Yangon Division took part in the drama contest.

Performing Arts Competitions continued for the second day in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin, here, today.

**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

---

**Suvannasama Drama Contest continues for second day**

Nav Pyi Taw, 19 Oct — The Suvannasama Drama Contest of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the second day in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin, here, today.

The troupe led by Maung Nyan Win representing Yangon Division took part in the drama contest.

Present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of the Committee for Holding the Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Secretary of Work Committee for Organizing the Performing Arts Competitions Director-General of Fine Arts Department U Yan Naing Oo and committee members, officials of subcommittees, and guests.

---

Our political situation is in a stalemate facing hardships without moving forward with greater momentum. It is not good if the stalemate is too long.

Even at present we are grappling with economic and social hardships due to political deadlock. Time and again, disturbances and demonstrations are springing from political, economic and social troubles. The consequence is that the nation is in a bad shape and is unable to march straightly to public-desired democracy or implement market economy well.

---

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Ensuring self-sufficiency in food and exporting the surplus

Nowadays, food security is one of the most serious challenges the entire peoples of the world are facing. Ensuring daily food security and acquisition of wholesome food are indispensable for everyone. Member nations of FAO are working hard in concert to fulfill the requirement.

The government built altogether 203 dams, reservoirs and sluice gates and implemented 305 river water pumping stations for the nation to be able to engage in agriculture all year round. With full supply of irrigated water, extended cultivation of beans and pulses, edible oil crops and kitchen crops is being carried out in addition to extended cultivation of paddy. As a result, the country is now exporting various kinds of beans and pulses.

The fish and meat sector is a driving factor for food security of the State. Fish and prawn breeding is being carried out on a commercial scale in lakes, creeks, rivers and coastal regions. Therefore, the country has been able to enjoy self-sufficiency in fish and meat and to export the surplus.

At a time when efforts are being made for the development of the agriculture, fish and meat and forest sectors the officials of the respective sectors are to try their utmost for ensuring self-sufficiency in food and exporting the surplus.

Indonesia on top alert for volcanic eruption

KEDIRI (Indonesia), 19 Oct — Fears of an imminent eruption prompted the evacuation of thousands of residents near Indonesia’s Mount Kelud on Wednesday, but many flouted the order and stayed at their homes around the rumbling Javanese volcano. Currently, Mount Kelud, one of Indonesia’s deadliest and located 90 kilometres (55 miles) southwest of the second-largest city, Surabaya, was raised to maximum alert on Tuesday, meaning it could erupt within 24 hours.

Authorities had ordered the evacuation of more than 20 million hectares of cultivable lands. And there are 8.1 million hectares for cultivation of rice, the staple crop of the country. Currently, Myanmar produces over 14.7 million tons of rice. As a result, it was able not only to satisfy the demand of local consumption but also to export the surplus.

In Kediri, head of the National Agency for Disaster Management said.

In Indonesia there are over 20 million hectares of cultivable lands. And there are 8.1 million hectares for cultivation of rice, the staple crop of the country. Currently, Myanmar produces over 14.7 million tons of rice. As a result, it was able not only to satisfy the demand of local consumption but also to export the surplus.

The government built altogether 203 dams, reservoirs and sluice gates and implemented 305 river water pumping stations for the nation to be able to engage in agriculture all year round. With full supply of irrigated water, extended cultivation of beans and pulses, edible oil crops and kitchen crops is being carried out in addition to extended cultivation of paddy. As a result, the country is now exporting various kinds of beans and pulses.

The fish and meat sector is a driving factor for food security of the State. Fish and prawn breeding is being carried out on a commercial scale in lakes, creeks, rivers and coastal regions. Therefore, the country has been able to enjoy self-sufficiency in fish and meat and to export the surplus.

At a time when efforts are being made for the development of the agriculture, fish and meat and forest sectors the officials of the respective sectors are to try their utmost for ensuring self-sufficiency in food and exporting the surplus.

