Prime Minister to attend 5th China-ASEAN Expo, Business and Investment Summit

NA\PY TAW, 17 Oct—At the invitation of the Government of the People’s Republic of China, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, will be visiting the People’s Republic of China to attend the 5th China-ASEAN Expo and the 5th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit to be held in Nanning, the People’s Republic of China in the near future.—MNA

**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

**True patriotism**

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

Flourishing traditional cultural heritage of high standard greatly contributes to preventing alien cultural infiltration

Glorify Myanmar’s prestige with nationalist awareness by enlightening Myanmar traditional cultures

**Flourishing traditional cultural heritage of high standard greatly contributes to preventing alien cultural infiltration**

NA\PY TAW, 16 Oct—Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the 16th Performing Arts Competitions at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, here, today.

_The following is the full text of the address delivered by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo._

I cordially wish senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, specially invited guests, members of the panel of judges and all competitors to have peace of mind and to be able to preserve and promote the national prestige of the country and the people by enlivening the national culture.

The Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions which contribute ardent dedication and strength for enhancing the prestige of the nation and the people, have been held every year with the (See page 8)
**3rd Myanmar-India trade joint committee meeting held**

**YANGON, 16 Oct** — A delegation led by Minister of State for Commerce and Power Dr Jairam Ramesh of the Republic of India arrived here by air on 14 October morning to attend the 3rd Myanmar-India trade joint-committee meeting.

Dr Jairam Ramesh and members of delegation went to Manadalay in the afternoon and called on Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein at the Mandalay Hill Hotel.

The meeting was held at Anawrahta Hall of the Mandalay Hill Hotel. Present were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, departmental officials and Minister of State Dr Jairam Ramesh and delegation members. They cordially discussed bilateral economic cooperation. They also focused on upgrading of border trade between Reeddkhoda and Tamu-Moye to normal trade, bilateral cooperation in banking services, extension of export items and promotion of trade between the two countries and bilateral cooperation in electric and energy sectors.

Yesterday, the second day session of the meeting took place at the same venue. Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Minister Dr Jairam Ramesh signed the meeting minutes and exchanged the documents.

Later, the Indian delegation left here by flight yesterday afternoon.

**Elephant Bill in Myanmar version**

**NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct** — The Information and Public Relations Department recently published a Myanmar version of the book entitled “Elephant Bill”.

The book was translated by Lt-Col Khin Maung Toe (Retd) (Hmu Khin-Shwepyitha) from the personal diary “Elephant Bill” compiled by Lt-Col HH William, who discharged duty at Bombay Burma Timber Co in Myanmar for 27 years.

The book was based on the nature of elephants and life of elephant workers.

The book carries forewords of Field Marshal William Salin and writer Chit Naing (Psychology) together with various photos.

The book is available at IPRD offices and bookstalls in Yangon at a price of K 3,000 per copy.

**Myanmar lose to Vietnam in Madeka**

**YANGON, 16 Oct** — The 40th Madeka Football Tournament for 2008 kicked off at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, at 6.30 (local time) today.

In group B, Vietnam beat Myanmar 3-1. Myanmar will meet Bangladesh on 18 October.
US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 541
WASHINGTON, 16 Oct—As of Wednesday, 15 Oct, 2008, at least 541 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Wednesday at 10 am EDT. Of those, the military reports 389 were killed by hostile action.
Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 66 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen. There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.—INTERNET

Residents look at the remains of their relatives’ bodies found in a mass grave after they were claimed from a hospital morgue in Kerbala, 80 km (50 miles) southwest of Baghdad on 15 Oct, 2008. —INTERNET

Suspected US drone fires missile into Pakistan
berra Ismail Khan, 16 Oct—A suspected US drone fired a missile on Thursday into a Pakistani region on the Afghan border regarded as a haven for al Qaeda and Taliban militants, a Pakistani intelligence agency official said.
The missile hit a house in South Waziristan, in an area known as a stronghold of Baitullah Mehsud, head of Pakistani Taliban militants.
“There may be casualties, we are checking,” said an intelligence official who declined to be identified.

Afghans check the debris of a house which was destroyed on 15 Oct, during an attack by the Taliban militants in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital of Helmand Province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 15 Oct, 2008.—INTERNET

Pakistan security officials inspect a destroyed police station where four people have been killed after a suicide vehicle attack in Mingora, the main city in the troubled region of Swat, on 16 Oct.—INTERNET

Wrapped dead bodies of Afghans, who were killed allegedly by allied airstrikes in Nad Ali district of Helmand province, are seen at the back of a vehicle in the city of Lashkar Gah the provincial capital of Helmand province south of Kabul, Afghanistan on 16 Oct, 2008.—INTERNET

Suicide attack on Pakistan police station kills four
PESHAWAR, 16 Oct—A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a police station in Pakistan’s restive Swat Valley early Thursday, killing four people and destroying the building, police said.
The attack was the latest in a string of bombings on security forces in the northwest of Pakistan, where the government is waging a military campaign against Al-Qaeda and Taliban-linked militants near the border with Afghanistan.
“It was a huge blast. Three security force personnel and one policeman were killed. The police station was destroyed,” Mingora city police chief Dilawar Khan Bangash told AFP. He said the coordinated attack had begun soon after midnight with militants and security forces trading fierce gunfire before the suicide bomber drove a 14-seater bus into the back of the police station’s grounds.
The vehicle exploded as it came under fire, damaging scores of shops, a hotel, a school and many houses.
Most of the 30 people injured were security forces and police, though two bystanders were also hurt, he said.
The police station in Mingora, the main town of the Swat Valley, was also attacked by militants in July, when two members of the security forces were injured.—Internet

British soldier killed in Afghanistan blast
LONDON, 16 Oct—A British soldier serving with NATO-led troops in Afghanistan died in an explosion Wednesday, the defence ministry said.
The soldier, from D Squadron Household Cavalry Regiment, was killed while on routine patrol about 23 kilometres (14 miles) north of Forward Operating Base Delhi in Helmand province, in the south of the country.
He was the 121st British fatality in Afghanistan since the US-led invasion in 2001, the ministry said.
“We are deeply saddened by this loss and our thoughts are with his family and his Unit at this tragic time,” said forces spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Woody Page, adding that the soldier’s next of kin had been informed.

