YANGON, 14 Oct — The following is the full text of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt in the opening ceremony of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions today:

May I present good wishes for the State level officials, departmental heads, diplomats, specially invited guests, judges and participants attending the opening ceremony of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

May you be blessed with joy at heart and may you be the ones to safeguard the traditional cultural fine arts including singing, dancing, composing and playing of musical instruments are blessed with virtues of high standard, aesthetic values, and profoundness and extent, they are also endowed fully with national essence, while always contributing to the uplift of the dignity of the Myanmar race.

First, I would like to say that the holding of the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions every year on a grand scale as a means to help build the spirit of cherishing the performing arts among the people is to further strengthen the traditions of the Myanmar race, traditional culture, customs and national character.

All the national people will have to harmoniously advance through the different stages of the firm history of civilization in weal or woe, for their nation to stand tall among the global nations, and so also, it is natural for them to preserve and safeguard their own national characteristics and national culture throughout the history of nation building.

Firm existence of the national characteristics and aspects and her people serves as the national image proving its firm history and high cultural standard. As Myanmar nation and race possess fine historical traditions and are enjoying a high standard of culture, it is a matter of pride for them to make marked achievements in preserving their deep national honour, norms and identity throughout the successive eras of history countable in years by the thousand till now.

As Myanmar youths cherish and uphold their fine traditions and culture, they will surely become strongly imbued with nationalistic fervour to brave the penetration and influence of alien decadent customs.
Peace and development for stronger national unity

The State Peace and Development Council has been striving for all round development of the Union of Myanmar by systematically implementing long-term plans in education, health, social and economic sectors.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on the implementation of these development plans. He said that the 24-region development plans should be laid down so that each and every region becomes developed harmoniously. Therefore, the Government has been fulfilling all the requirements in each and every special development region by building universities and colleges, specialist hospitals, dams, roads and bridges.

As a result, there have been favourable conditions for national economic development and the people are now enjoying the fruits of development plans.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met division-, district- and township-level departmental personnel, members of the social organizations and townsenders and fulfilled the requirements for regional development. In his speech at the meeting, the Prime Minister said that nation-building tasks the Government had carried out during the past 16 years or so were enormous and that the national development during this period was very remarkable. It was because the Government is working day and night and no one can deny it, he added.

The Government has been building all the infrastructures for parallel development of all the regions in the Union. Therefore, there are now 156 universities and colleges and 776 hospitals all over the nation. When the Thanlwin river-crossing bridge (Mawlamyine) is completed, there will be over 160 major bridges and transport will become smoother and easier.

Moreover, development plans for border areas and national races were laid down and completed, there will be over 160 major bridges and every special development region by building universities and colleges, specialist hospitals, dams, roads and bridges.

The State Peace and Development Council

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

Industry-1

Minister U Aung Thaung receives Chinese delegation

YANGON, 14 Oct — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received President Mr. Peng Liyuan from the People's Republic of China at the ministry this morning. Present at the call were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises.

Cooperatives Minister receives Thai guests

YANGON, 14 Oct — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min received Chief Executive Officer Mr. Ranjitthiittirakachi of Thailand-based ACCU, and General Manager Mr. Anan Chatuprachewin and Manager Ms. Eleventa.

Information Minister receives German guests

YANGON, 14 Oct — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Mr. Frank Buchs, Executive Producer of Polyphon Film Production of Germany and party at the Ministry of Information on Thenbyu Road, here, this evening.

World Sight Day observed in Yangon

YANGON, 14 Oct — A ceremony to mark World Sight Day co-organized by the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road this morning, attended by Deputy Minister for Health Dr. Mya Oo. First, the Deputy Minister and Dr. Stephan P. Jost of the Office of Resident Representative of WHO gave speeches.

After the ceremony, the Deputy Minister and guests viewed documentary photos, books and periodicals to mark the World Sight Day, eyedrops, functions of the National Eye Bank, latest machine for operating eyes and the machine to test cornea quality. This year’s motto for the World Sight Day is “Vision 2020: The Right to Sight Elimination of Avoidable Blindness.”
Six US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Oct—Six US soldiers were reported Wednesday to have been killed in Iraq, while the country’s interim Prime Minister threatened a major offensive against the city of Fallujah unless its residents hand over Abu Musab Zarqawi, the Jordanian guerrilla leader thought to be hiding there.

Two of the US soldiers were killed Wednesday when a suicide bomber drove his car into a US convoy in the northern city of Mosul, a tactic that has grown more frequent among guerrillas in recent weeks. Another soldier died when a roadside bomb was detonated in west Baghdad, the military said.

The three other US deaths occurred Tuesday night when a roadside bomb exploded near a convoy in Sadr City.

The ambush that killed three American soldiers in Sadr City, the vast Shiite Muslim slum in eastern Baghdad, underscored the challenges facing what US officials describe as a peace initiative there rather than a formal cease-fire with an unevenly disciplined, homegrown force.

Germany officials Wednesday reaffirmed their policy of not contributing troops to the American-led force in Iraq and rejected speculation, prompted by a published interview with the country’s Defence Minister, that the policy might change.

“‘There will be no German soldiers in Iraq,’” a government spokesman, Thomas Steg, said, answering reporters’ questions about the interview in The Financial Times in which Defence Minister Peter Struck seemed to hold the door open for a possible change in Germany’s policy.

“The position of the German government as far as Iraq is concerned is clear, it will not be changed,” The Associated Press reported that Mr. Steg said. “It will remain in the future what it was in the past - there will be no German soldiers in Iraq.”

In the interview, published Wednesday, Mr Struck said, “At present I rule out the deployment of German troops in Iraq.”

But then, in the comments that provoked speculation about the possibility of a change, he said, “In general, however, there is no one who can predict developments in Iraq in such a way that he could make such a binding statement.”

Germany, which, with France, led European opposition to the invasion of Iraq, has embarked on a programme to train Iraqi police recruits outside Iraq, but it has declined to send any of its own troops. Given Germany’s size and importance, any change in that policy would have a powerful impact on the American-led force itself and on international attitudes toward the Iraq war.

German officials were emphatic in rejecting speculation that any active thought was being given to altering Germany’s refusal to participate directly in the war.

“No one in the Federal Government, including the Defence Minister, is thinking about a change of position on Iraq,” the German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder was quoted as telling cabinet members in a meeting on Wednesday.

China committed to strengthening multilateral mechanism

BEIJING, 13 Oct—Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Tuesday that China will, as always, commit itself to strengthening international multilateral mechanism with the United Nations at the core.

At a meeting with visiting United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Hu said China will support the reform of the United Nations and an important role played by the United Nations and its Secretary-General in international affairs.

