**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

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

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct — The 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural performing Arts Competitions continued at the designated places here today. Among the audience were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Immigration and population Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, senior military officers, departmental heads, the secretary of the work committee and committee members, members of subcommittees, members of the panel of judges (central), members of the panel of judges from states and divisions, supervisors and contestants.

Magway Division troupe taking part in amateur level (first class) men’s traditional orchestra (troupe) contest.—MNA

A contestant from Chin State competing in basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ dancing contest.—MNA

Dramatic performance of Buridat Jataka

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Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

INSIDE
imCEiTS to help improve IT skills of the youth

Today is the Age of Knowledge, and the government is, therefore, putting strenuous efforts into the plans it has laid down for raising the education standard of the people and human resource development in its bid to chart a prosperous future of the nation.

With this object in view, it has established 24 special zones for development and has opened a university, a technological university and a university for computer studies each in the zones with the aim of ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation. Local youths have had easy access to higher education and post-graduate degree courses in their home regions, as a result.

Now, the 25 universities for computer studies around the nation produce some 6000 graduates a year. The youth today have to keep in touch with technological changes to be able to effectively apply what they have learnt, to help facilitate national development.

The India-Myanmar Centre was opened for Enhancement of IT Skills (imCEiTS) was opened at University for Computer Studies (Yangon) the other day. The centre is equipped with satellite equipment, computers and accessories to teach advanced subjects including technologies.

Under the project, two centres have been established in Yangon and Mandalay, and 10 branches in 10 townships in the country as the first phase to sharpen the abilities of the graduates of the universities for computer studies. Opportunities have been created for the people enabling them to learn tele-medicine and modern technologies at e-learning centres in all regions including rural areas with the use of the imCEiTS and 10 other Community Information Centres (CIC) sites.

The India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills will help improve IT skills of the people, and the human resources nurtured by the centres and branches will be able to expedite nation-building tasks.

Charity art show on 1 Nov

YANGON, 18 Oct — To mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Hninzigon Home for the Aged, and Myanmar Traditional Artistes and Artisans Assayone from 1 to 16 November.

Along with the art show, Quick Sketch contest and Out Door painting contest will also take place. Prizes will be rewarded handsomely to the contestants. Arrangements are being made to honour the painters and purchasers and, present the prizes to the winners in the contests on 16 November.

The hall for the art show is separately provided for the painters who wish to organize the art show individually or collectively.—NLM

Solar electricity reaches rural areas in Shan State (North)

Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing delivers address at the opening of 22nd meeting of GMS Tourism Working Group.—MNA

Myanmar hosts 22nd Greater Mekong Sub-region Tourism Working Group Meeting
Afghan refugees flee from the troubled Bajaur tribal region in Pakistan on 17 Oct, 2008. Pakistani authorities have begun expelling Afghan refugees from a tribal region that has become the main battleground between troops and fighters linked to the Taliban and al Qaeda, officials said last week.—Internet

Former Karzai bodyguard killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Oct — Afghan officials say gunmen targeted and killed a former bodyguard for President Hamid Karzai outside a mosque in southern Afghanistan, Zulmay Ayubi, the spokesman for Kandahar’s governor, says Gul Emat Barakzai and his father were killed outside the mosque early Saturday.Dastagir Khan, a tribal elder with the Barakzai clan, says Gul Emat had been a bodyguard for Karzai.

In the country’s west, police spokesman Raouf Ahmadi, says a suicide bomber attacked an Italian military convoy. A spokeswoman with the NATO-led force says there were NATO casualties but she didn’t have immediate details.—Internet

Afghanistan rocket attack wounds two Bulgarian troops

SOFIA, 18 Oct — Two Bulgarian soldiers in NATO’s International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan have been wounded in rocket fire targeting Afghanistan’s Kandahar airport, Bulgaria’s defence ministry announced early Saturday. One suffered a minor arm injury and the other was wounded in the right leg in the incident that occurred at 19:33pm Bulgarian time (1633 GMT), the ministry said in a statement.

The two soldiers were immediately taken to hospital and their condition is stable, it added.

Bulgaria currently has some 470 soldiers in NATO’s ISAF force in Afghanistan, including 270 guarding the airport in the southern city of Kandahar and the rest stationed at two camps east of the capital Kabul.—Internet

General says enemy numbers swell in Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Oct— A top general in charge of US ground troops in Afghanistan tells correspondent Lara Logan the enemy has increased by up to 30 percent in the last year and he is seeking reinforcements.

Logan’s report from a forward operating base in eastern Afghanistan includes 60 Minutes footage of up-close combat with a unit of foreign fighters in addition to the interview with Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser. It will be broadcast this Sunday, 19 Oct, at 7 pm ET/PT on 60 Minutes.—Internet

Muqtada al-Sadr urges rejection of US-Iraqi pact

BAGHDAD, 18 Oct — Shi’ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has called on Iraq’s parliament to reject a US-Iraqi security pact that would extend the presence of American forces in Iraq. Al-Sadr’s message was read on Saturday by his aide Sheikh Abdul-Hadi al-Mohammadawi as tens of thousands of his followers rallied against the accord in Baghdad. Tens of thousands of followers of cleric Muqtada al-Sadr rally on Saturday in Baghdad in a mass public show of opposition to a US-Iraqi security pact that would extend the presence of US forces in Iraq. The crowds of mostly young men led by turbaned clerics waved Iraqi flags and chanted slogans including “no, no to the agreement” and “yes to Iraq.”

The mass public show of opposition comes as US and Iraqi leaders face a 31 Dec deadline to reach agreement on the deal. Al-Sadr says in the message that anybody who says the agreement will end “the occupation of our land” or “tells you that it gives Iraqi sovereignty a liar.”

He warns “it will stigmatize Iraq and its government for years to come.”—Internet

An Iraqi man gestures at the Shrine of Imam Musa al-Kadhim in Baghdad. —INTERNET

Suicide bomb in west Afghanistan, several casualties

HERAT (Afghanistan), 18 Oct — A suicide car bomber struck international troops near the western Afghan city of Herat on Saturday, causing several casualties, officials said.

The bomber struck near Herat airport on the outskirts of the city, regional police chief Rahmatullah Safai said. There were several casualties, said a spokeswoman for the NATO-led force, but she declined to give any further details said. Most ISAF troops in Herat are Italian.

Kidnapped Chinese engineer recovered by security forces in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 18 Oct — Security Forces Friday recovered one of the two abducted Chinese engineers in northwestern Pakistan’s Kandahar airport, Bulgaria’s defence ministry reported.

The APP quoted Nadeem Ahmed who is in charge of Inter-Services Public Relations in Swat valley of North West Frontier Province assaying that the recovered Chinese engineer was safe and healthy.

The spokesman of Taliban in Swat Muslim Khan also confirmed that one Chinese engineer had fled and the second was re-arrested, according to the News Network International (NNI) news agency.—Internet
**Shanghai economy grows steadily despite int’l financial crisis**

SHANGHAI, 18 Oct — Shanghai registered a steady economic growth in the past three quarters despite the current global financial instability, Mayor Han Zheng said here on Friday.

