Rights and wrongs of today’s political arena of Myanmar - I

The present government is serving the interest of the nation and the people in accord with the people’s desire. You can say if it is true or not. You know the government encountered economic sanctions and other difficulties due to the instigation of Daw Suu Kyi and NLD. Despite such economic sanctions and difficulties the government has been able to overcome these hard times with the unity of the people. Which parties provided support to reach the present stage? Which party leader served the interest of the people? You know the present developments are the results due to the efforts we made on self-reliance basis in spite of the hindrance of the anti-government groups with negative views. We should not ignore these results.

KYAW MIN LU (SHWEPYITHA)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Ongoing hydropower projects to be completed on schedule

The government is now implementing hydropower projects with added momentum to bolster the nation’s economic growth. The projects along the Ayeyawady River are Yeywa, Shweli, Thaphaniseik, Monechauing and Paunglaung.

It is also implementing Humanti, Manipura, Myilttha and Yayasaray hydropower projects along the Chindwin valley, and Kengtawng hydropower project in Thanlwin river basin. Plans are under way to launch Thanlwin Tarbsan Hydropower Project.

Now, the Ministry of Electric Power-I is making increased efforts to complete the Kunchaung and Khabaung hydropower projects ahead of schedule. The remaining hydel power projects located over Kun creek, west of Pyu, have been completed over 57 per cent so far.

Khabaung Hydropower Project situated over the Khabaung creek, west of Ottwin, has been completed more than 86 per cent so far. Upon completion, the project will be able to generate 117 million kilowatt hours a year.

On completion, Pathi creek Hydropower Project situated near Pathi creek, north-east of Toungoo will be able to produce about eight million kilowatt hours a year.

Those responsible are, therefore, to work hard to ensure completion of the ongoing projects on schedule to help provide more electricity necessary for development of industries and other enterprises.

Foreign Minister
U Nyan Win attends...

(from page 1)

The Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba. Minister U Nyan Win laid a wreath at the monument.

The minister and party proceeded to the Centre of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and were greeted by Director General Dr Luis Herrera Martinez and Sales Manager for Asia Dr Sergio Perez Talavera. They were briefed about the health sector of Cuba, of the centre, and pharmaceutical products and conducted around the centre.

The minister held official talks with Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Felipe Perez Roque at Raul Roa Protocol Room at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba in Cuba. Minister U Nyan Win attended the Diplomatic Welcome Reception hosted by the Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister at the Protocol Lounge.

Minister U Nyan Win also attended the official dinner by the Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister at the Pink House. On 18 September, the minister and Myanmar ambassador to Cuba U Kyaw Tint Swe visited Organonoponico Vivero Alam (UBPC). They viewed the plantations.

The minister attended the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Myanmar and Cuba together with Mrs Marta Lomas Morales, Minister for Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation of Cuba at the meeting hall of the ministry.

After the meeting, both sides signed and exchanged the Agreed Minutes. Next, the minister attended a luncheon hosted by Cuban Minister of FIEC at the Protocol Residence of the Ministry of FIEC.

On 19 September, Foreign Minister U Nyan Win and Myanmar Ambassador U Kyaw Tint Swe to the Republic of Cuba met with Member of the Secretariat and Head of the Department of International Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Mr Fernando Remirez de Estenoz at the Headquarters of the CCCP.

The minister and party left for New York by air to attend the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. They were seen off at the airport by Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Marcelino Mesina and Director of Asia and Oceania Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Alberto J Blanco Silva.

Minister supervises health care services in Mon and Kayin States

YANGON, 27 Sep — Accompanied by officials concerned of the Ministry of Health, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint went on an inspection tour of Thaton District People’s Hospital in Mon State on 23 September afternoon.

At the hospital, the minister inspected patient ward, laboratory, X-ray room, dental outpatient ward. In the evening, the minister and party looked into construction tasks of the new 50-bed hospital and the deputy minister gave instructions on requirements of the task.

On 24 September, the minister and party met with the head of District Health Department, specialists and staff at Myawady District People’s Hospital. Next, wellwishers and officials donated K 1.2 million for Supervisory Committee for Myawady District Health and mosquito repellent sprayers for Township Health Department through Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and then he presented certificates of hounor to them.

Afterwards, the minister and party looked into Kawkareik District People’s Hospital, Kyondoe Station Hospital, Hpa-an Rural Health Department (Branch) and Eindu Station Hospital and fulfilled the requirements.

On 25 September, the minister and party oversaw Thaton Station Hospital in Thaton Township and Waw Township People’s Hospital in Bago Division (East). — MNA

PERSPECTIVES
Friday, 28 September, 2007

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Those responsible are, therefore, to work hard to ensure completion of the ongoing projects on schedule to help provide more electricity necessary for development of industries and other enterprises.

Train timetable changed

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Sept — For the convenience of the railway passengers, the 3.15 am Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Up train leaves Yangon at 8.00 am and arrives at Nay Pyi Taw at 4.30 pm. Likewise, the 1.45 pm Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon Down train leaves Nay Pyi Taw at 10.00 am and arrives at Yangon at 6.45 pm.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Iran, IAEA atomic talks end, meet again in mid-October

TEHERAN, 26 Sept—An Iranian team and UN experts ended two days of talks with IAEA on Tuesday to try to clear up outstanding questions about Iran’s nuclear programme and agreed to meet again in mid-October, an Iranian news agency reported. The two-day meeting was part of a plan agreed with the UN watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, to try to help allay Western suspicions that Iran wants to build atomic bombs. Iran says its atomic programme is to generate electricity.

The meeting covered equipment used to enrich uranium, Iran uses a 1970s vintage of centrifuge, called P-1s, prone to breakdown if spun at high speed for long periods but is researching an advanced P-2 model at sites off limits to IAEA inspectors. Centrifuges can enrich uranium to arms-grade.

“Talks between the two IAEA technical experts and an Iranian delegation over the P-1 and P-2 centrifuges ended on Tuesday,” Iran’s ISNA news agency quoted an “informed official” as saying.

“The official declined to tell the ISNA reporter about the contents and results of the meeting but said that both sides had agreed to have another meeting in mid-October.”

Iran agreed with the IAEA on 21 August to explain the scope of its nuclear programme, which Teheran insists aims at mastering technology to generate atomic power although Western nations believe it is a covert bomb programme.

The pact allows Iran to settle questions one by one over a timeline the IAEA says would run to December — even as it adds centrifuges to its Natanz enrichment plant, nearing the 3,000 needed to start producing usable quantities of nuclear fuel.

Western powers have cast doubt on the deal, saying it allows Teheran to string out answers to questions about past, hidden nuclear work while leaving intact its uranium-enrichment programme, a possible path to atom bombs.

Death toll rises to 18 in S-W China road accident

CHENGDU, 26 Sept—The death toll from the highway accident in southwest China’s Sichuan Province 12 days ago rose to 18, as search continues for the last three missing people, said local government sources.

A spokesman of the Sichuan Provincial Bureau of Work Safety on Tuesday said, “The chance is slim for the three missing people to survive”, but the local government of Kangding county vowed to continue the search for the missing people.

