Lebanon protests to US over proposal to freeze assets

BEIRUT, 18 Oct — Lebanon protested to the United States on Saturday over a proposal to freeze the assets of senior officials to put pressure on Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon and crack down on terrorism.

A government statement said Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri summoned US Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman to express his objections to the proposal.

US congressional aides briefed by the Bush Administration said on Friday that the Administration was considering applying further sanction under the Syrian Accountability Act to step up pressure on Damascus, which has an estimated 14,000 to 17,000 troops in Lebanon.

A US Administration official said a leading opinion under consideration was freezing the assets of high-ranking government officials.

“Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri summoned US Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman today to express concern and opposition to...a request by members of Congress to US President George Bush to freeze assets of Lebanese and Syrian officials to pressure Lebanon and Syria,” Hariri’s office said in a statement. — MNA/Xinhua

Bahrain to start building mega resort project

Bahrain Al Areen Desert Spa and Resort project, valued at 600 million US dollars, is set to begin before the end of this year, according to the Gulf News daily reported here Saturday.

The project, announced by the Bahrain-based Gulf Finance House BSC (GFH) earlier this year, will offer first-of-its-kind facilities in the region, helping to promote Bahrain as a leading tourist hub.

Al Areen Desert Spa and Resort, which will be located to the south of Manama on a tranquil and secluded hilltop rising from the desert, comprises four major components: the Oasis Spa resort, themed hotels, themed residential communities and a themed aqua park.

The resort will cover 160,000 square metres and will be developed as a comprehensive facility offering entire array of health, spa and therapeutic facilities from Indian Ayurveda to Roman Baths.

Work on Phase One of the project, a mixed use of health and family tourism development is set to start this year with 137 million dollars.

“The heart of the development will be the Oasis Spa Resort, which is being designed to predominantly reflect traditional Arabic architectural and design elements.”

The Oasis Spa Resort will be the first component of the project to be fully operational and is expected to be completed by 2006.

The themed hotels will be completed the following year, while the rest of the development will be operational by 2007.

Much of the project investment has come from outside the kingdom, which is a big boost for the project, said Hassan Janahi, chief executive of GFH.

Meanwhile, the project will create thousands of job opportunities for Bahrainis and open up new horizons for Bahrain in terms of tourism growth, noted Janahi. — MNA/Xinhua

Nepal to hold int’l kite flying competition

KATHMANDU, 18 Oct — Nepal Tourism Board will organize an international kite flying competition next year at Club Himalaya Nagakot Resort in the suburb of Kathmandu City, an organizer told Xinhua Saturday.

“We organize this kite flying competition here today, which is attended by local kite flying lovers, in an attempt to attract tourists,” said Yogendra Sakya, director of Nepal Tourism Board.

“Next year, we will organize an international kite flying competition at the same place, which will be attended by hundreds of kite flying lovers from all over the world,” Sakya said.

There are 44 kites, including some China-made kites, taking part in Saturday’s competition, he noted, adding, “We heartfully hope more Chinese tourists to visit Nepal.”

During the event, there is also a kite fighting competition, that is one kite tries to cut off the other’s string using its own, a favourite particularly among kite flying lovers in some South Asian countries and China. — MNA/Xinhua

Tanzania recognizes new Somali Government

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 18 Oct — Tanzania has joined nine other African countries in recognizing and pledging full cooperation with the new Somali Government for maintaining peace and building the Horn of Africa country.

Tanzania wished Somalia all the best in its process of national healing, unity and reconstruction, local newspaper Sunday News quoted Tanzanian Foreign Minister Jakaya Kikwete as saying on Saturday.

The other African countries that have recognized the new Somali Government included Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan and South Africa. — MNA/Xinhua

UAE market competitiveness tops list of Arab countries

ABU DHABI, 18 Oct — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) tops the list of Arab countries in terms of competitiveness in world markets, the official WAM news agency reported on Saturday.