USDA CEC member meets contestants of Sagaing Division for Performing Arts Competitions

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 Oct — Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (in-charge of Sagaing Division) Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave instructions to contestants of Sagaing Division who are taking part in the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and presented gifts to them at the hall of University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary of the Work Committee for Organizing the Performing Arts Competitions Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of the Fine Arts Department and Work Committee members, leader of Sagaing Division Team Deputy Director U Tin Than Win of Sagaing Division Information and Public Relations Department, members of the panel of judges, managers and contestants.

After delivering an address, the CEC member presented gifts to the contestants through team leader U Tin Than Win. On behalf of the contestants, Manager Daw Cho Cho Myint spoke words of thanks.

Later, the CEC member greeted members of the panel of judges, managers and contestants.

Maintenance of roads, proper flow of water at drains supervised in Yangon suburban areas

YANGON, 19 Oct — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected smooth transport and proper flow of water at drains in Yangon suburban areas this morning.

At the junction of Minnanda and Ayeyawun roads in Thakayta Township, the mayor oversaw maintenance of Ayeyawun Road, dredging of drains and sanitation work along the road.

In Dawbon Township, the mayor and officials looked into production of asphalt concrete at the AC Mixer and quarry of YCDC.

In Thangayyun Township, the mayor inspected construction of the underground drain crossing Thanthuma Road near Thawunna Park and another underground drain near University of Dental Medicine, and he gave necessary instructions.

At Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township, the mayor and officials inspected the gems warehouses and extension of the MCC compound.

Deputy Foreign Minister back from PRC

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Oct — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar U Kyaw Thu arrived back here by air this morning after a visit to the People’s Republic of China from 9 to 16 October to attend the Diplomatic Consultation meeting between the two Foreign Ministries.

On 11 October, Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu held a meeting with Mr Wu Dawei, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, in Beijing on matters relating to bilateral relations between the two countries and exchanged views on cooperation in international and regional matters.

During the visit, Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu met with Mr Li Jinzao, Vice-Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in Nanning, Mr Liu Ping, Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province and Mme Zhou Hong, Director General of Yunnan Foreign Affairs Office in Kunming.
Report shows thousands of US teens do drugs

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct—A snapshot of an average day in the lives of US teens shows hundreds of thousands are smoking, drinking and ingesting illegal drugs, according to a report from the federal government.

On an average day, nearly 1.2 million teenagers smoked cigarettes, 631,000 drank and 586,000 used marijuana, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found.

Nearly 50,000 used inhalants, 13,000 used cocaine and 3,800 used heroin, SAMHSA said in its report.

“The in the United States in 2006, one-third of young people in the last few years, this report shows many young people are still engaging in risky behaviour,” SAMHSA Administrator Terry Cline said in a statement.

“By breaking the data down and analyzing it on a day-to-day basis, we gain a fresh perspective on how deeply substance abuse pervades the lives of many young people and their families,” he added.

The report also attempted to show how many adolescents ages 12 to 17 used illegal substances for the first time.

UN raises ceiling on staff levels in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Oct—The United Nations has raised its limit on the number of international staff it can send to Iraq as it tries to expand its operations there, the report said.

Meanwhile a new report by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon identified significant progress has been made in lowering the levels of substance abuse among young people in the last few years, this report shows many young people are still engaging in risky behaviour,” SAMHSA Administrator Terry Cline said in a statement.

By breaking the data down and analyzing it on a day-to-day basis, we gain a fresh perspective on how deeply substance abuse pervades the lives of many young people and their families,” he added.

Meanwhile a new report by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon distributed said humanitarian conditions in Iraq had worsened, despite the number of civilian casualties falling in September to the lowest number for the year.

UN spokeswoman Marie Okabe said Ban had decided to raise the ceiling on the number of international staff allowed to work in Baghdad from 65 to 85, after a Security Council resolution in August urged the world body to boost its role.

