Alien thoughts and culture are entering nation in waves through the door of culture and economy including the media and the Internet

Alien cultural domination can be warded off only with patriotism

Propagate nationalism through strength of literature and fine arts to keep spirits of national people mature

Yangon, 13 Oct—The following is a translation of the speech delivered by Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

State level officials, specially invited guests, diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies, judges and contestants, I wish you all health and happiness and uplift and safeguard national prestige, while preserving our traditions and culture.

The Union of Myanmar has been standing tall with fine historical traditions as she has firmly set up a grand and high level cultural heritage full with essence since the early period of history.

(See page 8)
Mr Fuji Hiromasa of Bangkok presents K 200,000 to the medical fund to Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of Hninzigon Home for the Aged. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES
Friday, 14 October, 2005

Lend ourselves to the task of industrializing the nation

It hardly need be emphasized that industrial development plays a pivotal role in our endeavours to develop and modernize our nation. At a time when we are having to rely on ourselves in building the nation, we are required to try to be able to produce import-substitute machinery spare parts.

Today, Myanmar has been enjoying rapid development in industry and technology. Therefore, in accordance with the guidance of the State, every effort will have to be made to be able to produce not only spare parts but also machines at home.

For industrial development, industrial zones have been established across the nation and foundry plants, press shops, forging shops, forging machines and heat treatment shops are developing steadily. Moreover, mould and die workshops and CNC lathes are now in a position to produce quality items.

And as a result of the development of electrical and electronic engineering in the nation, ways and means should be sought to produce electrical and electronic accessories needed by various ministries.

Innovations will have to be made with the help of faculty members of universities, including technological universities, national entrepreneurs of industrial zones and by combining experiences and skills of experts from various ministries with the findings of researchers.

The Ministry of Industry-2 has been producing spare parts for cement factories of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Kyangin and Kyaukse, fertilizer factories of the Ministry of Energy in Sale and Kyawswa, rubber products for the Ministry of Electric Power and 29 private factories and workshops.

To spur increased production and wide use of home-made machinery spare parts and accessories, demonstrations are being staged by various ministries.

Therefore, we would like to call on all those concerned to try to the best of their abilities to uniyedly lend themselves to the task of industrializing the nation. Only then will a modern and developed nation emerge.

PEOPLE’S DESIRE

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

Oil lights to be offered to Shweguni Pagoda in Monywa

YANGON, 13 Oct — A ceremony to offer 900 oil lights to Shweguni Pagoda in Monywa Township organized by the pagoda board of trustees will be held on the night of 17 October.

Sayadaws will also deliver sermons at the pagoda on the nights of 16, 18, 19, 20 October. — MNA

U Nay Win accredited to Denmark

YANGON, 14 Oct — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Nay Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Denmark, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Denmark. — MNA

Coord meeting of Finance & Revenue Ministry continues

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses coordination meeting of Ministry of Finance and Revenue. — MNA

Understanding Networking Fundamentals Course on 31 Oct

YANGON, 13 Oct — For those who have passed matriculation exam or BEHS completion certificate holders, the part time 9-week course on Understanding Networking Fundamentals 5/2005 will open at the National Management College on Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting from 31 October and the course 6/2005 on Saturday and Sunday starting 5 November.

Those wishing to attend the course may apply for admission together with personal data like the name of applicant, father’s name, citizenship scrutiny card No, religion, roll No of passing matriculation exam, copy of matriculation exam passing certificate or embroidery of respective school heads on completion of BEHS, full address, endorsement of ward peace and development council and one license photo, addressing National Management College on Merchant Street in Botataung Township between 18 and 28 October.

The list of entrees will be announced at the college and further details can be inquired at the college through Tel: 01-292566, 01-515292 and 01-504566.—MNA

On-job training course for law officers opened

YANGON, 13 Oct — An opening ceremony of the On-job Training Course (1/2005) for Law Officers (Grade-4) was held at the Attorney-General’s Office this morning. At the ceremony, Attorney-General U Aye Maung delivered an address and presented awards to three outstanding trainees — Daw Aye Nu Khang who won best trainee award and best training award, Daw Thet Thet Zaw secured first award in study and Daw Aye Aye Khang bagged second award in study in Basic Civil Servant (Junior) No 29 in Phaunggyi.

It was attended by Deputy Attorney-Generals Dr Tun Shin, U Myint Naing and U Han Shein, Director-General U Mya Nyein, directors, deputy directors, course instructors and trainees. Altogether thirty-six trainees are attending the 13-week course. — MNA

Free treatment for eye disorders

YANGON, 13 Oct — Australian eye specialists will give free medical treatment to eye disorders from 15 to 27 October at Popa Hill Jivadhana Hospital in Kyaukpadaung Township. — MNA
Police arrest nine in huge British smuggling ring

LONDON, 12 Oct—British police arrested nine people suspected of being involved in one of Europe’s largest people smuggling rackets in a series of dawn raids on Tuesday.

Police said the arrests followed a two-year investigation into the ring which brought illegal immigrants, predominantly from Turkey, into London from mainland Europe.

Police described six of the people arrested as the “leading members” of the Turkish-Kurdish smuggling network.

This morning’s operation represents the most significant action taken by the Metropolitan Police service against a London-based human smuggling network,” Detective Superintendant Bill Skelly said.

The head of the Specialist Crime Directorate, Assistant Commissioner Farique Ghaflur, described the ring as a “huge organized criminal network.”

“Our commitment is in taking out such networks and this operation is the latest in our collaboration with a growing number of law enforcement agencies in Europe to work robustly to achieve this mission.”

Police raided 12 addresses in London and one in Lincolnshire, east England, arresting seven men and two women.

A 10th person was detained over immigration offences.

Police, who described the smuggling system as very sophisticated, said the migrants using the system have paid between 3,000 pounds to 5,000 pounds to come to Britain. London police said they had worked closely with police in France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Italy and Belgium during the investigation.

Internet

1,964 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 12 Oct—As of Wednesday, 12 October 2005, at least 1,964 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,528 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians. The AP count is ten higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT Wednesday.

The British military has reported 96 deaths; Italy, 26; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Thailand, Czech Rep., Latvia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,825 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,419 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Internet

Singapore to maintain current monetary policy

SINGAPORE, 12 Oct—Singapore said on Tuesday that it will maintain its current monetary policy of allowing a “modest and gradual” appreciation of the Singapore dollar with inflation projected to rise in 2006 due to higher oil prices.

“MAS will maintain its current policy of a modest and gradual appreciation of the NEER policy band which has been adopted since April 2004,” the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), the country’s central bank, said in a statement.

Singapore’s monetary policy involves managing its national currency which is traded against a basket of currency of its major trading partners, and the actual band, known as the nominal effective exchange rate (NEER), is undisclosed to prevent speculation in the currency.

In April this year, the central bank maintained the policy of a modest and gradual appreciation of the NEER policy band which has been adopted since April last year. This policy stance was reiterated in July this year, following the announcement of changes to the exchange rate systems in China and Malaysia.

Singapore’s inflation is expected to increase to 0.5-1.5 per cent next year from 0.0-0.5 per cent this year, the MAS said.