Hu said the current international situation is undergoing profound changes with peace and development remaining the theme of the current times. However, unstable and uncertain factors have increased remarkably.

How to address the threats and challenges, safeguard world peace and promote common development constitute major tasks facing the international community, noted Hu.

He said the United Nations, as the most authoritative inter-governmental organization with the widest representation, is an important stage for practising multilateralism and strengthening international cooperation.

Under the new circumstances, Hu said, the international community’s expectation for the United Nations is much higher than lower, and all countries need a strong United Nations to handle major issues concerning peace and development.

Noting that the UN Charter is the guide in international relations, Hu stressed that the purpose and tenet of the UN Charter should be safeguarded in practising multilateralism and strengthening international cooperation.

Agreeing with Hu, Annan said China, with increasing role in international affairs, is an important force for safeguarding world peace and development. The purpose of the UN reform is to facilitate the United Nations better practice multilateralism, he said.

In the interview, published Wednesday, Mr. Annan said that he is not present when the United Nations better practice multilateralism, he said.

One soldier was killed Wednesday when an explosive detonated in western Baghdad.

—Three soldiers were killed Tuesday when an explosive detonated near their convoy in eastern Baghdad.

The latest identification reported by the military:

—Army Staff Sgt Michael L Burbank, 34, Bremerton, Wash.; killed Monday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Mosul, Iraq. assigned to the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash..

—Two soldiers were killed Monday when rockets hit their camp in Baghdad; assigned to the Division Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

—Army Sgt Pamela G Osbourne, 38, Hollywood, Fla.

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Iraqi shopkeepers remove debris outside damaged shops in the centre of the guerrilla-held city of Fallujah recently. A Baghdad bombing killed three US soldiers in the latest wave of violence.

1,081 US soldiers killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 13 Oct—As of Wednesday, 1,081 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 225 died as a result of hostile action and 256 died of non-hostile causes. The figures indicate three military citizens.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador. Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since I May 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 943 US military members have died — 761 as a result of hostile action and 227 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers as of Wednesday.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 7,862 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s weekly tally.

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Major car bombings in Iraq since 2003

Mosul (Iraq), 14 Oct—Here's a look at some of the major car bombings in Iraq since last year:


—Aug 19, 2003: Truck bomber strikes UN headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22 people, including top UN envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and wounding more than 100.

—Aug 30, 2003: A car bomb explodes outside a mosque in Najaf, killing at least 85 people, including Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim, one of the most respected Shiite Muslim clerics in Iraq, and wounding more than 140.

—Oct 9, 2003: A suicide car bomber crashes a white Oldsmobile into a police station in Sadr City, the Baghdad slum that is Iraq’s largest Shiite enclave, killing himself, nine others and wounding as many as 45.

—Oct 27, 2003: Four suicide bombings target the Red Cross headquarters and four police stations in Baghdad, killing 40 people and wounding more than 200.

—Nov 12, 2003: Suicide truck bomber targets headquarters of Italy’s paramilitary police in Nasiriya, killing more than 30 people.


—Jan. 18, 2004: Suicide car bombing near main gate to the US-led coalition headquarters in Baghdad kills at least 31 people.

—Feb. 10, 2004: Suicide bomber triggers a truckload of explosives outside a police station in Iskandariyah, killing 53 people.

—Feb 11, 2004: A suicide attacker blows up an explosives-laden car in a crowd of Iraqis waiting outside an army recruiting centre in Baghdad, killing 47.

—April 21, 2004: Near-simultaneous explosions caused by car bombs near police stations and police academy in southern city of Basra kill at least 68 people and wound 200.

—June 17, 2004: A sport utility vehicle packed with artillery shells slams into a crowd waiting to volunteer for the Iraqi military, killing 35 people and wounding 138.

—July 19, 2004: A fuel tanker rigged as a massive bomb hurts toward a Baghdad police station and explodes, killing nine people, wounding 60, and leveling a huge section of an industrial neighbourhood.

—July 28, 2004: A car bomb explodes outside a police station used as a recruiting centre in Baquba, killing at least 68 people and wounding more than 50.

—Sept. 4, 2004: A suicide attacker detonates a car bomb outside an Iraqi police academy in Kirkuk as trainees and civilians leave for the day, killing 20 people and wounding 36.

—Sept. 14, 2004: A car bomb explodes near a Baghdad police headquarters where Iraqis wait to apply for jobs, and gunmen open fire on a van carrying police in Baquba, killing at least 59 people and wounding at least 114.

A US helicopter flies over a burning Humvee vehicle following a car bomb attack in the Iraqi northern city of Mosul, on 13 Oct, 2004. —INTERNET

A hedged apology from Blair on Iraq

London, 13 Oct—Prime Minister Tony Blair gave his most explicit apology on Wednesday for the flawed intelligence assessments upon which he took Britain to war in Iraq, but he rejected opposition demands that he says he was sorry for “misrepresenting” intelligence.

“I take full responsibility and apologize for any information given in good faith that has subsequently turned out to be wrong,” he told the House of Commons in a spirited exchange with opposition members.

“What I do not in any way accept is that there was a deception of anyone. I will not apologize for removing Saddam Hussein. I will not apologize for the conflict. I believe it was right then, is right now, and essential for the wider security of that region and the world.”

His apology reflected his careful management of the issue in Parliament, where a large fraction of his Labour Party is in rebellion over Iraq policy. They and the opposition members have been demanding an apology for mistakes in judgment about the existence of weapons stockpiles and for inadequate planning for stabilizing and rebuilding Iraq.

M66, Britain’s intelligence service, has been forced to retract assertions that Mr Hussein had chemical and biological weapons that could be deployed on 45 minutes’ notice, a claim that helped to galvanize British public opinion in favour of war.

Britain warns travellers of kidnap threat in Iraq

London, 14 Oct—Britain’s Foreign Office updated its travel advice for Iraq, warning its nationals that they could be targeted by kidnappers in the north of the war-torn country.

The Foreign Office amended its advice for Iraq and Egypt “to reflect the most up to date information on the continued threat from terrorism”, a spokesperson said.

Its current information about Iraq advised “against all but essential travel” to the country, and that the “security situation is dangerous”.

The new guidance states: “There is a direct threat of kidnap to foreign nationals in northern Iraq and we believe that British nationals may be targeted. “There continues to be widespread outbreaks of violence and threats to kidnap British and other foreign nationals.

“It is likely that there will be an increase in the number of attacks during (the Muslim holy month of) Ramadan from October 15 to November 14.”