Helmand, the main source of Afghanistan’s opium output, is in the grip of a Taliban-insurgency launched after it was toppled from government in a US-led invasion in late 2001.
Britain has 7,800 troops in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and US-led operations.
Chinese warships visit Russian port to enhance communication

VLADIVOSTOK, 16 Oct — A squadron of Chinese warships has arrived at the Russian Far East sea port of Vladivostok for a four-day visit aimed at enhancing communication between the two navies.

The squadron, consisting of the destroyer “Tai Zhou” and the guided missile frigate “Ma Anshan,” arrived at the port Tuesday and was welcomed by senior officials of the Pacific fleet of the Russian Navy.

“The present meeting between Russian and Chinese naval men pursues the main aim: to promote a further development of naval cooperation between the navies of our two countries,” Itar-Tass cited a spokesman of the Russian Navy as saying.

After the welcoming ceremony, senior officials of the Chinese warships met Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy’s Pacific Fleet, Vice Admiral Sergei Viktorovich Avramenko and Alexander Zubritsky, vice mayor of Vladivostok.

During the visit, the two sides will also take part in a series of cultural and sports events, such as bus tours, basketball competitions, and a number of official functions and informal get-togethers of the seamen of the two countries, the Itar-Tass said.

All items from Xinhua
News Agency

EU summit starts in Brussels

BRUSSELS, 16 Oct — Heads of state and government from the 27 European Union nations arrived here Wednesday for a two-day summit meeting, which is expected to be dominated by discussions on the current global financial crisis and economic issues.

As usual, the leaders kicked off the summit by meeting with Hans-Gert Poettering, president of the European Parliament.

After that, they will be trying to find ways to save the troubled banks and restore confidence in the sector.

They will also try to demonstrate the will of the EU to make an essential contribution to the resolution of the international turmoil. An energy-climate package and energy security will be on the agenda as well.

On the Treaty of Lisbon, the leaders and the president of the European Parliament will hear a progress report from Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen on the prospect of an agreement in December on the approach to ratify.

The bond issue comprised 15 billion yuan of 10-year bonds and 5 billion yuan of 15-year bonds, with a bidding yield rate range of 3.73 percent to 4.73 percent.

Proceeds would be used to construct 12 new rail lines, the MOR said.

China’s development greatly benefits Africa

LOMÉ, 16 Oct — China has made prominent achievements in various fields since it launched the reform and opening-up drive 30 years ago, Professor Koffi stressed.

During the interview, Koffi highlighted the Sino-Togo cooperation in education, saying relevant cooperation programmes not only enabled him to visit China last year, but also enabled a lot of Togolese students to study in China each year with scholarships provided by the Chinese government.

Koffi said he was deeply impressed by the progress China has made, especially some newly-finished major infrastructure projects.

OPEC cuts forecast for world oil demand for 7th time

VIENNA, 16 Oct — The crude oil demand for the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on the international crude market is forecasted to be 31.14 million barrels per day in 2009, 190,000 barrels lower than September forecast , according to a monthly OPEC report released on Wednesday.

This forecast on international crude oil demand shows 190,000 barrels per day further lower than that of last month report of OPEC, dropping for seven consecutive times this year.

The report said the global financial crisis would impose an obvious suppressing effect on the growth of the world economy.

China’s development has greatly benefited the African countries and their people, Professor Koffi stressed.

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Xinhua

China Merchants Bank net profit expected to rise 80% in 1st nine months

BEIJING, 16 Oct — China Merchants Bank (CMB), the country’s sixth largest lender, announced on Thursday that its netprofit in the first three quarters was forecast to increase more than 80 percent, according to Thursday’s China Securities Journal.

The bank attributed the profit increase to the growth of capital scale, non-interest income increase and the enlarging interest margin.

All items from Xinhua
News Agency

Toyota Motor’s IQ, a compact fuel-efficient four-seater car, is displayed at a new-car-release exhibition at the Makuhari Messe convention centre near Tokyo, on 15 Oct, 2008. —Xinhua

China issues 20 bln yuan railway construction bond

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Proceeds would be used to construct 12 new rail lines, the MOR said.

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Countries of Organization for Economic Coopera-

Australia-Dubai flight aborted after ‘burning smell’

SYDNEY, 16 Oct — An Emirates flight from Australia to Dubai was aborted and the aircraft returned to Perth after a burning smell was detected, the airline said Thursday.

All passengers on flight EK425 disembarked normally after the plane landed safely and would be rescheduled on another Emirates flight later in the day, a spokesman said in a statement.

About 120 passengers were reportedly on the Airbus A340.

“The decision to return to Perth was a precautionary measure one-and-a-half hours into the flight,” the statement said.

“Contrary to some media reports, there was no smoke in the cockpit or the cabin of the aircraft. Safety was not compromised at any point.”

Aircraft engineers were investigating the source of the burning smell, the spokesman said. Emergency vehicles and firecrews were alerted, but they did not need to take any action, an airport spokesman said.—Internet

Israelis kill two alleged Palestinian firebombers

JERUSALEM, 16 Oct — Israeli and Palestinian officials say troops shot and killed a Palestinian as he was preparing to throw a Molotov cocktail at Israeli soldiers in the West Bank village of Kufir Malik.

