickup car with number plate Pa/1602 of Taikkyi-Yangon line at 2.35 a.m. today. The car was on its way from Taikkyi to Yangon.

The blast left seven people — four men and three women — including driver U Myo Aung dead and U Kyae Hla, 40, son of U Pyun Cho, of No. 528, Minzedi Street, Insein sustained injury but in stable condition. He was admitted to Yangon General Hospital for medical treatment.

The cause of the blast is under investigation. — MNA

Instructor training course for FE (MMFE-IT) on 8 Dec

YANGON, 13 Oct — Under the arrangement of Myanmar Computer Federation and the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS), an instructor training course for FE (MMFE-IT) will be conducted for two weeks beginning 8 December at the e-Learning Centre of Myanmar Info-Tech on Hlame Campus.

Any graduates ages between 23 and 50 with at least three-year experience in information technology can enroll on the course not later than 7 November 2008. For detailed information, contact Myanmar Computer Federation (Ph: 652307, 707503). — MNA

Government of the Union of Myanmar

(from page 16)

2. Authorities concerned continued testing the inclusion of melamine in milk powder and dairy products imported to Myanmar, and out of 87 brands of milk powder tested again, seven were found contaminated with melamine. They are as follows:

(a) Full Cream Milk Powder-Golden River
(b) Calcium Milk Powder-Butterfly
(c) Full Cream Milk Powder-Yu-Li
(d) Sweet Whey Powder
(e) Non-Dairy Creamer (Korea)
(f) Non-Dairy Creamer (China), and
(g) ElfalacA+

3. Therefore, importation, processing, distribution and using as ingredient of milk powder contaminated with melamine that is unfit for human consumption are hereby prohibited.

4. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Industry-1 continue testing the inclusion of melamine in milk powder and dairy products, and the Ministry of Health is to issue further findings.

By order
(Sd) Thant Shin
(Colonel)
Secretary
Government of the Union of Myanmar

Industry-2 minister receives German Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — Minister for Industry -2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein received German Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Julius Georg Luy at the ministry in Yangon on 12 October.

They discussed matters relating to industrial development between the two countries.—MNA

Minister for Industry -2
Vice-Admiral Soe Thein receives German Ambassador Mr Julius Georg Luy.—MNA

LFDB to provide cash assistance to milch cow breeders

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein met officials of milch cow farm of Ngwepinle Livestock and Fisheries Co Ltd in Sanye region in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division yesterday.

The minister told the officials to undertake special care on milk and dairy products and fulfilled the requirements.

The minister and party looked into bovine vaccines and lacto scan used in milk testing and they visited Mya Bayin farms of U Win Maung in Kyaukse Township and Win Myitta cattle farm and dairy factory in Meiktila Township.

The minister also visited milch cow farm of U Khin Maung Win in Tawma Village in Meiktila Township. He gave instructions on making condensed milk without using any imported milk contaminated with melamine and to follow the announcements made by the government. He also explained programmes for provision of cash assistance by Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank and plans for milch cow breeders.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 14 October, 2008

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
Iraq says time for British troops to go

LONDON, 13 Oct — Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki was quoted on Monday as saying it was time for British combat forces to leave the country because they were no longer needed to maintain security and control. Maliki told The Times newspaper in an interview there might still be a need for their experience in training Iraqi forces and on some technological issues, but the emphasis was now on business links.

Britain was US President George W Bush’s main ally in the March 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq that toppled Saddam Hussein from power.

British troops have helped train the Iraqi Army and Navy, while a special forces unit based in Baghdad has been used to strike at militants from al Qaeda and other groups. Britain has 4,100 troops in Iraq at present.

Maliki referred to what was widely seen as a low point in Britain’s presence in Iraq when its forces left their base in the southern city of Basra last year for a base at the airport on the outskirts.

Afghan violence kills 8 civilians

KABUL, 13 Oct — Afghan and international troops killed 14 Taliban militants and eight civilians were killed in a series of attacks, provincial authorities and the US military said Monday.

Violence has surged in Afghanistan with some 3,800 people — a third of them civilians — killed by the end of July this year, the United Nations said.

Already more foreign troops have been killed so far this year than in any year since US-led and Afghan forces toppled the Taliban in 2001 for refusing to strike at militants from al Qaeda and other groups. Britain has 4,100 troops in Iraq at present.

Maliki referred to what was widely seen as a low point in Britain’s presence in Iraq when its forces left their base in the southern city of Basra last year for a base at the airport on the outskirts.

Displaced families set up tents at Burtulla, 30 kilometres east of Mosul, Sunday.

Internet

An Iraqi woman clears debris of a destroyed shop after a car bomb explosion in the predominantly Shi’ite Bayaa district, southwest of Baghdad, Iraq, on 12 Oct, 2008.

Internet

Iraq: Businessman killed as attacks continue

BAGHDAD, 13 Oct — Gunmen killed a Christian businessman and wounded his nephew Sunday in a drive-by shooting in Mosul, police said Monday.

It came on the same day that Iraq’s president and prime minister condemned recent attacks targeted at Christians in the northern Iraq city.

Thirteen Christians have been slain in the past two weeks in the city, which is located about 420 kilometres (260 miles) north of Baghdad.

At least 900 Christian families have fled in recent days, reportedly frightened by a series of killings and threats by Muslim extremists urging them to convert to Islam or face possible death, Iraqi officials said.

The attacks may have been prompted by Christian demonstrations ahead of provincial elections, which are to be held by 31 January, 2009, authorities said.

Hundreds of Christians took to the streets in Mosul and surrounding villages and towns, demanding adequate representation on provincial councils, whose members will be chosen in the local elections.

A tribesman shows damaged belongings at a site of a missile attack on the outskirts of Miranshah, near the Afghan border, on 12 Oct, 2008. Suspected US drones fired two missiles on Saturday into a Pakistani region regarded as a safe haven for al Qaeda and Taliban militants, killing at least five insurgents, residents and an intelligence official said.

Internet

Fighting erupts in Darfur; 11 killed

KHARTOUM, 13 Oct — Armed militias ambushed a band of rebel fighters in southern Darfur, sparking a gun battle that left at least 11 people dead, insurgents said Sunday.

The reports of fresh fighting in Darfur came at a sensitive time for Khartoum, which has been stepping up diplomatic attempts to thwart efforts to issue an arrest warrant against Sudan’s president on war crimes charges.

 Leaders of two rebel factions said the militias involved in the fighting were part of a buildup of fighters around the town of Muhajriya, a previous hot spot in the Darfur conflict. Rebels accused Sudan’s government of backing the militias, saying Khartoum wanted to “spread chaos” in the region.

More than 45 people were killed during an attack on Muhajriya last October.

Internet

British troops are no longer necessary for the security of Iraq and should go home, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said in a newspaper interview published here on Monday. — Internet

Displaced families set up tents at Burtulla, 30 kilometres east of Mosul, Sunday.

Internet

An Iraqi woman clears debris of a destroyed shop after a car bomb explosion in the predominantly Shi’ite Bayaa district, southwest of Baghdad, Iraq, on 12 Oct, 2008.