The advice comes a week after Ken Bigley, a 62-year-old British engineer, was beheaded by captors who had held him since September 16, demanding the release of Iraqi female prisoners from British and US custody.
Iraqi businesswoman tells of abuse in US custody

PARIS, 13 Oct — A wealthy Iraqi businesswoman said to have been the last female prisoner at Iraq’s infamous Abu Ghraib Prison said she saw soldiers there abuse other prisoners, the French newspaper Le Monde reported.

Houda Al-Azzawi also said that, while held in another detention centre before being transferred to Abu Ghraib, she was beaten, deprived of food and sleep and had her shoulder dislocated by a guard, Le Monde reported Tuesday. The newspaper did not specify the nationality of the guards alleged to have mistreated her.

Al-Azzawi, 49, was arrested by US forces on 22 December and accused of financing the Iraqi resistance, the newspaper said. She was initially held in the Adhamiya detention centre, sharing a cell with her sister, who also was arrested along with their three brothers, the newspaper said.

One night, the naked dead body of one of the brothers was thrown into the cell, on top of the sister, Nahla, the newspaper said.

“She was panicking. She realized that the body was inert. With my hands cuffed in front of me, I was able to lift up a corner of my blindfold. The naked man was Ayad, my brother, and his face was covered in blood,” the newspaper quoted Al-Azzawi as saying.

She continued: “I asked Nahla to bow her head to verify whether his heart was still beating. It wasn’t. She spent the night with Ayad’s body on her knees.”

The newspaper did not specify who allegedly threw the body into the cell. Ayad’s death certificate cites coalition forces as saying he died of a heart attack, the causes of which were unknown, the newspaper said.

Al-Azzawi was transferred January 4 to Abu Ghraib, where she was interrogated 30 times, the newspaper quoted her as saying. She said she only learned of the prisoner abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib after her release on July 19, Le Monde said she was the last woman held at the prison.

The publication in April of photographs showing naked, terrified Iraqi prisoners being abused and humiliated by grinning American guards at Abu Ghraib caused outrage in Iraq and internationally.

“We were all witness to scenes that were similar or worse,” Le Monde quoted Al-Azzawi as saying.

Al-Azzawi said, however, that conditions improved after the scandal erupted.

US forces say there are no more women in their custody at Abu Ghraib, but there is a section run by Iraq for ordinary criminals and it is unclear if there are any women there. — MNA/AP

Germany, Uzbekistan seek enhanced cooperation

ALMA ATA, 13 Oct — Uzbek Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyayev held talks Tuesday with visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on the prospect of bilateral cooperation and regional security, the Uzbek Government said in a Press release.

During the talks, Schroeder stressed the role of Uzbekistan in helping stabilize the situation in Afghanistan and in fighting terrorism, according to reports reaching here from Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan. Noting that drug trafficking is an important financial source for terrorists, Schroeder praised Uzbekistan for its stepped-up efforts in recent years to crack down on drug smuggling from Afghanistan.

Mirziyayev, for his part, said Uzbekistan has maintained high mutual political trust with Germany, its important strategic partner in Europe.

Political relations have been continuously strengthened and cooperation in various fields rapidly developed between the two countries, he added.

Schroeder flew in from the Afghan capital of Kabul on Monday. According to the Uzbek Foreign Ministry, trade between Uzbekistan and Germany reached 334 million US dollars in 2003, and Germany’s investment in Uzbekistan totalled 1.3 billion dollars.

US photographer abducted in Iraq freed

WASHINGTON, 13 Oct — An American photographer abducted by gunmen in Baghdad on Sunday has been freed and is safe, the picture agency representing him said on Tuesday.

Paul Taggart, 24, has been released and has spoken by telephone with his parents in Tulsa, Oklahoma, said Stephen Claypole, Chief Executive Officer of the World Picture News Agency in New York.

Claypole said Taggart, who had been in Iraq for about five months, was kidnapped by three masked gunmen early on Sunday morning in Baghdad’s Habbeya Square when his car was intercepted by what appeared to be a criminal gang.

He had been on his way to a planned 10-day picture-shooting project in Sadr City, the sprawling and volatile Shiite slum area in the east of the city.

The abduction was one of dozens of kidnappings of non-Iraqis in recent months, many of which have ended with the victims killed by beheading or other means.

The work of media in Iraq has been severely limited because of the deadly uprising by opponents of the US-led forces that occupied the country last year. Frequent bombings, abductions and shootings have made moving around the country extremely dangerous.

Taggart’s release was partly facilitated by his journalist colleagues in the Baghdad, Claypole said.

“He is on his way now to the New York Times compound in Baghdad,” he added. He did not give details about the circumstances of the release. — MNA/Reuters

Putin backs Kyoto Protocol

MOSCOW, 13 Oct — Russian President Vladimir Putin unambiguously backed the Kyoto Protocol on Tuesday, in his first public comments since his government sent it to the Kremlin-dominated Parliament for ratification.

Russian ratification is vital to the environmental pact, which needs the backing of nations responsible for 55 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. After Washington pulled out in 2001, Moscow’s participation is essential to meet targets.

Visiting Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin congratulated Putin on the Russian Government’s recent decision to back the treaty, TASS news agency said.

“I hope that Canada’s position and its prime minister’s support for Russia’s decision to back the protocol will have a positive effect on the upcoming debate in the Russian Parliament,” Putin said.

Putin does not formally control the Duma, but it is packed with his loyalists and is expected to decide on ratification by the year-end. — MNA/Reuters

Britain urges US to ratify climate change protocol

LONDON, 13 Oct — British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said on Tuesday the British Government is continuing to press the United States to ratify the Kyoto Protocol aimed at dealing with problems of climate change.

“The government is working hard to re-engage the United States on the urgency of tackling climate change despite our differences over Kyoto,” Straw told the House of Commons, the Lower House of the British Parliament.

“We are making every effort to convince United States policy-makers, at all levels, that the right environmental policy, set out in Kyoto, is also good for business,” Straw told the lawmakers, suggesting that signs were emerging that the US view was gradually shifting.

The British Government has said it will use its G-8 chairmanship next year to push the climate change agenda to the highest level, with British Prime Minister Tony Blair setting climate change and Africa as the two priorities during Britain’s rotating G-8 presidency.

In December 1997, more than 160 nations met in Kyoto, Japan, to negotiate binding targets for greenhouse gases for the developed nations. The nations agreed the Kyoto Protocol which limits their greenhouse gas emissions relative to the levels of 1990. The US, the world’s prime emitter of greenhouse gases, has said it will not ratify the protocol. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqis search for casualties among the rubble of a destroyed restaurant in Fallujah, following an overnight air raid conducted by US forces over the western city, on 12 Oct, 2004. — INTERNET
Prime Minister General Khin Nyant and party enjoy 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.— MNA

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung formally opens Performing Arts Competitions ceremony.— MNA

MNA

Myanmar enjoying basic humanitarian…

(from page 1)

Because of the existence of delicate social conditions, the vision of Dhamma and the humanitarian spirit based on Four Cardinal Principles, human values with justice as the base, social codes of conduct based on uprightness, honesty and faithfulness, and ethics and customs, all born of traditions and religious teachings, at the foundation of Myanmar culture since ancient times, it can be seen that Myanmar has all along been enjoying human rights, women’s rights, child rights, equality of human beings and religions freedom that are no different from western standards, in accord with her own ways and standards since time immemorial.

