True patriotism

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

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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Ngwepinle Fishes and Crustaceans Trading Zone opened in Hlinethaya Township

Emergence of zone creates opportunity for exporting marine products of high quality

YANGON, 18 Oct—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence attended a ceremony to open the Ngwepinle Fishes and Crustaceans Trading Zone of Asia Prosperity Manufacturing Co Ltd, being held at Ngwepinle Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township this morning. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Aung Lin, heads of department, marine entrepreneurs at home and from abroad and guests.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Managing Director of Ngwepinle Livestock (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Build more roads and bridges to enhance people’s socio-economic status

It is to enable the national people to travel from one place to another easily and smoothly, to pave the way for trade and economic development and to enhance the socio-economic status of the entire people that the State Peace and Development Council has been building new roads and river-crossing bridges the length and breadth of the nation.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of the Central Supervisory Committee to Ensure Smooth and Secure Transport, accompanied by responsible officials, inspected the already-completed Panhaing bridge that links Hlinethaya Township of Yangon North District and Dalla Township of Yangon South District and the bridge being built across the Twantay canal on 17 October.

In his meeting with responsible personnel at the construction site of the Twantay bridge, the Secretary-1 said that the Twantay bridge was being constructed on the Hlinethaya-Dalla-Twantay road, that it would contribute to regional development as well as socio-economic status of local people and that it was necessary to speed up the construction of the bridge, meeting the set standard with minimum loss and wastage.

The Panhaing bridge is built across the Panhaing river, linking Hlinethaya Township and Dalla Township. It is going to be inaugurated soon. The Twantay bridge is to be built across the Twantay canal and to be 3570 feet long. On completion, these two bridges will enable people to travel from townships in Yangon North District and Yangon South District to townships in Ayeyawady Division and vice versa.

The government is building a network of roads and bridges for easy and smooth flow of goods and passengers and so far there is a total of 207 bridges that are 180 feet and above long. Due to the efforts of the government in the transport sector, the transport infrastructure is improving and we believe that development of the transport infrastructure will surely cement friendship and unity among the national people and enhance their socio-economic status.

Archaeological training school to be opened in Pyay

YANGON, 18 Oct — The Department of Archaeology under the Ministry of Culture is building an archaeological training school in the ancient city of Srikestra, Hmawza village-tract, Pyay, Bago Division (West), with a view to nurturing archaeologists and enabling enthusiasts to learn the subject of archaeology as a post-graduate degree. So far, lecture halls and administration-related buildings have been completed and post-graduate diploma course will commence on 7 November 2005.

The diploma course for the year 2005-2006 will be conducted with the co-sponsorship of the Department of Archaeology and the University of Culture (Yangon). The course lasts one year after which ‘Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Archaeology’ (PFDA) will be presented.

**Archaeological training school to be opened in Pyay**

U Tin Win accredited to Finland, Poland

YANGON, 19 Oct — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tin Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Germany, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Finland.

Similarly, the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tin Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Germany, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Poland.

**U Tin Win accredited to Finland, Poland**

U Hla Myint presents credentials to Emperor of Japan

YANGON, 19 Oct — U Hla Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to Japan, presented his Credentials to His Majesty Emperor Akihito, Emperor of Japan, on 7 October, 2005, in Tokyo.

**U Hla Myint presents credentials to Emperor of Japan**

Officials leave for PRC

YANGON, 18 Oct—A delegation of 81 entrepreneurs led by U Tin Ko Ko, Executive of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, left here by air yesterday evening to attend the 2nd China-ASEAN Expo to be held from 19 to 22 October in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People’s Republic of China.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Umin Hlaing and officials.

**Officials leave for PRC**

Shwegabya Pagoda in Bago Township consecrated

YANGON, 18 Oct — A ceremony to consecrate the ancient Shwegabya pagoda in Sagalakyin village, Bago Township, took place yesterday afternoon at the pagoda. The ceremony was graced by the presence of members of Sangha led by Joint Secretary Sayadaw Dwipitakadhara Aggamahapandita Bhaddanta Jagarabivamsa of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

After opening the ceremony with three-time recitation of ‘Namo Tassa’, the congregation offered provisions to the members of the Sangha. Next, Sayadaw Dwipitakadhara Aggamahapandita Bhaddanta Jagarabivamsa delivered a sermon. Afterwards, the Sayadaw handed documents on the pagoda and religious buildings to officials of the pagoda. The ceremony ended by performing rituals of golden and silver showers.

**Shwegabya Pagoda in Bago Township consecrated**

Consecration ceremony of Shwegabya Pagoda in progress. — MNA

SPEI’s Thet Paing Toe booked on trip to XXIII SEA Games

YANGON, 18 Oct — A Triathlon qualifier including swimming, cycling and long distance races for XXIII SEA Games was held on 16 October morning. All participants had to take part in 1500-meter swimming contest in Kandawgyi Lake, 20-meter cycling race from Kandawgyi to Thilawa and 10-kilo metre long distance from Thilawa to Thaketa roundabout.

Thet Paing Toe from Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) clinched the first place in the triathlon qualifier, followed by Khin Maung Than from Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon). Four participants took part in the triathlon qualifier. Thet Paing Toe was booked on a trip to XXIII SEA Games.

**SPEI’s Thet Paing Toe booked on trip to XXIII SEA Games**

Executive U Tin Ko Ko of UMFCCI and party seen at the airport before their departure for PRC UMFCCI

**SPEI’s Thet Paing Toe booked on trip to XXIII SEA Games**

* 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
Russia says US bases in Central Asia should leave

MOSCOW, 17 Oct — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Sunday that US military bases in Central Asia, traditionally a Russian sphere of influence, should go once the security situation in Afghanistan stabilizes.

When asked about Moscow’s position on US bases in Central Asia, Lt-Gen Pyotr Kurayev, said in an interview on state television that as the situation improves in Afghanistan, where US forces are battling an uprising in the Taleban attack—“bases probably will not be necessary”.

“Of course, as soon as the threat of terrorism decreases — and it remains, but practically no longer requires active military movements — and as the threat declines, then it will be correct to return to the previous situation.” US troops moved into Central Asia, establishing airbases in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, when they overthrew the Taleban government in Afghanistan in 2001 and started to hunt for Osama bin Laden.

More than 1,000 people, most of them miltants but including more than 50 US soldiers, have been killed in Taleban-linked violence this year. Russia is seeking to take advantage of cooling relations between key Central Asian states and Washington, which some of the region’s governments suspect of involvement in eomoting popular revolts.—MNA/Reuters

China says it has a better vaccine for bird flu

BEIJING, 17 Oct — China has developed a new and better vaccine for use on birds against the avian influenza strain that scientists fear could cause a global pandemic among humans, state media said on Saturday.