The Israeli military says he was one of three men an Army patrol spotted carrying firebombs. The military says the man ignored warning fire before he was shot. The other two escaped. Palestinian medics say the dead man’s name was Aziz Yousef, 20, and that his body was handed over by Israeli officials before dawn on Thursday.

During the night, another alleged firebomber died in a Ramallah hospital after being shot Wednesday during what the military says was a mob attack on an Army position in the nearby Jelazoun refugee camp. Hospital staff named him as Mohammad Ramahi, 21.—Internet

Korean tourist’s body found in NZ five years after murder

WELLINGTON, 16 Oct — New Zealand police investigating the choking and beheading of a South Korean tourist five years ago have found a body, officers said Thursday.

Jae Hyeon Kim was 25 when he disappeared while hitchhiking on the isolated west coast of New Zealand’s South Island.

Detective Inspector John Winter told reporters the body had been in a grave in scrub near the small settlement of Charleston on the scenic west coast, an area popular with tourists.

He said the body would be taken to the South Island city of Christchurch for positive identification.

Winter refused to reveal how detectives were able to locate the body after such a long time, but the development came after one of three men arrested in connection with the murder admitted the charge during a court appearance this week.

Prosecutors alleged Kim was beheaded with a spade after being throttled in October 2003.

A 31-year-old man, whose name has been suppressed by the court, on Tuesday admitted the killing. He is due to be sentenced in December. Internet

World’s tallest man becomes a dad

The world’s tallest person, Bao Xishun, a 2.36-metre man in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, became a father last week after his wife gave birth to a boy.

Bao’s wife, 29-year-old Xia Shujuan, produced the child via Caesarean section early last Thursday at Zunhua Hospital in Hebei Province, which neighbours Inner Mongolia. The baby weighed 4.2 kg and was 56 cm long. Doctors said he was slightly taller than most newborns, who are usually 47 cm to 52 cm at birth.

On Thursday, Xia was discharged from hospital after a week’s recovery. They moved to their residence in Zunhua City.

The 57-year-old Bao told reporters the boy was very happy that both his wife and son were well. The former herder said he named the boy “Tian You” and hoped he could grow up with a sound body and happy life.

The couple were married in July last year.

Health Tip: When your child is teething

Baby teeth usually begin to appear between 5 months and 7 months of age. Infants may continue to get baby teeth until they are about 2 1/2 years old.

The Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital offers a list of common symptoms of teething, and some warning signs that something may be wrong.

* Normal signs:
  * Additional drooling.
  * Frequent chewing or sucking on the fist or fingers.
  * Swelling or puffiness of the gums.
  * Being unusually fussy.

* Unusual symptoms:
  * While some discomfort is normal, teething shouldn’t cause your baby to have a high fever.
  * Teething also shouldn’t cause cold-like symptoms or diarrhea.

Fisherman lands nasty surprise when shark bites back

A fisherman got more than he bargained for when a reef shark fought back after being caught in northern Australia.

Geoff Johnson, a 50-year-old chef, was on a leisurely Sunday fishing trip in Darwin with his partner Jacky Lamb when he hooked the 6ft (1.8m) shark. But when he tried to land the fish, it bit back, leaving him with a gaping hole in his leg.

The bizarre attack occurred as Mr Johnson lifted the shark out of the water. When he tried to grab it by the tail so as to release the hook, it swung around and bit him on his right leg – leaving the giant fishing hook wedged in his knee.

As the shark thrashed around, the hook sliced open Mr Johnson’s leg just below the right knee and turned the couple’s fishing boat into a blood bath.

A boy poses for a photo on a circus tiger in Xiamen in southeast China’s Fujian Province on 30 Sept, 2008. The circus shows are usually 47 cm to 52 cm at birth.

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Myanmar’s efforts for achieving Millennium Development Goals

(Continued from yesterday)

Improve maternal health

The Millennium Development Goal (5) is to “Improve Maternal Health” and the followings are the indicators.

* Maternal mortality ratio (per 1000 live births)
* Proportion of birth attended by skilled health personnel

In Myanmar, Maternal and Child Health including newborn care has been a priority issue in the National Health Plan, aiming at reducing the maternal, newborn, and infant and children morbidity and mortality. Myanmar is also driving to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), global targets 4 and 5 in maternal and child health with efforts to achieve in time which is to reduce 3/4 of 1990’s maternal death in 2015. Approximately 1.3 million women give birth each year in Myanmar, thus, intensive efforts have been put in to improve maternal and newborn health (MNH) services through various activities especially focused on safe motherhood. While attempting to recruit more midwives in the health system, man power expansion of the skilled birth attendants is carried out by capacity building of Auxiliary Midwife (AMW)s in their midwifery skill, also aiming to have at least one skilled birth attendant in each and every village. Now the ratio of midwifery skilled providers (including AMW) to villages is 1:2. In addition, Clean Delivery Kits are supplied to pregnant mothers especially during their Antenatal visit to health centres or during home visits of midwives. For the provision of skilled care at every child birth, the MOH has been striving for the provision of a continuum of care starting from the pregnant mother which involves the provision of good-quality midwifery care and followed by the first level of healthcare at health post for the family.

The health system had focused only on the conventional maternal, newborn and child care before 1988. After that period with the adoption of comprehensive reproductive health care in life cycle approach with emphasis on sage motherhood by ICPD, Maternal and child health care services are provided both in urban and rural setting and it is also a crucial component of

* antenatal care,
* prenatal care,
* aseptic and safe delivery,
* postnatal care,
* newborn care,
* under-one infant care,
* growth monitoring of under-five children,
* immunization

According to WHO estimation, maternal death was 580 per 100,000 live births in 1990 and was reduced to 380 in 2005. With the data from research activities, it was 255 per 100,000 live births in 1999 and 316 in 2005. (Note: the data were increased not because of increased in maternal death, but because of difference in data collecting methods.) Life time risk of maternal death in Myanmar in 1997 was 1 in 33 and was improved to 1 in 110 in 2005. It was better than the world average data of 1 in 92 and South East Asia average data of 1 in 74.