In the world competitiveness index issued by the World Economic Forum for 2004-2005, the UAE was given a rating of 5.21 in terms of growth of competitiveness and came in the 16th place.

This is the first time that the forum has listed UAE in its annual report.

The rating was done on account of UAE’s many elements of attraction, including security, stability and good investment climate, said the report.

It was also based on UAE’s success, particularly on technological progress, management of public institutions and noticeable improvement of management of the overall economy.

As of other Arab countries, Bahrain followed in the 28th place at a rating of 4.91, while Jordan came in the 35th place at 4.58, Tunisia in the 42nd place, Egypt in the 62nd place and Algeria in the 71st place.

The UAE also tops the list of Arab countries in terms of technological progress at 4.71 and came in the 25th place worldwide, followed by Bahrain in the 35th place at 4.47.

In terms of management of public institutions, the UAE came in the 19th place worldwide with a rating of 5.56, followed also by Bahrain in the 28th place at 5.56. — MNA/Xinhua

Two Chinese shot dead in robbery in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 18 Oct — Two Chinese men working in South Africa were shot dead in an armed robbery Sunday noon near Bloemfontein, according to the Chinese consulate general in Johannesburg and a friend of the victims.

The men were shot in the head by two and four robbers who broke into a factory canteen while the two victims were having lunch with two other Chinese colleagues.

The armed robbers bundled the Chinese, lured some 80,000 rand (about 12,300 US dollars) and shot two of them before they fled on two cars of the victims.

One of the Chinese died at the scene and the other was announced dead after he was rushed to a nearby hospital.

Local police have arrested three suspects, all Black men.

Two dead worked at a plastic bag factory in an industrial area about 50 kilometres from Bloemfontein.

Although a small community in South Africa, the Chinese, mainly due to their successful and hardworking business, have become an easy target of robberies and murders in the crime-ridden country in recent years. — MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.
**Newcastle United holds 1-1 at Charlton**

**LONDON,** 18 Oct— Newcastl missed the chance to go fourth in the Premier League on Sunday when they were held 1-1 at Charlton Athletic.

Wales forward Craig Bellamy gave Graeme Souness’ team the lead in the first half but Kevin Lisbie earned Charlton a point with an equalizer early in the second.

Newcastle climbed to eighth on 13 points, 12 adrift of leaders Arsenal who beat Aston Villa 3-1 on Saturday. Charlton are 10th on 12 points.

Bellamy put the visitors ahead after 39 minutes when full back Olivier Bernard curled in a fine cross from the left flank and the Welsh international reacted first to head past Charlton keeper Dean Kiely.

Lee Bowyer also had an effort ruled out for a foul and Newcastle deserved their lead at the break. Six minutes into the second period, though, Lisbiefooled his marker Andy O’Brien and levelled the scores with a calm finish. — MNA/Reuters

**Inter beat Udinese 3-1, AC defeat Cagliari 1-0**

**MILAN,** 18 Oct— Brazilian Adriano scored two wonderful goals as Inter Milan beat Udinese 3-1 in Serie A on Sunday while a superb Andrea Pirlo strike gave AC Milan a 1-0 win at Cagliari.

Juventus, who beat early-season surprise package Messina 2-1 on Saturday, lead Serie A on 16 points with Milan three points behind.

Chevio Verona move up to third after a second-half goal from Matteo Brighi gave them an impressive 1-0 win away to Lazio, despite playing for 55 minutes with 10 men.

Adriano was not even expected to play for Inter, having missed his initial flight back from international duty with Brazil. The striker returned to Italy on Sunday but was named in the starting line-up alongside Christian Vieri.

It took just seven minutes at the San Siro for Adriano to show that he was suffering from jet-lag or not.

The Brazilian opened the scoring with a scrunching free-kick from 30 metres out which flew into the top corner.