China’s business powerhouse recorded 10 percent economic growth in the first half of the year and an 18 percent increase in fiscal revenue over the past nine months, he said.

Shanghai’s exports volume increased 22 percent in the first three quarters, while foreign investment in the city was up 20.7 percent during the period.

The average income of urban and rural households grew 13.3 and 11 percent, respectively.

Financial institutions in the city were in sound operation. “Some banks are worried for being unable to find good projects to provide loans, which shows the banks are operating well and liquidity is ample.”

However, the city faces challenges of the global financial crisis, as the sales of automobiles and real estate decreased, and some medium- and small-sized companies got fewer orders.

“In general, the economic and social development of Shanghai is healthy and sound,” Han said. —Xinhua

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**Five nations elected new members of UN Security Council**

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Oct — Austria, Japan, Mexico, Uganda and Turkey were elected new non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on Friday.

All 192 members of the United Nations General Assembly attended the secret ballot, with Japan beating Iran 158-32 to get the seat for Asia Group. Japan replaces Indonesia in the Security Council on 1 Jan, 2009.

Austria and Turkey defeated Iceland for the two open seats for the Western European and Others Group, garnering 133 and 151 votes respectively. They will replace Belgium and Italy.

Uganda and Mexico, which won the seats unopposed for the Africa and Latin America groups respectively, will replace South Africa and Panama. —Xinhua

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**Turkey launches airstrike on PKK targets in N Iraq**

ANKARA, 18 Oct — Turkish military said that its warplanes hit targets of the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) in Qandil region in Iraq’s north on Friday.

This was the seventh time that the Turkish warplanes have bombed PKK targets in several regions in northern Iraq since 4 October.

The Turkish General Staff said in a statement posted on its website that the warplanes have all safely returned to their bases in Turkey.

Seventeen Turkish soldiers were killed on 3 October, when PKK militants based in northern Iraq attacked Akitutun Gendarmerie Border Unit in Semdinli town in the province of Hakkari. 23 PKK militants were also killed in the clashes.

The anger of the Turkish people is mounting after the deadliest attack happened in the year and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the powerful military have pledged to intensify a campaign to crush the outlawed PKK. —Xinhua

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**Fire kills four people in Seoul**

SEOUL, 18 Oct — Four people were killed in a fire in northern Seoul Saturday morning, South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency reported.

The victims suffocated in their sleep when the fire broke out at 5:30 am (0830 GMT) in the northern part of Seoul, police said.

Local reports said the victims are construction workers, but their identities have not been fully revealed. The fire was put out 14 minutes after it started, police said.

The local police are investigating into the exact cause of the blaze. —Xinhua

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**Two injured in helicopter crash in W Canada**

OTTAWA, 18 Oct — A helicopter carrying an instructor and a student trainee crashed in a field near an airport in western Canada, injuring two people, reports reaching here said Friday.

The pilot and student have been removed from the wreckage and transported to hospital with serious injuries.

According to early reports, the pair were doing auto rotation exercises about 100 meters in the air when the chopper crashed in a field at the south end of the Victoria International Airport in the British Columbia province. —Xinhua

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**One dead, four injured in US law firm blast**

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct — One person was killed and four others were injured in bombing at a law firm Friday in Dalton, Georgia, state officials said.

Officials told reporters that a 71-year-old man ran into the law firm and detonated a bomb.

The man was killed instantly and four other people were injured in the explosion. All the wounded were listed in stable condition after seeking medical treatment.

Local media said the suspect recently lost a court case and may have detonated the bomb as retaliation toward the law firm. —Xinhua
Innocent people wrongly accused because of poor fingerprint analysis by LA police

Los Angeles, 18 Oct — Innocent people have been wrongly accused because of poor fingerprint analysis by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), it was reported on Friday.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has acknowledged in a confidential report that the department's fingerprint experts have wrongly identified innocent people as crime suspects as a result of poor fingerprint analysis and the lack of funds to pay for a comprehensive audit to find out, according to police records and interviews cited by the paper.

"This is something of extraordinary concern," Michael Judge, public defender for Los Angeles County, told the newspaper. "Juries tend to accord the highest level of confidence to fingerprint evidence. This is the type of thing that easily could lead to innocent people being convicted."—Internet

A bullet hole in the windshield of a police patrol car close to where a Mexican policeman was shot dead by assassins in Rosarito, Baja California state, on 16 October. Almost 400 people have died in the past two weeks in an intensifying drugs war in Mexico despite a government crackdown on cartels, trafficking and related violence.—Internet

Polls in eight countries show wide Obama support

London, 18 Oct — If the world beyond America's shores had a say, it seems clear that Barack Obama would win the presidential election by something approaching a landslide.

That is the key finding of a coordinated series of newspaper polls conducted in eight countries and published Friday in Britain's Guardian and other papers. It is no surprise Obama, the Democratic nominee, is popular in Europe — that was clear when he drew tumultuous crowds to his open-air speech in Berlin this summer — but the scope of the lead suggested by the polls is startling.

In Switzerland, for example, Obama has 83 percent support to John McCain's 7 percent; in Britain, 64 percent to McCain's 15 percent, and in France, 69 percent to McCain's 5 percent. The closest they get is in Poland, where Obama has 43 percent and McCain 26 percent.—Internet

Two more samples fail melamine tests in Hong Kong

Hong Kong, 18 Oct — The Centre for Food Safety of Hong Kong (CFS) released the latest batch of results of melamine tests on Saturday, with two samples found unsatisfactory.

Results available on Saturday showed that of the 66 samples tested, 64 were satisfactory. These included milk and milk beverages, cream, instant drink mixes, biscuits and cakes. Munchy's Mini Crackers with Peanut Butter and Munchy's Mini Crackers with Cheese Cream failed the test. The level of melamine detected in the sample of Munchy's Mini Crackers with Peanut Butter was 5.4ppm, while the level in the sample of Munchy's Mini Crackers with Cheese Cream was 3.8ppm.—Internet

Pakistan to set up committee to facilitate trade ties with China

Islamabad, 18 Oct — President Asif Ali Zardari has ordered the setting up of an inter-ministerial committee to review and report progress on economic and trade ties with China, state media reported on Saturday.

The committee headed by Zardari will meet monthly to assess the progress made to materialize the agreements inked during his visit to China, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said.

Zardari paid a four-day state visit to China from 14 to 17 Oct during which the two countries signed 12 deals ranging from trade and minerals to agriculture and satellites.—Internet

North Darfur fighting displaces 24,000

El Fasher (Sudan), 18 Oct — A surge of fighting in Sudan's isolated north Darfur region has displaced 24,000 people, who face shortages of food and water, a senior UN official said on Friday, urging a rapid humanitarian response.

"The numbers being thrown out now are somewhere in the neighbourhood of about 24,000 people that have not gone back to Birmaza or Dissa," said Gregory Alex, the head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur.

A first wave of people abandoned their homes five or six weeks ago when the fighting began and a second group towards the end of September.