Maternal care coverage is reasonably good with more than three-fourths of all pregnancies receiving antenatal care from trained personnel. Essential reproductive health care, including maternal and child health care, essential obstetric care, prevention and management of post-abortion complications, management of RTIs/STIs and adolescent reproductive health, have been implemented as one of the activities of the national health plan. Conventional maternal and child health care has been much strengthened through safe motherhood initiatives in women’s right approach. National NGOs such as the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) play an important role in the provision of maternal and child care services.

Enhancing construction of new bridges and roads had helped save mothers’ lives by promoting transportation for more better and effective referral. The increasing community literacy rate of 94.83 % has made better progress towards maternal health education and helps to decrease the maternal death by increased maternal education.

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

The Millennium Development Goal (5) is to “Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases” and the following are the indicators.

* HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 years
* Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
* Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria
* Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures
* To reach the interim targets of halving TB deaths and prevalence by 2015 from the 1990 situation
* To reach and thereafter sustain the targets—achieving at least 70% case detection and successfully treat at least 85% of detected TB cases under DOTS

Prevalence and death rates of Malaria in (1992-2006)

HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 years

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate is 25.5%.

Ten activities conducted by National AIDS Control Programme, under the Department of Health, Ministry of Health are as follows:

1. Advocacy
2. Health education (awareness raising)
3. Prevention of sexual transmission of HIV/STD
4. Prevention of HIV transmission through injecting drug use
5. Prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV
6. Provision of safe blood supply
7. Provision of care and support
8. Enhancing the multisectoral collaboration and cooperation
9. Special intervention programmes
   - Cross border programmes
   - TB-HIV joint programmes
10. Supervision, monitoring and evaluation
    - Monitoring and supervision
    - Evaluation

Prevalence rates of Malaria in (1992-2006)

Source: VBDC, DOH, Ministry of Health

Source: Ministry of Health

(See page 7)
Survey shows Asian-Americans support Obama over McCain

LOS ANGELES, 16 Oct—Asian-Americans favour Democratic candidate Barack Obama over his Republican rival John McCain in the upcoming US presidential election by a substantial margin, according to a survey released Wednesday. Obama was backed by 41 percent of Asian-American voters and McCain was supported by 24 percent, with 34 percent undecided, showed the National Asian-American Survey by researchers at the University of California-Berkeley, UC-Riverside, the University of Southern California and Rutgers University. In California, where one of three Asian-Americans live, the figures were almost identical with 42 percent for Obama, 24 percent for McCain and 33 percent undecided, it showed.

Italian Air Force to boost co-op with China

ROME, 16 Oct—Italy officially launched an education centre here on Wednesday, aiming to boost education cooperation with China and attract more Chinese students to study in Italian universities.

Cesare Romiti, chairman of Italy-China Foundation, said as the first cooperation programme between the two countries on exchanges at university levels, the establishment of the centre is expected to bring about more opportunities for talented Chinese students to study in Italy.

At the centre’s inauguration ceremony, both Italian Foreign Ministry officials and Chinese ambassador Sun Yuxi hoped that the centre could serve not only as a platform for bilateral education cooperation, but also a catalyst for deepening understanding in other sectors as well.

Iranian Air Force to launch large-scale wargame

TEHERAN, 16 Oct—Iran’s Air Force is going to start a large-scale wargame on Thursday, the semi-official Fars news agency reported here on Wednesday.

The wargame will start from Tabriz, capital city of north-western province of East Azerbaijan.

The fighter jets of F4, F5, F7, F14, Thunderbolt (domestic Saegheh), Sukhoi and the fuel carrier of Boeing 707 will comprise the fighter fleet from this war drill, the report said, adding that the air fleet from aviation bases of Teheran, Tabriz, Hamadan, Dezful and Isfahan would participate in this war exercise.

Iran has claimed that it has conducted another high-scale war exercise of its air crafts earlier this summer.

Reiterating the retaliation in case of any aggression, the Iranian President warned on Wednesday that Iran would cut off the hands of the aggressor to his country.

The United States and Israel have consistently refused to rule out the possibility of military strikes against Iran over its refusal to halt its disputed nuclear programme.
Flourishing traditional cultural heritage...

(From page 1)

participation of the entire people, and the competitions are in their 16th time.

Due to the competitions, the attributes of Myanmar such as politeness, sincerity, honesty and preservation of traditions, customs and lineage conveyed by Myanmar performing arts are enlivened and concreted.

The characteristics of “culture” cover expertise for enhancing the social values and standard as well as preservation of customs, traditions and ethics.

Hence, in striving for flourishing the national culture of our nation and our people, the two characteristics — preservation and enhancement of traditions and customs — are to be carried out in harmony.

Throughout the long and concrete history of Myanmar, our forefathers adhered to and preserved these two characteristics steadfastly.

Thanks to the fine tradition, we are today possessessing the splendidness of national culture.

Flourishing of such Myanmar traditional cultural heritage of high standard will surely contribute as a great impetus for preventing the infiltration of alien culture.

Myanmar people possess the good characteristic of cherishing the traditional culture. Traditionally, Myanmar’s characteristics, customs and lifestyle are intermingled with our own norms and customs. They are indivisible and full of Myanmar traditions and characteristics.

Myanmar’s style of royal decorations and ceremonial usages reflecting the traditional cultural views and norms are still in existence today.

Similarly, with the aim of nurturing the people to be polite and clever, learned monks and laity as well as artists of consecutive periods, deliberately imbued the people with historical, religious and cultural records, outlooks and norms so as to ensure the people to be in touch with them in their daily life.