The accident occurred around 1:30 am on 13 September in Gonggashan Township of Kangding County, capital of Sichuan’s far-flung Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Garze, when a van carrying 31 people plunged into a river. The passengers were all migrant workers of a local tungsten and smelting mine.

US police use stun gun on autistic teen

TUSTIN, California, 29 Sept—California sheriff’s officials have defended their use of a Taser stun gun to subdue an autistic teenager who left a social services centre where he was being treated.

Sheriff’s spokesman Jim Amormino says 15-year-old Taylor Karras was running in and out of traffic and is lucky to be alive. The teenager bolted from a social services centre Monday and had walked 24 kilometres when sheriff’s deputies received a call about someone running in and out of traffic.

In Warren, Ohio, a police officer was shown on his cruiser’s video jolting a woman with a Taser gun both before and after she was handcuffed.

The woman was arrested September 2 and the officer was placed on paid leave last week.

Patrolman Richard Kovach’s report says the 38-year-old woman, who had been ordered out of a bar, kicked at a rear window and tried to climb into the front seat once she was inside the cruiser. She was again Tasered during the transfer to the second car when she fell and was knocked unconscious by the impact.

An ambulance took her to a hospital. The woman has pleaded not guilty to resisting arrest and other charges.

Taser use by police drew attention this week after video surfaced on the Internet of police shocking a university student in Florida who persistently questioned US Senator John Kerry during a forum and refused to yield the microphone to others.

The incident generated a fierce debate about free speech, use of force and the motives of the student, a known prankster.

Taser stun guns fire electrically charged darts that carry 50,000 volts for several seconds, temporarily immobilizing their targets. Taser International Inc. says about 11,000 US law-enforcement agencies use Taser technology.

Vietnam, Singapore to enhance military cooperation

HANOI, 27 Sept—Vietnam and Singapore have agreed to promote military cooperation, and exchange more military delegations, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Tuesday.

The two sides reached the agreement during the meeting between Vietnamese Defence Minister Phung Quang Thanh and his visiting Singaporean counterpart Teo Chee Hean here Monday.

During the meeting, they also discussed the Army construction in each country, anti-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and peace-keeping, and reviewed the bilateral cooperation on socio-economic development, national defence, security enhancement and language training.

University of Florida student Andrew Meyer struggles with University Police as officers try to remove him from a question and answer session with Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass, on Monday, 17 Sept, 2007. — Internet

A file photo on shooting with a 50,000 - volt Taser stun gun.

INTERNET.
China discovers “new” glaciers on roof of world

BEIJING, 26 Sept—China has discovered 42 glaciers on the roof of the world, the Qinghai-Tibet plateau where ice is shrinking due to global warming, and the group could be the biggest of them all, state media said on Tuesday.

Beijing has become increasingly concerned about global warming as studies show glaciers retreating on the plateau, where China’s largest rivers originate. The 49 glaciers were found by satellite imagery in Bomi County which has an average altitude of 4,200 metres (13,800 feet) above sea level, the China Daily reported.

The rivers of ice on the plateau, which borders the Himalayas, account for around four-fifths of China’s glaciers and are crucial for drinking water and irrigation at ground level.

“(If the find is confirmed) it would be the biggest glacier group on the plateau,” Zhaxi Norbu, director of the county’s publicity department, was quoted as saying.

China has about 46,000 glaciers, totalling 60,000 square kilometres (23,000 square miles) primarily in Tibet and Xinjiang. Over the past century, the area of the glaciers has shrunk by around 30 per cent. — MNA/Reuters

China, New Zealand vow to advance bilateral ties

BEIJING, 27 Sept—China and New Zealand vowed here Tuesday to push forward their all-round cooperative ties on the occasion of 35th anniversary of diplomatic ties.

“China would like to work with New Zealand to intensify exchanges at various levels, and continuously deepen beneficial cooperation,” Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan told visiting Deputy Prime Minister Michael Cullen.

Zeng noted that Chinese President Hu Jintao and New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark had reached an important agreement on bilateral ties during their meeting at the 15th Economic Leaders Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Cullen, who is also New Zealand’s Minister of Finance and Tertiary Education, said the relationship with China is one of the most important bilateral ties for New Zealand.

New Zealand will continue exchanges and cooperation with China in broad fields, he said.

Cullen reaffirmed New Zealand’s firm adherence to the one-China policy, opposing “Taiwan independence”. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam bridge collapse kills at least 27 workers

HANOI, 26 Sept—At least 27 workers were killed and about 100 others feared dead or missing after a bridge they were building in Vietnam’s southern city of Can Tho collapsed on Wednesday, state-run media and police said.

“At the time of the accident there were about 100 workers directly under the section of the bridge where the scaffolding collapsed and another 150 on the surface of the bridge,” a Can Tho police officer said by telephone.

“The figures of victims are still being updated but as many as 100 could be dead or missing for now,” he said.

The online VNExpress (www.vnexpress.net) newspaper quoted officials in Can Tho as saying scaffolding at some sections of the bridge over the Hau River collapsed at about 08:30 am (0130 GMT) at the start of a shift.

“We heard a loud explosion and then a big cloud of dust and screams from workers stuck in the rubble,” the state-run online newspaper quoted a bridge engineer at the site as saying.

Officials in Can Tho said about 250 engineers and workers from three Japanese contractors — Taisei, Kazima and NipponSteel — were on the construction site at the time of the accident.

State-run Vietnam TV showed footage of the damage to the collapsed concrete and steel structure and reported that people were still believed to be trapped in the rubble. — MNA/Reuters

Wen Jiabao says service sector can help cut emissions

BEIJING, 26 Sept—China should push development of its service sector and invest in new technology to curb growing pollution and thirst for energy, state television on Tuesday quoted Premier Wen Jiabao saying.

“To save energy and cut emissions, on the one hand we must re-adjust the economic structure and strongly develop the service industry,” the report quoted Wen saying at a meeting with officials and analysts.

“On the other we must promote energy saving and new technologies, and doing good work on statistics is also very important — we are currently strengthening this work,” Beijing is promoting cleaner growth after years of calling for economic expansion at any cost because dirty air and water are limiting growth, provoking social unrest and causing diplomatic headaches.

The Communist Party plans to write a commitment to more balanced growth into its charter at a key meeting next month, where the environment will be an important theme.

But the central government has struggled to enforce the change of direction, with provincial officials often chasing growth and jobs at the expense of the environment.

Beijing recently shelved the public release of a “green GDP” study which put a cost to the country’s environmental damage after lobbying by local officials. Chinese media reported. — MNA/Reuters

A model wears a creation as part of the Gucci Spring/Summer women’s collection 2008 during Milan Fashion Week on 26 Sept. 2007. — INTERNET

Flood death toll hits 1,056 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 26 Sept—Flood death toll in Bangladesh climbed up to 1,056 till Tuesday morning while the situation in the country’s flood-hit areas has improved completely. According to health department of the country, ten more people were killed in flood-related incidents like drowning, snakebites and waterborne diseases in the last 24 hours. The devastating flood caused by incessant rain and upstream waters has affected 46 out of the country’s 64 districts since late July, leaving over 16 million people marooned, over two million houses damaged and hundreds of millions dollars economic loss. — MNA/Xinhua
**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**Cathay Pacific backs off bid for shares in China Eastern**

WASHINGTON, 26 Sept—Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd and the parent company of its Chinese affiliate have backed off from a planned joint bid for shares in China Eastern Airlines Corp, a report carried by The Wall Street Journal network said on Monday.