But Alex said humanitarian access to the area has been extremely limited, owing to insecurity and banditry.

"I would guess that their access to basic necessities are extremely limited. Water, I think, has been identified as the most important need, but then you have shelter. The colder season is approaching... these places don't have firewood," he said.

"The problem with the food is that they're distant from any place that they could actually have a distribution... that puts them in, I'd say, a fairly difficult situation."—Internet

A Hercules aircraft equipped with an aerial spray system flies over an imaginary oil spill area during an oil spill exercise on 17 Oct, 2008, in Singapore, which was carried out to test and demonstrate Singapore's readiness to respond effectively to oil spills at sea.—Internet
China’s Sept auto sales recover from Aug but still not optimistic

BEIJING, 18 Oct — China sold 751,500 motor vehicles nationwide in September, representing a growth of 19.48 percent from the previous month but a decline of 2.74 percent from the same month of last year, sources with China Associations of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM) said Saturday.

The total sales volume included 552,800 passenger vehicles, up 22.49 percent over August but down 1.44 percent from September last year. Auto production reached 764,700 units nationwide last month, up 24.24 percent over the previous month, but only 1.02 percent higher than the same month of last year.

The total output included 555,500 passenger vehicles, up 27.78 percent over August or 2.05 percent on September last year.

Production was 7.31 million units while sales were 7.23 million units in the first nine months of this year, up 12.35 percent and 11.94 percent, respectively, over the year-earlier level. — Internet

No sign of engine trouble before fatal crash

CHICAGO, 18 Oct — A helicopter transporting a sick toddler did not appear to have engine problems before it struck a radio tower wire and crashed, killing all four people aboard, a federal investiga-

tor said Friday.

“We can’t rule it (engine problems) out but certainly radar data showing he’s in level flight is a strong indicator that there wasn’t,” said National Transpor-
tation Safety Board investigator John Brannen.

Nothing found in the wreckage of the crash in the Chicago suburb of Aurora late Wednesday suggests a mechanical failure, either, he said.

Brannen also said NTSB officials have listened to recordings of the pilot’s communications with an air traffic con-
troller in DuPage County and they have not reported there were any distress calls before the crash late Wednesday.

“All the information is that communica-
tions were businesslike,” he said, adding that the helicopter was not equipped with any of the recorders that might have been able to shed more light on what was going on in the cockpit just before the crash.

Dinosaur graveyard” found in SE Utah

LOS ANGELES, 18 Oct — US researchers have discovered a “dinosaur graveyard” in southeast-
ern Utah that is yielding a wealth of fossilized ani-
mals and footprints from the Jurassic and Creta-
ceous periods, a newspa-

per report said on Friday. The centerpiece of the new finds is the well-pre-
served skeleton of a 150-

million-year-old saurop-

od, a long-necked her-
bivore, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The researchers have so far excavated only part of the fossilized skeleton, which they estimate to be about 50 feet long. “It’s big and takes a lot of time,” said paleontologist Luis Chiappe, director of the Dinosaur Institute and the Natural History Mu-

seum of Los Angeles County.

The skeleton was found in the remains of what was once a big riverbed and is now a light-colored stratum on the face of an exposed cliff. Nearby in the bed were the disarticu-
lated remains of other sauropods and meat-eat-
ing dinosaurs, including the five-foot-long femur of a brachiosaur, accord-

ing to the paper.

On the ridgeline of the cliff, the team found a large number of footprints preserved in sandstone, with one set of prints from the Jurassic era, which ended about 145 million years ago, the paper said.

“Dog adopts tiger cubs at Kansas zoo

A dog at a southeast Kansas zoo has adopted three tiger cubs abandoned by their mother. Safari Zoological Park owner Tom Harvey said the tiger cubs were born Sunday, but the mother had problems with them.

A day later, the mother stopped caring for them. Harvey said the cubs were wandering around, trying to find their birth mother, who wouldn’t pay attention to them. That’s when the cubs were put in the care of a golden retriever, Harvey said.

Harvey said it’s unusual for dogs to care for tiger cubs, but it does happen. He said he has seen reports of pigs nursing cubs in China, and he actually got the golden retriever after his wife saw television accounts of dogs caring for tiger cubs.

Iowa man faces charges after hugging officer

A hug has landed an Iowa City man in hot water. An Iowa City man who thought a police officer just “needed a hug” faces several charges including assault on a peace officer and public intoxication.

Police said a 21-year-old man was arrested on Saturday. According to police records, the man ran up to the officer and stuck out his arms.

The officer told him to “get away,” but the man didn’t take the hint and embraced the officer.

When the officer told the man to put his hands behind his head, he refused. He was then handcuffed.

Woman, 85, foils robbery attempt at her ore home

A robber with a ski mask tried to rob an 85-year-old woman at her Tigard-area home but fled with only $56. The woman opened her door at about 9 pm Saturday to find someone standing there in a ski mask.

She couldn’t tell whether it was a man or woman but whoever it was pointed something at her from under a shirt and demanded money. She grabbed the shirt and wrestled with the intruder, who threatened to shoot her but never showed a gun.

The robber demanded all of her money but she ignored him and insisted her full name was on her driver’s license. She then ran out the door.

The officer told him to “get away,” but the man didn’t take the hint and embraced the officer.

When the officer told the man to put his hands behind his head, he refused. He was then handcuffed.

Singapore Strait against the backdrop of the financial district on 17 Oct, 2008. Singapore’s exports eased slightly in September as shipments to the US and Europe dipped, hurt by the financial crisis and raised the spectre of a prolonged recession in the city-state. — Internet

Dog in New York faces charges after hugging officer

Man and dog made it safely back to shore after hugging police officer after being swept into the water. Greg LeNoir said he took his 14-pound rat terrier Jake for a daily swim at a marina Friday.

The five-foot shark suddenly surfaced and grabbed nearly the entire dog in its mouth.

LeNoir said he yelled, then balled up his fists and headed first into the water. He hit the shark in the back and the creature finally let go of the dog.

Man and dog made it safely back to shore. The dog suffered bite wounds but was not critically injured.

Los Angeles, 18 Oct — A robber with a ski mask tried to rob an 85-year-old woman at her Tigard-area home but fled with only $56. The woman opened her door at about 9 pm Saturday to find someone standing there in a ski mask.

She couldn’t tell whether it was a man or woman but whoever it was pointed something at her from under a shirt and demanded money. She grabbed the shirt and wrestled with the intruder, who threatened to shoot her but never showed a gun.

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The officer told him to “get away,” but the man didn’t take the hint and embraced the officer.

When the officer told the man to put his hands behind his head, he refused. He was then handcuffed.
Hailing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions:

Dramatic performance of Buridat Jataka

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

Myanmar traditional dramatic performance mostly chooses its story from Jatakas or Buddha’s birth stories. There are 550 minor jatakas and ten major jatakas of ten penultimate lives of the Buddha. These ten major jatakas tell the stories of the fulfillment by Bodhisatta (future Buddha) of one or two of ten kinds of perfection — (1) resolution (2) effort (3) truthfulness and loving kindness (4) renunciation (5) wisdom (6) morality and forbearance (7) truthfulness and resolution (8) wisdom and truthfulness (9) wisdom and equanimity and (10) giving. Ten major jatakas are (1) Teymi (2) Maha Janaka (3) Suvannasana (4) Neymi (5) Mahaw Thada (6) Buridat (7) Sandra Kumara (8) Narada (9) Vidura and (10) Vessandara respectively.