To simplify doctrines and Abhidharmma principles, learned monks and laity composed and compiled and composed literary works with decent clarifications. Myanmar theatrical artists and marionette artists presented plots and plays with marvellous arts.

Therefore, Myanmar theatrical presentations not only posses artistic skills but also motivate the audience to learn lessons and to be in touch with Lord Buddha’s teachings.

The Buridat drama “Bhuridat” chosen for this year’s theatrical contest depicts the virtues practised by the would-be Buddha as well as zeal, zest, perseverance, precepts, endurance, truthfulness and dedication.

The Kwet Seik (narration of religious or historical stories) contest is also included for the second time this year. The Kwet Seik chosen for this year’s contest is drama of “Rahula asking for inheritance”.

The contestants are to explicitly reveal the benefits of religious inheritance which is highly regarded by Myanmar Buddhists. In so doing, the contestants are to use excellent poems and literary works with high cultural heritage of high status for preventing the infiltration of alien culture.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all to glorify Myanmar’s prestige with nationalism awareness by

Theatrical play came into being as the form of literature and flourished into an effective mass communication art. Plays are being revived today and this year’s play is “Vigour of the youth towards the sky”.

MTCPAC Work Committee meets

NA MYI TAW, 16 Oct—The Work Committee for Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held a meeting at Forest Research in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin this afternoon.

Secretary of the committee Director-General of the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture U Yan Naing Oo delivered a speech. The attendees reported on work progress for the competitions sector-wise. The secretary attended to the needs through coordination and gave concluding remarks.

Also present on the occasion were committee members, secretaries of subcommittees, chairmen and members of panels of judges for subjects, and managers of state/division teams. —MNA

Ma Chan Myae Thu of Mandalay Division takes part in the higher education level men’s piano contest.—MNA

Maung Lin Htaik of Mon State participates in the higher education level men’s piano contest.—MNA

Theatrical play came into being as the form of literature and flourished into an effective mass communication art. Plays are being revived today and this year’s play is “Vigour of the youth towards the sky”.

Middle-aged person and to elderly person. Likewise, art is to get advanced with the passage of time. Innovations of music emerge naturally in consonance with the time and era. In Myanmar musical field, various innovations such as than-yoe (simple), than-hsan (innovated), kalapaw (modern), etc evolved gradually.

Hence, singing contest of current songs is included in the competitions this year. In accordance with the rapidly changing time, there emerge innovations of music in response to the time and national requirements throughout the history. With these innovations, songs that are vigorous nationalism, vitalizing patriotism and enhancing Myanmar’s social life, traditions and natural beauties emerged in consecutive periods.

Singing contests of innovated songs which are in line with our tradition and culture are inculcated in this year’s competitions with a view to promulgating the music field. It is intended to enable the talented persons to bring about national interests through music.

Hence, I would like to urge all to glorify Myanmar’s prestige with nationalist awareness by

MNA
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Friday, 17 October, 2008

16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions commence on a grand scale

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—The 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions commenced at the designated places, here, this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Chairman of the Work Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, secretaries of the Leading Committee and the Work Committee, maestros, members of the central panel of judges, members of the panel of judges of States and Divisions, managers and contestants, national races and the people.

At the Assembly Hall of University of Agriculture, Assistant Director (Retd) vocalist Daw Tin Tin Mya and party supervised the basic education level (15-20 aged) boys’ classical song contest with the participation of nine contestants and leader of the panel of judges Daw Thin Thin Myat and party assessed the competition of A total of seven women contestants participated in the amateur level (first class) women’s dancing contest at the Convocation Hall of University of Veterinary Science, supervised by Chairman of the Panel of Judges U Sein Mar Din, Secretary Daw Mu Mu Khin and party. Nine contestants competed in the amateur level (first class) men’s dancing contest.

At No. 7 Transit Centre in Ywadaw, Chairman of the Panel of Judges U Maung Maung Latt, Secretary U Kyaw Hsan Win and party supervised participation of 12 contestants in the amateur level (first class) men’s and women’s song composing contest and nine contestants in the amateur level (second class) men’s and women’s song composing contest and nine contestants in the

Contestants in action

Ma Khin Moe Hein of Kayin State competes in the amateur level (second class) women’s harp contest.—MNA

U Kyaw Kyaw of Ayeyawady Division participates in the amateur level (first class) men’s Dohbat contest.—MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint view the competitions of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.—MNA

U Win Zaw Min (a) U Lwin Ko Oo of Taninthayi Division takes part in the amateur level (first class) men’s dancing contest.—MNA

Contestants from the states and divisions participate in song composing contest.—MNA

(See page 10)

Twelve women contestants took part in the amateur level (second class) classical song contest.

Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, secretaries of the Leading Committee and the Work Committee, members of the Leading Committee, maestros, the contestants. Twelve women contestants took part in the amateur level (second class) classical song contest.
**Dr.oma competition begins**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct—The drama competition of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions commenced at Yezin University of Veterinary Science this evening.

The team representing Mandalay Division led by director Myodaw Maung Yin Aung, play script director Chit Sayar (MandalayAA), music instructor Academy Sein Muttar and leading actor U Min Min Oo competed with the play titled “Lu-ngarman-moeyan-si-tho”.

Among the audience were Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife, Chairman of the Work Committee for organizing the competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, secretaries and members of the central leading committee and work committee, judges (central), members of panels of judges from states and divisions, and officials.—MNA

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**16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions**

**open with gala and stateliness**

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**A dancer of Yangon Division takes part in the amateur level contest.**—MNA

**16th Myanmar Traditional...**

(from page 9)

higher education level song composing contest.

At Forest Research Division, three contestants participated in the amateur level (first class) men’s piano contest supervised by leader of the panel of judges U Ni Ni and party. Likewise, 10 contestants took part in the higher education level men’s piano contest and six contestants in the higher education level women’s piano contest.