The move averted a showdown with Singapore Airlines for control of the Chinese Mainland’s lucrative Shanghai gateway, said the report.

Singapore Airlines agreed earlier this month to buy a 15.7-per-cent stake in Shanghai-based China Eastern to establish a foothold in China’s enormous aviation market. Singaporean Government’s investment arm Temasek agreed to simultaneously buy an additional 8.3 per cent of China Eastern.

Cathay and Air China were expected to offer a higher premium for China Eastern’s shares. Air China affiliate China National Aviation already holds an 11-per-cent stake in China Eastern.

**GM announces recall of 29,000 vehicles in Brazil**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 Sept—The Brazilian subsidiary of US automobile giant General Motors (GM) on Monday announced a recall of 29,000 vehicles manufactured in January to August this year in the country.

The company said the move was due to problems found in screws of the vehicles’ suspensions and seats. According to GM’s Press statement, models such as Corsa, Meriva and Montana manufactured during the 19 January-17 May period need to have screws in their front suspension’s screws. The screws were more rigid than the originally specified for the models, said the company.

GM stressed that there is a risk of harming endurance of the suspension screws and, in some cases, causing an accident, if the screws happen to break.

Crew cab S10 and SUV Blazer, produced on 30 July-31 August, were also included on the recall list. GM stated the screws used to fix the models’ front seats received inappropriate thermal treatment, which can affect the vehicles’ structural characteristics “in extreme situations” and cause the seats to break.

**Russian taxman to crack down on tycoons**

MOSCOW, 26 Sept—Russia’s tax authorities plan to crack down on tax evasion by the country’s richest people through the creation of a new unit to scrutinize their financial activities, news agency RIA Novosti reported on Monday.

With 43-billion billionaires, according to the Forbes rich list, an elite class of ultra-wealthy Russians controls a large chunk of the post-Soviet economy.

“This inspectorate is being created to control the oligarchs,” a source in Russia’s tax authority told RIA Novosti. Tax officials were unavailable for comment.

Some of Russia’s billionaires, often described as oligarchs, have flaunted their wealth ostentatiously both in Russia and abroad while the average Russian salary stands at just over 500 US dollars per month. The order to create the inter-regional tax inspectorate, number 11, will be signed in the next few days, RIA said.

The new unit will also look at celebrities, such as pop stars and sportsmen, a second source told the news agency.

**S’pore signs agreement to speed up oil spill compensation claims**

SINGAPORE, 26 Sept—Singapore has signed an agreement with the International Tank Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF) to speed up oil spill compensation claims. The initiative was announced by Singapore’s Minister of State for Transport Lim Hwee Hua at this year’s International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition on Monday.

Singapore is the first country to set such an agreement, which is a pre-agreed schedule of rates for oil spill response resources provided by Singapore’s Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) and its supporting spill response agencies and resource owners that help in oil spill clean-ups.

Lim said with the framework of pre-agreed rates in place, spill response agencies and resource owners can look forward to fair and timely compensation when they deploy their craft and equipment to assist in clean-up operations.

She noted that the agreement is timely. “With greater volumes of oil and chemicals being transported by sea, the challenge of striking a balance between environmental protection and economic development comes to the fore. Our collective ability to prevent accidents and to manage accidents and spills that do occur will be more critical.”—MNA/Xinhua

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A young visitor plays a video game in southern Paris in 13 Sept, 2006 file photo. With child obesity rates rising, the US’s biggest health maintenance organization on Tuesday launched an online video game to teach kids what to eat — and then shut down after 20 minutes. — INTERNET
China, South Africa vow to further cooperation

BEIJING, 26 Sept—Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong and South African Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka co-chaired the third meeting of the China-South Africa Bi-National Commission on Monday, vowing to further all-round cooperation.

Zeng proposed that China and South Africa strengthen political consultation and enterprizes exchanges and deepen the cooperation on human resources, agriculture and poverty eradication, so as to realize the agreements reached by leaders of the two countries.

Zeng said China and South Africa had expanded cooperation on trade, culture, science and public health since they established strategic partnership in 2004.

Mlambo-Ngcuka expressed gratitude for the measures taken by China to balance the bilateral trade as well as China’s assistance on the human resources exploration.

She said South Africa hoped to establish a developing partnership with China and learn more experience from China.

She reaffirmed South Africa would continue to adhere to the one-China policy.

Mlambo-Ngcuka arrived here Sunday to start a four-day visit to China. — MNA/Xinhua

Ethiopia gets $208m China loan for power, cement

ADDIS ABABA, 27 Sept — Ethiopia on Tuesday signed a 208-million-US-dollar loan agreement with China, to finance new power generation and expand a cement factory, the Horn of Africa country’s Finance Minister said.

Economic powerhouse China has been wooing African countries with aid and loans in a bid to better access the continent’s raw materials and consumer markets, to feed its exploding economy.

“The loan with China’s Import Bank and the state-owned, Commercial Bank of Ethiopia will be used to finance expansion of a cement factory and for power generation,” said Sufian Ahmed, Ethiopia’s Finance Minister.

Ethiopia has received 708 million US dollars in development loans from Beijing this year, he said. He said 500 million US dollars received earlier was used to finance various projects.

Sufian said annual trade volume between the two countries in 2006/07 was 500 million US dollars. — MNA/Reuters

India mulls new satellite for cheaper mobile phone link

NEW DELHI, 26 Sept — India is planning to launch in three years a satellite capable of providing direct communication links to mobile handsets, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Tuesday.

The move aims at making satellite phone usage cheaper and accessible to the remotest parts of the country, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) declared Monday.

“We plan to provide satellite connectivity using a special bandwidth,” ISRO chairman G Madhavan Nair told space agency chief’s attending the International Aeronautical Congress (IAC) in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad.

The ISRO, he said, was designing an experimental satellite — GSAT-6 — for the purpose.

“It will make access cheaper with connectivity even in remote areas.”

The GSAT-6 will be launched by the indigenously built GSLV (Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) and deployed in the geostationary orbit at 36,000 kilometres from earth by 2010.

“A subscriber will be able to connect his or her GSM phone when signals from the mobile service provider fail or do not reach by automatically switching over to the satellite link,” PTI quoted ISRO scientific secretary Bhaskara Narayana as saying. — MNA/Xinhua
NLD member organizes abbot monk of Ashekyaung Pariyatti Sarthintaik monastery in Mohnyin, Kachin State to take part in protest

He has to leave as abbot monk and members of Sangha do not accept his persuasion

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Sept — U Kyaw Maung, a representative-elect of NLD visited Ashekyaung Pariyatti Sarthintaik monastery in Mohnyin, Kachin State, at 1 pm on 24 September. He tried to organize the Abbot Monk U Jayamsa and some members of the Sangha to take part in noisy demonstrations.