Internet
President Bush overseas tour

WASHINGTON, 13 Oct — President Bush arrived in Mexico City on Monday for the start of a tour of Latin America. In his speech before a joint session of Congress, Bush laid out a vision for the Americas that includes free trade, democracy, and respect for human rights. He also announced plans to send an additional 1,000 troops to Afghanistan to help train local forces.

In his remarks, Bush said that the United States and Mexico share a common interest in the security and stability of the region. He called for closer cooperation with Mexico to combat drug trafficking and terrorism. Bush also reiterated his commitment to the free trade agreement with Mexico, which he said would open new markets for American businesses.

The president said that the USA and Mexico have made significant progress in recent years on issues ranging from energy and the environment to agriculture and education. He noted that the two nations had signed a new agreement to increase trade in renewable energy and that they were working together on efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Bush also spoke about the importance of education and called for greater investment in science and technology.

The president's visit to Mexico is part of a regional tour that includes stops in Colombia and Ecuador. He is scheduled to return to the United States on Wednesday.

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**Obama leads McCain by 10 points**

WASHINGTON, 13 Oct — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama is leading his Republican rival John McCain by 10 percentage points according to a new poll released by the Washington Post-ABC News. Obama now has the support of 48 percent of likely voters, compared to 38 percent for McCain. The poll was conducted from October 9-11, and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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**Korea’s dancing robot can also tackle the chores**

SEOUL, 13 Oct — South Korean researchers said Monday they have developed a robot which can dance and get emotional when it’s not tackling the chores.

Mahru can move its lips, eyebrows and even pupils freely to make faces and can emit two kinds of fragrances to match its emotions. It can move upper body parts freely while walking on its legs.

The robot was developed by a research team at the state-funded Korea Institute of Science and Technology.

“Mahru, which can dance while walking on its legs, was developed as a humanoid robot capable of working in place of a human,” team leader You Bum-Jae said in a statement.

“It will open the way for the commercial use of humanoid robots doing housework.”

Mahru is programmed to follow various human movements through an advanced motion capture system, he said, adding that it can move its hands freely to cope with any interference or obstacles.

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**Norbert weakens to tropical depression over Mexico**

PUERTO SAN CARLOS (Mexico), 13 Oct — Norbert dissipated into a tropical depression over the northern mountains of mainland Mexico on Sunday, after ripping off roofs, flooding streets, and forcing thousands to seek shelter in Baja California.

The storm’s remnants dumped moderate rain in areas across West Texas on Sunday afternoon, but there were no immediate problems, according to officials with the National Weather Service in Texas.

Presidio County Attorney Rod Ponton said Texas officials were waiting for rain reports from Mexico to know if they should expect flood-waters later this week in Presidio, where an earthen levee is struggling to hold back the swollen Rio Grande.

Civil Protection officials in the Mexican border state of Chihuahua warned of possible freezing rain because of Norbert’s remnants and a cold front.

Norbert hit mainland Mexico’s Sonora coast early Sunday as a Category 1 hurricane with winds near 85 mph (140 kph) after crossing the Baja California peninsula on Saturday, said the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami.

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**Gunmen kill six at party in northern Mexico**

CICUEDA JUAREZ (Mexico), 13 Oct — Gunmen killed six young men at a family party in the gang-plagued Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez, prosecutors said on Sunday.

The men, ages 20 to 25, were killed during a party in a house, said Alejandro Pariente, a spokesman for the regional attorney general’s office. The motive for the attack was unknown.

At least 1,000 people have been killed this year in Ciudad Juarez, a city across from El Paso, Texas. Many of the deaths were attributed to warring drug gangs.

In the border city of Tijuana, across the border from San Diego, federal police announced the arrest of seven reputed members of a cell of the Arellano Felix drug cartel, including a city police officer.

The suspects held up in a Tijuana house Saturday and opened fire on police, the Public Safety Department said in a news release. Local news media reported that neighbouring homes were evacuated and police apparently used tear gas to flush out the gunmen.

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Communist Party of Bangladesh lauds achievement of China’s reform and opening up policy

Dhaka, 13 Oct—Communist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist-Leninist) lauded on Sunday the achievement made by China since it implemented reform and opening up policy 30 years ago, and hoped China will help Bangladesh realize development.

Speaking at a seminar held here Sunday marking the 59th founding anniversary of China and 30th anniversary of reform and opening up of China, Dilip Barua, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (M-L), said China set a good example for developing countries and hoped China will help these countries out of poverty and suffering. We also hope China will contribute more to world peace and progress,” Barua said.

Barua congratulated China for its success fully hosting 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and successfully implemented the first spacewalk by Shenzhou 7 Spacecraft.

Zheng Qingdian, Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, said at the seminar that China has made great progress in the economic development during the past 30 years and China has become one of the most dynamic countries in the world.—Xinhua

Asia’s biggest electronics fair opens in HK

BEIJING, 13 Oct—The Hong Kong Electronics Fair (Autumn Edition) 2008 starts today at two venues—the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) and the Hong Kong Exhibition Centre—and will last until Thursday.

More than 2,600 exhibitors from 29 countries and regions, occupying over 3,800 booths, display their latest products and technologies at the event organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC).

In addition to returning group pavilions from China and South Korea, new exhibitors including those from Canada, the Czech Republic, France and the United Arab Emirates will present their products at the show.

For the first time, the exhibition is expanded to occupy the Hong Kong Exhibition Centre in the China Resources Building adjacent to HKCEC that will include the debut of a special sector—the In-Vehicle Electronics & GPS Zone.—Xinhua

China tests find no melamine in new milk powder

BEIJING, 13 Oct—China’s quality watchdog said here on Sunday that the latest tests on Chinese milk powder found no traces of melamine.

It was the fourth round of tests for the industrial chemical since the breaking of the tainted baby formula scandal that left at least three infants dead and sickened more than 50,000 others, according to the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

The tests covered 39 batches of baby formula from 10 brands in six provinces and 133 batches of other milk powder from 45 brands in 18 provinces, the agency said. So far, 499 batches of baby formula from 53 brands and 709 batches of other milk powder from 142 brands produced after 14 Sept have been tested and none contained melamine, it added.

Melamine, often used in the manufacturing of plastics, was added to sub-standard or diluted milk to make the protein levels appear higher. —Xinhua

Tunisia welcomes new Chinese medical team

Tunis, 13 Oct—The Tunisian Health Ministry held a welcoming ceremony Sunday for a new Chinese medical team that arrived in the northern African nation earlier in the day.

At the ceremony, Tunisian health officials expressed appreciation of China’s assistance for Tunisia in healthcare.

The two countries are continuing to strengthen their cooperation, especially in medical and health services, an official of the ministry said.

The Chinese doctors have won the friendship and trust of the Tunisian people with their high-level medical skills, the official said.

Liu Baoguo, a Chinese diplomat in Tunis, said the Chinese doctors in Tunisia have made contributions to the development of Tunisia’s medical services and the friendship between the two peoples.