For the dramatic performance competitions of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions at Nay Pyi Taw in October 2008, Buridat Jataka has been chosen. It is the story of Bodhisatta’s fulfillment of perfection in morality and forbearance.

While the living Gotama Buddha was residing at Jetavana Vihara monastery in Savatthi he told to the lay devotees who were keeping Sabbath there, Buridat Jataka in 298 gathas (Palit stanzas) the synopsis of the story is as follows:-

Buridat, Naga serpent king approached a quiet place near the Yamonna River by the city Baranathi for keeping Sabbath and observing moral precepts. There appeared a hunter named Naythada and his son who were chasing a deer. When they met Buridat by chance the latter was worried in case the hunter would inform a snake charmer to catch him. So Naythada sent them to his kingdom to enjoy life there. But as they were not happy there, Buridat returned them home, presenting the hunter a ruby which had the power of fulfilling any wish. The hunter declined to accept it as he had said that he would become a monk.

There was a hermit who received from a garuda (mythical bird that preys on all reptiles) a mantra which could frighten and subdue naga serpents. The hermit gave the mantra to a Brahman who decided to become a snake charmer. When he arrived at the Yamonna River he saw naga serpent ladies reveling in the River, leaving the ruby on the bank. The Brahman chanted the mantra. Naga serpent ladies were frightened and they fled. The Brahman took the ruby. When Naythada and son saw the ruby in the Brahman’s hand, Nyathada coveted it. He offered to buy the ruby with 100 viss of gold. But the Brahman refused to sell it. So Naythada said to the Brahman that he would show where Buridat the naga serpent was, if the Brahman gave him the ruby. The son told the father that he was a traitor and left to become a hermit in Himalayan forest. Naythada took the Brahman to Buridat who was in deep meditation. Though Buridat knew that he was in danger he did not want his Sabbath and meditation disturbed. With strong will and forbearance Buridat yielded to the Brahman who persecuted Buridat and put him in a bamboo trap. Naythada got the ruby as a reward and went away. Brahman the snake charmer went about place to place, city to city, showing Buridat, He became a wealthy snake charmer.

Buridat’s mother Samudaza had a bad dream and she became much worried about her son Buridat who had gone to human kingdom for keeping Sabbath and observance of moral precepts. When her other sons came to her for monthly homage to her she told them about her bad dream and made them look for their brother Buridat. Older son Sudassana sent younger brother Subawga to Himalayan forest to look for Buridat. Youngest brother Kanarika was sent to Tavatimsa the celestial kingdom. Sudasana assumed as a hermit and went to human kingdom. With him was his cousin sister Azamukhi who assumed as a small frog.

Brahman the snake charmer was staging a show at the palace of Baranathi King Sugara Brahmadat who was the brother of Sumudaza. So he was Buridat’s uncle. Sudassana and the cousin sister, searching for Buridat, arrived at the palace. When Brahman the snake charmer pulled out Buridat from the bamboo basket trap to display its antics, Buridat saw his brother and sister and he wept. He went straight to Sudassana and put his head on the foot of Sudasana and the two brothers wept. All spectators were frightened and fled.

Brahman the snake charmer thought that the hermit (Sudasana) was bitten by Buridat, and rushed to the hermit to chant mantra to cure the bite. But the hermit (Sudasana) told Brahman the snake charmer that there was no better qualified snake charmer than himself. Thus the two were drawn into the competition of their snake charming arts. With the help of cousin sister as a small frog, the hermit (Sudasana) displayed supernatural powers. Brahman the snake charmer was defeated and he suddenly caught leprosy. He set Buridat free.

Buridat, Sudassana and Azamukhi revealed the identities. King of Baranathi then knew that they were his nephews and nieces. They made appointment to go to their grandfather, former King of Baranathi who was then a hermit in Himalayan Forest.

Subawga who came into Himalayan Forest to search for Buridat met Naythada. He brought him to Naga Kingdom to punish him. The guard at the sleeping chamber of Buridat was Brahman in his previous existence. He told Subawga and his men not to kill Naythada because Brahmans were descendants of Brahma the great deity. Besides Brahmans made sacrificial rites for the welfare of all. Upon hearing what he said, Brahman preached true Dhamma, saying that sacrifices were evil practices of the infidels. All listened to Brahman’s Dhamma teachings. Naythada was expelled.

The story ended with a happy reunion of Buridat and all his relatives at the homage ceremony at the hermitage of their grandfather, former Baranathi King who then was a hermit for life.

In winding up the narration Buddha revealed the identities of the major characters in the story. Naythada was Devadat, Buddha’s opponent. Sawmuuddat was Ananda, Azamukhi was Theri Uppalawun, Sudassana was Shin Sariputra, Subawga was Shin Magallan, Kanarika was Sunet Khat and Buridat was Gotama Buddha.

Like any other traditional Myanmar drama, Buridat Jataka dramatic performance is an all-round performance—singing, dancing, acting, music, eloquent dialogues, histrionic, operatic, magnificent scenes, rich costume and jewellery all combined into an Extravaganza.
Kayin State competes in drama contest

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct – The drama contest of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science in Yezin University Campus here yesterday evening.

The drama troupe representing Kayin State took part in the contest.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Leading Committee for Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions, took part in the contest.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Leading Committee for Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions, took part in the contest.

Magway Division takes part in drama contest

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct – The drama contest of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions went on at the University of Veterinary Science in Yezin University Campus this evening.

A total of seven contestants took part in amateur level (first class) men’s classical song contest and 13 in basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ classical song contest at the auditorium hall of University of Agriculture in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University Campus.

Ten contestants participated in the basic education level (aged 15-20) men’s modern song contest and 15 in the amateur level (second class) women’s modern song contest judged by Chairman of the panel of judges Myaing Thit Min and party at No. 7 Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

Performance of the troupe of Magway Division in action.—MNA

16th Myanmar Traditional...

16th Myanmar Traditional...

(from page 1)

A total of 16 contestants took part in the basic education level (second class) men’s dancing contest and 24 in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ dancing contest under the supervision of Chairman of the panel of judges Sein Mar Din and party at the convocation hall of the University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University Campus.

Five contestants took part in the amateur level (first class) men’s guitar contest, three in amateur level (second class) men’s guitar contest, three in the basic education level (aged 15-20) women’s guitar contest, three in the basic education level (aged 15-20) women’s guitar contest, four in the basic education level (aged 15-20) men’s guitar contest, three in the basic education level (aged 15-20) men’s guitar contest.