The abbot monk who is living in accord with the Vinaya told U Kyaw Maung that all the monks of the monastery including him would never take part in the protests; that they did not want to see a black mark being earned as in the 1988 unrest; that he could not let his monks being used as steppingstone; that NLD did not render a helping hand in building Sasana Beikman and clinic in the monastery compound, but the government departments concerned did; and that NLD had never taken part in any endeavours in the interest of the community and the Sasana. The Sayadaw resolutely and strongly rejected U Kyaw Maung’s persuasion that was just an attempt to jeopardize community peace and stability. Hence, U Kyaw Maung had to leave the monastery.

The monastery has over 100 monks and they have never taken part in any one of the monks’ protests. MNA

About 50-strong mob attempts to attack residence of Bahan Township USDA executive

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Sept—Those getting involved in the protests not only are staging demonstrations but also are intimidating the people. At about 8 pm yesterday, five monks made an inquiry into the residence of Bahan Township Union Solidarity and Development Association Executive U Aung Htoo of 16, Arzarni Street, Saya San Ward (South), Bahan Township. However, a friend of U Aung Htoo informed him in advance by phone, so his wife and five children were moved to a safe place before their arrival.

At about 8 pm on the same day, about 50 monks and people holding swords and rods searched the house of U Aung Htoo. Ward dwellers and authorities informed the case to security forces. When the security forces arrived, the mob dispersed.

Further investigation revealed that it had been in retaliation for the sentence of their brother Myo Min — a leader of Yangon Division NLD young members in 1995, elder sister Ma Swe Swe Khaing and younger sister Ma Yee Yee Hlaing, who gets involved in the mass protest, manufactured a fabrication in the ward that U Aung Htoo was one of those who hit monk protesters. So, the mob tried to attack his house. MNA

Four called in for questioning regarding protests

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Sept—With respect to the violent acts and protests happening at present, authorities concerned called in four persons for questioning — Member of NLD Central Executive Committee U Hla Pe, Member of NLD Information Committee U Myint Thein, and members of illegally formed CRPP U Htay Htan of the Union Nationalities League for Democracy and U Pu Kyiint Shin Htan of Zomi National Congress yesterday. MNA

NLD hiring people on daily payment to cheat as if the people are taking part in protests and increase number of protesters

Interviews being held in townships to create and distribute false news reports

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Sept — About 100 monks gathered at Myatheindan monastery in Zigon, Bago Division, at about 12.30 pm on 25 September. Beginning 1 pm, the monks staged protest walk on Pagoda Street, Merchant Street, Sipin Street and Market Street in the town. Eight members including Daw Khin Waing of Township NLD and 11 civilians followed the monks holding placards and shouting slogans.

The group dispersed at about 2.15 pm and the monks returned to the monastery. The 11 civilians were hired by NLD on daily payments to join the protest and shout slogans. It was the NLD’s plot to cheat as if the people were taking part in the protest.

At 8.40 pm on 24 September, a man by the name Ko Thet of Thai-based Ayeyawady news agency another man and a woman totalling three visited Abbot Monk U Devinda of Zeyathukha monastery in Sangyoung Ward, Aunglan, Magway Division. Ko Thet showed the abbot monk his identity card and interviewed the Sayadaw. The woman recorded the interview with her recorder. Ko Thet asked the Sayadaw whether he was the secretary of discipline enforcement group of the Aunglan Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and whether he prohibited monks from staging strike in the town on 17 September; and about his view on the monk protests.

The Sayadaw said that he was the secretary of the group; that due to the ill health of the chairman Sayadaw of the Aunglan Township Sangha Nayaka Committee the 17-September-scheduled meeting to invite participants to the alms offering ceremony after the Lent was postponed; that he had no comments about the current protests; that his monastery did not need to stage a protest; and that it would not stage any protest.

The Sayadaw asked the group where the members were staying. They said that they were a group gathering news in various townships and that their next destination was Taungdgwinya. The group left the monastery at about 9.10 pm.

Authorities concerned have urged the people to be aware of the plots to organize people offering money to take part in the disturbance and false news reports and propaganda collected and distributed by the persons hired by certain foreign news agencies. MNA
This time, I would like to inform the public about the conspiracies of anti-government terrorist groups holding negative views to disturb and destroy government’s endeavours for the good of the nation and to the extent of my knowledge. But please do not see me as a writer taking pro-government stance. As my article “The answer will be fine if it is based on fair views”. I will think fairly and weigh justly. I wish readers to see what is right as right and what is wrong as wrong. My article may be just like a discussion with readers. Actually, all the people should have an overall view of the present political stage of the nation.

Our history has very few periods during which the nation was going smoothly. My assumption is that there was no such period at all. Leaving aside the ancient feudal dynasties, let us just recount the post-independence period after the regaining of independence. The past successive governments were not able to effectively serve the interest of the nation and the people due to attacks and disturbances launched by the anti-government groups with negative views. No government however it wished to develop the nation was seen good then. As there were lots of disturbances, however much a government had goodwill and fine objectives, it never had had an opportunity to carry out national development endeavours. It is true. It is a heart rending for all of us that there have been anti-government groups, with negative views, at any time to hinder any national development. It is a minus sign. I think you all appreciate this.

Why are those groups opposing the government with the intention of harming the national interest and putting the people into abject poverty? It’s power! Nothing more than power! They want power. They regard the government as their real enemy, opposing, slandering, disturbing and attacking it and trying to remove it just to grab power. Isn’t it true that their ultimate aim is to grab power? Whom are the anti-government groups using as a stepping-stone to oppose the government and to grab power? Readers, you answer it please. They are black magicians. They are specially workers and monks (including the wish to buy a car and build a house. The people have those desires. What is the government doing? You all know that the government has been constantly striving with the best of its intellectual and physical ability to fulfill those public desires completely.

You all know “Our Three Main National Causes”, the government’s national guideline policy. “Our Three Main National Causes” has been adopted not for a single party, race or person. The causes are always right and required for every party, race and person. We, the entire people, are always striving for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. “Our Three Main National Causes” is always correct for us. Any party, race or individual that does not accept “Our Three Main National Causes” is the one that ignores the national interest. Hence, “Our Three Main National Causes” will always be true and required. Hence, it is adopted in the interest of the entire Union. There is nothing we cannot accept.

The government adopted and has been implementing the 12 political, economic and social objectives to keep in the fore “Our Three Main National Causes” and to effectively materialize it. A thorough review of the 12 objectives shows that they are the most practical work programmes, that are in accord with the prevailing conditions and that can realize the national interest best. Let us examine the last objective of the four economic objectives — The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the people. It is obvious that the objective envisages long-term interest of the national race entrepreneurs. If the nation does not protect the national entrepreneurs, it is sure that our economy will be under total manipulation of foreigners. Our entrepreneurs will be wiped out totally. We should appreciate the government’s protection. If we study the remaining objectives, we can obviously understand that they are for the long-term interest of the nation and the people sector-wise. Hence, it is undeniable that the 12 objectives are the most suitable and appropriate work programmes. Nothing harmful to the interest of the nation and people is stipulated in the objectives.