The vaccine had the advantage of fighting another common bird disease, as well as the H5N1 flu strain that has spread from Asia to Europe, state television reported. It identified this as avulaviruses APMV-1, also known as Newcastle disease.

“What’s more, the new vaccine is safer, more convenient to use and cannot kill new-born chicks,” it said, listing attributes that made it more attractive to farmers than a vaccine they were already using.

For example, the new vaccine could be applied by spraying.

“In addition, the cost of the new vaccine in mass production is only one-fifth of that of the previous vaccine.”

The country was preparing to use the vaccine in mass production, Xinhua news agency reported.

The H5N1 bird flu strain emerged in Hong Kong in 1997, resurfaced in 2003 in South Korea and has since spread to other Asian countries and Europe. It was confirmed on Saturday in Romania.

The disease has infected 117 people and killed 60, according to the World Health Organization, which believes it is only a matter of time before it develops the ability to pass easily from human to human, possibly causing a catastrophic pandemic.

—MNA/Reuters

US soldiers arriving to secure an area after five US soldiers were killed when bomb exploded next to their vehicle in Ramadi recently. —INTERNET

Two RAf Harriers damaged in Afghan rocket strike

RAF Harrier jets have been damaged in a rocket attack by Taleban guerrillas on an airfield in southern Afghanistan, a spokesman for US-led foreign forces said on Sunday.

There was no casualties in Friday’s rocket attack on Kandahar Airport, where the two British aircraft, part of a fleet of planes led by the US military, were hit, he said.

“The planes were in the parking area and were slightly damaged, but they may be flyable soon,” Colonel Jim Yonts, a spokesman for the US military, told Reuters.

Yonts confirmed that the strike was the first to have caused damage to planes inside Kandahar Airport since US-led troops overthrew the Taleban government in 2001 after it refused to hand over Osama bin Laden, architect of the 11 September attacks on US cities.—MNA/Reuters

Kashmiri men load a boat with relief supplies to be delivered to the villages across the Neelum Valley for the victims of the deadly earthquake, near Macaufarabad, capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, on 17 October, 2005.

US troops moved into a 100-year-old timber dam in Taunton on Tuesday and has estimated $6.5 million in damage. It identified this as avulaviruses APMV-1, also known as Newcastle disease.

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—MNA/Reuters

Blue Star: US soldiers arriving to secure an area after five US soldiers were killed when bomb exploded next to their vehicle in Ramadi recently. —INTERNET

Chinese authorities have already approved a drug that contains a new vaccine which has been shown to be more efficient than the previous vaccine.

The drug was known as APMV-1 and was first developed in the 1970s.

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Russia brushes aside critics of Iran nuclear support

MOSCOW, 17 Oct — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Sunday brushed aside criticism of Moscow’s support for Iran’s nuclear energy programme, saying Russia will bow to no country.

“Iran, like any other country, has the full right to develop its peaceful nuclear energy,” Lavrov said in an interview on state television.

He said his country had the right to stop Russia’s support for a civilian nuclear reactor at Bushehr in Iran.

“No-one, including the United States, will challenge our right to continue building the atomic electricity station in Bushehr,” he added.

Some US officials have called on governments to freeze nuclear projects with Iran but others, such as US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, have said they are not pushing Russia on the Bushehr plant.

Rice flew to Moscow on a surprise visit to press President Vladimir Putin to commit to backing a referral, which implies the potential for international sanctions, if Iran continued to defy the west, diplomats said.

Iran has signed an agreement with Russia in December 2005 to build a 7,500 megawatt capacity nuclear power station.

The project has a total investment of about 223 million yuan (27.53 million US dollars) and is expected to be completed in 2009.

Shandong Province, has an abundance of straw and rice, has the full right to develop its peaceful nuclear energy programme, saying Russia will bow to no country.

INAN, 17 Oct — China has begun to build its first straw power plant in Shanxian County, east China’s Shandong Province, said the project’s investor, China Biologic Power Group Ltd (Hong Kong).

The plant, with an installed capacity of 25,000 kilowatts, is projected to generate 156 million kilo-watt-hours of electricity per year.

The project has a total investment of about 223 million yuan (27.53 million US dollars) and is expected to be completed in 2009.

Shanxian, a major producer of farm produce in Shanxi Province, has an abundance of straw and crop stalks.

They are usually burned beside the fields or on nearby highways, not only causing serious pollution to the environment but also posing a potential hazard to drivers and pedestrians.

However, the seemingly hard-to-deal-with-straw can be turned into alternative to conventional fuels.

With the completion of the new power plant, 200,000 tons of crop stalks will be consumed yearly, saving some 100,000 tons of coal a year.

We are very suspicious about the role of British forces in perpetrating such terrorist acts,” ISNA quoted Ahmadinejad as saying during a Cabinet meeting on Sunday.

His comments heightened a war of words between Tehran and London, which has repeatedly accused Iran of links to a spate of guerilla attacks against British troops in southern Iraq in recent days.

The British Embassy in Tehran earlier on Sunday denied any links to Saturday’s bombings outside a shopping mall in the oil town of Ahvaz, close to Iran’s border with Iraq, in which more than 80 people were wounded.

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

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,837 US military members have died, according to AP’s count.

That includes at least 1,424 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. — Internet
Putin says Russia, US have common interests in fighting terrorism

MOSCOW, 17 Oct—Russia and the United States have many common interests in fighting terrorism and settling regional issues, Russian President Vladimir Putin told visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at his Novo-Ogaryovo residence near Moscow on Saturday.

"Russia has many common interests with the US and with the Central Asian states in fighting terrorism and settling the situation in Afghanistan," Putin said when meeting Rice, who arrived in Moscow late Friday night, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Before Moscow, Rice had completed a lengthy Central Asian tour, visiting Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. She then visited Paris, where she announced that Iran's nuclear issue would be on top of the agenda during her talks with the Russian leadership.

Prior to meeting with Putin, Rice had 90-minute talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Saturday. Her last visit to Moscow was in April, when she came to prepare US President George W Bush's visit to Russia to attend the celebration ceremony of the 60th anniversary of World War II victory. Rice is expected to leave Moscow for London later in the day, the Interfax said. — MNA/Xinhua

Major earthquake could occur in New Delhi

Delhi is sitting on a potential killer tremor, that can pull down like a pack of cards the several high-rise buildings dotting the skyline here as the city comes under highly seismic Zone-4 category. The Zone indicates that earthquake measuring up to 6.5 on the Richter Scale could strike the city and its periphery and this intensity could cause severe damage to the buildings that do not conform to the earthquake resistant norms.

"Possibility of earthquake in Delhi cannot be ruled out, as it comes under Zone-4. And the intensity could go up to 6.5 on the Richter Scale," Director of Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre of India Meteorological Department A K Shukla told PTI.