Internet

Vietnam eyes stronger ICT development

HANOI, 12 Oct—Vietnam’s information technology and communication (ICT) is set to post annual growth of 20-25 per cent by 2010 and over 20 per cent in the following years, according to the country’s Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Under a strategy on developing the ICT industry has also posted high growth rates in recent years. Its IT market stood at 1.2 billion US dollars in 2003, according to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report.

The ICT is to reach every corner of Vietnam by 2010 with high-quality and low-cost services. By the year, every 100 residents will have 32-42 telephones, over 10 personal computers, and 8-12 Internet subscribers, of whom, 30 per cent will use broadband Internet services.

Vietnam’s information technology (IT) industry also has posted high growth rates in recent years. Its IT market stood at 685 million dollars in 2004, up 33 per cent against 2003. Specifically, the hardware market grew 32.9 per cent, and the software and service market 33.3 per cent, according to the Ho Chi Minh City Computer Association.

Internet

Chinese watch a giant TV screen, showing Chinese astronauts Fei Junlong (L) and Nie Haisheng walking to the launch tower of the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China’s Gansu Province, at Beijing’s railway station on 12 October , 2005.—INTERNET

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Internet
Vietnam may test bird flu vaccines on humans next year

HANOI, 12 Oct— Vietnam is likely to test vaccines against bird flu virus (H5N1) on humans in 2006, after successful tests on fowls, according to Vietnam News Agency (VNA) on Tuesday.

The National Institute for Hygiene and Epidemiology on Monday submitted its proposal on the issue to the Scientific Council of the Ministry of Science and Environment and the Health Ministry, the institute's Nguyen Tran Hien said, adding that his institute is actively preparing for the tests, as well as the production of the vaccines.

The institute began researching the vaccines on human beings last April. Before testing on poultry, tests on monkeys showed positive results, he said.

To prevent possible bird flu in the approaching winter, localities nationwide are facilitating the vaccination of poultry against bird flu viruses, including the deadly strain H5N1. Vietnam will import an addition of 260 million doses of vaccines from China for usage this month.

To date, 28 cities and provinces nationwide have vaccinated 27.6 million fowls, including 16.9 million chickens.

The Institute for Tropical Disease in Hanoi said bird flu viruses may resist the medicine named Tamiflu, but noted that in such case, a bigger dose of the medicine and longer treatment time will be given to bird flu patients.

To early detect infections among humans, the Vietnamese Health Ministry is proposing the World Health Organization assist the country in establishing surveillance systems at 800 hospitals nationwide.

In addition, Vietnam is intensifying the detoxification and disinfection of fowl farms in localities nationwide, especially those having large flocks of chickens and ducks. — MNA/Xinhua

At least seven killed in heavy rains in eastern US

WASHINGTON, 12 Oct— At least seven people were killed in heavy rains sweeping eastern United States over the weekend, with hundreds forced to evacuate and power supply to many others knocked out.

In the northeastern state of New Hampshire, two young people were killed when a car plunged into flood water from a washed-out bridge, and another person was seen swept away in a river, news reports said on Monday.

In the state of New York, a six-year-old boy slipped into a river and was swept away along with his mother's boyfriend who had tried to save him.

A 19-year-old girl was killed in Pennsylvania when she tried to drive through a flooded roadway, and a toddler died in New Jersey after suffering head injuries when his parents' car went out of control.

Flood waters forced at least 30 residents to evacuate on Saturday and cut off electricity to as many as 6,600 homes and businesses in New Jersey, and over 200 others to flee their homes in Vermont, the reports said. Meanwhile, a powerful snowstorm hit the west-central state of Colorado over the weekend, knocking out power to about 25,000 customers in Denver, the state capital, forcing authorities to close a major east-west highway across the state, and triggering rock slides in the foothills. — MNA/Xinhua

Blast shuts northern Iraq oil pipeline

TIKRIT, 12 Oct— An explosion shut down an oil pipeline near the northern city of Beiji on Wednesday, a police official said.

The pipeline transports oil from the northern oil centre of Kirkuk to refineries in Beiji, from where it is pumped via the country's export pipeline to the port of Ceyhan, Turkey.

The blast occurred early Wednesday at Fatih, 10 miles northeast of the Beiji refinery, said Mattshah Abdullah, who works on a special Iraqi police force set up to guard oil pipelines and refineries.

The Kirkuk-Beiji pipeline is critical to Iraq's oil export operations. Once Beiji refinery's crude oil needs are met, excess amounts are pumped through a separate export pipeline to Turkey.

That line is only intermittently open, however, since incessant guerilla sabotage has shuttered it regularly since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. — Internet

Eating fish regularly delays dementia

CHICAGO, 12 Oct— Eating fish at least once a week slows the toll aging takes on the brain, while obesity at midlife doubles the risk of dementia, a pair of studies concluded on Monday.

In another study published in the same journal, Swedish researchers from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm concluded that obesity, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol levels at midlife each doubled the risk of dementia later in life.

Subjects who suffered from all three of the health problems at midlife multiplied their risk of developing dementia six times compared to people free of the risk factors, they said.

Nearly 1,500 subjects who have been part of a study that began in 1972 were reexamined. The 16 per cent who were obese at midlife were at double the risk of dementia compared to the one-quarter of those with normal weight at midlife and the half who had been slightly overweight. "Midlife obesity, high systolic blood pressure, and high total cholesterol were all significant risk factors for dementia, each of them increasing the risk around two times," study author Mia Kiwipelo wrote. — MNA/Reuters

Cambodian King signs to dissolve Supreme Border Council

PHNOM PENH, 12 Oct— Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni on Monday signed a royal decree to dissolve the Supreme National Council on Border Affairs (SNBCA). The dissolve was suggested by Prime Minister Hun Sen and the National Assembly President Prince Norodom Ranariddh, said the decree. It did not give more reason.

In his letter to King Sihamoni on Sunday, Prime Minister Hun Sen said that after meeting with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, president of the FUNCINPEC Party, both of them maintained that it is unnecessary to keep the SNBCA because the Senate, National Assembly and the royal government have the capacity and responsibility to safeguard the national sovereignty and territory integrity and to deal with the border issues.

At the same time, the National Authority on Border Affairs (NABA) was already established by the government. The seven-member NCNBA was established in May under the decree of the King, and former King Norodom Sihanouk was named chairman of the border council.

Other members include Vice-Chairmen Senator Chea Chanthoun and lawmaker Princess Norodom Vacheara, as well as Minister of Council of Ministers Sok An representing the government and Say Chhum of the Cambodian People’s Party, You Hocky of FUNCINPEC Party and Sam Rainsy, president of the Sam Rainsy Party. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqis collect parts from a vehicle used in a car bomb attack against an Iraqi Ministry for Governmentate Affairs convoy in El Yarmouk area, western Baghdad area, on 12 October, 2005. — Internet

Thai Air Force airmen load medicines for Pakistan earthquake aid onto a C-130 airplane at an air force base in Bangkok on Thursday, 13 Oct, 2005. [Internet]
Pickled vegetable imported from China safe for consumption

SEOUL, 12 Oct — “Kimchi”, or pickled vegetable, imported from China proved to be safe for consumption as its lead content was found to be within an international standard, South Korea’s food safety watchdog said again on Monday.