Our country’s goal is to build a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In this regard, free elections covers the first point of people’s desire, and the words “modern and developed”, the second point, and the word “discipline-flourishing”, the third point. So, I think all agree that the nation’s goal reflects the three points of people’s desire.

Therefore, it is acceptable that the ruling government upholds the national policy — Our Three Main National Causes — and is fulfilling the three points of the people’s desire through the 12 objectives. In this regard, the government and the people are joining hands and working together, and all parts of the nation (See page 9)
Rights and wrongs of today’s ...

(from page 8)

have developed at unprecedented level in various sectors including the education, health, economic, social and communication sectors. We national people have equal access to these fruitful results.

The government has constructed a network of roads and bridges in the transport sector, irrigation facilities in the agricultural sector, established industrial zones in the industrial sector across the nation. So, its all-out efforts to serve the public interests well deserve recognition, and it is known to all. Anti-government groups have known that. I will present some facts about them later.

The ruling government is working hard in the interests of the nation and the people. Its efforts are in accordance with the national policy and objectives and reflect the true desire of the people. And it is marching forward in cooperation with the people. Thus, success has been achieved to a certain degree, if compared with that in the parliamentary democracy period or the Myanna Socialist Programme Party. Certainly, in the time of the Tatmadaw government, the nation has enjoyed unprecedented development. It is apparent that the government is taking steps with foresight not only for the present but also for the future of the country.

The infrastructures the government is constructing with added momentum are just designed to pave way for greater development. Without such infrastructures necessary for development, the nation cannot practise the multi-party democracy system at all, as evidenced by a large number of bitter experiences the nation has faced. I am sure the government has visualized that the nation cannot be transformed into a democratic one. That is why it is taking steps one after another to ensure smooth and systematic democratic transition. Here, we should realize this point.

In response to the people’s desire, it has introduced the market-oriented economic system to the nation. In addition, it is taking systematic measures step by step in the appropriate times. If it had opened the market-oriented economic system irresponsibly, the economy of our nation would have been under the monopolization of alien entrepreneurs.

According to the market economy, profit is oriented. However, if the government is sacrificing huge sums from the State funds in various sectors such as in the social, health, education and transport sectors for the well-being of the people. For many years the government has been sacrificing large sums of money to import fuel with the positive stance that the people can get fuel at reasonable prices. Nonetheless, we people did not know the fact that the government was distributing fuel at a reasonable prices. Now, world fuel prices are getting higher and higher. So, its sacrifice of funds on fuel becomes loss and we did not care about the world fuel prices.

Nonetheless, we people did not know the social, health, education and transport sectors for the sums from the State funds in various sectors such as in the social, health, education and transport sectors for the benefit of alien entrepreneurs.

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Monday. The doctor’s office may not be worth the time or money, researchers said on account for one in 12 adult Medicine. The Archives of Internal study appears in the or not,” he added. The doctor, and yet we don’t reason adults see their benefit. It’s the No 1 exams with a real unclear of adults going to see their money, a lot of visits, a lot study showed. More than 80 per cent of preventive care provided by doctors does not take place during this annual check-up, the study showed. And more than 350 million US dol- lars worth of potential- ly unnecessary medical tests are performed, the researchers said.

“We need to question encouraging everybody to come in for an annual physical,” Dr Ateev Mehrotra of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the RAND Corp., who led the study, said in a telephone inter- view.

“There’s a lot of money, a lot of visits, a lot of adults going to see their doctor for annual physical exams with a real unclear benefit. It’s the No 1 reason adults see their doctor, and yet we don’t know whether it’s helpful or not,” he added. The study appears in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

These check-ups account for one in 12 adult outpatients visits to the doctor’s office, the study found. On average, they lasted 23 minutes and cost

116 US dollars, including laboratory and radiology services, the researchers said.— MNA/Reuters

Abandoned child reunited with grandmother in NZ

WELLINGTON, 27 Sept — A toddler abandoned in Australia 10 days ago was re- united with her grand- mother in New Zealand on Tuesday, while police in the United States stepped up the hunt for her fugitive father.

Maternal grandmother Lin Xiaoping, 53, arrived in New Zealand earlier from China and is to seek custody of three-year-old Qian Xun Xue, whose mother’s body was found in the trunk of a car parked outside their Auckland home.

“While Qian Xun has times where she has been quite distressed, she is generally a very sunny, happy little girl,” said Marion Heeney, regional director of New Zealand’s Department of Child, Youth and Family.

The little girl, dubbed “Pumpkin” after the Pumpkin Patch brand of clothing she was wearing when she was found at a railway station in Melbourne, arrived in Auckland on Monday accompanied by a carer.

An arrest warrant for her 54-year-old father, magazine publisher Nai Yin Xue, was issued after police discovered the body of Anan Liu, 27, in Xue’s car on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

US Navy helicopter crashes in Guam, one dead

HAGATAN (Guam), 27 Sept — A US Navy MH60 helicopter crashed into a lake on the Pacific island of Guam, killing one crew member, the military said on Tuesday.

The incident happened during a training exercise on Monday and the Navy is investigating the cause of the crash.

Three surviving crew members were being treated in hospital for minor injuries. One sustained a broken arm.

Guam, a US territory, had a US military presence to varying degrees since 1898 when the Navy captured it from Spain.

The United States plans to move 8,000 Marines from the southern Japanese island of Okinawa to Guam by 2014 as part of a global realignment of US forces.

MNA/Reuters

Lawmaker says Rice interfered with Iraq inquiry

WASHINGTON, 27 Sept — A leading Democratic lawmaker on Tuesday accused Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice of interfering in congressional inquiries into corruption in Iraq’s Government and the activities of US security firm Blackwater.

Democratic Repre- sentative Henry Waxman said State Department officials had told the Oversight and Gov- ernment Reform Com- mittee he chairs they could not provide details of corruption in Iraq’s Government unless the information was treated as a “state secret” and not revealed to the public.

“You are wrong to interfere with the com- mittee’s inquiry,” Wax- man said in a letter to Rice.

“The State Depart- ment’s position on this matter is ludicrous,” added Waxman, a vocal opponent of the Bush Administration’s Iraq policies. But State Department spokesmen Tom Casey said there seemed to have been a “misunder- standing” over the issue and all the information requested by Congress had either been provided or was in the process of being provided.

Waxman said secu- rity contractor Black- water, which was in- volved in an incident in which Iraqi civilians were killed last week, said they could not hand over documents relevant to an investigation without State Department approval.

But Casey said later Blackwater had been informed the State Department had no objection to it providing information to Waxman’s committee.

Blackwater provides security for the US Embassy in Baghdad and has a contract with the State Department.

Waxman, who has a hearing on Blackwater for 2 October, released a letter his staff received from the security contractor’s attorneys dated 24 Sep- tember.