However, the Himalayan range, Jammu and Kashmir, northeastern states and Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the most earthquake vulnerable areas in the country and could withstand high intensity temblors up to eight magnitude, Shukla said. These areas come under Zone five, he said.

Shukla said the categories of zones have been finalized on the basis of previous historical data and the geological characteristics of the place.

If the previous data is any indication, Delhi has already witnessed six high-intensity quakes between 1720 and 1996. The capital region was struck by a quake measuring 6.5 on Richter Scale on 15 July, 1720. This was followed by another severe quake of 6.8 intensity on 1 September, 1803.

Six US servicemen killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 Oct—Five US soldiers have been killed by a roadside bomb in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, the US military said in a statement.

A marine also died in a bomb blast on Saturday in the town of Saqlawiya, 75km west of Baghdad, the US military added. The soldiers' deaths came as 10 million Iraqis headed to the polls to vote on a referendum on a draft constitution.

On Sunday, a group of about two dozen Iraqis gathered around the wreckage of a US vehicle destroyed the previous day by a roadside bomb. The people were hit by the US air strikes, the military and witnesses said.

The air strike hit the crowd which had gathered around to look at the wreckage of the vehicle and toppled pieces off it—as often occurs after an American vehicle is hit. The vehicle was destroyed on election day.

Chad Saad, a tribal leader, and several witnesses who refused to give their names to pro-

Don't smoke

US soldiers walk by the wreck of a car bomb in Baghdad, Iraq, following an attack on a police patrol recently.

MNA/PTI

Dozens of Iraqis die in US air strikes

BAGHDAD, 17 Oct—US warplanes and helicopters have bombed two villages near the city of Ramadi where witnesses say at least 39 civilians have been killed, while the US Army says the air strike has killed an estimated 70 fighters.

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New study says warfare wanes and terrorism rises

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Oct— Armed conflicts have dropped 40 per cent since the end of the Cold War and those that persist are killing far fewer people, says a three-year study that attempts to debunk current myths about war and peace.

But even if genocide and human rights abuses are receding, “high-casualty” attacks by terrorists are not, according to the Human Security Report prepared at Canada’s University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Nevertheless, international terrorism kills only a “tiny” number of people each year compared to those who die in war, the report said.

“We no longer have huge wars with huge armies, major engagements, heavy conventional weapons,” said Andrew Mack, an academic and former UN official, who directed the study, funded by Canada, Britain, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland.

“Today’s wars are low-intensity fought with light weapons, small arms in very poor countries. They are often extremely brutal but they don’t kill that many people,” he told a news conference.

The report found the total number of conflicts declined by 40 per cent since the Cold War ended and the United States and Russia stopped funding proxy wars in developing nations.

The average number of deaths per conflict also dropped from 37,000 in 1950, during the Korean War, to 600 in 2002. Between 1991 and 2004, 28 armed struggles for self-determination started or restarted while 43 were contained or ended, the study said.

In 2004, there were only 25 such conflicts — the lowest number since 1976.

Even the number of refugees dropped by 45 per cent between 1992 and 2003 as more conflicts ended.

Anbar deputy governor shot dead in Iraq

RAMADI, Iraq, 18 Oct— A senior member of the provincial government in the western Iraqi province of Anbar, the focus of the Sunni Arab attack, was shot dead by gunmen in Ramadi on Tuesday, a local doctor said.

Talib al-Dulaimi, a deputy governor of Anbar Province, was ambushed by gunmen in an attack that also killed his bodyguard, according to doctor Hamdi al-Rawi at Ramadi hospital.

Ramadi, 110 km (68 miles) west of Baghdad, is the capital of Anbar Province, a vast region at the heart of the Sunni Arab attack.

US forces have conducted a series of operations against guerrillas around the city and areas to the west over the past three weeks to try to improve security ahead of last Saturday’s constitutional referendum in Iraq.

Egyptian ship collides in Gulf of Suez, many saved

CAIRO, 18 Oct — An Egyptian ship carrying some 1,400 Muslim pilgrims back from Saudi Arabia and a Cypriot commercial vessel collided in the Gulf of Suez on Monday, killing one and injuring 20, Egypt’s transport minister said.

He said the passenger ship had sunk after about 20 launches rescued the passengers. He said he had no details of the state of the Cypriot ship or its crew as rescue operations had focused on the passenger ship.

“We concentrated on saving lives. The boat that carried people has sunk now. Thank God that we moved all the people from there,” Transport Minister Essam Sharaf said.

The passenger ship, the Al Salam, has 93, which is owned by the Egyptian company el-Salam Maritime Transport, was en route from the Saudi port of Jeddah after the passengers performed the umra, or lesser pilgrimage in Mecca.

The company’s website says the vessel had a gross tonnage of 5,857 tons and room for 2,221 passengers.

The collision took place three hours sailing time south of Suez and tugs are now pulling it towards Suez, the sources said. — MNA/Reuters

Jakarta building blast possibly a gas explosion

JAKARTA, 18 Oct — An explosion, possibly caused by a gas canister, blew out windows in a top floor of an office tower in the Indonesian capital Jakarta on Monday, a member of the building management said.

The official, who gave his name as Andi, said the blast came from a restaurant being renovated on the 20th floor of the Sona Topas Tower on Jalan Sudirman Street, the city’s main business district.

“There is a restaurant on the 20th floor and the blast occurred there. It is being investigated whether it was caused by gas,” Andi told Reuters.

The building, which houses several foreign companies, was evacuated.

Two people were injured, El Shinta radio station said. Police could not immediately be reached for comment.

Indonesia has been on alert for further bomb attacks in the wake of triple suicide bombings on the resort island of Bali on October 1 that killed 20 people.

Pakistan faces second wave of quake death

PAKISTAN, 18 Oct— Quake-hit northern Pakistan faces a second wave of deaths with thousands of injured lying untreated in the remnants of remote mountain villages as winter closes in fast, doctors and aid officials said on Monday.

Authorities are launching a house-to-house survey in Pakistani Kashmir this week to try to determine the scale of the disaster, but aid and medical workers say the dying has not stopped and it could accelerate unless more help arrives fast.

“There are going to be a lot more deaths from this earthquake,” said Sean Keogh, a doctor at the British medical aid group Merlin with the confirmed death toll at nearly 40,000 and expected to rise substantially.

Keogh and a Pakistani colleague had just returned from a three-day trek down the badly hit Neelum Valley north of Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani Kashmir.

The road up the valley was swept away by landslides triggered by the 7.6 magnitude quake on October 8. The Pakistani Army is struggling to cut a new road, but progress is painfully slow and it says the work will take months.

Thousands of people injured in the earthquake remain stranded in the valley and in villages cut off by landslides, high up on the slopes, Keogh said.