A recent investigation of 58 kinds of kimchi circulated in local markets, showed Chinese brands having an average lead content of 0.05 ppm (parts per million), compared with 0.02 ppm for domestic products, said (South Korean Food and Drug Administration (KFDA) in a news release.

The figures was not only lower than 0.12 ppm to 0.57 ppm that a South Korean opposition lawmaker recently claimed Chinese kimchi has, but also even lower than the international standard of 0.1 ppm, it said.

It was the second time for the KFDA to unveil its probe results of the comparison between kimchi imported from China and produced locally since late September.

The results came after the lawmaker claimed in late September that imported kimchi from China contain at most as five times as the local-produced ones and harmful to the health of local people.

The lawmaker’s claim caused panic among South Korean people, since kimchi is one of the South Korean people’s most favourite food that they eat almost every meal.

Muzaffarabad, no medicine, no paramedic staff, right now we don’t have a single hospital left in before being saved. He said 80 per cent of his staff already spread in worst-hit areas of the city,” Khawaja Shabir, provincial general of health, told Reuters.

He said the situation was only likely to worsen because of the polluted water and the many dead bodies still stuck under buildings that collapsed in Saturday’s 7.6 magnitude quake. The United Nations warned of risks of cholera and pneumonia.

Shabir was working in his office when the quake struck and spent three hours trapped under rubble before being saved. He said 80 per cent of his staff died and his office destroyed.

“We’re helpless in handling it on our own as right now we don’t have a single hospital left in Muzaffarabad, no medicine, no paramedic staff, nothing,” he said.

UN officials said as many as one million people had been left homeless by the quake, which officials said may have killed as many as 40,000 people. They said two million children were among perhaps four million affected by the disaster.

The World Health Organization said in a statement that a massive health relief effort was needed and would be part of a UN appeal being launched on Tuesday in Geneva.

“We need to coordinate a massive health relief effort to ensure people get urgent care and to prevent a bad situation getting even worse,” said Alan Alwan, the WHO’s newly named representative for health action in crises.

“Medical supplies, water and sanitation supplies and cash donations will help the most,” added Alwan, who was leaving Geneva later in the day for Islamabad. — MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait plans to expand international airport

KUWAIT CITY, 12 Oct — Kuwait has planned to expand its international airport, whose capacity will be increased “step by step” to 55 million passengers a year from five million in 2004, local daily Arab Times reported on Monday.

“The first step will be equipping the airport to receive 11 million passengers every year. This will be followed by the stage where the airport will be prepared to receive 20 million passengers a year,” sources from Kuwait Civil Aviation Department were quoted as saying.— MNA/Xinhua

Philippines seizes shipment of elephant tusks

MANILA, 12 Oct — Philippine Customs officials on Tuesday seized almost a ton of elephant tusks worth more than 500,000 US dollars at Manila Airport, Nestor Gañalberto, head of Customs security, said the 850 kilos (1,800 pounds) shipment had arrived from Kenya last month in seven metal boxes labelled “rough stones” — MNA/Reuters

An earthquake survivor family stand in front of their destroyed house in Poonch, 250 km (156 miles) northwest of the northern Indian city of Jammu, on 11 October, 2005.— INTERNET

Thailand to host workshop on regional wildlife law enforcement

BANGKOK, 12 Oct — Thailand will host a meeting later this month on developing an ASEAN regional network to protect endangered plants and animals.

The gathering, slated for 17-21 October, aims at building the regional wildlife law enforcement initiative adopted during last October’s conference in Bangkok among parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, on CITES, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Yongyuth Tiyaapirat was quoted as saying.

Strategies to ensure the sustainable co-existence of humans and endangered species of plants and animals will be discussed among CITES law enforcement officials from members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The New Light of Myanmar Friday, 14 October, 2005 5

Pakistani Kashmir faces disease after quake

MUZAFFARBAD (Pakistan), 12 Oct — Malaria and other diseases are breaking out in Pakistani Kashmir where health services are in ruins after an earthquake wrecked hospitals and killed many doctors, a senior health official said on Tuesday.

Corpses and sewage had contaminated the river Neelum, the main source of drinking water in the provincial capital Muzaffarabad, officials said.

“Health services have totally collapsed here and malaria, gastroenteritis and water borne diseases have already spread in worst-hit areas of the city,” Khawaja Shabir, provincial director-general of health, told Reuters.

He said the situation was only likely to worsen because of the polluted water and the many dead bodies still stuck under buildings that collapsed in Saturday’s 7.6 magnitude quake. The United Nations warned of risks of cholera and pneumonia.

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“Medical supplies, water and sanitation supplies and cash donations will help the most,” added Alwan, who was leaving Geneva later in the day for Islamabad. — MNA/Xinhua

Annan calls for expansion of microfinance

GENEVA, 12 Oct — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday highlighted microfinance’s role in poverty eradication.

“Microfinance is an idea whose time has come,” Annan, who is on a visit in Switzerland, said at a microfinance symposium held here.

A small loan, a savings account, an affordable way to send a paycheck home, can make all the difference to a low-income family or to a small-scale enterprise, and with access to microfinance, people can take real strides towards breaking the vicious circle of poverty and vulnerability, said Annan.

The UN chief stressed that microfinance today is real business, not charity. “It can help to build markets, and show that profits and principles can reinforce each other.”

Although microfinance is not as widespread as it could or should be, Annan said the situations is changing and a new mindset is taking hold.

“Where once the poor were commonly seen as passive victims, microfinance recognizes that poor people are remarkable reservoirs of energy and knowledge.

And while the lack of financial services is a sign of poverty, today it is also understood as an untapped opportunity to create markets, bring people in from the margins and give them the tools with which to help themselves,” he said.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have embraced microfinance as part of their strategy for alleviating poverty, and the United Nations has proclaimed 2005 to be the International Year of Microcredit.

“Our collective challenge is to sustain this momentum, and to meet the growing global demand for increased access to financial services,” said Annan.

He said the potential is significant and called on financial institutions to invest robustly in microfinance.

MNA/Xinhua
Recently, I have read in certain journals two significant articles revealing all the perpetration of the persons in collaboration with some foreign radio stations to cause confusion in Myanmar literary and journalism world. Writing the articles can be said the act of countering media with media — the right practice for all the men and women of letters of Myanmar. In reality, persons with nationalism should write such articles on own volition to counter the perpetration. It is not the time for all the persons, especially those who always come first for opportunity, but ever hesitant to work for national cause, of the journalism and literary profession to stay idle when some foreign radio stations are making attempts to meddle in the Myanmar literary world. If we do not refute the slanders at present, it will be too late and some might presume them as the truth later. It is the duty of every individual possessing nationalism to make refutation, based on objective conditions, against slander.