Blackwater also urged the committee not to ask questions at the hearing that could reveal sensitive information “that could be utilized by our country’s implacable enemies in Iraq”.

Waxman also re- leased a letter signed by State Department contracting officer Krazan Moneypenny to Blackwater.

“I hereby direct Blackwater to make no disclosure of documents or information ... unless such disclosure has been authorized in writing by the contracting officer,” wrote Moneypenny.

Waxman also com- plained Rice was re- fusing to testify at any hearings his committee planned to look at po- litical reconciliation in Iraq, corruption or the Blackwater incident.

“We have offered to make available for testimony those officials in the best position to respond to the specific issues the committee has raised,” said Casey.

MNA/Reuters

A gamer plays the Xbox 360 at a ‘Best Buy’ store in San Francisco, California recently. The gaming world is bracing for the release of “Halo 3,” expected to be a blockbuster for Microsoft and its struggling Xbox 360.—INTERNET

A Palestinian man looks at pictures of Palestinian women held in Israeli prisons, in the West Bank city of Jenin, on 23 Sept, 2007. — INTERNET
Newly-discovered comet named after Chinese astronomer

Nanjing, 27 Sept — A newly-discovered comet has been named after the surname of a Chinese astronomer, Dr Zhao Haibin, the finder of the celestial body.

Zhao, who leads an NEO (Near Earth Object) research team at the Zijinshan Astronomical Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences based in the eastern city of Nanjing, discovered the comet close to the Cetus constellation in mid-September, a source with the observatory said.

The orbit of the new comet, named “P/2007S1(ZHAO)”, was found to be an ellipse whose eccentricity is 0.344, and the comet’s period of revolution around the sun is 7.46 years. Zhao reported his discovery to the Minor Planet Centre of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), which confirmed the new comet after a careful analysis and comparison with the observations of seven authoritative observatories in the world, including the Lowell Observatory of the United States and the Schiaparelli Observatory of Italy.

Vietnam bridge collapse death toll rises to 60

HANOI, 27 Sept — A Japanese-funded bridge under construction in southern Vietnam collapsed on Wednesday, killing up to 60 workers and injuring around 130 in the country’s worst such disaster.

A contractor with a Chinese company working on the bridge being built in Can Tho City said 60 people were killed. State-run Vietnam TV said 48 casualties had been confirmed with scores unaccounted for.

One police officer reached by telephone said as many as 100 could be dead or missing.

TV news bulletins showed footage of a mass of tangled steel and concrete at the scene, and emergency workers in white uniforms taking bloodied victims into hospitals for treatment.

“It is total chaos here,” said Tran Thanh Quang, director of military hospital 112 in the Mekong Delta city, where most victims were being treated.

At least 150 people were being treated for injuries and hospitals were running out of beds, officials said.

Doctors and nurses were sent from Ho Chi Minh City, 170 kilometres (105 miles) away, to help.

Vietnam improves business environment

HANOI, 27 Sept — Vietnam, between April 2006 and June 2007, improved in the ease of doing business, including such areas as business start-up, credit access and cross-border trade, although its rankings in investor protection, business closure and tax payment are still low, says a World Bank report released here Wednesday.

Vietnam strengthened investor protection with a new enterprise law and securities act, which mandate investor involvement in major company actions and increase disclosure requirements, and eased access to credit by broadening the scope of assets that can be used as collateral, says the Doing Business 2008 published by the bank and the International Finance Corporation.

In the reported one-year period, the cost of starting a business in Vietnam decreased to 20 per cent of gross national income per capita. The new Enterprise Law effective from July 2006 reduces the number of days it takes to obtain business registration certificate to 10 days or five days less than stated in the old law.

In the period, Vietnam adopted new securities and enterprise laws, which helped strengthen investor protection. Following the 2005 revised Civil Code, Decree 163/2006 on secured transaction issued in late 2006 further facilitates collateral-based lending by making it possible for all kind of movable property to be used as collateral.

Cambodia to educate remote communities about avian influenza

PISON PHEA, 27 Sept — The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Medicam will organize a community forum in Mondulkiri near the border with Vietnam on Thursday to educate remote communities about avian influenza and how they can protect their poultry and their families from contracting the deadly virus, said a Press release on Tuesday.

“The event will be the first of a new series of community forums that Medicam, with support from FAO, will organize in areas of the country that have limited or zero access to TV and radio, to inform communities about the risks posed by avian influenza to their poultry and to their health,” said Dr Sin Somuny, Executive Director of Medicam, an umbrella organization of more than 100 health NGOs in Cambodia.

“The forum will veer away from the usual ‘we tell you and you listen to us’ speeches,” said Guy Freeland, Team Leader of FAO’s Avian Influenza Control Programme in Cambodia.

“We would like it to be an interactive exchange of information based on a consistent storyline depicted by a series of photographs that shows how avian influenza is transmitted from its source in poultry to other farms and villages,” said Freeland.

Series of quakes jolt Indonesia

JAKARTA, 27 Sept — A series of moderate earthquakes hit Indonesia on Tuesday, Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said here.

The quakes measuring 5.2 and 5.4 respectively on the Richter scale rocked Sumatra Island in western parts of the country, an official of the agency said.

Another quake with a magnitude of 5.4 occurred at 04:25 Jakarta time (2125 GMT) with the epicentre at 172 kilometres southwest of Lais town of Bengkulu Province and the depth of 94 kilometres, the official said.

Another quake with a magnitude of 5.2 jolted at 00:25 Jakarta Time (1725 GMT) with the epicentre at 57 kilometres southwest of Paiman Town of West Sumatra Province and the depth of 67 kilometres, an official of the agency said.

Afghan police men stand guard as Afghan woman passes by in Herat, south west of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 23 Sept, 2007.
In respect of: “Respirators and respiratory masks (other than for artificial respiration); respirators for filtering air; filters for respiratory masks; optoelectronic masks; protective optical instruments; eye protection spectacles, optical glasses, masks; spectacles; sunshades; eye protection shields. films, filters and sheets against ultraviolet rays and laser beams; protective helmets; workmen’s protective face- and eye-shields; ear protection devices, namely safety earmuffs, ear defenders and headbands; automatic distribution machines for distributing ear protection devices; protective and safety equipment against falls; safety maintaining devices (other than for vehicle seats and sports equipment); safety belts; fire lines, life lines, life belts and safety restraints; clothing, headgear and footwear (monoplastic) for protection against accidents, irradiation and fire; gloves for protection against accidents, X-rays and chemical and bacteriological risks; eye cleaning apparatus and instruments; gas control instruments and devices and test benches for autonomous respiratory assist devices; protection devices for personal use against accidents, protective helmets and caps” in class 9.

In respect of: “Hearing protectors, headbands, ear defenders and safety earmuffs used for protecting ears for medical and prophylactic purposes; masks, caps, gloves, special clothing used by the medical, surgical and dental staff; drapes (sterile bed sheets)” in class 10.