Ten contestants participated in the basic education level (aged 15-20) men’s modern song contest and 15 in the amateur level (second class) women’s modern song contest judged by Chairman of the panel of judges Maung Thit Min and party at No. 7 Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

The drama troupe representing Magway Division played its role in the competition under the title of “Lu-ange Arman Moe-yan So-tho”.

Among the drama lovers were Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, the secretary and members of the work committee, judges (central), judges from states and divisions and officials.—MNA

Contestants from Rakhine State participate in amateur level (first class) oboe contest.—MNA

The drama troupe representing Magway Division played its role in the competition under the title of “Lu-ange Arman Moe-yan So-tho”.

Among the drama lovers were Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, the secretary and members of the work committee, judges (central), judges from states and divisions and officials.—MNA
YANGON, 18 Oct — A ceremony to donate cash for upgrading of the Drug Elimination Museum and relief supplies and medicine to storm victims was held at the Ministry of Home Affairs (former office) here yesterday afternoon. Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag on behalf of Office of Narcotics Control Board of Thailand and Thai-Myanmar Friendship Association donated K 5,250,000 for upgrading of the museum and relief items and medicine to the storm victims. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe accepted the donations.—MNA

YANGON, 18 Oct— The IT show of new Lucky Bird Centre II of Lucky Bird Co Ltd was opened here at No. 351, Room 103, on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

At the IT show, computers and accessories will be sold at a discount from 15 October to 15 November and 3 to 50 percent discount will be offered for new advanced IT products. The latest notebooks, projectors, printers, scanners and various kinds of new IT products are on display at the show.

Those interested can visit Lucky Bird Co Ltd (Yangon Office), No. 355 (Ph: 248167, 379875) and Yangon Centre-II, No. 351, Room-103, Theinbyu Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township (Ph: 09-99-24544), Mandalay Branch, No. 5/26-B, 78th x 79th streets, Mandalay (Ph: 02-21572), Nay Pyi Taw Branch, No. 12, Yangon-Mandalay Highway, Nay Pyi Taw Pyimana (Ph: 067-23190).

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects axis for building Aungsitpyin-Taungpyoeletwe road.—MNA

Regional development tasks in Maungtaw District inspected

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party looked into thriving Manawthukha, Yadana-aung, Thihtatyin and Kyawzeya quality strain paddy, Kyeinchaung Village Market and rice shops.

Next, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party proceeded to Phawatchaung Village, Maungtaw District where they inspected regional development tasks and agricultural undertakings.

On arrival at Border Region Immigration Control Headquarters in Kyikanpyin Village-tract, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw heard a report presented by the Director of the Rakhine State Development Affairs Department on condition of Maungtaw-Kyikanpyin-Kyeinchaung road and repair of bridges along the road, bridges to be repaired, condition of Kyeinchaung-Aungsitpyin road section and work to be carried out.

After that, the Chairman of the Maungtaw District Peace and Development Council reported on bridges to be constructed on the Aungsitpyin-Taungpyoeletwe road and Col Htein Lin of the local station on availability of gravels.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye gave a supplementary report to Maj-Gen Khin Zaw who gave instructions to officials concerned.

New products available at IT show of new Lucky Bird Centre II

YANGON, 18 Oct— The IT show of new Lucky Bird Centre II of Lucky Bird Co Ltd was opened here at No. 351, Room 103, on Theinbyu Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

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MNA

Relief, cash donated to DEM, storm victims

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe accepts cash donation, relief items and medicines from Thai Ambassador Mr Bansarn Bunnag — HOME AFFAIRS

YANGON, 18 Oct— A ceremony to donate cash for upgrading of the Drug Elimination Museum and relief supplies and medicine to storm victims was held at the Ministry of Home Affairs (former office) here yesterday afternoon. Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag on behalf of Office of Narcotics Control Board of Thailand and Thai-Myanmar Friendship Association donated K 5,250,000 for upgrading of the museum and relief items and medicine to the storm victims. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe accepted the donations.—MNA
Kathina robe offering ceremony of Camp Commandant’s Office of Ministry of Defence

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct — The 55th Communal Kathina robe offering ceremony of Camp Commandant’s Office of the Ministry of Defence was held at Kan-Oo Parriyatti Sarithintaik (Yezin Village) here this morning.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Nu Nu Swe, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended the ceremony and presented Katina robes and offertories.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of members of the Sangha of Kan-Oo Parriyatti Sarithintaik (Yezin Village) led by Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadha Bhaddanta Vicarinda-bhivamsa. Also present on the occasion were Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thayam and wife Daw Amy Khine and officers and other ranks of the Camp Commandant’s Office and their families.

Old engineering students to pay respects in Nov

YANGON, 18 Oct — A ceremony to pay respects to retired faculty members and get-together of the old students (metallurgical engineering) of Yangon Institute of Technology and other technological universities, will be held in Mandalay or Pyin Oo Lwin Township during November. It is learnt that the committee invites the old students to attend the preliminary meeting to be held at the building of Myanmar Engineering Society on 26 October.

For making donation, the old students may contact Col Nyan Tun Oo (Retd) (Ph-095192062), U Nyunt Hay (Ph-708861), Dr Aye Myint (Ph-621454), Dr Kay Thi Lwin (Ph-095029410), Dr Khine Kyaw Win (Ph-6420490), U Than Htay (Ph-095038655), U Kyaw Soe (Ph-095157018), U Myint Soe (Ph-09531248), Dr Swe Kyi Thar Soe (Ph-095184478) and Daw Nyunt Nyunt Aye (Ph-092013551). — MNA

Australia beat Myanmar in semifinal of AFF Women’s Championship

YANGON, 18 Oct — Semifinals of the 2008 AFF Women’s Championship continued at Ho Chi Minh, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam this afternoon.

In the second semifinal, defending champion Myanmar women’s football team lost to the Australian women’s football team 1-5.

The Vietnamese team beat the Thai team 2-1. On 20 October Myanmar team and Thai team will compete for the third position. The Vietnam team will play against the Australian team in the final that will take place on the same day. — MNA

Marionette Contest continues

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct — The Marionette Contest of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at Ywadaw No. 7 Transit Centre, here, this evening.

Ayeayar Hlaing Marionette Troupe representing Ayeyawady Division participated in the contest, supervised by Chairman of the Panel of Judges U Ye Dwe, Secretary U Shwe Kyi and members.

Among the audience were Maj-Gen Ko Ko 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 and Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win. — MNA

Outstanding students, athletes honoured

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Oct — A ceremony to present prizes to the outstanding students of staff families of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was held in conjunction with honouring the outstanding athletes at the Ministry this morning, with an address by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo.

The Minister presented prizes who passed matriculation exam for 2007-08 with six distinctions and the Minister’s wife Daw Ni Ni Win awarded the five distinctions winning students.

The managing directors and the directors of Yangon Institute of Technology and other technological universities, will be held in Mandalay or Pyin Oo Lwin Township during November. It is learnt that the committee invites the old students to attend the preliminary meeting to be held at the building of Myanmar Engineering Society on 26 October.