Inter made it 2-0 four minutes later with an outstanding solo effort, dribbling from deep in his own half, weaving past three defenders before finding the space to drive past Udinese goalkeeper Morgan De Sanctis.

After the break Stefano Mauri pulled one back for Udinese but Vieri made it 3-1 for Inter with his first goal of the season. Many critics have suggested that Vieri and Adriano are incompatible as a strike pairing but Inter coach Roberto Mancini said he had never doubted they could operate effectively as a duo.

Inter's win was their first at the San Siro this season following two home draws.

Milan are also enjoying better form on the road than at home and, ahead of Wednesday's Champions League clash with Barcelona, they picked up their third straight Serie A win away.

It was not a top performance from Carlo Ancelotti's side but the decisive goal came in the 20th minute when Pirlo skipped past two challenges before curling home a fine shot from 20 metres out.

Chevio had Simone Tirabocchi sent off for a second yellow card in the 35th minute of their game against Lazio at the Olympic stadium. — MNA/Reuters

**Lopez claims Vienna trophy**

**VIENNA,** 18 Oct— Feliciano Lopez won his first career title by defeating sixth seed Guillermo Canas 6-4, 1-6, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 to claim the Vienna Trophy on Sunday.

Canas, who was also beaten in the 2006 final, was seeking his fourth title of the year following victories in Stuttgart, Umag and Shanghai.

Having begun the year ranked 274 after playing just five events in 2003 and undergoing double wrist surgery, Canas has climbed to 26th in the world.

However, the Argentine was unable to continue his winning form against an enterprising opponent. Eighth seeded Lopez, who was beaten by Roger Federer in the semi-final in Dubai earlier this year, took three hours 35 minutes to earn victory. — MNA/Reuters

**Feyenoord thrash Roda JC Kerkrade 2-0**

**AMSTERDAM,** 18 Oct— Dirk Kuijt and Salomon Kalou gave Feyenoord a 2-0 win at Roda JC Kerkrade which allowed them to pull level with leaders PSV Eindhoven on points in the Dutch first division on Sunday.

Dutch international Romeo Castelen, set up Kuijt an hour after opening the scoring and top scorer Kalou hit his ninth goal in injury time in the 90th minute.

PSV remain top with 19 points and a match in hand after their game on Saturday at ADO Den Haag was abandoned by referee Rene Temmink while they were leading 2-0.

Temmink suspended the match after taking exception to insulting chants aimed at him by the home fans.

Utrecht are third, three points behind the leaders after a 3-0 defeat at Groningen on Sunday.

Groningen earned their first win of the season after Stefano Seedorf opened the scoring after 11 minutes. Second-half goals by Hugol and Kurt Elbhot sealed the victory. Ajax, who suffered a 3-1 home defeat to Heerenveen on Saturday, lie fourth in the table on 15 points.

NAC Breda moved up to seventh with a 2-1 win at Vitesse Arnhem. Ali Boussabou and Yuri Cornelisse scored for the visitors within three minutes of each other in the first half. — MNA/Reuters

**Senegal’s Jeanne D'arc to make sure of semifinal place**

**JOHANNESBURG,** 18 Oct— Senegal’s Jeanne D’Arc staged a late fight back to make sure of their place in the semi-finals of the African Champions League with a 2-1 win over Esperance in Dakar on Sunday.

Two goals in a three-minute spell in the final quarter of the game saw Jeanne D’Arc come from a goal down against the Tunisian side, who had already qualified and finished top of the Group B standings despite Sunday’s defeat.

Forwards Raymond Mendy and Lamine Diarra scored the two goals to ensure progress to the semifinals of the continent’s top club competition for only the second time in Jeanne D’Arc’s history. Their last appearance was exactly 30 years ago.

Mendy got the first by tucking away a rebound and Diarra hit a superb goal on the turn for the winner in the 80th minute.

The Senegalese missed a myriad of chances and were a goal down at halftime after a Tunisian class act. The absence of nine regular players, converted a disputed penalty through Ziad Triki.