Look what a man by the pen name ‘Ko J’ did recently. He made slanders to cause confusion in the Myanmar literary and journalism world. He is nothing more than a person writing nonsense even in sports journals. A seasoned sports writer once criticized him for always making mistakes in mentioning the names of athletes and the countries they represented. People of the literary world in Mandalay and Yangon know best about his fraud in the publishing business of Ko Tun Oo of Mandalay (now Tun Oo publishing work). He went to Cambodia for journalist training and some political asylum abroad. But what political sacrifices had he made in Myanmar to seek political asylum abroad? There is nothing to admire him for he is just a person with no political history. Can a man asking for political asylum and financial assistance from others tell the truth? It is a common knowledge that Ko J is living by his wits engaging in mean jobs of hatching fabrications. It is not beyond the knowledge of the literary world in Mandalay and Yangon to know that the so-called persons who attended the meeting, with illness, and Daw Moe Thida (Soe Soe publishing house) was also absent from it, saying she was away from Yangon. Ko J you can openly ask the persons who attended the meeting whether the director was threatening them or trying to help them at the meeting.

In reality, the act of saying that a news report was received from a person on conditions of anonymity is like a loathsome black magic. On 16 September, the director warmly invited the chief editors and executive editors of local periodicals and met with them and opened opportunities to present their difficulties. The attendance registration list of the meeting is available, and there is nothing to hide.

In reality, persons with nationalism should write articles concerning the discussion made by the director. All the persons of the journalism and literary world know that the so-called editor has told lies and exaggerations. An editor who attended the meeting told RFA that the director met with editors of about 20 local journals. After explaining the policy of the Press Scrutiny and Registration Office, he scolded them. An editor who attended the meeting told RFA about the discussions made by the director. Who is that editor? Why did he try to disguise his identity at the interview? All the persons of the literary and journalism world know that the so-called editor has told lies and exaggerations.

The persons who Ko J has made contacts with dared not mention their real names or other facts as they are telling lies. The RFA also aired the voice of the editor at the interview. All the persons of the literary and journalism world know that the so-called editor has told lies and exaggerations.

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Conducting news gathering course and other illegal courses for Wai Lin, Than Oo (a) Ko Ye, Myint Lwin and Win Myint, who were natives of Bago. They had also provided them with financial assistance and satellite phone, and used them as above-ground hard-core group based in Bago in 2003. But the authorities exposed the gang the same year.

Wai Lin, Than Oo (a) Ko Ye, Myint Lwin and Win Myint were sending the exaggerated news reports they received from unreliable sources to their boss. They then made slanders to cause confusion in the journalism and literary profession to stay idle. They are telling the persons who attended the meeting with their real names or other facts as they are telling lies. The RFA also aired the voice of the editor at the interview. All the persons of the literary and journalism world know that the so-called editor has told lies and exaggerations. An editor who attended the meeting told RFA about the discussions made by the director. Who is that editor? Why did he try to disguise his identity at the interview? All the persons of the literary and journalism world know that the so-called editor has told lies and exaggerations.

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Film artistes urged to strive for enhancement of Myanmar movie standard

Myanmar Movie Day observed, respects paid to senior persons in Myanmar movie field

YANGON, 13 Oct—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the ceremony to observe Myanmar Movie Day and to pay respects to senior persons in Myanmar movie field, at the office of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon on Wingabar Road in Bahan Township this morning.

It was also attended by directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, patrons of MMPA, members and guests.

First, Chairman of organization Film Director U Tin Yu and Film Director U Myint Soe cut the ribbon to open the ceremony to observe Myanmar Movie Day.

In his address, the minister said that he was glad to cordially meet with the seniors and those in the movie world. He praised active and harmonious cooperation of those in the movie world for organizing the ceremony. He urged them to unitedly carry out tasks for development of the Myanmar movie. Today is an auspicious day when Myanmar Movie Day is to be observed as preservation of a good tradition. He added that honourable persons should be awarded, and he stressed the need to maintain its good tradition.

He noted that Myanmar was second to India to launch its movie industry in Asia region. However, he said, Myanmar movie is not yet (See page 10)

The ceremony to pay respects to shown artistes in progress. — MNA

Countering media with media...

(from page 6)

...efforts, the art of literature and journalism is flourishing in the nation. More people numbering in the thousand have applied for publishing permits despite the slanders. Can your slanderous voices from abroad stop our literary and journalism world from running, Ko J?

Myanmar already has the publishing law. But has any person faced action for violating the policy of the Press Scrutiny and Registration Office? If action has to be taken against all violations, there will be no periodical left in Myanmar. The publishing houses make one way or another to go against the rules of the office. But the office always pardons their violations when the persons concerned of the publishing houses come to it and apologizes for their wrongdoing. Ko J, you have never mentioned the flexible practices of the office despite the existence of the law.

Besides, the office has to act as a mediator to attend to the complaints filed by departments and individuals against the local periodicals. The office is trying to reduce the extent of the problems till they are being solved. If there is no PSR Office, it is sure that the periodicals will face legal law suits filed against them by departments and individuals. The office even opens on weekends to carry out its work for the facilitation of the private publication industry.

But the office knows that there are a handful of bad guys in the periodical industry. They try to trick the office to make more profits. In the past there were cases in which actions were taken against the wrong doers for their frauds in the publishing business.

Ko J you can carry on your job of exaggerating news reports and slandering the nation if you do not wish to see the harmony between the office and the persons of the profession. But the literary and journalism world will not be moved by your slanders. You should study what Nay Zaw Naing, the one who left the nation earlier than you, has written in the DVB website.

In the website, he wrote, “There are short-lived and inefficient politicians who make surrender, and the swaggerers like me who tried to draw the curricular of the Myanmar political history.”

Hence, the people of the profession are now countering the slanders of the vermin like Ko J with media as suggested by Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. It is the duty of the persons of the profession.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon: 13-10-2005
Only when the national races are in a spirit of common views and stand will they be able to firmly and resolutely confront and repulse the influence and domination of the aliens

(from page 1)

Throughout the thousands-year-old history and till now, the national brethren of Myanmar, living in unity and amity, have been handing over the cultural heritage they have further strengthened and enriched and added more value to it from generation to generation as a well-preserved legacy.

Thanks to the traditions and culture born of the experience of the race throughout history and the power of nationalism fervour and national pride to cherish and safeguard high-standard cultural heritage, Myanmar people were imbued with physical and spiritual prowess, and built states where unity and nationalism prevailed. In addition, Myanmar was able to stand shoulder to shoulder with neighbours in all military, political, diplomatic and cultural terms.

Because of those sound cultural foundations, the Myanmar people have been able to stand with dignity, while safeguarding and restoring the national characters and traits together with the national culture they have nurtured as a separate entity different from all other cultures of the world.

The long-preserved high standard culture of Myanmar can be found and studied at ancient pagodas and other religious edifices, excavated old city states, personal items and in ten kinds of traditional arts and crafts, including paintings, wood and ivory carvings, sculpture and stucco art.

The essence of the spiritual part of culture covering the gentle and delicate art, civilized and polite customs, social ethics interwoven with Buddha’s teachings, and deep art of thinking including the social, religious and administrative branches can be studied and discovered only through literature, poems, other letters, and performing arts.

The Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions have been held in connection with the national task of handing down the fine traditions and capabilities that have uplifted Myanmar as the race enjoying high level of dignity throughout the different stages of history to the new generation, and to effectively use the powerful might of the performing arts to uplift the nation and the race.

The performing arts competitions will make some youths, who are unaware of the values, standard, system and essence of our culture, realize its values, standard, system and essence and inspire them to study and understand its depth and profoundness. One’s level of appreciation rises as much as one knows the value of culture. When one feels the depth of its essence one will certainly hold it in esteem.