Chinese medical teams have become an important element in cooperation between the two governments, he said.—Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Record exhibitor numbers sign up for Automechanika Shanghai show

BEIJING, 15 Oct—A record-breaking 1,600 exhibitors have already confirmed they will attend the fourth Automechanika Shanghai show at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre between 10 and 12 December.

This year’s event will cover 92,000 sq m, an 80 percent increase in hall space over last year. The figures confirm Automechanika Shanghai is one of Asia’s biggest electronics fair opens in HK

The fair’s Hall of Fame includes a number of renowned brands and showcases a variety of state-of-the-art electronics.—Xinhua

Chinese doctors in Tunisia have become an important element in cooperation between the two peoples. —Xinhua

French “Spiderman” Alain Robert climbs the facade of the InterContinental Hotel Phoenicia in Beirut on 11 Oct, 2008.—Xinhua

In keeping with Automechanika’s global brand for-
Abbas calls for ending divisions among Palestinians

RAMALLAH, 13 Oct — Israeli forces Sunday arrested seven Palestinians in their predawn raids on the West Bank towns of Nablus and Hebron, Palestinian sources said.

In Nablus alone, residents said the Army stormed the town at 2 a.m. (0000 GMT) and the soldiers broke into a number of houses. They smashed furniture in some houses after arresting four residents of the town.

Israeli sources said the detainees were taken for interrogation. The Israeli forces conduct systematic arrests almost every night in the occupied territory by saying it chases down Palestinian activists wanted by Israeli security and intelligence services.

The crackdown does not scale down despite deals between Israel and Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to deploy Palestinian forces into some of the cities to restore law and order.

Abbas, who arrived here Saturday for a two-day visit, added that Syria is playing an essential role in the reconciliation efforts and he would continue coordination with Syria and other Arab countries, including Egypt.

Egypt, which has been mediating a national Palestinian reconciliation since Hamas drove out pro-Abbas forces and ousted its Fatah party from Gaza in June 2007, is expected to call a Palestinian national dialogue in November.

But ahead of November’s inter-Palestinian dialogue, Egypt prepares to sponsor bilateral talks between Hamas and Fatah on 25 Oct, which would be the first official meeting between the two rival movements since their rift widened last year.

Abbas said his talks with Assad were comprehensive, covering all proposed issues related to negotiations with Israel, the Palestinian citizen situation and the indirect peace talks between Syria and Israel under Turkish mediation.

South Korean Kwon Won-tae walks a high wire during the World High Wire Championships in Seoul, South Korea, on 2 Oct, 2008. 27 high-wire walkers from 14 countries challenged on the tightrope, a wire rope of 30 millimetre in diameter stretching 1,000 metres across the Han River in Seoul.

China’s outsourcing services grow 17% in 1st 8 months

SHANGHAI, 13 Oct — Chinese companies had contracts abroad to provide outsourced services to a value of 1.9 billion US dollars in the first eight months, up 17 per cent from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

By the end of August, the number of outsourcing service companies in the country was about 1,800 with about 330,000 employees, the ministry’s statistics showed.

In 2007, total contracts abroad for outsourced services were 2.09 billion US dollars, up 118 percent over 2005. Li Zhiqun, the ministry’s official in charge of foreign investment, said many multinationals were transferring service industries to developing countries to reduce costs and increase competitiveness, offering new opportunities to China’s outsourcing service industry.

The government plans to develop 10 outsourcing base cities by 2010 in an effort to build up outsourcing services. The cities include Shanghai, Dalian, Xi’an, Shenzhen and Chengdu.

A man faces a man faces a man faces

Two elderly women who tied themselves to a crab apple tree to protest its removal say they’re being evicted from their senior housing complex.

Lee Perrone, 74, and Pat Henry, 65, were arrested Wednesday morning after a security guard found him walking on the field in a Dodgers uniform and holding a glove with two balls. Higgins alleged himself as a Dodgers player.

Higgins was arrested the previous evening when he went to clean his coffee maker before bedtime and drank his coffee the next morning. She discovered the bat in the filter when she went to clean it that night. The woman has undergone treatment for possible rabies.

Solar-electric Rickshaws in New Delhi. A state-of-the-art, solar powered version of the humble cycle-rickshaw promises to offer a solution to urban India’s traffic woes, chronic pollution and fossil fuel dependence, as well as an escape from backbreaking human toil. —INTERNET

Homeowner, friends tie suspect old west-style

A homeowner and his friends tied up a suspected burglar Old West-style until Memphis police arrived. Antonio Perez and the others used rope to tie up the man after overpowering him in the driveway at the Perez home early Thursday.

Police found him lying there and were told by Perez the suspect had been trying to steal a lawnmower.

The suspect, 26, was charged with aggravated burglary. He’s being held on $25,000 bond.

Man accused of posing as Dodger on field

Lee Perrone, 74, and Pat Henry, 65, were arrested Wednesday morning after a security guard found him walking on the field in a Dodgers uniform and holding a glove with two balls. Higgins allegedly identified himself as a Dodgers player.

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A woman wakes up, should have smelled the coffee

It wasn’t just the caffeine that gave an Iowa woman an extra jolt after she had her morning coffee. It was also the bat she found in the filter.

The Iowa Department of Public Health says the woman reported a bat in her house but wasn’t too worried about it. She turned on her automatic coffee maker before bedtime and drank her coffee the next morning.

She discovered the bat in the filter when she went to clean it that night. The woman has undergone treatment for possible rabies.

Solar-electric Rickshaws in New Delhi. A state-of-the-art, solar powered version of the humble cycle-rickshaw promises to offer a solution to urban India’s traffic woes, chronic pollution and fossil fuel dependence, as well as an escape from backbreaking human toil. —INTERNET

A man faces a man faces a man faces
The Significant and Noble Day of Abhidhamma

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The Significant and Noble Day of Abhidhamma (the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, Mahapavarana Day) falls on 14th October in the year 2008.

In the fourth week, after attaining the enlightenment, the Buddha began to contemplate and review the Dhamma (the truth). He had realized near the Bodhi tree. On His seventh Vassa (Seven Years) of enlightenment, the Buddha, out of compassion for the devas and brahmas, went to the Tavatimsa Devaloka (Celestial abode) where he preached the Abhidhamma Pitaka (Basket of Ultimate things) for a full three months to His deceased mother, Santusita Deva, and also to the other devas and brahmas assembled there, hoping to make them realize the four ultimate things for which knowledge of Abhidhamma is absolutely necessary because it deals with the highest and ultimate sense of things springing into being as facts as distinct from mere names.