At the lecture hall of the University of Agriculture, leader of the panel of judges U Aung Kein and party supervised the amateur level (second class) harp contest with the participation of four women of the States and Divisions, three students of the basic education level (5-10 aged) boys’ harp contest, four contestants of the higher education level (men’s) harp contest and six contestants in the higher education level (women’s) harp contest.

At the hall of Agricultural Research Department, five men competed in the amateur level (first class) men’s Dohbat contest and five men in the higher education level Dohbat contest, supervised by leader of the panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party.

At the Convocation Hall of the University of Culture, three troops took part in the higher education level (men’s) orchestra troupe contest and five troops in the basic education level (15-20 aged) boys’ orchestra troupe contest, supervised by Chairman of the Panel of Judges U Yi Nwe and party.—MNA
Invitational Football Tournament concludes

NAT PYI TAW, 16 Oct—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min watched a boat race and performance of 15 dance troupes participating in Yein contest held at the central pandal in Shwekyin township yesterday morning and presented prizes to winning teams. The minister and party watched Invitational Football Tournament (open) held in Shwekyin township. Next, the minister presented prizes to first, second and third placed teams in Yein contest and first and second placed teams and situational player awards to winners.—MNA

Mayor inspects road activities in Yangon

YANGON, 16 Oct.—Mayor of Yangon City Development Committee, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected road activities carried out in some townships, here, this morning.

Book on general knowledge in circulation

YANGON, 16 Oct—Under the arrangement of the Information and Public Relations Department, the book on “General Knowledge” has come out.

In the book, History of Myanmar Naing Ngan, geographical facts and figures, development records of each Division and State, knowledge about the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force, international knowledge, knowledge about religion and health, facts about NGOs and general knowledge about measurements.

The book is suitable for students, teachers, job seekers and knowledge seekers.

The book is available at a cost of K 1200 at IPRD offices in respective townships and the Sarpay Bikman Book Shop and Wah Moe Aung Book Shop.—MNA

Talks on Java Vs NET on 19 Oct

YANGON, 16 Oct—With the aim of developing Information and Communication Technology, talks on Java Vs NET organized by Myanmar Computer Professionals Association under the sponsorship of Myanmar Professionals Education Centre (MPEC) will be held at Room (205) of Main Building in Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township from 9:30 am on 19 October.

Managing Director U Tun Thura Thet of Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd will give talks on “Anatomy of Ajax & GWT for Java Developer including java and advanced technology and other interesting Java programmes.” Executive of MCPC Director U Zaw Moe Tun of Myanmar Information Technology Pte Ltd will give talks on “NET Framework and Developer Resources.” Members of the association and those interested may attend and participate in the talks. For further information, contact Myanmar Info-Tech, Room-4, Building-4 (Ph: 652276).—MNA

Hockey Referee Course open

YANGON, 16 Oct—Jointly organized by Myanmar Hockey Federation of the Ministry of Sports and International Hockey Federation, the opening of Hockey Referee Course was held at Myat Mingala Hall of No. 1 Basic Education High School in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, this morning.

President of MHF Col Htin Zaw Win makes an opening speech at the ceremony of Hockey Referee Course.—MNA

MMH President Col Htin Zaw Win made an opening speech and Course Instructor Mr Muhammad Faiz gave accounts on organizing course.

Altogether 30 trainees and 10 observers are attending the course that will be conducted up to 19 October. —MNA

Natural Disaster Preparedness Management Course opens

YANGON, 16 Oct.—Natural Disaster Preparedness Management Course No. 4/2008, conducted by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, was opened at the meeting hall of Bogale Township Peace and Development Council on 13 October.

Director-General U Than Oo of Relief and Resettlement Department delivered an opening speech.

The Subjects on Natural Disaster Preparedness will be lectured. A total of 30-trainees are attending the course, which will last from 13 to 17 October.—MNA

Myanmar sports teams leave for Asian Beach Sports Competitions

YANGON, 16 Oct.—General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General U Thaung Htaik of the Sports and Physical Education Department, leader of Myanmar sports team and party, left here by air this morning to take part in the First Asian Beach Sports Competition to be held in Bali Island of Indonesia from 18 to 26 October.

The team comprises the director-general of SPED, one doctor, one nurse, six volleyball players and one doctor who will discharge duty as chairman of Sports Prohibited Drug and Medicine Committee, totalling 10.

Deputy Leader of the Myanmar sports team Joint Secretary of MOCU Khin Maung Lwin who will discharge duty of participation and administration left here on 14 October.

The Myanmar Sepak Takraw Team comprising 14 players, the Myanmar football team comprising 12 players and the Myanmar rowing team comprising 28 players left here on 15 October and the six-member Myanmar Body Building Team on 17 October. —MNA
Steroid users seen twice as prone to violence

WASHINGTON, 16 Oct—Young men who use anabolic steroids are twice as likely to engage in violence than those who do not use the muscle-building drugs. US researchers said on Wednesday.

While many scientists believe anabolic steroids—synthetic drugs related to male sex hormones—are linked to aggressive behaviour, research has been limited. Some users refer to so-called “roid rage” fueled by the drugs. “We’re finding that steroid users are more likely to become violent, even above and beyond their prior levels of violence,” said Kevin Beaver of Florida State University’s College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, whose study appears in the American Journal of Public Health.—Internet

Pollution kills more than AIDS and traffic in Sao Paulo

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Oct—A study released on Wednesday by the Sao Paulo University’s (USP) Air Pollution Lab said air pollution is more lethal than AIDS and traffic accidents.