The performing arts competitions will make some youths thinking highly of alien culture that is against Myanmar culture are going with the tides and are addicted to decadent alien culture that is against Myanmar culture.

The restoration and uplift of the Myanmar drama and marionette plays and performing arts, which have strong artistic power of influence, and invaluable cultural essence, will help enhance the artistic skill in the respective branches, the public organizational power of the arts, and the people’s ability to appreciate the artistic pleasures.

The noble deeds including justice, morals, fidelity, sympathy and loving-kindness are engraved in the Four Cardinal Virtues are engraved in Myanmar cultural performing arts.

The noble deeds including justice, morals, fidelity, sympathy and loving-kindness, rooted in Myanmar society for many years, and the Myanmar traditions and customs and the noble Myanmar spirit under the domain of the sense of shame to do misdeeds and the Four Cardinal Virtues are engraved in Myanmar cultural performing arts.

Each of the performing arts branches is with its own glory covering the stateliness, style, melody and energy.

The noble deeds including justice, morals, fidelity, sympathy and loving-kindness, rooted in Myanmar society for many years, and the Myanmar traditions and customs and the noble Myanmar spirit under the domain of the sense of shame to do misdeeds and the Four Cardinal Virtues are engraved in Myanmar cultural performing arts.

Vidhura drama the contestants will have to present at the competitions shows the wise decision made by court minister Vidhura with his power of knowledge, sincerity and selflessness. Moreover the theme of the drama shows the fact that good deeds of tolerance and loving-kindness and the practice of saints to be loyal friends can teach the people a good lesson. Thus, it also confirms the fact that Myanmar people cherish and value the power of modesty and knowledge.

Hence, the government has laid down a firm objective to preserve and protect cultural heritage and national character from vanishing forever.

In this age of globalization, the alien thoughts and culture are entering the nation in waves through the door of culture and economy including the media and the Internet, with ICT as the vehicle.

The alien cultural domination can be warded off only with the spirit to love and cherish our own traditions and culture.

Nowadays, some youths thinking highly of alien culture that is against Myanmar culture are going with the tides and are addicted to decadent behaviour and mode of dress.

If this situation is ignored, honest and sincere youths will fail to value and cherish their own culture, and one day we will have to face the extinction of our own race.

The performing arts competitions will make some youths, who are unaware of the values, standard, system and essence of our culture, realize its values, standard, system and essence and inspire them to study and understand its depth and profoundness.

One’s level of appreciation rises as much as one knows the value of culture. When one feels the depth of its essence one will certainly hold it in esteem.

The Government has laid down political, economic and social objectives and has been accordingly taking all possible measures to see that the Union of Myanmar stands tall in the international

The Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions have been held in connection with the national task of handing down the fine traditions and capabilities that have uplifted Myanmar as the race enjoying high level of dignity throughout the different stages of history to the new generation, and to effectively use the powerful might of the performing arts to uplift the nation and the race.
Singing, dancing, song composing and music contests of Performing Arts Competitions commence at designated places

YANGON, 13 Oct — The first day programmes of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions were held at the designated venues today. Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Organizing Committee for the Competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan and members, officials of the sub-committees, maestros and people enjoyed the competitions.

At the multi-purpose hall of the National Museum, Chairperson of the Panel of Judges for Singing Contest Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya of MRTV acted as master of ceremonies. The Secretary-1 cordially greeted the diplomats, military attaches and guests. The second session followed at the venue. U Hla Win and Daw Thida Swe of MRTV acted as masters of ceremonies. The patron of the Leading Committee delivered the opening speech. The artists presented an entertainment programme of a dance and song composed by Gita Lulin U Ko Ko in honour of the 13th Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA

(See page 10)
Singing, dancing, song...

(from page 9)

Myanma Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members supervised the singing contest.

In the morning programmes, 13 contestants from States and Divisions took part in the professional level women's religious song contest. In the afternoon, 14 students from States and Divisions participated in the basic education level (5-10 age group) boys' and girls' xylophone contest. On 14 October, the higher education level (15-20 age) girls' xylophone contest, six girls in the basic education level (15-20 age) girls' xylophone contest and seven women in the amateur level women's xylophone contest.

Contestants participate in basic education level (5-10 age group) song composing contest.— MNA

— MNA

Film artistes urged to...

(from page 7)

to set a certain standard due to various reasons. Hence, not only the country but also those in the movie world missed some opportunities, he said. In conclusion, he urged all to harmoniously strive for enhancement of the Myanmar movie standard to seize the opportunities for the nation and those in the movie industry.

Festivities this morning. Nine schoolgirls took part in the basic education level (5-10 age) girls' song composing contest, and 13 persons from States and Divisions in the professional level song composing contest. Chairman of the panel of judges Bogale U Tint Aung and members made supervision for the contest.

At Padonma Theatre, 10 competitors participated in the higher education level (men's) and (women's) harp contest, four contestants in the basic education level (15-20 age) boys' harp contest, and seven girls in the basic education level (15-20 age) girls' harp contest. The panel of judges led by Harpist Pyapon U Thein Han Gyi supervised the contest. Chairman of the panel of judges Gitalhin U Ko Ko and party supervised the xylophone contest. On 14 October, the amateur level (men's and women's) violin contest and the basic education level (15-20 age) boys' and girls' violin contest will be held at Kanbawza Theatre.

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— MNA
As for human resources number of ophthalmologists increase from 130 to 200
2005 World Sight Day observed

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint said that in 1999 February, the Director-General of WHO declared and launched World Sight Day and WHO member countries have been celebrating every 2nd Thursday of October as World Sight Day. At present, there are estimated 45 million blind people globally and the number of blind persons will double in year 2020. The aim of the World Sight Day is to eliminate avoidable blindness and to promote blindness prevention activities.

As Myanmar is a WHO member country, we are actively participating in the health plans laid down by WHO. In Myanmar, World Sight Day was launched on 10 October 2000. Regarding improvement since launching of World Sight Day in 2000, four new Prevention of Blindness secondary centres were established at Kyaukpyaung, Gangaw, Myaing and Taungwini in 2001 in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. New district level eye centres were also established at Bhamo, Loilem and Hinthada. The new centres were fully equipped with microsurgical instruments.

As for human resources number of ophthalmologists were increased from 130 to 200. Ophthalmic nurses refractionists and mid-level eye care personal were also trained. Basic health staff and voluntary health workers were also trained on Primary Eye Care regularly.

In Myanmar, Trachoma was the main cause of blindness in 1960s. Trachoma control programme was launched in 1964 and after 30 years of activities active trachoma rate was brought down from 43 per cent in 1960s to about 1 per cent at present days.

Therefore, it is necessary to promote treatment of cataract and glaucoma and at the same time to control prevalence of trachoma. Moreover, inter-country meeting on prevention of children blindness, which is one of the objectives of vision 2020, was held at Traders Hotel in 2003 and a paediatric ophthalmic centre was established at Yangon Eye Hospital.

Cooperation between, prevention of blindness teams, state and division eye centres and basic health services are very important for the success of blindness prevention.

In conclusion, the aim of World Sight Day,
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (389)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (389) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.10.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after Claims Day.