After preaching Abhidhamma (Ultimate Truth) to His deceased mother, Santusita Deva and other devas and brahmas for three months the Buddha returned to the human abode on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. According to the Pali Test, the Buddha returned to the human abode on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut from the left side stairway of silver beginning from the top of the great Mount Meru to the gate of Sankassa town on earth as created as a token of paying deep homage to the Buddha who returned to the human abode. The Buddha took the middle stairway accompanied by Devas and Brahmans from the Tavatimsa Devaloka (Celestial abode) paid deep homage to the Omniscient Buddha for three months from 1st Waning of Waso to Fullmoon of Thadingyut. According to the Vinaya rules of the Buddha, the period of three months from 1st Waning of Waso to Fullmoon of Thadingyut (round about from mid-July to mid-October) is retreat-period of Buddhists. During retreat-period, all Buddhist monks must not have to go away from their residence (monasteries, temples) not more than seven days. Especially, they have to fulfill their religious duties (Ganathadhura and Vipassanadhura) during the retreat-period more than before. All Buddhist monks have followed and practiced the said Vinaya rules since over 2500 years ago.

When the Buddha descended from Tavatimsa (Celestial abode), the Devas and Brahmans accompanied Him putting up white sacred umbrellas and fanning Him. At that time, because of unlimited miraculous powers, supernormal powers and glory of the Buddha, the whole earthlings could see the magnificent celestial abode, and also the Devas and Brahmans could see hundreds of thousands of millions of people greeting and paying deep homage to the Buddha who descended at the gate of Sankassa Town of the human abode on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut (Mahapavarana Day).

The Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut (Mahapavarana Day) has been marked by Buddhists as the significant and noble day of Abhidhamma since then (over 2500 years ago). On the auspicious occasion of the Abhidhamma (Mahapavarana Day), in remembrance of the Buddha, members of the Sangha recite Abhidhamma discourses, and multifarious Buddhist devotees offer lights, water, flowers, incense, fragrant scents, fruits and other offerdories. And also, Dhamma talks about Abhidhamma (Mahapavarana) Day are held. On this noble day, most Buddhists keep the Nine Precepts for their meritorious deeds dedicating to the attainment of noble stage of Nibbana (supreme bliss).

On the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut, we all Buddhists generously offer lights, water, flowers, scents, fruits, food and other various kinds of offerdories to pagodas and monasteries and also pay respect to teachers, parents and elders. These meritorious deeds dedicate to the attainment of the noble stage of Nibbana through the most surpassing splendour and significant event of the Omniscient Buddha descending to the human abode from the celestial abode on the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut.

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The Buddha, the most noble wish after witnessing Nibbana through the most surpassing splendour.
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Up to this day, we can visualize the most surpassing splendour and significant event of the Omniscient Buddha descending to the earth from the great Mount Meru accompanied by Devas and Brahmans to the gate of Sankassa Town of the human abode.

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Panel of judges and competitors arrive

Nay Pyi Taw,

13 Oct—Members of central panel of judges, panel of judges from states and divisions, competitors and observers together with group leaders and managers who will participate in the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions arrived Nay Pyi Taw by Myanmar Railway yesterday and today.

Altogether 160 members of judges led by chairperson of panel of judges committee Daw Tin Tin Mya and U Tun Shwe of Yangon Division, 21 members of panel of judges from Ayeyawady division led by U Khin Maung Lwin, 10 members of panel of judges from Mandalay division led by U Zaw Min, 8 members of panel of judges from Kachin State led by U Pyi Aye Aung arrived at Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening by Myanmar Railway.

Likewise, altogether 101 persons from Kachin State including members of panel of judges, competitors and observers led by U Moe Nyo, 80 members of panel of judges, competitors and observers from Chin State led by U Ohn Khin, 240 competitors from Ayeyawady division led by U Htet Lwin Oo arrived at Nay Pyi Taw this evening by Myanmar Railway.

Police Lt-Col Htun Ohn, chairman of the organizing, reception and accommodation sub committee and members, members of social organizations and responsible persons greeted them at Nay Pyi Taw station and took them to guest houses.

Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization holds Work Coordination Meeting

Yangon,

13 Oct—Work Coordination Meeting of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization took place at the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Office here this morning.

Chairperson Daw Khin Myo Thu explained activities of the organization and Chairpersons of District WAOs reported on future plans to be carried out.

Then Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Kyin Myaing made a speech and donated 1634 books of various subjects to the libraries owned by Yangon Division WAO.

Some traffic routes to be temporarily closed for White Cane Day Walking Race

Yangon, 13 Oct—The 17th Yangon Mayor’s Cup Walking Race to mark the International White Cane Day will be held on 15 October on a grand scale. The route is from the People’s Square and People’s Park on Pyay Road, to Phonegyi Street and then to the City Hall on Mahabandoola Street. The route will be temporarily closed from 5 am to 8 am on that day.—YCDC

Final rites of Theintaung Sayadaw held in Taunggyi

YANGON, 13 Oct—The final rites of Presiding Nayaka of Theintaung Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Taunggyi, Shan State (South) Chatasangi State Ovdacariya Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Theintaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandadika, age 95, vasa 75, who passed away on 16 September, was held at the Sarthintaik at 1 pm on 10 October.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Yar Pyae, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental officials at different levels, service personnel, members of the final rites organizing committee, relatives and disciples.

At the ceremony, the commander and the minister offered royal diamond velvet donated by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

At 6 pm, the cremation ceremony was held at Myoma ground in Taunggyi.—MNA

Kawthoung District IPRD holds coord meeting

Kawthoung, 13 Oct—Kawthoung District Information and Public Relations Department held its work coordination meeting at the department in Kawthoung on 26 September.

Head of Kawthoung District IPRD Daw Hla Kyin and officials discussed 11 tasks of the department, getting building for village libraries and making effort to succeed the tasks of the department.

MNA

Panel of judges, competitors, and observers from Yangon and Ayeyawady arrive at Nay Pyi Taw station.—MNA

Panel of judges, competitors, and observers seen at Nay Pyi Taw station.—MNA

The postcard depicting 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.
Grow oil palm to strengthen economy

Article: Kyi Win (MPCE)

Myanma Alin: 4-10-2008

Bunches of oil palm.

For consumption of the world people, edible oil can be produced from groundnut, sesame, sunflower, soya-bean, maize, mustard, olive, cotton, palm, bran, coconut and oil palm.

Nowadays, the people across the world mostly consume palm oil. Last decade, production of palm oil in the world was 16.2 million metric tons. In 2006, the palm oil production was on the increase up to 36.7 million metric tons. Therefore, it can be observed that the palm oil production increases 13 per cent yearly.

In trading the oil, the entrepreneurs exported 10.2 million metric tons of palm oil in 1996 and 28.7 million metric tons in 2006. During a 10-year period, 1.85 million tons of palm oil was exported. And, the export of palm oil increases 18 per cent on average yearly.

Palm Oil Production and Export in tons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Production</th>
<th>Export</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>16200</td>
<td>10200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>36700</td>
<td>28700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Progress: 20500 18500

Indeed, Asian countries place emphasis on cultivation of oil palm. In 2006, Asian countries produced 33 million tons of palm oil and its production volume covered 89 per cent of 36.7 million tons of the world. Moreover, these countries exported the oil weighing 26.67 million tons to foreign countries and its export volume covered 93 per cent of the world palm oil export 28.7 million tons. Malaysia and Indonesia produce over 15 million tons each of palm oil, the largest volumes of in the world.