“There are 1,000 to 2,000 significantly wounded that need surgical treatment. Nobody knows how many are up on the slopes,” Keogh said of just one area at the top of the valley, Panjkot.

He said he had seen numerous people with compound fractures, all getting infected. A seven-man Pakistani Army medical team had been flown in by helicopter but was running out of supplies fast.

“We saw rows of people in a really bad way with suppurating wounds. They need urgent treatment,” Keogh said.

“Wounds are pouring puss, patients are getting to septic and die,” he said.

Keogh said field hospitals had to be set up in the valley, which has a population of at least 150,000 people.

“There are so many injured we’re not going to get them all out by helicopter,” he said. “You go up into these hills, there are loads of them everywhere and it’s getting very cold. Shelter is a real problem.”

“There’s a big food issue, they’re starting to run out, but their urgent need is shelter,” he said. — MNA/Reuters
The art of Myanmar drama, part of Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts, is intended not just for entertainment but for enhancing the secular and religious benefits of the people. It has helped systematize way of social life of Myanmar society throughout the successive eras.

The report on drama dated 14th Waxing of Tabodwe in 1138 (Myanmar Era) in the time of King Bodaw Phaya said that only dramas based on historical stories such as Eindawuda, Thukundala and Ramayana and the dramas based on Buddha’s life stories such as Wizaya are allowed to stage and the dramas based on fantasy are not allowed. If fantasy dramas are staged, the ministers for drama were to take action.

It was because if fantasy dramas were staged, they could mislead the audience into copying improper outlook presented in the dramas. The dramas based on Buddha’s life stories and the stories associated with Myanmar traditions were to be staged.

In the time of King Mindon, there emerged famous dramas such as Paduma, Yaythe, Vijaya, Kosala, Vessantara and Maho written by Salay U Ponnya. The Myanmar dramas in olden days were aimed to entertain and to educate the people. Indeed, staging dramas based on Buddha’s life stories made the people more polite and gentle.

The dramas at that time served as newspaper. At a time when newspaper was not popular yet, dramas were designed to uplift morale and morality of the people.

Vidhura Drama, the true story of Buddha, has been prescribed for the Drama Competition of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. It is one of the stories relating to the life of the entire national people are to abstain from gambling that disrupts the interest of individuals and the nation. Nowadays, the gambling of illegal two-figure numbers game is somewhat popular in the nation.

The elements finding faults with Myanmar are levelling allegations against the nation citing the two-figure numbers game through the broadcasting stations that are under the influence of West bloc. In Myanmar, gambling is a crime that is committed stealthily. The gambling act was enacted in Myanmar in 1867 and 1884. In 1899, the Burma Gambling Act was enacted. The Myanmar society disapproves of gambling. The drama competitions of the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions have educated the people to refrain from gambling.

According to the article “The Gardener Who Must” by Steye Lady in Reader’s Digest magazine (March 1975 issue), in the US, there were about 50 million gamblers with the stake of 100 billion US dollars yearly. Some banks in Western countries officially appoint observers of gambling business. Misfderlein who served for a German bank based in New York was well-known as an observer of gambling business.

The hotels in Western countries are facilitated with casinos, and casino bosses were said to have access to the White House.

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are held annually with a view to enhancing nationalistic fervour of the people in order that the national culture does not come under the domination of decadent alien culture that is penetrating into the nation through IT. Gambling in the illegal numbers game based on the programme of a satellite channel, a means of IT, disrupts the national interests. So, it is the common enemy of the nation.

I would like to urge the people to oppose the gambling in the two-figure numbers game entering the nation through the programme of a satellite channel, a means of IT, while taking lessons of evil results of excavation from the Vidhura Drama Competition being staged in the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

The king, with throne and palace
Appears in regal administration
In kindy stance, words pronounced
Exhorts “Citizens of the land
People of all walks, are they free
From all worry and strife, Ministers.”
Thus discussing the welfare of all
Receive in audience, in pomp.
Thus laying the plot, Myanmar stage
As is the custom, includes weal and woe
With pronouncements, lamentations
With tradition so high
It has survived and spread
Strongly, the mast stands firm
With permanence.

The entire national people are to abstain from gambling that disrupts the interest of individuals and the nation. Nowadays, the gambling of illegal two-figure numbers game is somewhat popular in the nation.

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Myanmar stage, inventions anew
Contemporary style, play and plot
Drama that moves up front
Makes headway, successful, beauty begins
Kept performing, so that the people
May enjoy together, the many plays
That inject strength in them
A new age of people loving culture dawns.

Contemporarily sculpted, young culture
Money is the essential to bloom
For it is compulsory
And that spoils the stage
Which then gets eclipsed by stage show
As if ten suns boiling in heart
In that heat, shouting and yelling
Banging all instruments, explosive renditions
Ear splitting Rock and Rap
Untraditional, going after what’s new
Destroying the nest, the show is spoilt
Unsightly, one feels that way
Where is Myanmar culture?
The heart is bitterly torn asunder.

Today, with construction
Our era has arrived, sparkling and bright
With flowers abloom, fresh an unsheed
Like an art being created
Myanmar dance, Myanmar beauty
Based on music, correct tradition
The state is bringing out
The Performing Arts Competitions
No end to accolade, the earth witnesseth
Quakes and echoes
In tumultuous celebration.

Kaytu Nila (Trs)
(Honouring the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions)
Ngewpinle Fishes and Crustaceans...

(from page 1) and Fisheries Co Ltd Col Myint Aung and Chairman of Asian Prosperity Manufacturing Co Ltd U Soe Tun Shein formally opened the fishes and Crustaceans Trading zone.

Next, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and guests inspected production process of the company, marketing and market complex and shops.

Next, the ceremony commenced at the market complex with an address by Lt-Gen Tin Aye. Lt-Gen Tin Aye said that Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd in collaboration with local and foreign entrepreneurs established the Ngewpinle Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township with the aim of producing marine products of high quality and of exporting them more and more.

He said that necessary infrastructures such as electrification and installation of telephones were carried out in the zone while the requirements of entrepreneurs are being fulfilled.

The emergence of the fish and prawn marketing zone created an opportunity for those who are engaged in fisheries to export marine products of high quality, he said and called on the entrepreneurs to make earnest efforts for further success of the fish and prawn marketing.

Afterwards, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein expressed his delight for the opening of the zone.

Next, Chairman of Asian Prosperity Manufacturing Co Ltd U Soe Tun Shein spoke words of thanks. At the Ngewpinle Fishes and Crustaceans Trading Zone, there are two 2-storey market complexes of international level, where producers and buyers are able to make direct trading, and the zone is complete with full services.

MNA

Officials read papers on advance report of Myanmar census of agriculture

YANGON, 18 Oct — The opening session of the meeting of the Review and Discussion on Advance Report of Myanmar Census of Agriculture was held at Sedona Hotel here today.