The actual number of staff in Baghdad has been around 50, based in the fortified international Green Zone where many government offices are situated.

Another 30 UN staff are based in Arbil, in the mainly Kurdish north, where violence is much lower. Ban said in his report he was also looking into establishing a UN presence in the southern city of Basra.

“There is now an opportunity that should not be missed,” Ban said, urging Iraqi leaders to take advantage of the reduced violence resulting from increased US military operations to make progress on reconciling the country’s warring factions.

Nepali Army defuse bombs in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 18 Oct—The bomb disposal team of Nepal Army personnel defused two bombs in Nepali capital Kathmandu Wednesday afternoon.

The Nepali Army sources told Xinhua that the bomb disposal team successfully defused two improvised explosive devices abandoned in front of a factory near Nepal’s only international airport located in Kathmandu at around 4:30 pm local time (1045 GMT).

The bomb disposal has identified the IEDs as a socket bomb and a pipe bomb. The IEDs were wrapped in a plastic bag, said the police.

Vehicular movement in the area was brought to a complete halt for one hour to defuse the bombs, eyewitnesses said. Nobody has taken responsibility for planting the bomb.

US soldier killed by small arms fire south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 18 Oct—A US soldier was killed by small arms fire south of Baghdad, the US military said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Sunday when a soldier assigned to Multi National Division - Centre was shot dead during a raid south of the Iraqi capital, a military statement said.

The latest death brings the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to about 3,288 since the outbreak of the Iraq war in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.
US, Israel agree to develop new missile defence system

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct—The United States and Israel have reached an agreement to work together on a multi-layered missile defence system to guard against tactical rockets and longer range ballistic missiles, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

The agreements were reached Tuesday at the Pentagon by Defence Secretary Robert Gates and Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak, the Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said. The two sides agreed to form a committee to upgrade and expand their existing missile defence systems to counter “not just the long-range threat coming from Iran, but short range Palestinian rockets coming from Gaza,” the spokesman said.

Israel has deployed its Arrow anti-missile system, which was jointly developed with the United States and was said to be able to counter most missile strikes against the Jewish State.

French transport strike tests Sarkozy resolve

PARIS, 18 Oct—French transport workers began a 24-hour nationwide strike late on Wednesday over planned pension changes, a first test of President Nicolas Sarkozy’s resolve to carry out the reform agenda on which he was elected.

Staff at the state-run SNCF rail network began their walkout from 1800 GMT, the eve of a national day of action against government proposals to scrap privileges that allow a minority of workers to retire earlier than their peers.

The government wants to put employees paying into the so-called “special regime” pension schemes on an equal footing with civil servants and private sector workers, increasing their contribution period from 37.5 years to 40 years.

Sarkozy has offered talks on how best to achieve that goal but unions demand broader discussions and called the strike to force the government to make concessions.

“The government must budge or things will get tense,” Remi Auffere, who represents rail staff in the FO union, told Reuters.

“Even if some rail staff don’t intend to continue (striking) on Friday, they will go back on strike next week or on November 1, because we see no movement on the government side,” he said.

Only 10 per cent of trains are expected to run, and local tram and bus services face widespread disruption.

Flights could also be hit if air traffic controllers cannot get to work, the civil aviation authority warned.

US officials say corruption “A major problem” in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct—A senior US official said here on Tuesday that corruption is a reality and a major problem in Iraq, and is a very serious concern to the United States.

“I want to make very clear here. Corruption is a reality in Iraq. It is a major problem and it is not one that we have ever attempted to diminish the importance of, to cover, to mask or to protect,” said David Satterfield, senior adviser to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and coordinator for Iraq.

“Iraqis at every level have failed to put the nation’s interest ahead of sectarian, tribal, personal, particularist agenda,” he said, adding that although it does not mean every Iraqi political figure and every Iraqi person in a position of authority is corrupt.

Public corruption in Iraq is a very serious concern to the United States, Satterfield said.