**SHIPPing AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone No: 256908/256919/256921

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (47)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (47) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.10.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPping AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN

Phone No: 256908/256919/256921

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV FU WEN SHAN VOY NO (69)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FU WEN SHAN VOY NO (69) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.10.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPping AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD, CHINA

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

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**Vietnam faces paper stockpile due to cheaper imports**

**HANOI, 12 Oct — Vietnam had 28,500 tons of paper in inventory in the first nine months of this year, mainly because of an influx of cheaper imports, the Trade Ministry said on Tuesday.**

The main reason for the situation is the heavy reliance on imported pulp, the key material for paper production. Last year, it imported 2,000,000 tons of pulp or around 75 per cent of its total need. Other contributing factors include increasing prices of fuels and other inputs in the world market and outdated technologies used by Vietnamese paper enterprises. The situation will worsen next year when Vietnam is to slash paper import tariffs to 5 per cent from current 15-10 per cent under the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asia Nations) Free Trade Area, local experts said.

An encouraging sign for the local paper industry is emerging as two foreign firms want to team up with a local partner to establish the biggest paper pulp joint venture in Vietnam.

“The New York-based International Finance Development Corp, the Sweden-based Industrial Project Services Patents and a Vietnamese firm, the Hiep Phuc Paper Company in Ho Chi Minh City, are seeking licence for building a factory with annual capacity of 450,000 tons of pulp in our province,” the Department of Planning and Investment of central Phu Yen Province told Xinhua.

Investment for the project is estimated at 1.1 billion US dollars, including some 900 million dollars for construction and 200 million dollars for plantation of 150,000 hectares of forests.

Vietnam, which has to import 70-80 per cent of its pulp and various kinds of high-quality paper, has yet to attract any foreign-invested projects in pulp production and afforestation.

The country, which imported 461,000 tons of paper worth 245 million dollars last year, imported 421,000 tons of the product valued at 261 million dollars in the first nine months of this year, posting year-on-year rises of 22.9 per cent and 47.6 per cent respectively, according to the country’s General Statistics Office.

**Kenyan dog gets award for baby rescue**

**NAIROBI, 12 Oct — The dog that rescued a baby from a Nairobi forest in May has been honoured by an American organization, local newspaper reported on Tuesday.**

The dog, named Mkombizo, has won 1,000 US dollars prize and a certificate for saving baby Angel from the city’s Lenana forest.

The North Shore Animal League America’s Elisabeth Lewyt Award is given to animals that perform heroic and compassionate deeds. It includes a 500-dollar cash prize, which another organization, Purina, also donated, as well as a cheque in recognition of the organization’s rescue and care of Mkombizo.

The award comes four months after the dog delivered the baby girl from the forest and carefully dragged her to its owner’s house.

Four-month-old Angel, the dog mother, was taken to Kenya National Hospital, a children’s hospital in Nairobi, in a symbol of the award, North Shore Animal League America is sending the remarkable dog and her guardian Mary Adhiambro a plaque describing this incredible deed as well as a 500-dollar check,” Daily Nation cited a report on Google’s site.

The awards were received on behalf of the family by Joseph Ngowi of Youth for Conservation.

On the certificate is inscribed: “You make a difference. America North Shore Animal League is proud to present to Kenya and to Mkombizo, the dog who saved the life of a baby in Kenya”, MNA/Xinhua

**Uganda earns more from coffee exports in 2004/05**

**KAMPALA, 12 Oct — Uganda earned 162.1 million US dollars from export of 2.59 million 60-kilo bags of coffee in 2004/05 coffee season ending on 30 September, according to Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA).**

UCDA on Tuesday said in a monthly report that the earning of 2004/05 coffee season rose by a 40-per-cent increase compared to 115.7 million dollars during the year 2003/04. Uganda exported 2.52 million bags of coffee in 2000/04.

“This year’s overall performance in quantity was 20,000 bags down compared to the June 2005 projection of 2.52 million bags. This drop in volumes is attributed to coffee with disease and unfavourable weather,” said the report.

“On the other hand, the increase in value was a result of the general improvement in coffee prices on the world market experienced during the year in response to global supply deficit,” the report said, adding that “reduction in coffee production has been reported in major coffee producing countries: Brazil, Vietnam, etc.” — MNA/Xinhua

**Convicted 2002 Bali bombers transferred to island jail**

**JAKARTA, 12 Oct — Indonesian police on Tuesday transferred three convicted Bali bombers in death row from a state prison in Bali to an isolated jail on Nusa Kambangan Island in Central Java, a local television said.**

The inmates Amrouni, Irmu Sagundera and Ali Ghufon — were transported by armoured vehicles to the Ngurah Rai Airport amid tight security, as shown by television footage aired by Jakarta-based Metro TV.

The police said the transfer was made for security reasons.— MNA/Xinhua
EU bans live bird imports from Turkey
BRUSSELS, 12 Oct — The European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union (EU), on Monday banned all imports of live birds and feathers from Turkey following an outbreak of avian influenza last week.

According to the Commission, lab tests in Turkey have already confirmed that it was an outbreak of avian flu, which killed 1,700 out of 1,800 turkeys on a farm in north-western Anatolia.

All the surviving birds on the farm were destroyed after the outbreak.

But the exact strain of the virus is not yet known, and scientists have yet to ascertain whether the strain is of high or low pathogenic avian flu.

The Turkish authorities are expected to send samples to the EU’s laboratory in Weybridge, Britain in order to find out exactly which virus is at stake and whether it is the H5N1 strain, which has affected humans in Asia.

In the meantime, the EU has banned all imports of live birds and feathers from Turkey because of the animal health situation in the country.

The EU does not import poultry meat from Turkey because of the animal health situation in the country.

“007 secret” safe so far as James Bond casting looms
LOS ANGELES/LONDON, 12 Oct — Aplenty enough for the world’s most famous spy, the decision on who replaces Pierce Brosnan as the next James Bond remains a mystery just weeks, possibly days, ahead of an official announce-

ment.

Shooting of the 21st Bond film, “Casino Royale”, is due to begin in January, and British media and countless Bond fans have for months been reporting leaks, rumour and gossip about who will be next to don the “007” tuxedo.

Some media portray the delay in casting as a crisis that could cause costly production delays.

Only five actors have played Bond since Sean Connery took on “Dr. No” over 40 years ago. Dozens of actors have been linked with the role in recent months, including Englishmen Clive Owen and Jude Law, Australia’s Hugh Jackman and Croatia’s Goran Visnjic.

Daniel Craig is a favourite as the finishing post nears.

For the filmmakers there is more at stake than how to prepare a martini (shaken, not stirred). Not only is Bond a national institution in Brit-

ain, but one of history’s buoys of an anti-drug unit, and General Alexei Maneiro, a former Army officer who has riled Washington by fraying ties between the United States and Chavez, a


director familiar with casting an iconic action hero like Bond say a relative unknown is most likely.

Avi Arad, a film producer, runs Marvel Studios with its “Spider-Man” and “X-Men” movies, said the main criterion for his heroes was simply an ability to act, and that big stars were unness-


ey for such a strong brand as Marvel.

Brosnan has said he would be willing to play Bond for a fifth time, and experts believe that Sony, mindful of the Irishman’s box office clout, would welcome him back.