In respect of: “Clothing; gloves (clothing); footwear (except orthopaedic footwear); coveralls; parts of footwear such as heels, soles for footwear and protective toecaps; whether removable or not, in leather, rubber or any other material; socks, slippers, boots, half-boots, wooden shoes, non-slippering devices for boots and shoes; headgear; aprons, bibs (net of paper) including of plastic and non-woven fabric; all of the above for use in personal protective equipment industry” in class 25.

In respect of: “Protective equipment against falls during sports; sports safety devices; climbing harness; safety belts; lines; life lines and belts for sports” in class 28.

In respect of: “Wholesale and retail sale services of protection devices and clothing for individual use against accidents, irradiation, chemical and bacteriological contamination, fire and auditory stress” in class 35.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Myint Lwin Advocate, LLC, D.B.L.

Diploma in Legal Aspects of Maritime Affairs (UK)
**WWF: New animal, plant species found in Vietnam**

**Geneva, 26 Sept** — Scientists have discovered 11 new species of animals and plants in a remote area in central Vietnam, conservation group World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said on Wednesday.

The species were found in the Thua Thien Hue Province — a region known as the Green Corridor. They include two butterflies and a snake, as well as five orchids and three other plants, all of which are exclusive to tropical forests in Vietnam’s Annamites Mountain Range, said the Swiss-based organization in a press release.

“You only discover so many new species in very special places, and the Green Corridor is one of them,” said Chris Dickinson, WWF’s chief technical adviser in the area.

“Several large mammal species were discovered in the 1990s in the same forests, which means that these latest discoveries could be just the tip of the iceberg,” he added.

The new snake species, called the white-lipped keel back, tends to live by streams where it catches frogs and other small animals. It has a beautiful yellow-white stripe that sweeps along its head and red dots cover its body. It can reach about 80 cm in length.

Research shows lack of sleep may be deadly

**London, 26 Sept** — People who do not get enough sleep are more than twice as likely to die of heart disease, according to a large British study released on Monday.

Although the reasons are unclear, researchers said lack of sleep appeared to be linked to increased blood pressure, which is known to raise the risk of heart attacks and stroke.

A 17-year analysis of 10,000 government workers showed those who cut their sleep from seven hours a night to five or less faced a 1.7-fold increase in risk of death from all causes and more than double the risk of cardiovascular death.

The findings highlight a danger in busy modern lifestyles, Francesco Cappuccio, professor of cardiovascular medicine at the University of Warwick’s medical school, told the annual conference of the British Sleep Society in Cambridge.

**New Zealand: “Lord of the Rings” volcano erupts**

**Beijing, 26 Sept** — New Zealand’s Mount Ruapehu — location of Middle Earth in the “Lord of the Rings” film trilogy — erupted Tuesday, spewing ash and rock that injured a climber and forced the evacuation of about 50 people off the mountain, local media reported Wednesday.

The 10-minute eruption started at about 8.20 pm and sent a cloud of ash and dust to a height of 15,000 feet, Geological and Nuclear Sciences said. The eruption also caused mudslides down the side of the mountain.

Mount Ruapehu, the highest mountain in New Zealand’s North Island at 9,177 feet, has one of the most active crater lakes in the world. In March a mudflow, or lahar, flowed down the side of the mountain after the crater lake overflowed.

Large eruptions in 1995 and 1996 blankets the surrounding area in ash. The injured climber and three companions were in a hut near the summit when rocks came crashing through the roof.

**Greenland’s melting ice covers US-size area twice**

**Beijing, 26 Sept** — An area twice as large as the United States could be covered with water from the amount of ice that has melted from Greenland’s ice sheet this year, and more melting took place in 2007 than the average going back to 1988, new study reveals.

NASA scientists used satellite data to compare the average snow that melted from Greenland annually between 1988 and 2006 with the snow that melted away this summer. They discovered an overall rising trend in the amount of melt, especially at high altitudes where melt was 150 percent higher this year than the average.

The melting index — an indicator of where melting is occurring and its duration — for Greenland’s high altitude areas (those over 1.2 miles above sea level) was significantly higher than usual so far this year. Melting in these areas lasted for 25 to 30 days longer this year than for the average during the last 19 years.

“When snow melts at those high altitudes and then refreezes, it can absorb up to four times more energy than fresh, unthawed snow,” said study leader Marco Tedesco of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

“This can affect Earth’s energy budget by changing how much radiation from the sun is absorbed by the Earth versus that reflected back into the atmosphere. Refrozen snow can also alter the snow density, thickness and snow-water content.”

**Internet**
**Klose scores three as Bayern crush Cottbus 5-0**

**BERLIN, 27 Sept —** Miroslav Klose scored a hat-trick in the final half hour to lead Bayern Munich to a 5-0 home win over bottom-of-the-table Energie Cottbus on Wednesday and raise his tally to eight goals in his six Bundesliga games.

Martin Demichelis and Luca Toni also scored in the last half hour for Bayern, who moved three points clear at the top of the table with 17 points from seven games. Bayer Leverkusen moved into second place after beating Nuremberg 2-1 away.

Averaging three goals per match, the new look Bayern lead the way in the Bundesliga scoring stakes with 21 goals and at this pace could surpass their 2006/07 total of 55 goals.

**Latvia’s Scerbatihs lifts gold in Weightlifting Worlds**

**CHANG MAI (Thailand), 27 Sept —** Viktors Scerbatihs of Latvia claimed the gold medal in the men’s over 105-kilo category at the World Weightlifting Championships here on Wednesday.

Scerbatihs, who finished fourth in the 2006 worlds, established a size advantage in the snatch as he lifted 202 kilos, one more than nearest rival Evgeny Chigishev of Russia.

Three Herculeses, including Scerbatihs and Chigishev, hoisted 240 kilos in the clean and jerk, and with his advantage in the snatch, the 33-year-old Scerbatihs grabbed the gold (442 kilos).

Chigishev, 28, had to settle for the silver (441 kilos) and Jaber Saeed Salem of Qatar had the bronze (435 kilos).

**Man United stunned by Convery in League Cup**

**LONDON, 27 Sept —** Premier League champions Manchester United suffered a shock League Cup exit for the second season running when they lost 2-0 at home to Second Division Coventry City on Wednesday.

Holders Chelsea had no such trouble,however, routing Hull City 4-0 away to record the club’s first victory under new manager Avram Grant following Jose Mourinho’s exit a week ago.

“It could have been better, it could have been 5-0,” Grant told the BBC. “I was happy with the performance of the players. These kind of games you make one mistake and you are out.

“All the goals came from combinations and that’s what I want from the team...they all enjoyed it, including me.”

Manchester United were not the only top flight casualty as Martin O’Neill’s Aston Villa lost 1-0 at home to his old club Leicester City — Matthew Fryatt scoring the winner.

In other third-round ties, West Ham United scraped through 1-0 against Plymouth Argyle with a late strike by Dean Ashton and James McFadden scored twice as Everton won 3-0 at Second Division strugglers Sheffield Wednesday.

**Esparny pile on Sevilla agony with away win**

**MADRID, 26 Sept —** Sevilla suffered their third defeat in a week, falling 3-2 at home to Espanyol in the Primera Liga on Tuesday.