The Bush Administration has defended Iraq Government headed by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and said the Iraqi Government is striking hard to battle against corruption.

BBC unions set for strike over pending job cuts

LONDON, 19 Oct — The British Broadcasting Corporation could be hit by strike action in the run up to Christmas, unions said on Wednesday, incensed over an expected announcement of thousands of job cuts.

BBC Director General Mark Thompson was meeting on Wednesday with the BBC Trust, which oversees the broadcaster, to finalize plans to cut jobs following a slower-than-expected licence fee settlement with the government earlier this year. — MNA/Reuters

Suicide tanker bomb kills four policemen, wounds 75 in Mosul

MOSUL (Iraq), 18 Oct—A suicide tanker bomb struck a police station in Mosul City, the capital of the northern Nineveh Province, on Tuesday, killing at least four policemen and wounding some 75 people, including policemen, a provincial police source said.

“A suicide bomber rammed his fuel tanker rigged with explosives into the al-Ramih police station in northern Mosul City and blew it up in the afternoon,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. — MNA/Xinhua

Argentine police arrest 16-member drug trafficking gang

BUENOS AIRES, 18 Oct—Argentina’s Federal Police Wednesday seized five kilos of cocaine in a crackdown which netted a 16-member drug trafficking gang allegedly headed by two women.

The gang allegedly sold drugs brought from Bolivia, a police spokesman said. The arrests came after months of intelligence work in Villa Lugano, Villa Soldati, Ezeiza, Lomas de Zamora and Claypole in the Argentine capital. — MNA/Xinhua

Crane accident injures six at NY skyscraper site

NEW YORK, 18 Oct — A crane slammed its load into the side of a signature skyscraper under construction a block from Times Square on Wednesday, injuring six people, the fire department said. Shattered glass showered down on Sixth Avenue and 43rd Street in one of the busiest areas of Manhattan, forcing authorities to close several streets.

A worker at the site said the crane dropped a crate from the top of the 51-storey Bank of America tower, which is being billed as one of the most environmentally friendly buildings in the city. — MNA/Reuters

A saleswoman shows the Double Ninth Festival pastry at a bakery shop in Suzhou, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 16 Oct, 2007. — XINHUA

Stationary high speed trains TGV are seen in the Lyon Perrache railway station in Lyon, southeastern France on 18 Oct, 2007.

INTERNET
DIAMONDS SPARKLE FOR NEW BUYERS, BOOSTING PRICES

SYDNEY, 17 Oct — Putting a poppin the big question to your loved one until you find the right price for a diamond ring? You might want to get moving.

Diamond prices may soon be their highest ever, says an industry expert, thanks to growing demand from new markets, boosting the cost of that engagement ring as much as 10 per cent. “If you are actively involved in the production and sales of diamonds, the future looks extremely bright,” James Allan, a diamond analyst for South African finance group Allan Hochreiter, told a diamond mining conference in Australia on Tuesday.

Consumers worldwide spent 72 billion US dollars on diamonds alone last year, and this year will splash even more for the sparkly rocks, according to Hochreiter.

IMF CHIEF SAYS DOLLAR HAS MORE ROOM TO FALL

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct — After a week of saying the dollar has fallen too far recently, International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Rodrigo de Rato now says the dollar has more room to fall over the next several years, The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday.

Over the “medium term,” which is three to five years in IMF parlance, “we will see room for further depreciation”, Rato said Monday.

The euro, he said, is “very near” its equilibrium value.

Last week, Rato first said the dollar had fallen too far in an interview with the Financial Times.

He repeated that in Madrid and in a session with The Wall Street Journal, according to the report.

He said he was referring to the decline of the dollar compared with a “weighted” average of currencies over the past several years.

The dollar gained slightly against the euro after his remarks.

Rato’s remarks about the dollar being under-valued could look as if he was siding with European officials who worry that the strength of the euro, compared with the dollar, is undermining European exporters, the report said.