Jeanne D’Arc’s position looked precarious until the two late goals because they could have been overtaken in the standings had USM Alger not won their away game at SuperSport United in Pretoria on Sunday.

But the Algerian club were beaten 2-0 by the bottom-placed South Africans, who chased their first win in six group matches.

Substitute Tsweu Mokoro scored the first 15 minutes from time and midfielder Sibusiso Mahlangu added a second right

**Rangers beat Motherwell 2-0 in Scottish Premier League**

**GLASGOW,** 18 Oct— Two goals from Dado Prso handed Rangers a 2-0 win at Motherwell on Sunday to leave the Glas- gow side five points behind champions Celtic in the Scottish Premier League.

The Croatian striker raced clear to slam the opener on six minutes and finished off the home side when he scored from Nacho Novo's pass seven minutes from time.

Motherwell enjoyed equal possession as the visitors but found Rangers goalkeeper Stefan Klos in inspired form.

Celtic lead the standings on 25 points from nine games after their 3-0 win against Hearts on Saturday while Rang- ers move on to 20 with Aberdeen a further four points behind in third. — MNA/Reuters

**Sao Paulo crush Atletico Mineiro 5-0**

**RIO-DE-JANEIRO,** 18 Oct— Sao Paulo players were pelted with stones, sandals and mobile phones by rival supporters as they demolished Atletico Mineiro 5-0 away in the Brazilian championship on Sunday.

There were mixed fortunes for two survivors of Brazil's 1994 World Cup winning team in other games.

Romario was included in the Fluminense side at the request of club president David Fischel but was jeered off the field as they crashed 4-1 at home to Goias while Viola was on target as bottom club Guarani beat defending champions Cruzeiro 2-0. Sao Paulo’s game in Belo Horizonte was interrupted for nearly ten minutes in the second half after defen- der Fabao was hit in the face by a stone.

Fans threw missiles, which also included cups of water and tennis shoes, onto the pitch throughout the game.

Sao Paulo, third with 62 points, raced to a 4-0 lead in half an hour with forward Grafite scoring a hat-trick and Danilo adding the other. Danilo completed the scoring after halftime. The defeat dropped Atletico back into the relegation zone, leaving them 21st in the 24-team table where the bottom four go down.

It was given his first match since August for Fluminense despite being involved in a public slanging match last week with coach Alexandre Gama.

Gama, two years Romario’s junior, subsequently hit him with an anonymous phone on the field and later said he had only included the temerimental veteran after Fischel intervened. — MNA/Reuters

**Manchester United have lost Roy Keane (pictured) and Rio Ferdinand for their Champions League match away to Sparta Prague.** — INTERNET
Australia, Indonesia considering to renew bilateral security deal

C A N B E R R A, 19 Oct — The Australian Government is considering to renew a security agreement with the new Indonesian leadership, according to Foreign Minister Alexander Downer Sunday.

“After the election, we’ve made no decision about whether we would negotiate such an agreement or not, but we have been giving it some consideration,” Downer told the Nine TV network.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard is visiting Indonesia on Tuesday to attend Sisilo Bambang Yudhoyono’s inauguration scheduled on Wednesday.

Yudhoyono had suggested the revival of a security treaty which was reached by former Australian prime minister Paul Keating and former Indonesian president Suharto in 1995.

“We’d be looking at some kind of new agreement and a broader agreement with Indonesia,” Downer said. — MNA/Xinhua

British actor attacks British tabloid Press

L O N D O N, 19 Oct — British actor Jude Law attacked the tabloid Press on Sunday and said newspaper editors should realize that “made up” stories could be very hurtful.

While enjoying his acting success in films such as “The Talented Mr. Ripley” and the title role in the upcoming remake “Alfie,” London-born Law said living in a country as small as Britain made him feel scrutinized.

He urged the paparazzi to give him and his partner Sienna Miller more space.