Certainly, a grand Myanmar society serving the interests of both the secular and religious sectors, will emerge proudly and confidently, in accord with their own directions, in which their culture permeates all aspects of life, and in which they can dominate the small countries through culture and in addition to applying their brazen ways, they are also using covert means, in which their culture permeates other nations through films, pop culture and literature to dominate the lifestyles of youths.

Under the guise of globalization, bred by the IT development, some powers enjoying superiority over others in wealth and technology are using various means to influence the whole world with one-sided orders, like big villages manipulating the small while ignoring the world nations existing in accord with their own desires, is the dominant force endeavouring every country continuously, passing through all natural and geographical barriers and boundaries, it is required specially for Myanmar to always beware of and ward off all decadent culture and behaviour to ensure that not even a single mark of it is left behind in any cultural corner or lifestyle of the people.

Those big nations are using the powerful media as an effective tool to dominate the small countries through culture and in addition to applying their brazen ways, they are also using covert means, in which their culture permeates other nations through films, pop culture and literature to dominate the lifestyles of youths.

At a time when IT

and cultural sectors, devoided by the perpetration of the greedy businessmen, having no national conviction, and ruined by the flow of most decadent culture coming into the nation as a modern-day trend, with the Government giving priority to enabling today’s youths to understand and appreciate the essence of national culture.

As Myanmar performing arts have taken root and flourished in the thousand-year-old Myanmar society, the symbols and essence of Myanmar culture including Myanmar traditions and culture, social ethics and values based on justice, sympathy, loving-kindness and loyalty, that are born of the teachings of Theravada Buddhism, and high standard of justice, administration and legislation, practised since the time of Myanmar kings, are enshrined in them together.

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are being held annually with the aim of enabling youths to understand and appreciate the basic nature of the performing arts together with national essence, and the worthiness and aesthetic value of genuine Myanmar cultural performing arts.

Throughout the successive eras of history, Myanmar drama and marionette have had the power to teach and organize the Myanmar people to become gentle and civilized, to cherish justice and humanitarian spirit, and to enhance their spiritual and physical prowess, while enabling them to live under their own monarchies with high dignity and glory.

Mahawthada Drama, which has been chosen for the marionette genre of this 12th Performing Arts Competitions, is a drama that reveals how Lord Buddha had to strive to attain the virtue of wisdom. The drama is, therefore, well-structured with a great depth of knowledge.

So grand and delicate is the drama that even puns and maestros of olden days had to compose separate verses for each of the plots like Mahaw Kyesay Khan (sending message like sending it with a honing pigeon) and Mahaw Umim Khan (fighting by tunnelling). Small as the number of entries in the preliminary competition this year is, it is believed that the contestants will be able to distinctly present the essence of Mahawthada Drama: the way the power of wisdom found out the falsity of the wrong philosophy in the clash between wisdom and stupidity, between the educated and the foolish, and between justice and injustice, and the position of the people’s attitude towards justice.

In like manner, Ramayana Drama, which had been chosen four times for the competition, is a drama imported from a neighbouring country. However, it had existed in the form of fable or literature in the society of Myanmar for many years.

From that condition, a succession of maestros had to develop it into the form of court drama. Now, it has become a real drama filled with the traditions and customs of Myanmar.

It is, therefore, believed that the contestants of this competition will be able to give a clear exposition of sincere affection, unsparing loyalty, and profound family spirit that should be cultivated among blood relatives and trustworthy friends, while revealing explicitly the victory of justice over injustice. Similarly, it is also believed that the contestants of other categories of the competitions will portray the meaningful depths of Myanmar performing arts as well as Myanmar character and customs.

(See page 7)
Myanmar enjoying basic...

(from page 6)

It is encouraging to see the young coming to cultivate in their hearts the admiration for national culture and tradition, the practice of pursuing Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts, and the increased understanding of the genuine taste of things Myanmar, for true traditional and cultural arts of Myanmar are getting prominent and being promoted systematically.

Social ethics and values based on higher standard of Myanmar traditions and culture, deep and delicate thought, social equality, humanitarianism and justice as well as national norms are still in fashion. They still enable us to bring about harmony in Myanmar society. Therefore, Myanmar nationals are urged to display the ability to shape a modern, developed and consolidated Union with the might of the performing arts.

Nowadays, we are implementing the Seven-point Road Map in order to establish a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic nation true to Myanmar’s own principles and national essence. More than 1,000 delegates representing all the people of national races from all walks of life are now gathering at the National Convention, which has now been in progress as part of the implementation of the first phase of the Seven-point Road Map. Celebrated Myanmar artists representing the world of Myanmar performing arts are also taking part in this process.

Therefore, the onus is on all Myanmar artists to do their bit actively and energetically with unreserved sense of nationalistic sentiments and with full Union Spirit in the implementation of the Seven-point Road Map starting with the successful holding of the National Convention.

In conclusion, all the artists are requested — to strive with their talent to further revitalize the national strength that can effectively build and defend the modern and developed nation, while preserving and promoting the national character, national traditions and culture and social values with the aim of making the Union of Myanmar stand grand and firm amid the international community as long as the world exists; — to inculcate in the young the fine historical tradition of Myanmar, racial grandeur, higher cultural standards and profound and deep Myanmar attributes so as to enable them to deter the penetration of alien cultures; and — to play a harmonious and active part unitedly from the artistic sphere for the successful realization of the Seven-point Road Map formulated for the emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.—MNA

12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions opened

YANGON, 14 Oct — The first-day programmes of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were held today at the designated places on a grand scale — the song contest of MTCPA at the National Museum in Dagon Township, the dance contest at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyawng Street, the composing contest at the State School of Fine Arts of the Fine Arts Department and the music contest at Padomma Theatre on Bagaya Road in Sanyoung Township.