Speaking on the occasion, Director-General of Settlement and Land Records Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, U Win Kyi said that the meeting clearly demonstrates Myanmar’s continued efforts, the wish and determination to improve her food and agricultural statistics.

The objective of the meeting is to invite the participants’ comments and suggestions on the results of the Advance Report on Myanmar Census of Agriculture 2003, he said, urging the participants to continue their good work by putting further efforts in order to sustain the quality of the agricultural statistics so far achieved.

The director-general expressed belief that the discussions and ideas of the participants will be beneficial not only to the Project but also to the organisations concerned and the entire nation.

“I also believe that the meeting offers timely opportunity to review your actual situation on the food and agricultural statistics and its needs for the improvement and to take advantage of the opportunities available to receive maximum benefits from the Myanmar Census of Agriculture 2003”, he said.

The meeting will make great contributions to the agricultural sector development and food security of the country, he said.

Dr Frederick Baker of FAO in Bangkok then gave a speech. Six resource persons read papers. U Win Kyi gave the concluding remarks.

Officials of the departments and enterprises of the Ministry of AK&I and UN agencies and guests were also present.

Education Minister receives ambassadors

YANGON, 18 Oct — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein received Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano and Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Ju-Heum this morning at Diamond Jubilee Hall in Kamayut Township separately.

At the meetings, they discussed cooperation activities in education sector in Myanmar.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and directors-generals of the departments under the ministry.

Deputy FM leaves for India

YANGON, 18 Oct — At the invitation of Shyam Saran, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, a Myanmar delegation led by U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, left here by air this morning to attend the Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations to be held at the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon Internal airport by Directors-General of the ministry, departmental officials and Mr Manoj Bharti, Charge d’Affaires a.i of the Embassy of India.

Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu was accompanied by U Nyan Lynn, Director-General of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department, U Myint Soe, Director of the International Organizations and Economic Department, Daw Myat Thida Aye, Head of Branch-1 and U Khin Maung Htay, Head of Branch-2 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Minister inspects hydel power projects in Bago Division

YANGON, 18 Oct — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and Deputy Minister U Myo Myint yesterday went to the hydel power project in Shwegyin and inspected construction of diversion tunnel, intake channel and the main dam.

On his inspection tour, the minister called for timely completion of the project, thrifty use of materials and cooperation with other ministries.

On 16 October, they also went to Yenwe Hydel Power Project in Bago Division and inspected construction work and installation of electrical equipment.

— MNA

PBANRDA Ministry holds work coord meeting

YANGON, 18 Oct— The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs held a meeting at the Development Affairs Department at No 245 on Thanlyansu Street in Botahtaung Township this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngwe, directors-general, managing director, deputy directors-general and directors of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, the Development Affairs Department, the Education and Training Department and the Development Affairs Bank Ltd, directors of state/division development affairs committee, deputy superintending engineers, executive officers, engineers in charge, and coordinators of state/division regional development affairs supervisory committee.

The minister in his speech instructed the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department to complete the projects for development of border areas as soon as possible and to effectively use the machinery, the Development Affairs Department to step up implementation of tasks for sprucing up urban areas, transport projects and rural water supply projects, especially for timely completion of safe water supply projects, rural model housing project and district-to-district roads with standards, and to make efforts in the interests of the people.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun gave instructions on development of border areas and national races, tasks of the Education and Training Department, nationality youths development schools and vocational training centres for women in border areas, and Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe on development affairs tasks.

Officials reported on progress of work and coordination between departments, and regional supervisors on requirements of respective regions. The minister provided assistance for the regions.

— MNA

First Kathina robes offering of Mingala Market held

YANGON, 18 Oct — The first Kathina robes offering of Mingala Market was held at the Dhammayon of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) on Kaba Aye Hill this afternoon.

Present were members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Chief Nayaka Sayadaw of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon), lecturer Sayadaws, student members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, heads of department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, service personnel and shopkeepers.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Vice-Chancellor of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Sayadaw Ponnama Yamaazay Kyaungtaik of Nyaungdon Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa. Members of the Sangha recited Paritas.

The minister, heads of department and wellwishers presented offerings to the Sayadaws.

Chairman of the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw of Aungmingala Sarthintaik of Thayet Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Agga Maha Kamahntanacarya Bhaddanta Kesara delivered a sermon.

Heads of departments and wellwishers offered Kathina robes and cash to 450 members of the Sangha.— MNA

Coord meeting for performing arts competitions held

YANGON, 18 Oct — The work coordination meeting of the Chairman of the Working Committee of 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and members, Sub-Committee members and team managers of States and Divisions was held at No 1 Transiti Centre (Bayintnaung) in Hline Township at 5 pm today, with an address by Chairman of Working Committee Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan.

The Work Committee, Sub-Committees and team managers discussed sector-wise competitions, and Work Committee Chairman Col Tint Hsan fulfilled the requirements.

— MNA
Performing Arts Competitions continue
Enthusiasts and tourists enjoy the competitions

Objectives of 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalize patriotism and nationalism;
— To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage;
— To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts;
— To preserve Myanmar national character;
— To nurture spiritual development of the youths;
— To prevent influence of alien culture; and
— To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

Ma Aye Nandar Htet of Yangon Division takes part in girls’ BEHS level dancing contest (aged 15-20)—MNA

Performing Arts Competitions continue
Enthusiasts and tourists enjoy the competitions

Maung Phyo Min Zaw of Kachin State participates in boys’ BEHS level musical playing contest (aged 10-15)—MNA

U Thet Win of Kachin State participating in men’s amateur level classical song contest. —MNA

Daw Aye Mar Thi and troupe taking part in the women’s professional level orchestra contest. —MNA

YANGON, Oct 18 — The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held with the objectives of vitalizing patriotism and nationalism; preserving and safeguarding Myanmar cultural heritage; perpetuating genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts; preserving and safeguarding Myanmar national character; nurturing spiritual development of the youths; preventing influence of alien culture; and strengthening national unity and Union Spirit continued on a grand scale at the designated venues for the fifth day today.

Member of the panel of patrons for organizing the competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the Competitions Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan and members, officials of the sub-committees, maestros and people and tourists watched the competitions.

The singing contest continued for the fifth day at the multi-purpose hall of the National Museum. Chairperson of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director (Music) Daw Tin Tin Mya of Myanma Radio and Television, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members supervised the contest.

Altogether 15 contestants from States and Divisions took part in the basic education level (aged 15-20) women’s religious song contest and 15 persons in the amateur level men’s classical and modern song contest.