The report also said that US Treasury officials consistently say they favour a strong dollar, but they do nothing to defend the currency as it falls in value.

In effect, the US Government depends on a steady decline of the dollar in order to narrow the nation’s current account deficit, it said.

If the deficit remains too wide, many economists worry, it could ultimately lead to a crash in the dollar.

MALAYSIA TO BUILD WORLD’S FIRST HUMANITARIAN AIRPORT

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Oct — The world’s first humanitarian airport cum emergency medical care and services terminal is to be built in Bandar Seri Iskandar, 40 kilometres from Ipoh, capital city of Malaysian northern Perak State, local Press reported on Thursday.

Casa Piasifik Sdn Bhd, the developer and management company of the project said it had secured money from an overseas humanitarian fund to pay for the construction, which is expected to cost one billion ringgit (294 million US dollars).

Casa Piasifik Chairman Mohd Hilmi Ismail said he was waiting for the Transport Ministry to give the go ahead for the project which has been in the planning stage for 18 months and would take 38 months to complete.

“The Department of Civil Aviation has confirmed that the application complies with airport standards,” he said at a Press conference in Ipoh on Wednesday.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Perak State Development Corporation and Casa Piasifik on March 20 to develop the project at a 400-hectare site.

The Perak government has asked the company to include a clause to build a commercial airport at the same site in the future, Hilmi said.

“We’ll accommodate any proposal to construct facilities for commercial flights as the airport will already be in existence,” the New Straits Times quoted Hilmi as saying.

The present Sultan Azlan Shah Airport in Ipoh is under-utilized and cannot be expanded.

CHINESE HERBS “MORE HELPFUL” THAN DRUGS FOR PERIOD PAIN

HONG KONG, 19 Oct — A study involving nearly 3,500 women in several countries suggests that Chinese herbs might be more effective in relieving menstrual cramps than drugs, acupuncture or heat compression.

Australia-based researchers said herbs not only relieved pain, but reduced the recurrence of the condition over three months, according to the Cochrane Library journal.

SAMSUNG OFFERS GPS PHONE I550 WITH SYMBIAN SOFTWARE

BEIJING, 17 Oct — Mobile phone maker Samsung unveiled several smartphones that run on Symbian’s mobile platform and come with the latest features, including location-based services and mapping, media reported Wednesday.

Samsung’s phone lineup includes the i550, i560, and i450, which was introduced last week.

“The introduction of Samsung’s new Symbian OS-based smartphones is testament to our strategic focus on the open OS phone market,” said Geesung Chou, president of Samsung’s telecommunications network business.

The i550 is the first Samsung phone to include GPS.

The candy bar-like smartphones use HSUPA third-generation (3G) cellular technology for data access, offering speeds of 3.6 Mbps, according to Samsung.

Using built-in GPS, users get voice-activated turn-by-turn driving directions, walking directions when the phone is in pedestrian mode, and mobile maps.

Malaysia to build world’s first humanitarian airport

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Perak State Development Corporation and Casa Piasifik on March 20 to develop the project at a 400-hectare site. The United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank are expected to contribute $10 million to the project.

The new airport will have a capacity of 1.5 million passengers per year and will be able to accommodate both commercial and humanitarian flights.

The project is expected to create around 3,000 jobs and will help to improve connectivity in the region.

The new airport is also expected to boost tourism in the area and will be located near the border with Thailand and Vietnam.

The airport is scheduled to be completed in 2020 and will provide a much-needed boost to the local economy.

MNA/Xinhua

CHINESE TYCOON BUYS SHANGHAI ISLAND IN DUBAI

HANGZHOU, 18 Oct — A Chinese businessman confirmed to Xinhua on Tuesday that he has bought an artificial island in Dubai for 28 million US dollars.