Malaysia exports 14.5 million tons of palm oil and Indonesia, 12 million tons yearly to over 90 countries. Both countries can stand as strong economic countries. The People’s Republic of China purchased 5.5 million tons of palm oil from these countries, EU countries 4.7 million tons and India 1.9 million tons from the two countries. According to the facts and figures, palm oil production and consumption is increasing in the edible oil market of the world. It is because the rate of production of oil from oil palm is higher than other edible crops and the palm oil price can compete with that of the latter in the market. Thus, the oil palm cultivation becomes a firm business to make investment for the short and long terms.

Myanmar imports edible oil from abroad yearly. From 1996 to 2004, Myanmar imported 0.15 to 0.25 million tons of palm oil. To meet the demand of increasing population of the country, over 300,000 tons of palm oil was imported in 2006. According to the market-oriented economic system of the State, a five-year plan was laid down for extension of 500,000 oil palm plantation from 2000 to 2004 for ensuring local edible oil sufficiency. The entrepreneurs commenced the cultivation tasks in Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung townships in March 1999.

Taninthayi region possesses favourable weather condition, fertile areas and vacant and virgin lands for cultivation of oil palm. The government allotted 1.09 million acres to 35 national entrepreneurs to engage in extended cultivation of oil palm. Moreover, the government provided oil palm strains and technology and disbursed K 4983.8 million as special loans to 10 entrepreneurs and three local growers for extended cultivation and construction of Crude Palm Oil Mills on a long-term basis. It was genuine goodwill of the government.

From 1999 to 2008, a total of 0.249 million acres of oil palm were cultivated in Taninthayi Division. All the private companies are producing palm oil fruits from 50,000 acres. In Taninthayi Division, a total of 12 Crude Palm Oil Mills have been built including the modern crude palm oil mill. However, more crude palm oil mills need for palm oil production. Oil palm experts estimated that four-year oil palm plantation between Myeik and Kawthoung can produce 3.5 tons of oil palm fruits, the five-year plantation 5.5 tons, the six-year plantation seven tons, the seven-year plantation eight tons and the 8-9 year plantation nine to 10 tons.

Ten tons of oil palm bunches can produce 1.54 tons of edible oil, 0.66 tons of industrial use oil and 0.10 ton of Kernel oil, totalling 2.3 tons. If 500,000 acres of oil palm would be grown in Taninthayi Division, a total of 1.15 million tons of palm oil can be produced. Of them, 300,000 tons of palm oil can satisfy the local demand and the remaining 0.85 million tons can be exported. Myanmar has a firm market to export the surplus palm oil to China, India and Pakistan.

Benefits can be reaped from oil palm and thus business groups from China, South Korea, Japan, Thailand and India have given offers to the ministries concerned to put investments in the oil palm industry. The government also allotted oil palm special zones to the citizens in Kawthoung and Myeik regions.

National people are to try to grab the opportunity to invest in the oil palm cultivation to boost their businesses in the long term.

Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin: 4-10-2008

Bunches of oil palm.
Thebyu main sub-power station in Myohla inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Oct – Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected the switch yard and the control room of KVA 100 MVA No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected the switch yard and the control room of KVA 100 MVA No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected the switch yard and the control room of KVA 100 MVA

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Roads in Yangon under repair

YANGON, 13 Oct—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn inspected building of walls for proper flow of drains and construction of new pavement on Bo Min Yaung Road in Mingalar Taungnyunt township. The mayor also inspected upgrading of 1750 feet long and 24 feet wide Myanma Gonyi Road for swift transport, maintenance of Zagama Road in Thakayta township and Wayzayanda Road in Thingangyun township near Layhtaungkan junction this morning and stressed the needs.

Myanmar Motion Picture Axiayon holds respect paying ceremony to mark the 45th Myanmar Motion Picture Day.

Article: May May Ni

Head of Township IPRD U Aung Win hand over books and journals to Librarian U Win Kyaw Min.

Doe Kyee Ywa Vol 5 No. 20 to be in circulation

YANGON, 13 Oct—Doe Kyee Ywa Vol 5 No. 20 will come out on 15 October. The journal carries agricultural articles, breeding news and articles, health news and articles, articles on knowledge and aesthetic enjoyment, short stories, stories, humour, cartoons, poems, Myanmar Video features and pieces of news. The journal is available at K 200 per copy at offices of Information and Public Relations from states and divisions, Sarpay Beikman publishing house, Wah Moe Aung bookstall.

Manuscripts and advertisements may be sent to No 228, Thenbyu Street in Botataung township (Tel: 371340 and 371342).

MMPA holds respect paying ceremony

YANGON, 13 Oct—Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon held the respect paying ceremony to mark the 45th Myanmar Motion Picture Day at the hall of MMPA in Bahan Township this morning.

Treasurer Daw Ei Ei Khine read out the list of donors for respect paying ceremony and those present shared merits for late artistes during 2008. Those present donated cash and kind to older artistes. On behalf of the older artistes, U Maung Maung Khin (Tekkatho Maung Maung Khin) spoke words of thanks.
**Gunmen open fire on US consulate in Mexico**

MONTERREY, 13 Oct — A federal official says assailants opened fire on the US consulate in the northern Mexican city of Monterrey.

A spokeswoman for Mexico's Attorney General's office who is not authorized two give her name says shell casings were found outside the consulate. But there are no witnesses and no one is in custody.

The spokeswoman had no further details. Mexican media report that one man opened fire on the consulate and another man threw a grenade that failed to explode. El Universal newspaper, citing a US Embassy statement, reports the attack happened before dawn Sunday. Embassy officials could not be reached for comment early Monday.—INTERNET

**15 reported killed in Pakistan fighting**

ISLAMABAD, 13 Oct — Clashes between Taliban militants and pro-government forces killed 15 people overnight in a Pakistani region on the border with Afghanistan, an official and a tribal elder said on Monday.

Security forces fired mortar and artillery rounds at militants in the Charmang area of the Bajur region overnight, killing nine insurgents, government official Jamil Khan said.

On Monday morning, pro-government tribesmen exchanged fire with militants in the Nawa and Kotkai areas of Bajur, tribal elder Nazi Jan said. Four militants and two tribesmen were fatally wounded, he said.

Fighting is spreading across Pakistan's north-west as the government tries to crack down on Taliban and al-Qaeda strongholds and persuade tribes to take up arms against the militants.

The military operations have drawn praise from US officials worried about the escalating insurgency in Afghanistan.—INTERNET

**Indonesia to join in stabilizing global financial crisis**

JAKARTA, 13 Oct — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on Sunday that the government, along with other countries, would actively participate in stabilizing the global financial crisis, the official news agency Antara reported.

He said that the crisis would trigger economic recession in the world, which is likely to bring certain impact on Indonesia's economy.