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Talks on Hepatitis B ‘Total Care’ organized

YANGON, 18 Oct — Fortune International Limited extended greetings and Head of Department (Retd) Professor U Saw Naing of the University of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine and Department (Retd) Dr Khine Aye of the University of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine extended greetings and Head of Department (Retd) Dr Khine Aye of the University of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine, raised by those present.

Answered the questions raised by those present.

Those wishing to buy Livorax B may contact Nos 11/12, Bahosi Compound, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon (Ph-211392, 211393, 211394), Rooms (T4+T5), Great Wall Plaza between 31st and 78th streets, Mandalay (Ph: 02-39631, 02-39632) and No (139), Thiri Yadana Market, Nay Pyi Taw (Ph: 420949, 421183-6). — MNA

Fortune International Limited extended greetings.

MD U Mya Han of Fortune International Limited extends greetings. — MNA
Agriculture sector contributes to building new modern nation

(from page 16)

made for ensuring development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. As Myanmar is an agro-based country, the government is providing assistance for development of the agriculture sector.

The agriculture sector fulfills the requirements of the people in basic needs. As such, emphasis is being placed on uplift of the agriculture sector at full capacity. Progress has been achieved in the sector yearly since 1988.

Paddy is staple food of the country. In 1988-89, 11.80 million acres of land were put under paddy and 617.78 million baskets of paddy could be produced. In 2006-07, a total of 1.482 million baskets of paddy could be produced. In 2006-07, a total of 8.28 million baskets of rice and yielding over 100 metric tons of paddy per acre. Edible oil crop such as groundnut, sesame, sunflower, mustard, niger and oil palm are the second essential crops. In 1996-97, a total of 0.824 million acres of land were put under cotton and 102.9 million viss of cotton were produced. In 2006-07, a total of 0.874 million acres of cotton yielded 164.2 million viss of cotton.

The cultivation of sugarcane is focused on supplying the raw material demand of the sugar mills for local consumption and for earning foreign exchange by exporting the surplus sugar. In 1996-97, a total of 0.204 million acres of sugarcane was cultivated and 4 million tons of sugar produced. In 2006-07, 0.369 million acres of sugarcane plantation produced 8 million tons of sugar.

To substitute diesel with bio-diesel in Myanmar, a total of 0.375 million acres of physic nut have been planted. Arrangements are being made for growing 500,000 acres each in all States and Divisions within three years.

Mixed and double cropping is to be conducted for extension of cultivable lands. In doing so, availability of water plays a key role in cultivation task. From 1988-89 to 2008, 208 irrigation facilities such as dams and sluice gates have been built across the nation. A total of 305 river water pumping projects and 7,578 underground water tapping projects were implemented to supply potable water to 13.9 million people. By seeking water resources, the irrigated farmlands increased from 12.5 per cent in 1988-89 to 18 per cent in 2006-07.

In the agriculture sector, the government is striving for changing from the conventional farming to mechanized farming with momentum. Nowadays, the agriculture tasks are being undertaken with the use of 11,551 tractors, 110,024 power-tillers, 28,340 paddy threshers, 3,220 paddy harvesters, 224,900 weeding machines, 46,354 seeding machines and 1,690,111 pumps.

In 1996-97, a total of 30.42 million acres of crops land including net 22.92 million acres counted for 132.7 percent of cultivation capacity. In 2006-07, a total of 50.42 million acres of crops land including net 31.17 million acres counted for 161.8 percent of cultivation capacity.

At present, paddy plantations are thriving in the nation. Likewise, groundnut, sesame, sunflower and oil palm plantations cover the cultivable land with green color. Pulses and beans plantations are ready to earn foreign exchange. These progress in the agriculture sector grants for development of the national economy and for building a new modern nation.

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Translation: TTA

Kyemon: 11-10-2008

Thriving paddy plantations seen in vacant and virgin lands.

Yielded from 20.08 million acres of monsoon and summer paddy. In comparing two cultivation seasons, a total of 8.28 million acres of paddy could be extended to produce 864.22 million baskets of paddy. Up to now, ardent efforts are being made for extending acreage of paddy cultivation and yielding over 100 baskets of paddy.

At present, Myanmar is a leading country in bean and pulse cultivation and producing countries in the ASEAN. Out of 17 pulses and beans in Myanmar, mung, green gram, pigeon pea, soya-bean, cow pea and chick pea are the main export peas.

In 1988-89, beans and pulses were cultivated on 1.8 million acres of land. A total of 0.27 million flower, mustard, niger and oil palm are the second essential crops. In 1996-97, the country grew 4.41 million acres of edible oil crops except oil palm. In 1996-97, a total of 0.824 million acres of land were put under cotton and 102.9 million viss of cotton were produced. In 2006-07, a total of 0.874 million acres of cotton yielded 164.2 million viss of cotton.

The cultivation of sugarcane is focused on supplying the raw material demand of the sugar mills for local consumption and for earning foreign exchange by exporting the surplus sugar. In 1996-97, a total of 0.204 million acres of sugarcane was cultivated and 4 million tons of sugar produced. In 2006-07, 0.369 million acres of sugarcane plantation produced 8 million tons of sugar.

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Translation: TTA

Kyemon: 11-10-2008

Groundnut plantations thriving on cultivable land.

Hsiophon River Water Pumping Station irrigating 37,000 acres of summer paddy plantations in Hlegu Township.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV XIANG DA VOY NO (8008)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG DA VOY NO (8008) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.10.08 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 CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA)AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KAI DO VOY NO (807)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KAI DO VOY NO (807) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.10.08 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 P.D.Z LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NOBLE - CORAL VOY NO (11)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE - CORAL VOY NO (11) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.10.08 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY 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: EASTERN-CAR LINER LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

Vienna International Film Festival opens
VIENNA, 18 Oct — The Vienna International Film Festival (Vienneale) opened here on Friday with some 300 films of three categories all over the world on display during 17-29 Oct.
Since founded in 1962, the Viennale attracts nearly 100,000 visitors each year in October. Besides Berlin, Venice and Cannes film festivals, Vienneale has become the most expectable film festival in the year’s cinematic calendar in Europe, according to local media reports.
A total of three film prizes will be awarded at the end of the Viennale.

FIPRESCI Award (The International Association of Film Critics Award) will be given to up-and-coming directors while STANDARD Readers’ Jury Award will be given to excellent films for finding a place in Austrian market and Vienna Film Prize given to outstanding Austrian feature or documentary films.
The Viennale will not only display films, but also represent Vienna as a city with culture and other beauties. Music and dance performances are also parts of the Viennale this year.

College student swindler sentenced to 5 years
PHILADELPHIA, 18 Oct — A college student who with her boyfriend stole the identities of friends and neighbours was sentenced Friday to five years in prison and ordered to pay more than $100,000 in restitution. Jocelyn Kirsch, a former Drexel University student, and then-boyfriend Edward Anderton used the money for expensive salon visits, exotic vacations and fancy dinners.
Federal guidelines called for a prison sentence of 70 months, but US District Judge Eduardo C Robreno credited Kirsch for her apparent remorse and for her 14 July guilty plea to aggravated identity theft and other counts.
Kirsch, 23, and Anderton acknowledged stealing the identities of friends and neighbors in the Philadelphia area in 2006 and 2007 to net more than $116,000 in goods and services.
The scheme unraveled when an employee at an upscale salon told police that a check for Kirsch’s $2,250 hair extension job had bounced. About the same time, a neighbor of the couple told police a package she did not order had been sent to her.