On 19 October, higher education level (men) classical song contest and basic education level (aged 10-15) classical song contest will take place at the same venue. At the National Theatre, 10 contestants participated in the professional level men’s dancing contest and 14 girls in the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ dancing contest. Chairman of the Panel of Judges Wunna Kyawhtin U Thet Win of Kachin State participating in men’s orchestra contest.

Today’s music contest was supervised by Chairman of the panel of judges Gitalulin U Ko Ko and party. Professional level (men and women) and basic education level (aged 5-10) violin contests will be held tomorrow at the same venue.

At Kanbawzathiri, four contestants competed in the basic education level (aged 10-15) boy’s guitar contest; two girls in the basic education level (aged 10-15) girls’ guitar contest; 11 persons in the amateur level (men) guitar contest; and three persons in amateur level (women) guitar contest.

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**Annual General Meeting of Mon State USDA held**

*USDA CEC member Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint speaks at the Mon State Union Solidarity and Development Association Annual General Meeting. — Mines*

**Yangon, 18 Oct** — Mon State Union Solidarity and Development Association held its Annual General Meeting for 2005 at the meeting hall of Mon State in Mawlamyine on 16 October. Present on the occasion were Member of Panel of Patrons of Union Solidarity and Development Association Patron of Mon State Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Secretary General of USDA Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, departmental heads at state and district levels, Secretary of Mon State USDA U Tin Soe Moe Naing, executives of districts and townships, members of social organizations, wellwishers, outstanding students and members of USDA. First, members of Mawlamyine Township and students of No 8 and No 9 Basic Education High Schools presented Pyidaungsu and Zartiman songs on the occasion.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Secretariat Member Brig-Gen Ohn Myint made speeches on the occasion. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint accepted donation cash donation presented by Secretary General Member Brig-Gen Ohn Myint. At the same time, the patron, the secretariat member and departmental heads accepted cash for Mon State USDA donated by wellwishers and the public. After that, the patron, the secretariat member and departmental heads presented prizes to the students who had clinched distinctions in the matriculation examination for 2005, the schools winning good results and the courses conducted by USDA.

In the afternoon, the secretariat member viewed progress in building of Kawkhapon Village Middle School in Mudon Township, met with faculty members, left necessary instructions on measures to be taken for building the school as soon as possible and fulfilled the needs.

After donating alms to Sayadaw of Sasana Waponlayzama Monastery, he enjoyed Myanma Traditional Boat Race held in Mudon Township. Next, he viewed renovation of Mudon Township Sasana Hospital and fulfilled the requirements.

In the evening, following the inspection of renovation of Mon State USDA’s Office, the secretariat members gave instructions on timely completion of the construction tasks.

The following day, the commander together with the secretariat member attended the opening ceremony of Kyaihtyio Buddha Pujauniya Festival and 20-KW hydro electric power station, organized by USDA. On behalf of the locals, a townelder expressed his gratitude. Next, local authorities formally opened the power station by cutting a ribbon. Afterwards, the commander and the secretariat member pressed a button to turn on electricity. After that, the secretariat member presented cash donation for the power station through the commander. After presenting books for Pyokhinthih library and mosquito nets to officials concerned, the commander and the secretariat member met with townelders. The secretariat members viewed the extended school building of No 1 BEHS in Kyaihto and left necessary instructions.

In connection with the reports, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of industrial construction services, measures to draw daily normal services for the project, arrangements to be made for security in project areas, extended cultivation of teak, other perennial trees and valuable ones in project areas.

Next, the minister inspected progress in building of foundry shop, preparedness for earth work, construction of industrial and administrative buildings and the chosen site to construct excavator manufacturing factory.

Afterwards, the minister gave instructions on construction of the buildings meeting the set standard, systematic measures for paving the roads in industrial areas, worksite safety and minimizing of loss and wasteage of fuel.

After that, the minister and party left Multi-purpose diesel engine manufacturing factory project (Thagara) on 17 October and arrived here in the evening.

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### Cho Min Oo emerges champion in junior snooker contest

**Yangon, 18 Oct** — The final match of Vegas Myanmar Snooker contest (senior and junior divisions) organized by the Myanmar Billiard and Snooker Federation and Sein Wut-hmon Co took place in Asia Plaza Hotel on 16 October evening. In the final match, Cho Min Oo (Yangon) beat Zeya Htet (Yangon) 3-2 and won the first prize. The second went to Zeya Htet (Yangon) and the third to Win Khaing (Yangon).

A total of 13 contestants won consolation prizes. Officials of the MBSE and the company presented prizes to the winners. The first prize was K 400,000, the second prize K 200,000, the third prize K 100,000 and consolation prize K 30,000.

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An official of the MBSE presents the first prize to Cho Min Oo, champion of junior snooker contest. 

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Disease threatens survivors of Guatemalan mudslide

Panajachel (Guatemala), 17 Oct—Doctors fear that overcrowding and sewage water could lead to a rash of illness among survivors of a landslide that swept away their Maya Indian village this month.

Thousands of people from Panajachel have crammed into churches and houses in the nearby village of Santiago and other towns while the government races to build temporary shelters.

“The worst problem now is the risk of epidemics,” Alfonso Verdu, coordinator of Doctors Without Borders in Guatemala, said late on Saturday. “I don’t think the situation in Santiago is under control.”

He said doctors have seen dozens of cases of diarrhoea among survivors as well as dysentery, hepatitis A and chicken pox. Thousands of people were vaccinated against tetanus last week in the main square of the Santiago.

Sun shines in US northeast but flood alert remains

Boston, 17 Oct—Floods receded and blue skies stretched across the northeastern United States on Sunday after record rainfall for the typically crisp, dry autumn season, but rivers are dangerously swollen near hundreds of homes.

Flood warnings remained across much of the Northeast after a week of unrelenting rain swamped cities, washed out roads, triggered mudslides and forced more than 1,000 people to flee their waterlogged homes.

“The flood waters have receded but it’s not totally over yet,” said Peter Judge, spokesman for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. “There are quite a number of rivers that remain above flood stage. But from Massachusetts to Connecticut and southern New Hampshire, the sun emerged and hundreds returned home, a day after clear skies opened over New York and New Jersey, where about 12 inches of rain had fallen since 7 October.—MNA/Reuters

Indian mortar system lands near Russian Defence Minister

MOSCOW, 17 Oct—An Indian mortar system landed just metres from Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov and his Indian counterpart on Sunday while they watched joint military exercises in western India, Russian news agencies said.

The mortar system, parachuted from an Indian aircraft, was shown on Russian television as it approached the ground near the platform where Ivanov and Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee were sitting, ITAR-TASS reported.

Journalists and soldiers were shown running for cover but Ivanov, a former spy and close friend of President Vladimir Putin, and Mukherjee remained seated.

Ivanov, sporting sunglasses and a military cap, brushed off the incident and praised the Indian Air Force for such accuracy.