"Let's face it calmly and think rationally as there will be a solution. The government and the Bank of Indonesia (Indonesian central bank) are still doing such anticipatory steps to overcome the impact," he said.—MNA/Xinhua

**A stockbroker monitors share prices during morning trading at the Indonesia Stock Exchange in Jakarta on 13 Oct, 2008.—INTERNET**

**China milk scandal companies apologize**

BEIJING, 13 Oct — Three Chinese dairy companies have publicly apologized for their involvement in a toxic milk scandal that has killed at least four children and led to Chinese-made products pulled from shelves around the world.

Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group, Mengniu Dairy and Bright Dairy Group were found earlier to have produced milk contaminated with melamine, a compound used to cheat nutrition tests.

The scandal has savaged the companies' share prices and prompted Seattle-based coffee chain Starbucks Corp to pull Mengniu milk from its 300-plus stores last month.

"I feel I have let everybody down. I have done something, yet still done wrong," Monday's Beijing News quoted Mengniu's marketing chief, Zhao Yuancheng, as saying at a state television. Zhao and executives from Mengniu and Bright Dairy also promised consumers that their products prices would not rise despite higher costs of quality controls. Chinese health officials last week said that nearly 10,700 infants and children were still in hospital after drinking toxic milk and formula. More than 36,000 children had left hospital after being treated.—INTERNET

**Iran says West has no choice but to win its trust**

TEHRAN, 13 Oct — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi said Monday that Western states have no choice but to win Iran's trust.

Iran has so far had a "massive, constructive and serious cooperation" with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), he said, adding that Teheran has given a 200-page response to show its goodwill to those "undocumented claims."

Jalili sent a letter to Solana recently, disclosing Iran’s stance on the West’s behaviour towards Iran’s nuclear activities.—INTERNET
More than 800 dengue cases reported in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 13 Oct — The number of dengue cases reported in the capital Delhi exceeded the 800 figure mark on Sunday, officials said. Delhi health Officer Dr N K Yadav confirmed receiving a total of 14 new cases on Sunday, bringing the figure of last year's toll to 809 cases. The figure of last year was 548.

Dengue fever is a common concern in Delhi after the monsoon season which can lead to high fever lasting about seven days, with flu-like symptoms, and even death of patients. Two deaths due to dengue have also been reported in Delhi. According to Delhi’s Medical Relief and Public Health Committee Chairman Dr V K Monga, the situation is expected to improve in the coming month since monsoon season which marked by high fever, skin rashes and joint pain. Sometimes a sharp drop in blood platelet counts due to the disease can prove fatal.

Lisa Marie Presley delivers twins

LOS ANGELES, 13 Oct — Lisa Marie Presley, Elvis Presley’s only child, gave birth to twin baby girls on 7 October, celebrity news TV show “Entertainment Tonight” said on its website on Saturday. The girls, whose names were not given, were delivered by cesarean section and weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces (2.7 kg) and 5 pounds, 2 ounces (2.3 kg). The twins are the first children born to Presley, 40, and her musician husband Michael Lockwood, 47. Presley also has two children with ex-husband Danny Keough. After that union ended in 1994, she briefly married Michael Jackson with whom she had two children. After that union, she then married Ben Turner. After that union ended in 2006, she married actor Nicolas Cage.

Eating champ delivers top pizza performance in NY

NEW YORK, 13 Oct — Chowdown champ Joey Chestnut has done it again — this time proving he’s a pizza powerhouse. He downed 45 slices in 10 minutes Sunday to win the first Famous Famiglia World Pizza Eating Championship in New York’s Times Square.

The 24-year-old from San Jose, Calif, says he fasted for more than a day to prepare. He folded and squeezed the slices to make them easier to swallow. The 24-year-old rocketed to competitive-eating celebrity when he won Coney Island’s July Fourth hotdog eating contest in 2007. He took the title again this summer by gulping down 59 dogs in 10 minutes. He won a contest in Tennessee last month by wolfing down 93 Krystal hamburgers in 8 minutes.

MP3 players threaten users’ hearing

WASHINGTON, 13 Oct — People who listen to personal music players for only five hours a week at a high volume may be doing permanent damage to their hearing. A team of nine experts on the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks is expected to release that finding in a study Monday, according to a report in the International Herald Tribune.

The EU entity also points out that young people may be doing damage to their hearing that may not surface until years after the exposure, according to the newspaper. “Regularly listening to personal music players at high-volume settings when young, often has no immediate effect on hearing but is likely to result in hearing loss later in life,” the newspaper quoted the report as stating. “Some authors stress that if young people continue to listen to music for long periods of time and at high volume levels during several years, they run the risk of developing hearing loss by the time they reach their mid-twenties,” the report said, according to the newspaper. “Among young people, there are many reports of temporary or persistent tinnitus induced by loud music, but very few studies have focused on the relationship between the use of personal music players and tinnitus.”

Gasoline price marks biggest drop ever

NEW YORK, 13 Oct — The average price of a gallon of gasoline in the United States recorded its largest drop ever as consumer demand continued to wane and oil prices slid, a prominent industry analyst said Sunday.

The national average price for self-serve, regular unleaded gas fell 35.03 cents to 3.3079 US dollars a gallon on 10 October from 3.6582 US dollars two weeks earlier, according to the nationwide Lundberg Survey.

It was the lowest national average price since 21 March, 2008. Since peaking at 4.1124 US dollars on 11 July, the average cost of a gallon of gas has receded by 80.45 cents. Diesel fuel fell 21 cents to 3.95 US dollars a gallon, the first time since March that it has been below 4.00 US dollars a gallon.
Two more genes linked to common skin cancer

**LONDON, 13 Oct** — Scientists have found two new genetic variations that appear to increase the risk of the most common skin cancer among people of European descent.

The variations play no role in skin colour but people with both of them are nearly three times more likely to develop basal cell carcinoma compared with people without the changes, researchers from Iceland’s Decode Genetics said on Sunday.

Darker skin is traditionally regarded as an important protection against skin cancer.

“We have two variants that have no impact on pigmentation and only affect the risk of basal cell carcinoma,” Kari Stefansson, Decode’s chief executive, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

Pediatricians double vitamin D recommendations

**CHICAGO, 13 Oct** — The nation’s leading pediatricians group says children from newborns to teens should get double the usually recommended amount of vitamin D because of evidence that it may help prevent serious diseases.

Most cases are easy to treat when detected early, but in rare instances the cancer is resistant to treatment, causing damage to skin and sometimes invading bone and cartilage.

The study published in Nature Genetics also found that the risk of developing basal cell carcinoma was 12 times higher for people with these new variations along with the three other genetic changes already linked to the cancer.

New genetic links to baldness discovered

**WASHINGTON, 13 Oct** — New genetic links to male pattern baldness have been discovered by researchers in England and Germany.

It’s the second genetic connection to the kind of hair loss that many men — and women — experience as they grow older, said Felix F Brockschmidt, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bonn and one of the authors of a report published online 12 Oct in the journal Nature Genetics.

“The first gene known until now is on the X chromosome,” Brockschmidt said. “It is the most important for alopecia [hair loss]. We are sure that this new locus we found is the second most important.”