Southern drought creeping northward
CHARLESTON, 18 Oct — The drought that has plagued the Deep South for more than a year is creeping northward, and officials in multiple states are restricting outdoor burning in the face of water shortages and forest fire risks from falling leaves and tinder-dry conditions.
Extreme drought conditions, the second-worst possible, have now spread into Kentucky, and severe conditions have returned to West Virginia and southwest Virginia, according to the US Drought Monitor.
“The last three months have sucked every bit of moisture we’ve had,” said Ben Webster, a fire staff assistant for the West Virginia Division of Forestry.

Greek scientists use lasers to clean Acropolis
ATHENS, 18 Oct — In the past two and a half thousand years, the temples of the Acropolis have suffered fire, bombing and earthquake. Now, scientists are trying to save them from a new modern enemy: pollution.
Standing on a hilltop at the centre of Athens, a city of 4 million people, the Acropolis’ elaborately sculptured stones have fallen prey to a film of black crust from car exhaust fumes, industrial pollution, acid rain and fires.
A team of Greek engineers and restorers are using an innovative laser technology system to clean the surface of the ancient monuments, uncovering colours and ornamentation hidden for decades.
“It is very serious,” said Maria Ioannidou, director of the Acropolis Restoration Service, of the pollution. “It destroys sculptural, structural and painting details. One of our aims is to regain these cultural details using new technology. “For years the team tested 40 different methods, including mechanical and chemical processes, to find the safest solutions to restore the white of the marbles without losing detail.
The winner was the branchchild of Crete’s Foundation for Research and Technology, which created a system that uses two laser beams of infrared and ultraviolet rays simultaneously.
Chinese Premier expounds on “Scientific Outlook on Development”

BEIJING, 18 Oct — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao expounded on “The Scientific Outlook on Development” for Bruce Alberts, editor-in-chief of the Science Magazine of the United States on 30 Sept. In the two-hour exclusive interview at the Zhongnanhai leadership compound, Wen said the first and foremost principle of the concept of scientific development is to put people first, to make every development with social development, the integration of economic reform with political reform, the integration of an opening-up and inclusive approach with independent innovation, and the integration of advanced civilization with traditional Chinese culture.

“Thirdly, we need to resolve the disparities, including rich-poor disparity, regional disparity and urban-rural disparity in our country’s developmental process. “ He added. Sustainable development is also an important part of the concept, which aims at meeting the challenges of population, resources, and environmental protection faced by the 1.3 billion Chinese people in the modernization process. He said. [Internet]

NASA to launch probe to map solar system’s edge

LOS ANGELES, 18 Oct — A small NASA spacecraft embarks on a two-year mission this weekend to give scientists their first view of the study a chaotic region in space where the solar wind from the sun clashes with cold gases from interstellar space.

The solar wind, a stream of charged particles spewing from the sun at 1 million miles per hour, carves out a protective bubble around the solar system. This bubble known as the heliosphere shields against most dangerous cosmic radiation that would otherwise interfere with human spaceflight.

Scientists recently discovered that the solar wind pressure is at its weakest level in 50 years, although the exact reason remains a mystery. Ibex could help confirm whether the heliosphere is shrinking.

Observations from Ibex should help researchers in “unlocking the secrets of this important interaction between the sun and the galaxy,” said David McComas of the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. He is chief scientist for the $165 million mission. [Internet]

Arctic autumn temperature hits record high

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct — Autumn temperatures in the Arctic region are a record 5.0 degree Celsius (9.0 Fahrenheit) higher than normal due to the melting of the ice cap, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) report said on Friday. “Changes in the Arctic show a domino effect from multiple causes more clearly than in other regions,” said NOAA oceanographer James Overland, lead author of the report titled ‘The Arctic Report Card 2008’ published on NOAA’s website. “It’s a sensitive system and often reflects changes in relatively fast and dramatic ways,” the scientist said.

As the ice cap over the Arctic melts due to global warming, more ocean water is exposed and heated by the sun’s rays, the report said. [Internet]

Slovenia confirms four cases of anthrax

BELGRADE, 18 Oct — Slovenian veterinary services confirmed on Friday reports about the death of four cows caused by anthrax, but insisted that there were no reasons for panic after having taken necessary measures. The four cows belong to a farmer from the village of Zice near Slovenske Konjice in northeastern Slovenia, the Slovenian news agency STA reported.

“From the moment that the test proved anthrax, we have carried out all the basic measures. We delivered the disinfectant, transport of animals and manure, and sale of fodder were forbidden, and we also provided vaccine and vaccinated the animals,” said Slavko Hren, local veterinary officer in Celje.

The head of the veterinary office in Celje, Andreja Bizjak, said in the last 50 years anthrax cases have been reported in 78 areas in Slovenia, the last case having been reported in 2001. [Internet]

Japan goes bananas for new diet

TOKYO, 18 Oct — Keiko Akai is very annoyed. The attractive 21-year-old university student has been planning to do a banana diet for some time now, but she can’t get started — and not for lack of trying. “I keep going to OK Store, my local supermarket every single day,” she says. “In fact, I’ve just been there. There are no bananas on the shelves, and it’s been like that for a month.” Akai has never weighed more than 100 pounds, and is so slim that her waist is swelling in Zara’s smallest size XS skirt. She doesn’t need to lose any weight. But Japanese girls obsessed with diets tend to jump at any trendy new ones, so, when Akai heard about a popular actress who’d lost 26 pounds through the Morning Banana Diet, she had to try it. And the dearth of bananas as her local supermarket, and many others, is testimony to the popularity of the new dieting fad. [Internet]

A pre-Hispanic gold pectoral piece is on exhibit in the Museo del Oro, or Gold Museum, in Bogota, Friday, on 17 Oct, 2008. The Gold Museum, which offers a collection of gold and emeralds and other precious materials crafted in pre-Hispanic times, has undergone a makeover of new lighting and sound. [Internet]
Ferguson says Rooney will score more as he matures

MANCHESTER, 18 Oct — England striker Wayne Rooney will mature into an even more prolific goalscorer, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said on Friday. Rooney, 23 next week, has hit form with seven goals in five games for club and country with five goals in his last three international appearances doing much to help England enjoy their most successful start to a World Cup qualifying campaign. “When players get into their mid-20s, their consistency improves. His consistency of scoring will improve,” Ferguson told reporters.

“What we have noticed about Wayne is when he goes on one of his bursts, his performances improve with it. That is how it has been since he has been with us. You hope by the time he gets to his mid-20s, his experience will bring more consistency to his scoring.”