“Today an artillery system of India’s airborne forces landed right between two sand-dunes which is ideal concealment from the enemy. So I raise my cap to Indian pilots,” Ivanov said, ITAR-TASS reported.

The 120-mm mortar, fixed on a military vehicle, was dropped during “anti-terrorist” exercises at the Mahajan firing range in north-western Rajasthan.

India and Russia, the source of 70 per cent of New Delhi’s military equipment, share strong ties and will hold naval exercises later in the week while Moscow also seeks closer relations with China.— MNA/Reuters
Beijing builds on-line consultation network for mental disorders

BEIJING, 17 Oct— Some residents in China's capital will consult specialists about emotional disorders on-line as of Monday. They will acquire guidance on medical treatment, medicine usage and recovery from the experts through the “face-to-face” communication.

According to sources with the municipal health authorities, Beijing has recently built its first community-based on-line consultation network for mental disorders. The network now covers 42 communities in Chaoyang District of eastern Beijing. The sources said there are now approximately 100,000 residents above 15 years of age, or about one per cent of the city's total population, who suffer from mental disorders in Beijing.

It is believed that the establishment of the community-based Internet “hospital” will provide easy and timely access to experts for new patients, and allow old patients to gain timely adjustments in medical treatment in line with changes in their ailments. Last year, Beijing’s latest survey of depression and other emotional disorders found that the top three emotional disorders are depression, schizophrenia and senile dementia.

The survey also show that 71.8 per cent of the respondents lack knowledge about mental disorders. Poor awareness delays diagnosis and professional treatment.

Qinghai selected as China’s most beautiful lake

XINING, 16 Oct— Qinghai Lake, China’s largest inland saltwater lake in the northwestern Qinghai Province ranks top of China’s five most beautiful lakes in a latest competition activity by the magazine of China National Geography to select the country’s most beautiful places.

Located at about 3,200 metres above sea level, the lake covers 4,300 square kilometres. It has abundant fish and other aquatic creatures, which in turn attracts large flocks of birds to perch in the island of the lake. The other four of the most beautiful lakes selected by the magazine are Kanas Lake in Xinjiang, Namtso Lake in Tibet, Heaven’s Pool (Tian Chi) in northeast China’s Jilin Province and West Lake in east China’s Zhejiang Province.

More than 10 Chinese academicians and 100 experts formed a panel to select the most beautiful places in 15 categories. The panel also selected China’s most beautiful mountains, canyons, caves, islands, coastlines, deserts, cities, villages, waterfalls, forests, prairies, glaciers and wetlands.

PM says quake caused $5b of damage in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 17 Oct— Around 5 billion US dollars’ worth of damage was caused by the earthquake that killed at least 38,000 people in northern Pakistan a week ago, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said on Saturday.

Aziz told a news conference there had been pledges of 500 million US dollars from abroad, while three billion rupees had been raised within Pakistan. The United Nations has raised its appeal for Pakistan to over 300 million US dollars.

He said that while relief and rescue operations were going on, a preliminary assessment of the damage had been carried out. “The overall assessment — government, private sector and infrastructure — would be close to 5 billion US dollars,” said Aziz, who earlier this week said Pakistan would rebuild towns and cities. But first it has to erect tent villages to shelter the homeless, estimated by the United Nations at one million and 2.5 million by Pakistan.

Poll shows most Japanese support female royal succession

 TOKYO, 17 Oct— A record number of Japanese want a law on imperial succession changed to allow a woman to succeed to the throne, an opinion poll showed.

The Tokyo Shimbun newspaper said on Sunday the poll showed 84 per cent of respondents approved of the idea that an Empress could rule Japan, which the paper said was the highest proportion it had ever recorded in such a survey.

The question of succession to the throne now occupied by 71-year-old Emperor Akihito is gaining urgency because no boys have been born into the Imperial household for four decades. The poll comes weeks before an advisory panel to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi is expected to issue recommendations on whether to revise the 1947 law limiting accession to males and their descendants.

Turkish vet says chicken tests do not show bird flu

ANKARA, 17 Oct — A senior veterinarian was quoted on Sunday as saying that early tests on 1,000 chickens that died in Turkey did not point to bird flu, but officials stopped poultry transportation in the province where the chickens died.

Initial findings did not show the chickens in Agri Province died from bird flu, the state Anatolian news agency reported head of a local veterinary institute, Ufuk Dinler, as saying. Final test results are expected in five or six days, he said.

But Agri’s state agriculture office director Haci Arap Sanli said that entry and exit of chickens had been stopped in the province, and the location where the chickens died was treated with disinfectant.

“Poultry in our region is not developed, and chickens brought from outside are sold here,” Sanli said.

The chickens were brought from northwestern Turkey, where bird flu has been detected, before they died on Saturday in Agri, near the Iranian border.
Milan beat Cagliari to keep Juventus in sight

Rome, 18 Oct— AC Milan kept up their pursuit of Serie A leaders Juventus when they cruised to a 2-0 win at Cagliari on Sunday.

The result lifted Milan to second place on 16 points from seven matches, five points behind Juventus, who maintained their 100 per cent winning start to the season by beating Messina 1-0 on Saturday. Milan's city rivals Inter also enjoyed an easy victory, crushing Livorno 5-0 at the San Siro stadium to climb to third on 15 points.

The game was less than 30 seconds old at Cagliari when Milan striker Alberto Gilardino wriggled free of three defenders and poked the ball past goalkeeper Fabian Carini. For a time it seemed that the home side might strike back but in the 27th minute Andriy Shevchenko effectively put the visitors in the driving seat.

The Ukrainian almost got a second goal of the season with a sweet half-volley from a cross by Melvin at left. Pulisicio's outstretched arms and into the footed shot that dipped underneath Carini's outstretched arms and into the bottom corner.

The Ukrainian almost got a second when he fired against the post shortly after the restart, but throughout the second half Milan seemed more concerned with protecting their lead.

Even without first-choice strikers Adriano and Obafemi Martins, Inter had few difficulties making it four wins out of four at the San Siro.

Livorno's top striker Cristiano Lucarelli was suspended, but their real problems were all in defence as became clear after 11 minutes when Inter defender Marco Materazzi took advantage of a failure to clear a corner to volley his side ahead.

Inter doubled their lead eight minutes later when a low cross by Giuseppe Favalli threaded through a group of players to present Julio Cruz with an easy finish. The uphill task facing Livorno as-

Barakat puts Al Ahli in African Champions League final

Cairo, 18 Oct— Two goals from Mohamed Barakat helped Al Ahli qualify for the African Champions League final with a 2-0 win in the all-Egyptian clash with Zamalek on Sunday.

Barakat gave a virtuoso performance, tormenting the Zamalek defence throughout the second leg in Cairo as Al Ahli secured a 4-1 aggregate victory.