The discovery could open the way for genetic tests to single out men most likely to lose hair as they age, Brockschmidt said. “Screening for the X chromosome locus and also for this new one can possibly show the risk of male pattern baldness,” he said.

That test looks at variants of a gene governing receptors for androgens, which are male hormones.

That gene location, on the X chromosome, was identified only a few years ago. A man has only one copy of the X chromosome, inherited from his mother.

Researchers find easier way to make stem cells

**WASHINGTON, 13 Oct** — Researchers trying to find ways to transform ordinary skin cells into powerful stem cells said on Sunday they found a shortcut by “sprinkling” a chemical onto the cells.

The discovery could open the way for genetic tests to single out men most likely to lose hair as they age, Brockschmidt said. “Screening for the X chromosome locus and also for this new one can possibly show the risk of male pattern baldness,” he said.

That test looks at variants of a gene governing receptors for androgens, which are male hormones.

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IPS cells. “This study demonstrates there’s a possibility that instead of using genes and viruses to reprogram cells, one can use chemicals,” said Dr Doug Melton, who directed the study published in the journal Nature Biotechnology.

Melton said Danwei Huangfu, a postdoctoral researcher in his lab, developed the new method.

“The exciting thing about Danwei’s work is you can see for the first time that you could sprinkle chemicals on cells and make stem cells,” Melton, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, said in a statement.

Stem cells are the body’s master cells, giving rise to all the tissues, organs and blood. Embryonic stem cells are considered the most powerful kinds of stem cells, as they have the potential to give rise to any type of tissue.

Women, 72, moves after finding snakes in apartment

**MIDDLETOWN (Del), 13 Oct** — When 72-year-old Gladys Dresser first saw two snakes last in her new apartment last month, she froze. Days later, when an eight-inch snake crawled across her bed, she screamed. Finally, after stepping on a baby black rat snake, she moved.

A Maryland exterminator killed six snakes that were captured in Dresser’s Middletown apartment. All six were about eight inches long and harmless.

The exterminator suspects a previous tenant kept an adult snake as a pet.

Dresser, who has high blood pressure, diabetes and a heart condition, wrote a letter to her property managers demanding to be moved to a new apartment.

Property manager John Mastriana said she won’t have to pay October’s rent or moving costs.

Iceland for sale — collect in person

**LONDON, 13 Oct** — Great scenery and wildlife but financial situation in need of repair — collect in person.

Iceland, which is going cap in hand to Russia for a 4 billion euro (3.2 billion pound) loan to bail out its failed banks, was offered for sale as a wholesale lot on eBay on Friday.

Bidding started at 99 pence but had reached 10 million pounds ($17.28 million) by mid-morning on Friday.

Globally renowned singer Bjork was “not included” in the sale, according to the notice, but there were nonetheless 26 anonymous bidders and 84 bids.

“Located in the mid-Atlantic ridge in the North Atlantic Ocean, Iceland will provide the winning bidder with — a habitable environment, Icelandic Horses and admittedly a somewhat sketchy financial situation,” the notice read.

**WASHINGTON, 13 Oct** — Great scenery and wildlife but financial situation in need of repair — collect in person.

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**SPORTS**

Ferdinand warns England that only a win will do in Belarus

LONDON, 13 Oct — Rio Ferdinand has warned England that only a victory is acceptable in Wednesday’s World Cup qualifier against Belarus. Fabio Capello’s side extended their 100 per cent start to the Group Six campaign with a 5-1 victory over Kazakhstan at Wembley on Saturday.

But Manchester United defender Ferdinand, England’s stand-in captain in the absence of John Terry, believes that impressive record will count for nothing if they slip up in Minsk.

“We need to get points on the board as quickly as possible. Hopefully by the end of this week we will have four wins,” Ferdinand said. Despite the one-sided scoreline, England laboured for long periods against Kazakhstan before finally killing off the minors, who are ranked a lowly 131st in the world, when they tired in the last 20 minutes. Ferdinand admitted England had failed to adhere to Capello’s instructions in the goalless first-half, but he took heart from the way they hit back after the break.

Ferdinand knows England’s winning start is a much-needed boost after the ill-fated Euro 2008 qualifying campaign, but he agrees with team-mate Frank Lampard that Capello’s team are still some way short of fulfilling their potential.

**Brazil’s Robinho (L) celebrates his goal against Venezuela during their FIFA World Cup 2010 qualifying football match at the Pueblo Nuevo stadium in San Cristobal, Venezuela. Brazil won 4-0. — Internet**

Kaka and Robinho lead Brazil to victory in World Cup qualifier

SAN CRISTOBAL, 13 Oct — World player of the year Kaka returned after an 11-month international absence to inspire five-time champions Brazil to a 4-0 World Cup qualifying victory over Venezuela here on Sunday.

The 26-year-old AC Milan star was on target after just five minutes and set up the third goal as Brazil moved back into the second place in the South American standings with 16 points, four behind leaders Paraguay.

Manchester City ace Robinho also grabbed a share of the headlines with two sublime goals.

Venezuela came into the match buoyed by having won a friendly between the two nations 2-0 in a friendly in Boston last year, their first ever victory ending a run of 17 successive defeats against their illustrious rivals.— Internet

**Bulls battle bears over football’s financial future**

LONDON, 13 Oct — The bears may be winning the battle for control of the direction of financial markets but their pessimism is not going unchallenged in the world of English football. The last week has seen West Ham pitched into the eye of the global financial storm, helping to intensify fears that the current crisis could have far-reaching repercussions for Premier League clubs.

The meltdown of Iceland’s economy left Hammers owner Bjorgolfur Gudmundsson nursing losses running into hundreds of millions of dollars and prompted league officials to seek reassurances about the state of the club’s books.

West Ham provided them and have defiantly dismissed suggestions that the club’s viability is in doubt. Gudmundsson will not pull the plug, they insist, although chief executive Scott Duxbury has confirmed that new manager Gianfranco Zola will have to sell players to fund any purchases in the January transfer window.— Internet

**Guinea and Mozambique survive World Cup cull**

JOHANNESBURG, 13 Oct — Guinea and Mozambique filled the final slots Sunday as six months of 2010 World Cup-African Nations Cup second round qualifying drama ended.

Joining them in an October 24 draw to split 20 survivors into five pools are Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Togo, Tunisia, Sudan and Zambia.

Senegal were the only top-10 nation on the latest FIFA Africa rankings to miss out, coming third behind Algeria and Cameroon in Group 6, while 2010 World Cup hosts South Africa were among four runners-up not to make it.

Although guaranteed a place as hosts, South Africa had to compete in the preliminaries because they double as qualifiers for the 2010 Nations Cup in Angola.— Internet

**Zach Johnson wins Texas Open**

SAN ANTONIO, 13 Oct — Zach Johnson found his putting touch in time for a season-salvaging victory in the Texas Open.

“I’ve been working on my putting over the last six weeks with my teachers and it really paid off this week,” Johnson said. “I had a tough year, but the puts started to fall into today and that’s why I’m at the top of the leaderboard.”