Ferguson says Rooney will score more as he matures

Liverpool 3-2 Wigan: Amr Zaki takes advantage of Daniel Agger’s error at the back to slot Wigan ahead in the 29th minute.

Petrov facing lengthy lay-off

LONDON, 18 Oct — Manchester City and Bulgaria winger Martin Petrov is facing a lengthy lay-off after suffering knee ligament damage, City boss Mark Hughes revealed on Friday.

Petrov, who only recently returned to the City side following a hamstring strain, was injured in his country’s midweek draw with Georgia.

“Martin is going to see a couple more specialists over the weekend. But the view is, he has a significant injury and could be out for quite some time,” Hughes said.

Nadal shoulders burden to join Federer and Murray in Madrid tennis semi-finals

MADRID, 18 Oct — Rafael Nadal shrugged off a pre-match shoulder injury scare to squeeze into the semi-finals of the Madrid Masters on Friday, beating close friend and compatriot Feliciano Lopez 6-4, 6-4. The top seed, and 2005 champion, revealed that he had taken treatment on his problem shoulder joint until shortly before the match.

“It was a tough situation and I’m very glad to get this win,” said the man who can claim the year-end number 1 ranking by reaching Sunday’s final, according to ATP calculations.

Nadal will face off for a place in the final when he takes on the winner between Croatia’s Ivo Karlovic and Frenchman Gilles Simon.

Last December, the former Duke star played the Bay Course four times while on a trip to Maui with one of her sponsors.

“I got to play in way more wind than this, so this seems easy,” she said. “I learned every hole and knew where we were playing from and got a feel for the greens.”

I want to be Argentina coach, says Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, 18 Oct — Argentina superstar Diego Maradona said on Friday he wants to succeed Alfio Basile as the national team coach and take them to the World Cup finals.

However, Maradona is likely to lose out to Sergio Batista, who led Argentina to the Beijing Olympics gold medal, in the race to take over the reins from Basile who resigned in the aftermath of the 1-0 qualifying defeat to Chile on Wednesday.

“Perhaps I am behind in the betting but I am without doubt the number one in the hearts of Argentinians,” said the 47-year-old Maradona who skippered Argentina to 1986 World Cup victory.

“I couldn’t ask for anything better. I would be in seventh heaven.”

Batista said he was ready to take charge.

“Feel as if I am capable and I’m convinced that I could do the job,” he told La Red radio.

Venues and Ivanovic into Zurich semi-finals

ZURICH, 18 Oct — Venus Williams survived an inconsistent performance to defeat Italian Francesca Schiavone 6-5, 6-3 and reach the semi-finals of the Zurich Open on Friday.

The third seeded American struggled to overcome a tenacious opponent in an untidy match that was riddled with errors from both players, but also featured some well-contested rallies and spectacular shot-making.

Lang, Pettersen share lead at Kapalua

KAPALUA (Hawaii), 18 Oct — While Kapalua is making its LPGA Tour debut, Brittany Lang is experiencing at handling its challenging tradewinds and tricky greens.

Lang shot a 1-under 71 on Friday for a share of the second-round lead with Suzann Pettersen in the inaugural Kapalua LPGA Classic.

Last December, the former Duke star played the Bay Course four times while on a trip to Maui with one of her sponsors.

“I got to play in way more wind than this, so this seems easy,” she said. “I learned every hole and knew where we were playing from and got a feel for the greens.”

Suzann Pettersen, of Norway, hits from the third tee at Kapalua Resort during the second round of the inaugural Kapalua LPGA Classic golf tournament on 17 Oct, 2008 in Kapalua, Hawaii. — Internet
Ping An Insurance predicts Q3 loss for Fortis investment

SHENZHEN, 18 Oct — Ping An Insurance (Group) Company forecast third-quarter losses in a notice released on Saturday as it booked a huge loss with its investment in Fortis shares.

An initial calculation showed Ping An, the country’s second biggest life insurer after China Life, suffered losses in the first three quarters, the notice said.

According to the insurer, the forecast losses largely resulted from its third quarter book value loss of 15.7 billion yuan (2.3 billion US dollars) for its investment in the Belgian-Dutch financial services company.

The insurer said its net profit in the January-to-September period stood at nearly 11.7 billion yuan, however, it was unable to offset the huge loss resulting from the Fortis investment. — Internet

Singapore’s Goh hails China’s response to world financial storm

SINGAPORE, 18 Oct — Singapore’s Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong has praised China for its response to the Asian financial crisis 1997 and the current global financial storm, which is believed to have serious impact on the world economy.

In a recent interview with China’s Central Television Station, Goh said that China held its currency steady and did not devalue it in 1997, which would have put further pressure on other currencies, local English newspaper “The Straits Times” reported on Saturday.

Goh was quoted as saying that this time, China, together with the Europeans and Americans, also lowered its interest rate. Otherwise, there would have been some competitive leakages of funds to the Chinese currency of Renminbi. — Internet

Pakistani official vows to stabilize economy within one month

ISLAMABAD, 18 Oct — A senior Pakistani official said here on Saturday that Pakistan is taking measures to increase foreign exchange reserves and stabilize economy within one month, ruling out reports of possible financial default.

“We are planning to build our reserves and the situation will improve within a month,” said Shaukat Tareen, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance, at a press conference.

Pakistan’s foreign exchange reserves hit a record low recently. The rating agency Standard & Poor’s downgraded the country’s sovereign debt to level of CCC-plus, close to defaulting on its commitments of external loan repayment. — Internet

WEATHER

Saturday, 18 October, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Tanintharyi Division, isolated in Mon State, Mandalay, Magway Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (1.06) inches, Ye (1.03) inches and Kawhong (0.75) inch.

Maximum temperature on 17-10-2008 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 18-10-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 18-10-2008 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 17-10-2008 was (7.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 18-10-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (100.87) inches at Mingaladon, (112.44) inches at Kaba-Aye and (131.02) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from North at (14:30) hours MST on 17-10-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19th October 2008:

Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division, isolated in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago. Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy 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: Genralal decrease of rain in the whole country.


Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-10-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-10-2008: Partly cloudy.
Agriculture sector contributes to building new modern nation

Article: Aung Hsan (Agriculture)

Myanmar is rich in natural resources and it has fertile soil. Remarkable progress can be witnessed in the economic sector. The agriculture sector plays a pivotal role in developing the economic sector.

The agriculture sector is related to other social and economic sectors.

Efforts are being (See page 11)

Chelsea wrap up convincing win as Malouda pokes home after Ross Turnbull spills Nicolas Anelka’s on to the post.

Chelsea crush Middlesbrough to stay top of the pile

Passenger buses run for ensuring smooth transport of contestants and local people.—MNA

Bus lines run for smooth transport of contestants

Photo shows Ngamoeyeik Sluice Gate.

Myanmar overpower Bangladesh in Madeka Cup

YANGON, 18 Oct — Myanmar beat Bangladesh 1-0 in group-B of the 40th Madeka Football Tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia this evening. Striker Soe Myat Min scored the winning goal for Myanmar at 24th minutes in the first half. On 20 November, Myanmar will meet Mozambique.—MNA

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