The study said diseases caused by pollution resulted in nine deaths a day in Sao Paulo, or 3,500 deaths a year, while AIDS and traffic accidents together caused 1,624 deaths in 2007. The study estimates that the Sao Paulo metropolitan area’s government spends 1.5 billion US dollars on pollution-caused diseases. The six million vehicles in the city are mainly to blame for the air pollution in Sao Paulo. Diesel-fueled vehicles, which represent 10 percent of the total, release 62 percent of air pollutants. The reduction of sulfur caused by diesel-fueled vehicles could save 150 lives a year. The figure is not too far from the 232 deaths caused by AIDS in the city last year, a professor in the Air Pollution Lab said.—Internet

In many US airports, guns are OK outside security

ATLANTA, 16 Oct—Flying in the US has been transformed since 11 Sept, with passengers forced to remove their shoes, take out their laptop computers and put liquids and gels in clear plastic bags. Yet it’s perfectly legal to take a loaded gun right up to the security checkpoint at some of the nation’s biggest airports.

An Associated Press survey of the 20 busiest US airports found that seven of them—Philadelphia, Detroit, Phoenix, Minneapolis/St Paul, Dallas/Fort Worth, Los Angeles and San Francisco—permit people carry firearms in the general public areas of the terminal. —Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HUA SHAN VOY NO (092)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUA SHAN VOY NO (092) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.10.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of a W.P.T where it will lie 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 the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO., LTD
Phone No: 2569192/2569162/256912

INTERNET

Arab council maps out blueprint to establish Arab common market

CAIRO, 16 Oct—The Council of Arab Economic Unity has finalized a blueprint to set up a customs union that will lead to the establishment of an Arab common market, the Egyptian MENA news agency reported Wednesday.

According to the three-stage plan, which will be presented at the first Arab economic summit next January in Kuwait, the statute of the Arab customs union would be formed by the end of 2019.

An Arab Free Trade Area will be formed in the first stage, which will run from 2010 to 2013, and links between financial and labour markets will be endorsed in the second stage, from 2014 to 2016.

An Arab customs federation will be established in the third phase, from 2017 to 2019, which will help promote inter-Arab trade in preparation for the establishment of the Arab common market.—Internet
WASHINGTON, 16 Oct—Nicotine could play a role in the development and growth of tumours in breast cancer, according to a new study published Wednesday.

Researchers studied the first time the effects of nicotine on mammary cells and concluded the chemical found in cigarette smoke could contribute to cancerous growth.

“Although numerous studies indicate the role of nicotine exposure in tumour promotion, little is known about the effect of nicotine on breast tumour development,” said lead author of the study Chang Yan Chen, from the research team at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre at Harvard University, Massachusetts.

Through a series of tests, researchers found that both breast epithelial cells — protective cell tissue that lines organs throughout the body — and cancerous cells have nicotine receptors (nAChR), which have the potential to increase cell growth and migration in the presence of nicotine.

“The best known role of nAChR is in the nerve system,” Chen said, in the study published in Cancer Research, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Nicotine linked to breast cancer: study

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Under-fire Okada bemoans ‘timid’ Japan

TOKYO, 16 Oct—Under-fire coach Takeshi Okada bemoaned Japan’s ‘timid’ football and called for more aggression after their 1-1 World Cup qualifying draw against Uzbekistan.

Keiji Tamada cancelled out Maksim Shatshikh’s 27th-minute opener to earn a point, but it was the first time in 11 years that Japan failed to win a home World Cup qualifier.

“What I regret is that we got somewhat timid when the opponents unexpectedly exerted pressure up front,” Okada said in Saitama after Japan’s second 1-1 draw in two games. “We often resorted to back passes.”

Japan’s head coach Takeshi Okada instructs his players during their 2010 FIFA World Cup Asian final qualifiers Group A match against Uzbekistan in the Saitama Stadium, on 15 October.—Internet

Mission accomplished for Loew as Germany go clear

Germany’s midfielder Piotr Trochowski (right) vies with Wales’ Simon Davies during their World Cup 2010 group 4 qualifying match at the Borussia-Park in Moenchengladbach. Germany won 1-0.—INTERNET

Trochowski unleashed a superb second-half winner here as Loew’s side took a sizeable step towards clinching the single guaranteed place at South Africa 2010 from Group Four.

Their third win from four games, and three more points against a spirited Welsh side after last Saturday’s 2-1 win over Russia, means Germany will finish the year on ten points ahead of Russia and Wales who are on six.

“With six points from the last two matches, we are absolutely content,” said Loew.

“We are the group leaders, which is a good foundation to build on for next year. We expected the Welsh would defend deeply, but in the second-half we invested more and our team was mentally very strong.”

—Internet

Italy scrape past minnows Montenegro

LECC (Italy), 16 Oct—Alberto Aquilani netted a brace as unconvincing Italy edged out Montenegro 2-1 in World Cup qualifying group 8 here on Wednesday.

AS Roma striker Mirko Vucinic made a goalscoring return to Lecce, where he played for five years — and in the same yellow and red colours as Montenegro — but he left disappointed as UEFA’s newest nation lost their first ever competitive away match.

It means Italy remain unbeaten and in control of their World Cup qualifying campaign.

“I’m very happy about these last 10 days. You know that we’re growing and trying to become a great team,” he said. “Everyone thinks it should be easy for Italy to qualify but it’s never easy.”

—INTERNET

Rooney double leaves Capello’s England cruising

MINSK, 16 Oct—Another Wayne Rooney double fired England to a 3-1 win over Belarus as Fabio Capello’s squad made it four wins out of four on the road to South Africa 2010.

Steven Gerrard’s 11th-minute long-range strike had given the visitors a perfect start before Capello’s men were pegged back by Pavel Shuk’s deserved equaliser.

But two superbly-taken strikes by Rooney settled the contest after the break and England, 4-1 winners in Croatia last month, will enjoy their winter break from competitive internationals in the knowledge that they are firmly in command of group six.