Juande Ramo’s side lost 3-0 at Arsenal in the Champions League and 2-1 to Barcelona in the Primera Liga last week and looked out of it again when Angel Martinez and Luis Garcia put Espanyol 2-0 up early in the second half.

Sevilla stormed back with an own goal by Daniel Jarque and a header by Arouna Koné but Berlin substitute Raul Tamudo popped up to steal the winner two minutes from time.

Ramos’s team slipped to sixth with six points from four games, four points behind leaders Real Madrid.

Espanyol, who gained a measure of revenge for their defeat in the UEFA Cup final in May, climbed to fifth on seven points.

Champions Real Madrid are at home to Real Betis on Thursday while Barcelona host Real Zaragoza on Wednesday.

**Messi double helps Barca thump Zaragoza 4-1**

**MADRID 27 Sept —** Lionel Messi proved too hot to handle for Real Zaragoza as he stepped up a gear in the Primera Liga last week and looked out of it again when Angel Martinez and Luis Garcia put Espanyol 2-0 up early in the second half.

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**No decision yet on Owen’s groin surgery**

**LONDON, 26 Sept —** England striker Michael Owen could need groin surgery but no decision has yet been made, Newcastle United manager Sam Allardyce said on Tuesday.

Owen limped off in Newcastle’s 3-1 win over West Ham United on Sunday and media reports said he needed a groin operation that would almost certainly rule him out of England’s Euro 2008 qualifiers against Estonia and Russia next month.

“He may need one, he may not.” Allardyce told Sky Sports News after his side lost 2-0 at Arsenal in the League Cup third round.

“He has a groin injury and will see a specialist again. He may need an operation eventually but he has not got a hernia. He has a tear in his abductor muscle.”

Owen’s career has been blighted by injury since joining Newcastle from Real Madrid in 2005.

He broke a metatarsal in December 2005 and then at the 2006 World Cup finals suffered a cruciate knee injury that sidelined him for virtually the whole of the season.

After missing the beginning of this season with a thigh problem, Owen returned to score three goals in England’s back-to-back wins over Israel and Russia.

**Germany’s Kerstin Garefrekes (C) vies with players of Norway during a semifinal of the 2007 FIFA Women’s World Cup in Tianjin, a coastal city in North China, on 26 Sept, 2007. —INTERNET**

**Milan lose at Palermo, Inter go level at top**

**MILAN, 27 Sept —** AC Milan’s patchy form continued when they lost 2-1 at Palermo while Inter Milan went level at the top of Serie A with Zlatan Ibrahimovic scoring an other brace in a 3-0 win over Sampdoria on Wednesday.

Roma, without the injured Francesco Totti, drew 2-2 at Fiorentina to stay in first place but conceded a goal with 10 minutes to go when Matteo Ferrari fouled Christian Vieri and Adriano Mutu converted the penalty with a cheeky chip.

Juventues crushed Reggina 4-0 while former AC Milan striker Marco Borriello scored a hat-trick in promoted Genoa’s 3-2 win at home to Udinese.

Milan looked on track to end a run of three 1-1 league draws after Clarence Seedorf flicked the ball home following Kaka’s clever pass in the 10th minute.

The European champions continued to dominate but Aimo Diana equalized from close range after Amauri chested the ball down and squared for his teammate from Milan that he had used an arm and that Diana was offside.

**Dong Fangzhuo (R) of Manchester United vies with players of Coventry City during the Carling Cup third round football match at Old Trafford, Manchester, northwest England. Coventry won 2-0. —INTERNET**
Brazil’s Lula defends Iran’s nuclear rights

New York, 27 Sept — Iran has the right to proceed with peaceful nuclear research and should not be punished just because of Western suspicions it wants to make an atomic bomb, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Tuesday.

“So far, Iran has committed no crime regarding the UN guidelines on nuclear weapons,” Lula told reporters as he prepared to return to Brazil after delivering a speech at the United Nations General Assembly.

“Nobody should be punished in advance,” said Lula, whose country started enriching uranium for its nuclear power plants last year, causing only limited international attention.

Meanwhile, concerns about Iran’s nuclear ambitions are among the hottest topics on the agenda of the UN assembly. French President Nicolas Sarkozy said failure to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons could destabilize the world.

Teheran insists it seeks to master technology to generate atomic power although Western nations believe it is running a covert bomb programme.

The United Nations has demanded Iran halt its nuclear enrichment programme, and has slapped two rounds of sanctions on Teheran for refusing to comply.

“If Iran wants to enrich uranium, if it wants to handle the nuclear issue in a peaceful way like Brazil does, that is Iran’s right,” Lula said, adding however that all countries are subject to UN guidelines.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Thursday, 27 September, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State and Magway Division, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Rakhine, Kayin and Kayah States, Sagaing Division, scattered in Mandalay and Bago Divisions. Fairly widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavy falls in Kachin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myitkyina (3.18) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (1.93) inches, Taunggyi (1.74) inches, Pinlaung (1.57) inches, Machanbaw (1.42) inches and Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.10) inches.

Maximum temperature on 26-9-2007 was 90ºF. Minimum temperature on 27-9-2007 was 72ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 27-9-2007 was 96.0%. Total sunshine hours on 26-9-2007 was (3.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 27-9-2007 was (1.93) inches at Mingaladon, (1.18) inches at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (124.96) inches at Mingaladon, (129.13) inches at Kaba-Aye and (133.31) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (60) mph from Southwest at (10:30) hours MST on 27-9-2007.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea, South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 28-9-2007: Rain or thunder-showers will be isolated in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin State and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the seas: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of thunder conditions in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 28-9-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 28-9-2007: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 28-9-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:30 hr MST on 27-9-2007)

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada (1.94) cm is exceeded (52) cm above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level (1342) cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.
People’s Desire

☆ We favour stability.
☆ We favour peace.
☆ We oppose unrest and violence.

☆ BBC and VOA airing skyful of lies
☆ Beware of BBC and VOA saboteurs

Demonstrators stone secu-
rit y forces, use catapults

Security members fire warning
 shots as protesters turning
blind eye to repeated requests

31 security members wounded, nine
unidentified male protesters killed, 11
others including a woman wounded

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Sept — Regional
authorities and the people are patiently han-
dling the situation of Myanmar in order to
prevent the danger of those wanting to incite
civil unrest in the peaceful and stable country.
However, today, groups of demonstrators in
Yangon mobbed the security forces throwing
stones and sticks at them, using catapults and
swords and they also tried to grab the arms of
the security forces.

The security forces had to fire warning
shots as the protesters turned a blind to their
repeated requests. In the clashes 31 security mem-
bers were wounded, nine unidentified male pro-
testers killed and 10 men and one woman wounded.
The wounded are now being provided with medi-
cal treatment.

Among the dead was a Japanese named
Mr Nagai Kengi, 52. He was killed while gath-
ering news amidst the protests although he was
here on a tourist visa. Together with him at the
time were a Canon video camera and a mobile
phone, it is learnt.

MNA