At the National Museum, altogether 11 contestants took part in the higher education level women’s religious song contest. (See page 8)

A contestant taking part in women’s amateur xylophone contest.— MNA

The commander said that the six objectives of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are to vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens; to preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage; to perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts; to preserve Myanmar national character; to nurture spiritual development of the youths; and to prevent influence of alien culture. The different stages of the competition are, professional level, amateur level, higher education level, basic education level (age 15-20), basic education level (age 10-15), and basic education level (age 5-10). The singing contest includes classical songs, religious songs, oldies, and modern songs; in the dance contest, the participants will have to sing and dance to the accompaniment of Myanmar orchestra. Arrangements are under way to create and perform the genuine Myanmar style and culture. In the professional level marionette contest, the participants will perform Mahawthaltha play of the Ten Jatasak; and in amateur level, they will have to perform Ramayana play. The song composing contest will be held at different levels, and the composers will have to sing their own song. The music contest includes harp, xylophone, piano, violin, mandolin, guitar, dounmin, Myanmar orchestra (individual and groupwise), ozi and dobbat competitions. A total of 2,506 participants will take part in the competitions, and handsome prizes will be presented to the winners. All-round arrangements are being made to hold the competitions in accord with the objectives. Next, members of the Panel of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung opened the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

A contestant taking part in women’s amateur xylophone contest.— MNA

The second session of the ceremony followed at the National Theatre. U Hla Win and Daw Thida Swel of Myanmar Radio and Televisions of the Ministry of Information acted as masters of ceremonies. Patron of the Competitions Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an opening address. (The Prime Minister’s address is reported separately.)

Next, artists presented songs and dances honouring the competitions to the audience. After the ceremony, the Prime Minister cordially greeted diplomats of foreign missions. Later, the Prime Minister and party enjoyed performance of contestants in the women’s dancing contest of the Performing Arts Competitions. MNA
**Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Malaysian delegation**

**YANGON, 14 Oct** — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Texchem Group of Companies and ASK Andaman Ltd (Myanmar) Dato’ Seri Fumihiko Konishi and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konnyintha at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General at the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

They discussed investment in the fishery sector of Myanmar. — MNA

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**12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performers’ Competitions (from page 7)**

Similarly, 11 participants took part in the basic education school level (15-20 age group) boys’ and modern song contest.

Chairperson of the Panel of Judges for the song contest, Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Mya of Myanmar Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members supervised the contest. The higher education level men’s classical song contest will be held in the morning on 15 October and the basic education school level (10-15 age) boys’ dance contest.

Song composing contest was held at Pantra School on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, here, this morning.

Eight contestants of basic education level (aged 5-10) and another eight higher education level contestants took part in it. Panel of judges were led by Bogalay Tint Aung.

The basic education level age 5-10 and amateur level song composing contest will continue tomorrow. Dohbat contest began at Padonna Theatre. Six teams took part in the first session of the contest, and Five teams took part in the professional level contest. U Sein Ba Maw and party were judges.

Eight contestants took part in women’s amateur xylophone contest, and seven, in basic education boys (15-20) held at Kanbawzaz Theatre in Bahan today. Gita Lulin U Ko Ko and party were judges. Men and women’s amateur level, basic education boys and girls (15-20) and basic education boys and girls (5-10) dorrmin contest will be held on 15 October.

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**At the 12th Festival**

* At the 12th Festival, we’re meeting again.
* Journey of the performing arts festival
* Elder brother and younger alike
* Brothers and sisters get together
* So very merry, brought from villages
* Products of our own community
* Sweetmeats, pickled tea, soy slab,
* Blankets woven by hand
* Home made fish paste, quite a variety
* Presents brought with loving-kindness
* Union citizens in amity
* Heh look! You’ve put on weight
* How handsome, haven’t met long time
* In good health, so merry
* With great happiness, greet each other
* Brethren have arrived,
* Competition totally forgotten, in fond embrace
* Competition is not the main as if blood speaks
* Brother and sister, gleefully get together, with affection
* What one says, is heart warming

At the 12th Festival

Yan Naing Oo (Trs)
Five rural development tasks...

Ngwehsaung Beach Hotel (Central) is located in 40 acres of plot. Apart from 28 buildings, more construction tasks are being carried out. Now, construction tasks were completed by 90 per cent. On completion, a total of 102 visitors can be accommodated at 51 rooms simultaneously.

On arrival at Yuzana Resort Hotel, Yuzana Co Ltd Hotel Groups Chairman U Htay Myint and staff welcomed the General and party. In the meeting hall, the General met national hotel entrepreneurs. Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw submitted reports on occupancy of visitors from local and abroad at the hotels in Ngwehsaung Beach, earning of income, progress of operating hotels and construction of hotel buildings, installation of communication devices and development of Ngwehsaung Beach.

Emerald Sea Hotel Director U Kyaw Tun, Myanmar Treasure Beach Resort Hotel Managing Director U Teza, Asia World Co Ltd Managing Director U Tun Myint Naing and hoteliers reported on development of Ngwehsaung Beach. Next, the General attended to the needs and delivered an address. He said that the Government is giving encouragement for the emergence of Ngwehsaung region as an international level beach resort. As the Government is rendering assistance to requirements of infrastructures such as transport, water and power supply. Similarly, the hoteliers are making concerted efforts for setting up a beach resort to have characteristics of international level resorts.

In establishing modern resorts based on eco-tourism industry, the Government has laid down the policy that measures are to be taken for environmental conservation.

Ngwehsaung is a beautiful and pleasant beach. Therefore, he stressed the need to upgrade Ngwehsaung Beach without losing natural beauty for emergence of an international level beach. Conserving environment of the beach, it is necessary to avoid creating of artificial environment types. Nowadays, roads and bridges including Pathein Bridge across Ngawun River are being upgraded for smooth transportation. In addition, arrangements have been made for arrival of tourists to Pathein by flights. That is why all the hotel entrepreneurs are to harmoniously make efforts for upgrading Ngwehsaung Beach to an international level beach without losing its original style. And then, the Government plans to provide necessary assistance to development of Ngwehsaung Beach.

Yuzana Co Ltd Chairman U Htay Myint presented three sets of computer to Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Next, the Prime Minister handed over the donations for Ngwehsaung BEHS to Headmaster U Than Chit.

At Myanmar Treasures Beach Resort Hotel of Htoo Trading Co Ltd, Managing Director U Teza and staff welcomed the General and party. Afterwards, the General inspected hotel services and gave necessary instructions.

Later, they saw over Ngwehsaung and met departmental officials. The Prime Minister instructed them to draw plans for beautifying the town.

Accompanied by the commander, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Ngathaingchaung of Yekyi Township at noon. They were welcomed there by Lt-Col Soe Than of South-West Command, departmental officials and social organization members from Yekyi, Ngathaingchaung, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon Townships.

The General met departmental officials, social organizations and local people from Yekyi, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon Townships at Yekyi Township Peace and Development Council Office.

The Prime Minister heard reports on matters related to respective townships by township authorities and attended to the needs.