But websites devoted to all things Bond say pro-

ducer Barbara Broccoli wants fresh blood, with “Casino Royale” returning to the screen next year, as the former 007’s career on Her Majesty’s se-

cret service.

Venezuela probes two top officers for drugs link
CARACAS (Venezuela), 12 Oct — The Venezuelan Government is investigating two National Guards of-


ders after Washington revoked their US visas on suspicion they were involved in drug trafficking.

Defence Minister Orlando Maniglia has ordered National Guard General Frank Morgado, the former head of an anti-drug unit, and General Alexei Maneiro, who ran the port and rail company, CFM, in the northern Mozambican province of Nampula, in order to sell them as scrap metal.

The police have also seized three pickup trucks used to transport the sabo-

taged rails, as well as the equipment used by the thieves to cut the rails.

The police are promis-

ing to do all in their power to bring to justice every-

one involved in this crime, which CFM says will press for all those involved in sabotaging the railway to be brought to trial.

Study says fewer Britons poorer in old age than feared
LONDON, 12 Oct — Britain’s pensioners will have less money than they expect when they retire but will not be as badly off as had been feared, according to a study on Tuesday.

Research from inde-

pendent think-tank the In-

stitute for Fiscal Studies showed 9.8 per cent of peo-

ple between 50 and the state pension age risk having inadequate incomes.

The state pension age is 65 for men and 60 for women.

The IFS findings com-

pare favourably with esti-

mates of between 38 and 43 per cent for those between 46 and the retire-

ment age by the govern-

ment’s Pension Com-

mission, which issued a pre-

liminary report into the state of the British pen-

sions system in October 2004.

The IFS said many in-

dividuals will still not re-

ceive as much income from their pensions as they ex-

pect, unless they signifi-


cantly change their behav-

ior over the next few years.

Next month the Pen-

sion Commission will pro-

duce its long-awaited second report on how Brit-

ish old people are man-

aging between 46 and their retirement. The re-

port is also expected to outline proposals for re-

forming the state pension system.

Gemma Tetlow, one of the authors of the IFS re-

port, said: “Our analysis clearly shows that amongst older workers, at least, the fraction retiring with inade-

quate resources may not be as high as the first (in-

term) report of the Pen-

sion Commission esti-

mated.

“Within the group cur-

rently aged between 50 and the state pension age, we predict that around 73,000 individuals in England will have retirement income that is lower than the bench-

mark used by the Pensions Commission.”

The data used by the IFS to calculate pension-

ers’ incomes includes de-

tailed information about the value of state and pri-

vate pensions, housing and other wealth, as well as expectations of inheritance and the length of people’s working lives.

Tetlow added: “We find that many individuals may not receive as much in-

come from private pen-

sions as they expect, un-

less they plan to change their behaviour over the next few years.”

Mozambican police arrest 15 railway saboteurs
MAPUTO, 13 Oct — Mozambican police have arrested 15 people in con-

nection with sabotage and theft of railway property in the north of the coun-

try, local media reported on Monday.

The police arrested in-

clude 13 Mozambicans, one Tanzanian and a South African national.

All are accused of stealing assets of the Mozambican port and rail company, CFM, in the northern Mozambican province of Nampula, in order to sell them as scrap metal.

The police have also seized three pickup trucks used to transport the sabo-
taged rails, as well as the equipment used by the thieves to cut the rails.

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MNA/Reuters

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The United States announced the visa action against Morgado, Maneiro and another officer in August shortly after President Hugo Chavez suspended cooperation with the US Drug Enforcement Administration, ac-


cusing its agents of spying.

Venezuela has asked the United States to present evidence the officers are linked to illegal narcotics.

The drugs squabble has the latest blow to already fraying ties between the United States and Chavez, a


former American army officer who has runched Washington by attacking US policies and strengthening relations with Communist Cuba.

Chavez promises to fight poverty with a self-

described socialist revolution he says is an alternative to the failure of US capitalism.

According to the world’s No. 5 oil exporter, is a top supply route for cocaine flowing from Colombia to Caribbean islands and Europe. Some experts estimate as much as 300 tons of cocaine a year is shipped through Venezuela from Colombia.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters
France, Serbia and Montenegro, Sweden qualified for World Cup finals

LONDON, 13 Oct — France, Serbia and Montenegro and Sweden qualified for World Cup finals on Wednesday after winning their final World Cup qualifiers, while Czech Republic, Switzerland, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey confirmed play-off spots, Denmark, Greece and Russia are out.

France topped the group after thrashing Cyprus 4-0 at the Stade de France with Zinedine Zidane, Sylvain Wiltord and Vikash Dhorasoo scoring in the first-half and and Ludovic Giuly adding a fourth later on.

Serbia and Montenegro beat bitter Balkan rivals Bosnia-Herzegovina 1-0 to qualify for next year’s World Cup finals at the expense of Spain.

Victory left Serbia top of Group Seven ahead of Spain, whose 6-0 win over San Marino gave them a play-off place.

Serbia’s goal came from former Chelsea striker Materija Kezman, who scored from point blank range on seven minutes. Switzerland pipped the Republic of Ireland to a play-off place in Group Four after drawing with the Irish 0-0 at Lansdowne Road. Slovakia secured a play-off place by holding Russia to a goalless draw in their final Group Three qualifier. Slovakia finished ahead of Russia on goal difference after both teams, who drew 1-1 in Moscow in September 2004, ended the qualifying campaign with 23 points. Portugal had already won the group to qualify automatically.

Reaching the playoffs is Slovakia’s biggest soccer success in its 12-year history as an independent state. They could now face the Czech Republic in the playoffs, with Spain or Turkey the other options.

Turkey and the Czech Republic maintained their hopes of reaching the finals but Greece, surprising crowned European champions 15 months ago, were eliminated.

With Ukraine wrapping up top spot in Group Two last month, Turkey made sure of finishing second with a 1-0 win in Albania to move to 23 points.

Denmark finished third after a 2-1 win over Kazakhstan and Greece were fourth following their 1-0 home win over Georgia.

The Czech Republic beat Finland 3-0 in Helsinki with goals from Tomas Jun (6), Tomas Rosicky (51) and Marek Heinz (58).

The win gave the Czechs (27 points) second place ahead of Romania, but behind the Netherlands who finished on 52 points after a 0-0 home draw with Macedonia.

Sweden, who were almost certain of going through from Group Eight before they started against Iceland in Stockholm, made sure of their place when they returned from 0-1 down to seal a 3-1 victory. —INTERNET

Newspapers cry foul at FIFA’s World Cup photo limits

LONDON, 13 Oct — Newspaper owners from around the world on Wednesday slammed new restrictions on publishing World Cup soccer photographs online.

FIFA, soccer’s world governing body, is banning digital images from appearing on newspaper websites and other electronic media until one hour after matches finish during next year’s World Cup in Germany.

The publication embargo comes as mobile phone and online services increasingly are willing to pay for exclusive sports coverage, especially sports-related, to build up their customer bases.

“This is a severe curbed on the freedom of editors to inform their readers,” said Timothy Balding, head of the Paris-based World Association of Newspapers (WAN), which represents about 18,000 newspapers through dozens of global trade groups.