“Having Serena double leaves Capello’s England cruising”

Wayne Rooney of England controls the ball against Belarus during their World Cup 2010 qualification match in Minsk.—INTERNET

Rooney, who also hit the net twice in the 5-1 win over Kazakhstan on Saturday, has now scored five goals in his last three international outings, helping England to their best-ever start to a World Cup qualifying campaign. From the outset, Rooney was at the centre of England’s best work.

After having complained bitterly that he had been impeded as he stretched to reach Theo Walcott’s dangerous third-minute cross, the Manchester United forward was soon clipping the ball over a defender’s head before teeing up Gerrard to open the scoring.

—INTERNET

Keane helps Ireland to unconvincing win

DUBLIN, 16 Oct—Robbie Keane scored his 35th international goal to give Ireland an unconvincing 1-0 World Cup qualifier win over Cyprus here Wednesday that owed too much to the towering defending of centre back Richard Dunne.

The Cyprus will be disappointed not to have come away with a point and only Ireland’s bright start denied them.

The goal came after just five minutes when Damien Duff came a long way off the left wing to collect a square ball on the right edge of the box and drive at the heart of the defence.

Duff’s shifted across to cover the winger — restored to the team in place of Stephen Hunt — leaving Keane unmarked at the back post. Duff chipped over and the Liverpool forward scored one of the easiest goals of his career.

—INTERNET

Seraena Williams confirmed for WTA Sydney International

SYDNEY, 16 Oct—Nine-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams will play in January’s Sydney Interna- tional, organizers said Thursday, meaning the event will feature the top three women players and the Olympic champion.

Williams, 27, the world number three and current US Open champion, joins world number one Jelena Jankovic, second-ranked Dinara Safina and Beijing gold medalist Elena Dementieva in the 11-17 January mixed tournament.

Headlining the men’s event will be Australia’s four-times champion Lleyton Hewitt, his Argentine rival David Nalbandian and Frenchmen Richard Gasquet and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the 2008 Australian Open runner-up.

“Having Jo-Wilfried Tsonga back is really exciting as well.”

Watson said he was keeping a few wildcards available and expects to have at least 15 or 16 of the top 20 women playing in the tournament.

—INTERNET
**Last Titanic survivor sells suitcase to pay bills**

**London,** 16 Oct—As a 2-month-old baby, Millvina Dean was wrapped in a sack and lowered into a lifeboat from the deck of the sinking RMS Titanic. Now, Dean, the last living survivor of the disaster, is selling some of her mementos to help pay her nursing home fees.

Dean’s artifacts, including a suitcase given to her family by the people of New York after their rescue, are expected to sell for about £3,000 ($5,200) at Saturday’s auction in Devizes, western England.

Dean, 96, has lived in a nursing home in the southern English city of Southampton—Titanic’s home port—since she broke her hip two years ago.

“I am not able to live in my home anymore,” Dean was quoted as telling the Southern Daily Echo newspaper.

“I am selling it all now because I have to pay these nursing home fees and am selling anything that I think might fetch some money.”

Dean’s items form part of a sale by Henry Aldridge and Son, an auction house that specializes in Titanic memorabilia.

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**Deal or no deal? The role of Emotions in negotiating offers**

BOGOTA (Columbia), 16 Oct—We all negotiate compromises every day, but it often seems that certain people always get their way. Do these skilled negotiators simply go with their gut instinct every time or are they just extremely calculating, figuring out all possible outcomes before settling on the best option?

Behavioral studies have shown that emotions play an important role in decision making. However, it was not known to what extent our negotiating skills depend on our emotions.

Columbia University scientists Andrew Stephen and Michel Tuan Pham decided to explore the interplay of emotion and reason in everyday deal-making. They designed a series of laboratory experiments to see if people who trust their feelings (and those who do not) handle themselves differently in the art of negotiation.

In this study, they used a classic negotiation game called the “ultimatum game.” In the ultimatum game, one person (the “proposer”) has a given amount of cash, which he is told to divide with a second person any way he likes. —Internet

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday, 16 October, 2008**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, Weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan and Rakhae States, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were PyinOod.win (0.83) inch, Myeik (0.55) inch, Coco Island (0.19) inch and Thanthwe (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 15-10-2008 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 16-10-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 16-10-2008 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 15-10-2008 was (4.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 16-10-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (100.87) inches at Mingaladon, (112.44) inches at Kaba-Aye and (130.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (21:30) hours MST on 15-10-2008.

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

Special feature: According to the observation at (06:30) hr MST today, the tropical depression over South China Sea (Gulf of Ton king) has crossed the East Coast of Vietnam near Viah and become unimportant.

Forecast valid until evening of 17th October 2008:

- Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, isolated in Rakhae State, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in 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: General decrease of rain in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 17-10-2008: Partly cloudy. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-10-2008: Partly cloudy.
NAY PYI TAW, 16 Oct — A ceremony to open the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions took place at the City Hall of Nay Pyi Taw at 8 am today with an address by Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

The opening ceremony was attended by senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, members of the panel of patrons for observing the competitions, Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, members of the leading committee, the chairmen and members the work committee and subcommittees, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, diplomats, officials of the offices of UN Resident Representatives, the director-general of the SPDC office, departmental heads, rectors of the universities in Yezin, members of social organizations, central level panel of judges of the competitions, panel of judges of the competitions from states and divisions, contestants from states and divisions in various genres, 2605. So, it is heartening to note that this year’s number of contestants has increased more than the previous years. Preparations have also been made for awarding handsome prizes, he added.

Next, Vice-Chairman of the leading committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint formally opened the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. Then, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivered a speech. (The speech of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo is reported separately.)

After the opening ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted those present.

Vice-Chairman of Leading Committee for Organizing the 16th MTCPAC Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint opens the ceremony.—MNA

MNA