The 2007 Masters champion who entered the week with only one top-10 finish this year, Johnson followed his third-round 62 with a 64 on Sunday for a two-stroke victory over Charlie Wi (61), Mark Wilson (63) and Tim Wilkinson (64).— Internet

**Kunitsyn and Jankovic win Kremlin Cup tennis titles**

MOSCOW, 13 Oct — Unseeded Igor Kunitsyn stunned Russian compatriot, and former world number one, Marat Safin to win the Kremlin Cup on Sunday in a three-set marathon which gave the 71st-ranked player his first career title.

Jelena Jankovic won the women’s title in the joint $2.4 million-dollar ATP-WTA tournament with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Russia’s Vera Zvonareva.

Safin, who was seeded seventh here, produced 21 aces but all in vain as Kunitsyn won 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (4/7), 6-3 in two hours 49 minutes to deny his merciful countryman a first title since winning the Australian Open in 2005.

“Everybody knows Marat (Safin) is better than me but today I’m the winner,” Kunitsyn said.— Internet

**Jelena Jankovic of Serbia returns a service to Vera Zvonareva of Russia during their final match at the WTA Kremlin Cup in Moscow. Jankovic beat Russian Vera Zvonareva in the final to win the women’s draw of the 2.4 million dollar Kremlin Cup.—Internet**
Survey: Financial anxiety grows among Americans

WASHINGTON, 13 Oct—Alongside dizzying declines in stock prices and home values, financial anxiety is growing among Americans, a new Washington Post-ABC News poll out Monday has found. Less than half now believe they will have enough money to last through retirement, and two-thirds fear for their family’s economic situation, according to poll results. Moreover, over four in 10 said they have been hurt by the stock market’s steep decline. In addition, one in six reported “a great deal” of financial pain.

Yet even in the wake of last week’s historic sell-off on Wall Street, many Americans who own stocks or stock funds—about three in 10—have not looked hurt by the stock market’s steep decline. Nearly nine in 10 are worried about the direction of the economy over the next few years and more than three-quarters are worried about the markets’ performance. Concerns on both fronts are up since mid-Sep- tember, when markets began to turn sharply negative.

And in a sign that the tightening credit market has spooked large numbers of people, more than four in 10 are worried about their ability to get a loan. The poll was conducted by telephone Oct 9 to 11, among a random sample of 517 adults.—Internet

EU fails to unify on resumption of talks with Russia

LUXEMBOURG, 13 Oct—Foreign ministers from the 27 nations of the European Union failed here on Monday to forge an agreement on whether or when to restart negotia- tions with Russia on a new cooperation and partner- ship deal. France, holding the current EU presidency, together with Italy, Germany and Luxembourg, would like to see a deci- sion be made at the Wednesday EU summit, but Britain, Sweden, the Baltic nations and Poland would like to wait for the result of the 15 Oct Geor- gia conference on Geor- gia and Russia. The Geneva talks mediated by the EU, the UN and the Organization for Security and Cooper- ation in Europe, aims at re- solving the deadlock between Russia and Georgia over South Ossetia and Abkhazia, which declared independence in August.

French Foreign Min- ister Bernard Kouchner told a Press conference after meeting his EU counterparts that “it was very difficult” to set a date on when to restart talks with Russia.

Internet

A protester in a giant figure of US vice-President Dick Cheney poses amongst tens of demonstrators gathered outside oil company Shell’s headquarters Saturday, 11 Oct, 2008, in London for a march through central London to protest against the pressure applied on the Iraqi government by the Bush administration to pass an oil law that effec- tively hands over Iraq’s oil to foreign companies.—Internet

WEATHER

Monday, 13 October, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin State, scattered in Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, isolated in Kayin State and Kamthins Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remai- ning States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nyaung U (2.00) inches, Shwebo and Loikaw (1.42) inches each, Mindat (1.37) inches, Myeik (1.02) inches, Pyin Ulonl (0.98) inch and Chauk (0.87) inch. Maximum temperature on 12-10-2008 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 13-10-2008 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 13-10-2008 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 12-10-2008 was (7.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 13-10-2008 was (Nil) at Mingladon, Kabu-Aye, and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (100.35) inches at Mingladon, (111.46) inches at Kabu-Aye and (130.43) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from North at (07:30) hours MST on 13-10-2008.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Special feature: According to the observation at (09:30) hr MST today, yesterday tropical depression over South China. Sea is centred at about 125 miles North wards of Danang (Vietnam). It is forecast to move North Northwest.

Forecast valid until evening of 14th October 2008: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Northern Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated 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 Lower Myanmar areas. Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 14-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder- showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershow- ers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder- showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Government of the Union of Myanmar

Announcement No. 42/2008
Nay Pyi Taw, 14th Waxing of Thadingyut 1370 ME
(13 October 2008)

1. Myanmar is taking systematic measures to ensure that there is no danger caused by milk powder contaminated with melamine. Sixteen brands of milk powder imported, distributed and processed in Myanmar were tested and of them, nine were found contaminated with melamine. Therefore, the Government of the Union of Myanmar issued Announcement No. 41/2008 dated 9-10-2008 stating that importation, processing, distribution and using as ingredient of milk powder contaminated with melamine that is unfit for human consumption are prohibited.

For the health of babies
Mother’s milk the best
If mother’s milk is not sufficient
Cow or goat’s milk can be used
Always boil the milk
The best for health

(See page 2)

Development in Shan State (South)

The village-tract is formed with over 200 houses which are home to over 2,000 people. Vegetable patches can be seen at all the compounds of the villagers. Moreover, cow ranches, granaries and power-tillers can be seen there.

How to cooperate in national and private sector

YANGON, 13 Oct—Information Technology Work Committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry held a talk at UMFCCI Office Tower on 4 October, with the assistance of Royal Ruby Manufacturing Co Ltd.

First, President of UMFCCI gave a speech and Dr Daw Wah Wah Maung, lecturer of Applied Economics Department of Yangon Institute of Economics gave talk on cooperation of national sector and private sector in nation-building tasks and answered the queries.

Next, Vice-Presidents of UMFCCI U Aung Lwin, U Zaw Min Win and Dr Daw Thin Nwe Win, executive of UMFCCI and executive director of Royal Ruby Traditional Medicine Manufacturing presented gifts to Daw Wah Wah Maung.

Milan rule out Kaka sale

MILAN, 13 Oct—AC Milan insist brilliant Brazilian Kaka is not for sale - at any price. Milan’s sporting director Umberto Gandini has told Sky Sports News chief news reporter Bryan Swanson that Kaka “won’t be sold at all” and will remain at the club at least until his current contract expires in 2013. Kaka is in Venezuela with the Brazil squad and, according to Swanson, knows nothing about recent speculation linking him with Manchester City.

Reports in Sunday’s newspapers suggested the Eastlands outfit were planning a big-money move for the gifted playmaker. However, it is understood Kaka is an admirer of the Premier League and has been thinking about playing for a top English club at some point in his career. —Internet

Kaka - going nowhere say Milan.