“Editors the world over will be simply unable to provide readers with the information they have come to expect in the instant-news epoch,” he added. —MNA/Reuters

Playoff-bound Norway ease to 1-0 win in Belarus

MINSK, 13 Oct — Substitute Thorstein Helstad’s second-half goal handed Norway a 1-0 win over Belarus in their World Cup Group Five qualifier on Wednesday.

Second-placed Norway (18 points), who were already guaranteed a playoff berth behind group winners Italy (23), dominated the first half and striker Steffen Iversen went close in the 22nd minute.

Belarus, who ended the campaign in fifth place on 10 points, struggled without injured playmaker Alexander Hleb who missed out through a thigh injury.

Jan Gunnar Solli set up the only goal when Belarus keeper Vasili Khomutovsky saved his shot and Helstad knocked the rebound into the net. —MNA/Reuters

Lampard strike seals top spot for England

MANCHESTER (England), 13 Oct — A superb late strike by Frank Lampard gave England a 2-1 World Cup qualifying victory over Poland and top place in Group Six on Wednesday.

Both sides had already qualified for the finals but Lampard’s volley made a much-criticized England team group winners and left Poland to head to Germany as one of Europe’s best runners-up.

Captain Michael Owen gave England, showing their best form of the season, a deserved lead after 44 minutes but Poland substitute Tomasz Frankowski volleyed an equalizer in first-half stoppage time.

Owen then turned creator as England attacked on the break, lofting a cross into Lampard’s path for the midfielder to fire past keeper Artur Boruc in the 81st minute.

Argentinian’s Pablo Aimar grapples with Uruguay’s Gustavo Varela (7) during their South American FIFA World Cup 2006 qualifier in Montevideo.

Uruguay will face Oceania champions Australia in a World Cup play-off next month after clinching fifth place in the South America zone qualifiers with a 1-0 win. —INTERNET

Armenia end campaign with 3-0 win over 10-man Andorra

ANDORRA LA VELLA, 13 Oct — Armenia ended their World Cup qualifying campaign on a high with a 3-0 victory over 10-man Andorra on Wednesday that lifted them off the bottom of Group One.

Armenia, whose only other win came against the same opponents in March, finished in sixth place in the group with seven points from their 12 matches, two matches behind Andorra.

It was a disappointing end to what has been Andorra’s most successful campaign in their short history in international competition.

The team from the tiny Pyrenean principality beat Macedon 1-0 at home a year ago to claim their first points in an official qualifying match.

They then earned a 0-0 draw away to the same opponents in February and won another point with a goalless draw at home to Finland last month.

Although they held the visitors for most of the first half they self-destructed in an unfortunate five minute spell just before the break.

Midfielder Oscar Sonejee turned a cross from the left into his own net in 39th minute and defender Idefonso Lima received his marching orders soon after for spitting at an opponent. —MNA/Reuters

Germany scrape 1-0 win over China with Frings penalty

HAMBURG (Germany), 13 Oct — A Torsten Frings penalty early in the second half gave Germany a 1-0 win over China in an uninspiring friendly on Wednesday.

Frings converted in the 51st minute for the World Cup hosts after Bernd Schneider had fallen inside the box under challenge from captain Li Weifeng.

China, who missed out on World Cup qualification, had to fail away two clear chances at the end of the first half.

Germany had a good spell after the goal but the game soon slipped back into mediocrity.

Coach Juergen Klinsmann, under fire after poor recent results, could at least be satisfied with Germany’s first clean sheet in eight matches dating back to the 3-0 win over Tunisia in the Confederations Cup. —MNA/Reuters

Mexico's Francisco Rodriguez (R) goes head to head with Dwight Yorke of Trinidad and Tobago. Stern John scored twice to lift Trinidad and Tobago to a 2-1 victory over regional powerhouse Mexico, keeping the ‘Soca Warriors’ fighting for a 2006 World Cup berth—INTERNET

Germany’s Frank Frings, left, scores the winning goal from the penalty spot —MNA/Reuters

China's Li Weifeng, left, battles with Germany's Bernd Schneider —AP/Reuters

China's Wang Xiaobo, right, fouls Germany’s Michael Ballack —AP/Reuters

England’s Frank Lampard (7) celebrates his goal against Poland —Reuters
Flood death toll in southern Vietnam rises to 49

HANOI, 13 Oct — Floods in Vietnam’s southern Mekong Delta have claimed 49 lives since the beginning of the flooding season in mid-August, local newspaper Youth reported on Wednesday.

Of the victims, 36, mainly children, were drowned. The floods have damaged nearly 6,850 houses in the delta.

Floods and whirlwinds sparked by a low tropical pressure in the central region late last week have also killed 15 people, left five others missing, and caused property losses of nearly 18.2 million US dollars.

Last year, natural disasters killed 232 people and left 38 missing, injured 187 others, destroyed 4,200 houses and 3,000 hectares of rice, and killed over 2,000 cattle and 170,000 poultry in Vietnam, causing a property loss of over some 57 million dollars — MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Thursday, 13 October, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Mon State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (1.06) inches, Thanon and Yangon (Mingaladon) (0.43) inch each, Kawthong and Mogok (0.39) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 12-10-2005 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 13-10-2005 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 13-10-2005 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 12-10-2005 was (6.7) hours approx. Rainfalls on 13-10-2005 were (0.43) inch at Mingaladon, (0.08) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.12) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (95.63) inches at Mingaladon, (96.42) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.67) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from East at (11:25) hours MST on 12-10-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over Southwest Bay persists. Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 14-10-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Mon State, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in the southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-10-2005: Partly cloudy.
13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions launched

Yangon, 13 Oct—The opening ceremony of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township here this morning.

It was attended by Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the Secretary-1, Chairman of the Leading Committee Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers and their wives, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the chairman of Yangon City Development Committee the mayor, senior military officers, deputy ministers, chairmen and members of the Leading Committee, work committee and subcommittees, diplomats of foreign embassies in Yangon, charges d’ affaires, military attaches, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials, departmental heads, social organizations, members of the central panel and state/division boards of judges, managers and contestants of the teams, and guests.

The first session of the opening ceremony took place at 6.15 am at the venue. The chairmen and members of respective committees, guests, managers and contestants of state/division teams, members of cultural troupes from 14 states and divisions, contestants of 16 teams, and damsels of the University of Culture took positions at the designated places.

Daw Tin Tin Mya and Daw Thida Swe of Myanma Radio and Television emceed the first session.

(See page 9)

A total of 2,482 contestants are contending for the prizes. All necessary arrangements have been made for enabling the contestants, who love and preserve the cultural heritage of the nation, to take part in the competitions in peace in accordance with the lofty objectives.

Health Minister visits blood donation

Yangon, 13 Oct—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint together with Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department and officials visited the blood donation of British Embassy staff led by British Ambassador Ms Vicky Bowman at the National Blood Unit of Yangon General Hospital on Bogyoke Aung San Street this morning. First, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint cordially greeted the British Ambassador and party.

At the Aphresis Machine room, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint together with Medical Superintendent Dr Na Nu Tha, National Blood Unit in-charge Dr Thida Aung and officials viewed blood donation of the British Ambassador and 10 embassy staff, and presented gifts to them. — MNA