The Prime Minister in his address said that now State leaders have been making trips to border areas with the aim of fulfilling the requirements for development of far-flung regions and rural areas that lagged behind in development.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe initiated the five rural development tasks for enabling rural areas to catch up with other parts of the nation.

Township level departmental officials are most
Five rural development tasks... (from page 9)

responsible for progress of rural areas, so they are assigned duties for effective implementation of the five rural development tasks, he said.

The Prime Minister urged township level departmental officials to see to the five rural development tasks and to timely submit reports on the tasks that can be accomplished only with the assistance provided by superiors.

The departments concerned are to coordinate their efforts in order to accomplish the tasks by forming sector-wise associations such as education, health, agriculture and development affairs committees rather than carrying out individually.

Township level departmental officials are to make efforts with added momentum adhering to the concept that they are responsible for development and economic growth of the townships where they are assigned duties and for raising the living standard of local people.

Greater encouragement is to be given to the private sector so that respective townships can enjoy better economy, and innovative measures, to be taken thoroughly for boosting production. Only then, can the nation enjoy stronger economy.

Now, the Government has been making onerous efforts in all spheres for ensuring better economy of the nation, raising the living standard of the people and equitable development of all states and divisions.

The people on their part are to lend themselves to the tasks in response to the Government’s continuous efforts for national progress.

The Government and the people are inseparable, so the Government and the people are to be united in all spheres.

All are to be imbued with the concept that the Government has been constantly attending to the people’s needs in their interest, regarding the people as its children.

Now, the State’s seven-point Road Map is in the process for achieving the national goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on departmental personnel and the people to make combined endeavours for accomplishment of the State’s seven-point Road Map. Next, the General presented a computer and accessories, a TV and VCD to Yekyi BEHS, and cordially greeted those present.

The General and party viewed products of Yekyi Township domestic handicraft industry.

They left Yekyi and arrived at Zalun in the afternoon. They visited Zalun Man Aung Myin Pyi Dawbyan Buddha Image and offered flowers, lights, water and joss sticks to it.

The General offered Shwethingan (robe) to the image and presented cash donations for all-round renovation of the image.

The General and ministers also donated K 5 million for gold bowl for offering flowers to the image through members of the pagoda board of trustees who then presented a picture of the image to him.

The General and party met district and township level departmental officials, service personnel, members of social organizations and townelders at Zalun Township PDC office.

The chairman of Township PDC reported on land utilization, local rice sufficiency, progress in implementing the projects, and education, health and social sectors; and departmental officials, on requirements. The General attended to the requirements.

He said that in addition to making arrangements to upgrade the hospitals of a number of townships to the 25-bed ones, many rural schools have also been upgraded during the three-day tour. Primary schools have been upgraded in the remote areas to enable students to attend classes at their own region. Arrangements have been made with the conviction that only if the number of educated persons increases in rural areas and the rural education standard improves, will the rural areas be able to achieve actual development. As the State level officials are looking (See page 11)
Five rural development tasks...
(from page 10)
into the requirements of the needs of townships and
counties by themselves, the departmental personnel at
different levels will have to make collective efforts,
also on the assistance provided by the Government,
for development of states and divisions, districts,
townships, regional economy and improvement of the
social standard of the local people. They should not
lose touch with the people.

They will have to tour down to the villages to get
in touch with the people to obtain their assistance. Only
then will they be able to perform their task well in
accord with the aims. They will secure cooperation
from social organizations only if they provide assistance
to the bodies. They will have to work energetically to
serve public interest, with the cooperation of the bodies.

Next, the Prime Minister presented computer and
accessories, TV and VCR to Township Education
Officer U Hla Thein and Headmistress Daw Naw Bi Bi
Aung.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister cordially
conversed with departmental officials, social
organization members and local people.

Next, they arrived at Aphyauk natural gas field
of the Ministry of Energy in Taikkyi Township at 5 pm.
Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister
for Energy Brig-Gen Thun Htay and officials welcomed
the Prime Minister and party.

Afterwards, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun
Thi reported on the history of the natural gas field.

geological conditions, distribution of natural gas from
Aphyauk natural gas field and the entire nation and
arrangements for extended distribution of natural gas
by laying pipelines, use of natural gas at State-owned
factories and heavy industries, sale of natural gas from
Yedagon and Yadana offshore natural gas projects by
pipelines, distribution of CNG at the filling points in
Yangon and Mandalay and extension for more filling
points. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the Commander submitted reports on repair
of Uto Road and bridges in Aphyauk. The Prime
Minister gave instructions on repair of roads and
bridges as soon as possible.

Later, the Prime Minister and party went back to
Yangon by helicopter and arrived back here in the
evening. — MNA

Use Natural Gas Vehicles
and save fuel oil

- In automobiles, natural gas can be
  used in place of petrol and diesel.
- The use of natural gas can not only
  save fuel oil but also extend engine
duration.
- Natural gas exploited at home can
  be used effectively and safely.
- Natural gas burns cent per cent and
  is environment-friendly.
- Adequate supply of natural gas
  helps facilitate passenger and cargo
  transport.
Russia to sell part of Yukos’ asset

MOSCOW, 13 Oct— The Russian Justice Ministry will sell the Yukos oil company’s assets to cover Tuesday’s tax bill, the Interfax news agency reported.

The ministry announced in a statement that it has completed the valuation of Yukangskneftegaz, the oil giant producing subsidiary of Yukos, and plans to sell part of its property through the Russian Federal Property Fund.

The ITAR-TASS news agency said the Dresden Kleinwort Wasserstein investment bank has valued Yukangskneftegaz, which accounts for about 60 per cent of Yukos’ output, at 10.4 billion US dollars.

“The assessment of Yukangskneftegaz has now been completed, and the time of debt payments un-

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GEE HONG VOY NO (420)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG Voy No (420) are hereby notified that the vessel arrives on 15-10-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.W. on which it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the by-

laws 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 EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone: 256983/78316/376797

Four S Korean Navy crewmen missing in boat sinking accident

SEOUL, 14 Oct— Four South Korean Navy crewmen were missing Wednesday after their boat sank off the country’s east coast Tuesday night, South Korean navy spokesman said.

The navy ship sank 37 kilometres off Ulsan, a port city located some 415 kilometres southeast to Seoul, at 11:52 p.m. (1452 GMT), while returning to its base after conducting an exercise, Yonhap quoted an unnamed military officer as saying.

The cause of the sinking is not yet known.

Five crew members were aboard the ship. Only one has been rescued by the Navy’s relief team, the officer said. “We are continuing a search for the four missing men.” — MNA/Xinhua

International industrial exhibitions open in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 13 Oct— Five world-famous industrial exhibitions opened simultaneously here on Tuesday, offering a good chance for global industrial magnates to get in touch with the Chinese market.