“When you are hot you really want to cool down. You want a long cold drink and you need some air,” he told BBC television.

“People are very generous in the street ... But at the same time there is the obvious tabloid attention and scrutiny which is uncomfortable,” he said. “The constant attention and hounding by photographers, that’s an actual sort of physical violation.”

Miller and Law met during the filming of “Alfie” and his pair turned on-screen chemistry into an off-screen romance. This week Miller denied newspaper reports they were engaged.

Law lamented how lacking up to read the story of their “engagement” put him in an awkward situation. — MNA/Reuters

US lifts 8-month ban on French meats

P A R I S, 19 Oct — The United States has lifted an eight-month ban on the import of French foie gras, hams and other luxury cold meats, the French Agriculture Ministry said on Sunday.

The ban was imposed in February after several meat plants failed US inspections, prompting angry French demands for proof that its facilities were not up to standard.

“The United States are now again allowing the import of foie gras and other products based on charcuterie (cooked meats),” a spokeswoman for the Agriculture Ministry said.

Farmer Ministry Herve Gaymard announced the decision at the start of an international meeting on food which opened its doors in a suburb north of Paris, she said.

France challenged the US ban, imposed at a time of strained trade relations between the European Union and Washington over US export tax breaks, at the World Trade Organization.

But the spokeswoman said the United States had lifted its restrictions following fresh hygiene checks over the past month at plants that failed the original inspections. France exported 123 tons of foie gras to the United States last year of which 4.5 percent went to the United States. — MNA/Reuters

Canada plans to share flu shots with US

O T T A W A, 19 Oct — Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh said Monday that Canada may have a surplus of flu vaccine that could be provided to the United States, but probably not enough to meet the US demand.

Speaking at a health science conference, Dosanjh assured Canadians they do not need to worry about a shortage like that which has hit the United States.

Asked about reports that the Americans might be able to get some vaccine from Canada, Dosanjh said there might be some truth to that.

He said he did not have full details on the surplus, referring questions to David Butler-Jones, Canada’s chief public health officer.

According to Canadian Health officials, hundreds of Americas are already scheduled to receive the flu shot in New Brunswick Province in the east and British Columbia Province in the west. — MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Tuesday, October 19, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in Shan State and Bago Division, isolated in Chin and Kayah States, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining states and divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Shweegyin (1.69) inches and Namsam (1.54) inches.

Maximum temperature on 18-10-2004 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 19-10-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-10-2004 was 81%. Total sunshine hours on 18-10-2004 was 7.0 hours approx. Rainfall on 19-10-2004 was 0.31 inch at Yangon Airport, nil at Kaba-Aye and 0.08 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 112.24 inches at Yangon Airport, 106.77 inches at Kaba-Aye and 109.29 inches at central Yangon.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the West Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20-10-2004: Except for possibility of isolated rain or thunder-shower in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in general

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-10-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder-shower. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-10-2004: Partly cloudy.

Myanmar

Wednesday, October 20

View on today:
7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Misang Sayawd
7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 3. Morning news
7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am 5. English news
8:00 am 6. English news
8:20 am 7. Weather forecast
8:30 am 8. International news
8:45 am 9. Learning English the Easy and Happy Way
for Children and Beginners

7:05 pm 1. ပညာရပ် မိသားစုန်မှာ မော်စျနေသော သူများ (စိုက်) မော်စျနေသော သူများ (စိုက်)
2. သူများ (စိုက်)
3. သူများ (စိုက်)
4. သူများ (စိုက်)
5. သူများ (စိုက်)
6. သူများ (စိုက်)

6:05 pm 1. မန္တလေးတွင် မြေ နှင့် အသိအမှတ်
2. Discovery
3. Evening news
4. Weather report
5. Strong and Healthy Myanmar
6. Musical programme
7. Programme
8. News
9. Programme
10. Programme
11. Programme
12. Programme
13. Programme
14. Programme
15. Programme
16. Programme
17. Programme
18. Programme
19. Programme