The game was less than two weeks in the making and Barakat won the ball twice in the first half, in the second Barakat went through to score before returning to the bench. A dummy from Emad Mostafa offered Barakat a free run at goal for the second 10 minutes later.

Middlesbrough defender Xavier fails drugs test

London, 18 Oct— Middlesbrough defender Abel Xavier failed a drugs test after the UEFA Cup tie against Greek club Xanthi on 29 September, the Premier League club said on Monday.

FIFA have suspended the 32-year-old from all competitions pending the outcome of a disciplinary investigation. Middlesbrough said on their website they were not in a position to make any further comment at the moment but understood Xavier would make a Press statement on Tuesday.

Xavier has been linked with other positions, with protecting their lead.

Murphy rescues a point for Charlton in London derby

London, 18 Oct— Charlton Athletic climbed one place to fifth in the Premier League after Danny Murphy's second-half equaliser earned a 1-1 home draw with London rivals Fulham on Monday.

The former Portugal international joined Middlesbrough at the end of August on transfer deadline day after a spell in Serie A with AS Roma.

He has played previously for Bari, German club Hanover 96 and for Everton and Liverpool in England. He also had a loan spell with Galatasaray in Turkey.

Born in Mozambique, Xavier has played more than 20 times for Portugal and helped that Middlesbrough would help him earn a recall in time for the 2006 World Cup finals.

He has played six games for Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren since arriving at the Riverside but was left out of the side that drew with Portsmouth on Saturday.

At Euro 2000, the defender was at the centre of huge controversy when team mates attacked a linesman and the referee for awarding a 117th minute penalty in the semi-final with France after Xavier was judged to have handled the ball.

Sir Alex Ferguson

The 63-year-old Scot, approaching his 19th anniversary as manager at Old Trafford, has been linked with other positions, including that of Ireland coach.

"After this job, I'm finished," Ferguson told a news conference ahead of United's match against the French side Lille in Champions League Group D on Tuesday. Ferguson is refusing to give up hope of winning the Premier League despite Chelsea's huge lead at the top.

The London side are 10 points ahead of United after winning their first nine games of the season but Ferguson is still confident his side can win the title for the ninth time in his managerial reign.

"Unless Chelsea start to drop points they are in a very strong position," Ferguson said.

Ferguson says United job will be his last

Manchester (England), 18 Oct— Alex Ferguson confirmed again on Monday that his job at Manchester United will be his last in football management.

"But it is still only Oc
tober, so it is silly to talk of being champions. They are relentless at the moment but we are trying to stay in their slipstream," Ferguson also feels it is harder for English clubs to win the Champions League due to their domestic commitments.

"The Premier division is very fierce all the way through the season," he said. "We play eight games in December alone. If you can keep your team fresh you have a chance."
US misses deadline to get Louisiana’s evacuees out of shelters

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct — The US government missed a mid-October deadline set by President George W Bush to get all evacuees from Hurricane Katrina out of shelters, a senior Louisiana housing official said on Monday.

Helena Cunningham, president of the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, told a Washington seminar on housing challenges arising from the disaster that as of last Friday there were still some 48,000 people made homeless by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita living in shelters, 14,000 of them in Louisiana.

"15 October was the deadline set by the President to clear the shelters and that was not done," Cunningham said. Her figure was more than double the number given last week by Coast Guard Vice Admiral Thad Allen, the head of federal disaster relief efforts in areas affected by the disaster. He said some 22,000 people remained in shelters.

According to Allen, the number of people in shelters across the nation peaked at more than 270,000 on 8 September. He said the plan to empty the shelters by mid-October was delayed in part because Hurricane Rita hit so soon after Katrina.

Other speakers at the conference said there was still confusion surrounding the number and status of people made homeless by the two disasters. Katrina struck on 29 August and Rita came ashore on 24 September.

Cunningham said about 125,000 people displaced by the storms were living in hotels and more than 150,000 were living with friends and family across the nation.

The state had so far identified 200,000 housing units that had been destroyed or would need to be demolished but its assessment work on the housing stock was incomplete.

An adviser to the American Red Cross, Ira Peppercorn, told the conference that about 500,000 to 600,000 housing units in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama had suffered significant damage or been destroyed. A disproportionate number housed poor people.

Speakers urged Congress to expand the federal low-income housing credit programme as the most efficient way of encouraging the construction of affordable housing for evacuees.

MNA/Reuters

Weather

Tuesday, 18 October, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Chin State, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, Bago Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (1.18) inches, Magway (0.79) inch, Monywa (0.79) inch, Chauk (0.91) inch, Yangon (Mingaladon) (0.63) inch, Meiktila (0.55) inch and Minbu (0.24) inch.

Maximum temperature on 17-10-2005 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 18-10-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 18-10-2005 was 89%. Total sunshine hours on 17-10-2005 was (4.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 18-10-2005 were (0.63) inch at Mingaladon, (0.59) inch at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (97.40) inches at Mingaladon, (97.44) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.83) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southeast at (15:00) hours MST on 17-10-2005.

Bay influence: Weather is generally fair in the East Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 19-10-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, rain or thundershowers are likely scattered in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-10-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.
Vidhura Drama Contest continues

Drama troupe representing Yangon Division participates in the contest

YANGON, 18 Oct — Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, and family members, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, members of the work committee and sub-committees, maestros and enthusiasts, Leader of the panel of judges U Chit Oo Nyo and party supervised the contest.

In the Vidhura Drama Contest, Maung Moe Min acted as Vidhura, U Kan as Ponnaka ogre, Ma Ei Thinza as Anawza, wife of Vidhura, Danubyu Tin Ohn as King Kawrabya, Ma Thanda Lin as Einrandati Dragon Princess, Pantaya Hla Win Naing as Varuna King of Dragon, Ma Thabye as Vimalar Dragon Devi, U San Moe as King Galon and U Mann Kyaw as Celestial King. The screenplay was written by Director U Gamone and the troupe entertained the audience with their skills to the accompaniment of U Thiri Maung Maung Myanmar Orchestra.

Taingchit Tin Ngwe Drama Troupe of Magway Division will take part in the contest for the final and the fifth day tomorrow. — MNA

Health care machines and spare parts exhibited

YANGON, 18 Oct — An exhibition on machines and spare parts for hospitals and public health care services was held this morning at the Central Medical Store in Dagon Township.

A total of 390 machines and spare parts of Health Department and Traditional Medicine Department under the Ministry of Health were displayed.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brg-Gen Thein Tun, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, officials and industrialists visited the exhibition.

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The people are urged to oppose the gambling in the two-figure numbers game entering the nation through the programme of a satellite channel, a means of IT, while taking lessons of evil results of gambling from Vidhura Drama Competition being staged in the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

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