The exhibitions cover machinery, metal processing, automation technology, transportation, and dynamic systems.

A total of 1,660 manufacturers from China and other countries, including Germany, the United States, France, Spain, Czech Republic, South Korea and Switzerland participate in the exhibitions.

Many world-famous consignors including Toyota, Siemens, Eaton and Han Kwang are taking part.

Deutsche Messe AG, a foreign sponsor of the exhibitions, predicted the four-day exhibitions will attract more than 50,000 professional attendees.

“Many European multina-

International industrial exhibitions open in Shanghai

UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMAR RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEAL D TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr.No. Tender No. Description Quantity

1. 13(T)/4/MR(ML) Machinery & Equipments 41 - Items

(2004-2005)

Closing Date: 2.11.2004 (Tuesday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 12.10.2004 during the office hours.

For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext - 602,605,612

Deputy General Manager

Supply Department, Myanmar Railways

Botataung, Yangon

Five arrested in connection with Nottingham girl murder

LONDON, 13 Oct— British police said on Tuesday they had arrested five men in connection with the murder of a 14-year-old girl who was gunned down as she walked home from a funfair in the city of Nottingham.

“They were arrested in central Lon-

don by officers of the Metropolitan Po-
lace last night,” a police spokeswoman said, adding that the men had been brought to Nottingham where they were being held in custody.

Daniele Beccan died after being hit by bullets fired from a car in the St Ann’s area of the city early on Saturday.

Police described her as an innocent victim and said there had been a tremendous public response to their appeal for information, including from some of the city’s known criminals. — MNA/Reuters

World faces surge in extreme weather events due to warming

LONDON, 13 Oct— The world faces a surge in extreme weather events because of global warming and governments must act immediately to avert catastrophic climate change, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Tuesday.

“Already we are wit-

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Belgian road accidents fall

BRUSSELS, 13 Oct— The number of accidents on Belgian roads fell by 6.03 per cent in the first six months of 2004, it was reported on Monday.

The figures were matched with the same period for 2003 and follow the launch of a mas-

rove road safety campaign earlier this year.

A total of 25,316 acci-

dents were still recorded, according to the latest sta-

tistics released by the Office of Mobility Minis-

ter Renaat Landuyt.

— MNA/Xinhua

Three large industrial exhibitions opened simultaneously in Shanghai.
Mekong countries seek ways to combat HIV, tuberculosis

HANOI, 13 Oct—Up to 120 health officials and experts, mainly from the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and the World Health Organization (WHO), are discussing measures to cope with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, local newspaper Labour reported on Tuesday.

During a four-day conference which opened in Vietnam’s Ho Chi Minh City on Monday, the delegates are to focus their discussions on a strategy on effective use of antiretroviral drugs, especially the use among poor AIDS patients, epidemiological surveillances, assessment on combined treatment for HIV and tuberculosis, experience exchanges and technical assistance of international organizations.

Specifically, they will touch upon issues regarding a WHO initiative which aims to offer antiretroviral programmes could save the lives of many HIV carriers.

According to the WHO, 60 per cent of HIV carriers worldwide are likely to develop tuberculosis at some point in their lives. Of the estimated 100 million tuberculosis patients in the GMS countries, some 800,000 are infected by HIV. Without tuberculosis treatment, HIV carriers with tuberculosis typically die within months. Now, Vietnam has over 83,400 HIV carriers, including more than 13,100 AIDS patients, and around 260,000 tuberculosis sufferers. Of the tuberculosis patients, over 4 per cent are infected by HIV. The country plans to reduce the HIV/AIDS infection rate among its 81-million population to below 0.3 per cent by 2010, and keep the rate unchanged after 2020. — MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan test-fires medium range ballistic missile

ISLAMABAD, 13 Oct—Pakistan on Tuesday morning carried out another successful test of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Hatf V (Ghauri) as part of a series of tests planned for the Ghauri Missile System, the official Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

“The test completely validated all the design parameters. The successful flight test bears testimony to the fact that the Ghauri Weapon System is based on the highest standards of scientific and technological advancements,” the report quoted a military Press release as saying.

The missile incorporates highly refined guidance and control systems and superior technology capable of achieving the greatest accuracy.

Japan loses bid to legitimize hunting minke whale

BANGKOK, 13 Oct—Japan’s proposal to legitimize hunting of minke whale was rejected on Tuesday by a world wildlife protection meeting.

The proposal was dropped with 67 votes against, 55 support and 14 abstained at the parties meeting of the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which is being held in Bangkok from October 2-14.

Japan’s proposal asked three stocks of minke whales to be moved from a CITES list of most-endangered animals, which bans international trade, to a less-endangered category that allows more trade.

Japan said that there are still more than one million minke whales around the world and thus has long pursued a loose curb on whaling. However, conservation groups accused Japan’s proposal as inaccurate and old, saying a loose control over whaling will threaten the species’ existence.

“Thos figure is out-of-date and includes a population of 760,000 Antarctic minke whales that IWC (the International Whaling Commission) does not consider valid,” said mammal expert Vassili Papastavrou from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). If Japan’s proposal passed, it would put pressure on the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to drop its moratorium on the hunting of Minke and all other whale species that can be hunted sustainably.

India, Bangladesh discuss possibility of joint naval exercises

NEW DELHI, 13 Oct—India and Bangladesh on Tuesday discussed the possibility of conducting joint exercises between their two navies in the near future.

The issue came up for discussion when Bangladesh navy chief Shahjibul Mujtaba called on his Indian counterpart Admiral Arun Prakash here, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

This is the first visit by a Bangladesh Chief of Naval Staff since 1998.

Admiral Prakash stressed the need for more frequent Navy-to-Navy interaction to build mutual confidence and trust, while Admiral Mujtaba appreciated the support being given by the Indian Navy to train Bangladesh naval personnel in India, the spokesman said.

Admiral Mujtaba is scheduled to visit all the three Naval Commands where he would be briefed on various training facilities.

He is also slated to visit Agra and Ajmer during his week-long stay.

On arrival at the South Block, he was presented an impressive Guard of Honour. — MNA/PTI

Kendall Shaw, 3, from Palo Alto, Calif, plays on top of the winning pumpkin in the 31st Annual World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, Calif, on 11 Oct, 2004. At left and right are friends Honoka Kishino, 3, from Sunnyvale, Calif, and Tina Sato, 3, from Santa Clara, Calif. Joel Holland, from Pavilal, Wash, won with his 1,229 Atlantic Giant pumpkin with a prize of $6,145.—INTERNET
Ronaldos labels Romario as pretentious

MACEIO (Brazil), 13 Oct — Ronaldo labelled his former Brazil striking partner Romario as pretentious on Tuesday after the 1994 World Cup forward’s description of himself as the team’s most important player.