Rainfall on 19-10-2004
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20 October, 2004

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**New soap factory opened**

Yangon, 19 Oct — Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Chairman Minister U Aung Thaung and Chairman of the working committee for Myanmar industrial development Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin this morning opened the soap Factory of the Dragon Group Company Limited in Hninethaya Industry Zone-1. Minister U Aung Thaung and Maj-Gen Saw Lwin unveiled the signboard of the factory and formally opened the factory. At the opening ceremony, Minister U Aung Thaung said he is delighted at the emergence of the new factory as the State is rendering assistance to the private industries. After the ceremony, the ministers and guests viewed the production process of the factory. — MNA

**Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue**

Yangon, 19 Oct — The 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the sixth day at the designated places—the song contest at the National Museum, the dancing contest at the Padona Theatre and the Kambawza Theatre. Among the audience were members of the panel of patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Vice-Chairman of the Panel of Judges Daw Tin Tin Mya, Vice-Chairman of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director (Music) Daw Mu Mu Khin and members supervised the dance contest held at the National Theatre. Eleven contestants took part in the amateur level (women’s) dance contest and 13 contestants (See page 9).  

**Proov Marshal (Air) wins volleyball championship**

Yangon, 19 Oct — No 1 Prov Marshal (Air) team beat Ground Training Base team 3-0 in the final of volleyball championship trophy of Commander-in-Chief (Air) in Meiktila yesterday. Commander of Flying Training Base Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), presented the championship trophy and individual medals to the winning team, and Lt Col Aung Kyaw Hliang presented prizes to the team which won the second prize. Also present were Commander of Ground Training Base Col Thura Aye Khin Maung Win, senior military officers of Meiktila Station, Tatmadaw members and families of Flying Training Base and Ground Training Base. — MNA

**Sports Minister attends opening ceremony of the 19th Judo Tournament**

Yangon, 19 Oct — Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the opening ceremony of the 19th State and Division Judo Tournament. Present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry, leading committee members of the Myanmar Women Sports Federation, President of Myanmar Judo Federation and others. The minister delivered an address on the occasion and opened the tournament. The first day events then began. The fourteen teams of States and Divisions participated in the tournament to be held till 21 October. In the afternoon, the minister attended the coordination meeting for 1st Myanmar Junior World Ranking Tennis Tournament Grade 5 to be hosted in Myanmar from Oct 25 to 31, 2004 and delivered an address. Present at the meeting were officials of the Ministry, the chairman of Myanmar Tennis Federation and others. The chairman of MTF explained matters on holding the tournament and departmental officials reported on sector-wise measures undertaken. Later, the minister attended to their needs and the meeting ended. — MNA

**PBANRDA Ministry offers ’soon’ to monks**

Yangon, 19 Oct — Families of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs offered ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha led by the Dean of the State Pariyatti Sasana University Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Gandavacaka Bhaddanta Pandita Bhivamsa at Mogok Soonar Hsaung at Kaba Aye here this morning. Present were Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Brig-Gen Than Tun, heads of departments of the ministry, officials, staff and families. The dean Sayadaw administered the Five Precepts. The deputy minister and heads of department presented offertories to Sayadaws. The deputy minister donated K 220,000 for offering ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha of the university. The Sayadaw delivered a sermon. The congregation shared the merits gained. — MNA

**69’LWL Fife Schooner “Sunshine” luxury yacht built by the Yangon Shipyard (News on page 1). — MNA**

**Ministers U Aung Thaung and Maj-Gen Saw Lwin view production process of new soap factory of Dragon Group Co. — INDUSTRY-1**

**INSIDE**

Perspectives

Strive for introduction of more CNG-run vehicles

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Article

The UDNR’s 40-year journey

(page 7)

Saw Moe Min Aung of Kayin State participates in dancing contest (Ages 5 to 10). — MNA