“Instead of being the brains, I could feel the injury... I knew straight away I had broken my ribs... I knew I will be out for a few weeks... but I do have the brains to be that clever,” Beckham said, referring to Ronaldo when Diego Cabrera was ruled out of the tour after a collision with Ben Thatcher late in the World Cup qualifier against Wales at Old Trafford.

Ronaldo has praised teammate Ronaldo and been critical of Romario, who once served out a one-match suspension while sidelined by the injury.

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Howard faces difficult task to earn place in Man United

WASHINGTON, 13 Oct — Goalkeeper Tim Howard is finding it increasingly difficult to earn a place in the starting line-up for both the US national team and his English Premier League club Manchester United.

Howard has spoken to US coach Bruce Arena several times during the national team camp that began on October 4, but said that he could not pinpoint any specific reasons why he was not going to play.

Zico wants to change Asian World Cup qualifying format

MUSCAT, 13 Oct — Japan coach Zico wants the Asian World Cup qualifying format changed in order to protect top teams from missing out.

The Asian champions play Oman away on Wednesday and, while a draw would see Japan through to the final round of qualifiers, a defeat could mean they crash out.

“Instead of being the brains, I could feel the injury... I knew straight away I had broken my ribs... I knew I will be out for a few weeks... but I do have the brains to be that clever,” Beckham said, referring to Ronaldo when Diego Cabrera was ruled out of the tour after a collision with Ben Thatcher late in the World Cup qualifier against Wales at Old Trafford.

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8:30 am | 9. International news
8:45 am | 10. English for Everyday Use
3:20 pm
1. ကြိုးကျင်း အမျိုးအစားချခြင်း (စာကို အသုံးပြုခြင်း)
2. စာကို ဖော်ပြခြင်း
3. စာကို ကျင်းပြခြင်း
4. ကျင်းပြခြင်း (စာကို ဖော်ပြခြင်း)
5. ကြိုးကျင်း အမျိုးအစားချခြင်း
6:00 pm
1. နေရာများ (စာကို ဖော်ပြခြင်း)
6:10 pm
1. နေရာများ (စာကို ဖော်ပြခြင်း)
6:25 pm
1. နေရာများ (စာကို ဖော်ပြခြင်း)
7. နေရာများ (စာကို ဖော်ပြခြင်း)
8. နေရာများ (စာကို ဖော်ပြခြင်း)
15:00-20:00 Myanmar Modern Song
8:10 am
1. နေရာများ (စာကို ဖော်ပြခြင်း)
15:10-20:10 Myanmar Modern Song
15:10-20:10 Myanmar Modern Song
8:30 am | Brief news
8:45 am | Music: I love rock & roll
9:00 am | Music: I'm just a poet
9:15 am | Music: Chipp-hoppin
9:30 am | international news
9:45 am | Music: Can't get you out of my mind
10:00 am | News/Slogan
10:15 am | Music: Can't get you out of my mind
10:30 am | News/Slogan
10:45 am | Music: When you say nothing at all
11:00 am | News/Slogan
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**WEATHER**

**Thursday, 14 October, 2004**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:**

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and rain or thunderstorms have been widespread in Mandalay Division, Chin and Rakhine States, scattered in Sagaing, Magway and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay and Magway. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Tuungyi (2.32 inches), Pyinma (2.15 inches), Aunglan (1.97 inches) and Halka (1.21 inches).

Maximum temperature on 10-10-2004 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 14-10-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30hrs MST on 14-10-2004 was 57%. Total sunshine hours on 13-10-2004 was (5.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 14-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and 0.04 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-10-2004 was (111.93) inches at Yangon Airport, (106.65 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (109.21 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 13 mph from South at 15:30 hours MST on 13-10-2004.

**Bayeference:**

According to the observations at 12:30 hours MST today, the low-pressure area over East Central Bay still persists and move Northward slowly. Weather is cloudy in North and Southwest Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 15-10-2004: Rain or thunderstorms are likely to be widespread in Rakhine and Chin States, Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan State, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of rain or thunderstorms in upper Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-10-2004:** Likely of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-10-2004:** Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Five rural development tasks initiated for stabilizing rural areas to catch up with other parts of nation

YANGON, 14 Oct — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), senior military officers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, left Pathein by helicopter on 12 October morning and arrived at Ngwehsaung Beach in Pathein Township at 8:30 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Command Staff Colonel Col Tint Swe of South-West Command, departmental officials, social organization members and national entrepreneurs.

Next, they proceeded to Ngwehsaung Basic Education High School. In the hall, the Prime Minister heard reports on the history of the school, number of students in 2004-2005 academic year and strength of staff, annual pass rate in matriculation examination and academic matters presented by Headmaster U Than Chit. Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and officials gave supplementary reports. After meeting with teachers of the school, the Prime Minister attended to the needs and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the General presented teaching equipment for Ngwehsaung BEHS. Managing Director U Teza of Htoo Trading Co Ltd also presented K 5 million for the multimedia classrooms to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than. The Prime Minister and party saw over tasks of hotel entrepreneurs in the hotel zone-1 at the beach. At Ngwehsaung Beach Hotel (Central) of Nawade Hotel and Tourism Service Ltd, General Manager U Kyaw Win and staff welcomed the Prime Minister and party. The General Manager reported on investment of the hotel, buildings, occupancy of visitors and in accord with the income.

Managing Director U Teza of Htoo Trading Co Ltd also reported on construction of one special room, 11 duplex deluxe building, walk way and swimming pool, the main complex, the lobby, the dining room and a mini-golf course. Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw gave a supplementary report.

The General fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions on timely completion of tasks in accord with the set standard. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected construction tasks.

(See page 9)

12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions commence

YANGON, 14 Oct — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were opened this morning at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyauk Road in Dagon Township with an opening address by Patron of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt.

The objectives of the performing arts competitions are — to vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens, to preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage, to perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts, to preserve Myanmar national character, to nurture spiritual development of the youths and to prevent influence of alien culture.

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win Nwe, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the patrons of the committee for organizing the performing arts competitions, Chairman of the 12th Competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor of Yangon, senior military officers, deputy ministers, members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, members of the leading committee, chairman and members of the work committees and sub committees for organizing the performing arts competitions, ambassadors, charge d’ affaires, resident representatives of the UN agencies, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, officials of social organizations, judges, participants to the performing arts competitions, students of the Institute of Culture and invited guests.

In the first session of the opening ceremony, Daw Tin Tin Mya and Daw Thida Swe of Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information acted as the masters of ceremonies.

Next, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competition Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reported on arrangements for the competitions.

(See page 7)