Hu Bin, developer and director of the Shanghai Zhongzhou International Holding Group, bought the 40,000-square-metre Shanghai Island, part of “The World” development in Dubai, which comprises 300 islands made from reclaimed land in the shape of the world map.

Hu told Xinhua by telephone that he planned to spend another 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion yuan ($180 million to $225 million) in the next three years to build hotels and villas on the island and turn it into a tourist resort.

The resort would also include canals and buildings resembling Shanghai’s landmark areas like the Huangpu River, the Bund and the Lujiazui financial district, he added. Many Chinese entrepreneurs are eyeing foreign property investments.

In May, a businessman from central China’s Henan Province forked out one billion yuan ($133 million US dollars) to buy an airport in north Germany.

MNA/Xinhua

Bollywood actress Dia Mirza holds a Samsung mobile handset during its launch in New Delhi.

Xinhua

ţhe new light of myanmar  saturday, 20 october, 2007 5
US business fears backlash from Iran sanctions bill

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct—US companies doing business in the European Union, China, Russia and other countries could face retaliation if a bill aimed at pressuring Iran to give up nuclear weapons becomes law, industry officials said on Wednesday.

The bill, which passed the US House of Representatives last month by a vote of 397-16, strengthens rarely used US sanctions aimed at foreign companies that invest 20 million US dollars or more in Iranian energy.

The bill puts the United States on a collision course with countries it has been working with to persuade Iran to give up its nuclear programme, said Bill Reinsch, president of the National Foreign Trade Council, which includes major exporters and oil companies among its members. “The effect of this is going to be entirely on European, Chinese, Russian and Japanese companies, maybe a few others. So, we are going to be sanctioning companies in the very countries that the President is trying to get to cooperate with us on multilateral sanctions,” Reinsch said. It is likely those countries will retaliate against US companies if Washington were to impose sanctions on their companies for actions that are legal under their own laws, Reinsch said. “The Chinese, in particular… tend to retaliate when you take actions against them. I don’t have much doubt if we were to sanction a Chinese state-owned company that the Chinese would take some action against American interests,” he said.

—MNA/Reuters

Pentagon confirms accidental launch of missile in Qatar

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct—The US Pentagon confirmed on Tuesday that an US missile had been launched in Qatar by accident earlier on the day but self-destructed later without causing any casualty.

The Patriot missile went off for an unknown reason when a US military unit at Camp As-Saliyah in Qatar was conducting exercises, said Lieutenant-General Carter Ham, director of operations of the Joint Staff. The missile self-destructed as it is expected to do and debris was found three or four miles away. “We’re very happy that nobody was injured in the incident,” he said.

Pentagon spokes-man Bryan Whitman earlier said that the missile landed in an unpopulated farm area. An investigation into the incident is under-going by the government of Qatar, US forces and the US Embassy. Qatar is home to the US Army’s Central Command and two US military bases in Qatar, As-Saliyah and Al-Udeid.

—MNA/Xinhua

Tornado leaves 40 injured in southern Bangladesh

DHAKA, 17 Oct—At least 40 villagers were injured, dozens of mud houses destroyed and innumerable trees uprooted Monday as a tornado hit a village in Bangladesh’s southern coastal district of Patuakhali, 160 kilometres south of the capital Dhaka.

The tornado that lasted for four minutes struck Chabaroshiba Village at about 2:30 pm local time. More than 50 houses and innumerable trees were flattened.

Of the injured, 10 people were admitted to local health complex.

Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner Meer Mashuri said local administration and Red Crescent were asked to conduct rescue and relief operations.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Meteorological Office said squally weather may affect the country’s maritime ports due to deep convection over the North Bay.

—MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in California car pileup caused by sandstorm

LOS ANGELES, 18 Oct—At least two people were killed and 16 others injured in a pileup caused by a sandstorm in the high desert north of Los Angeles Tuesday.

The sandstorm caught drivers by surprise and caused a crash that left at least a dozen vehicles scattered across the highway, according to the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD).

The accident, just west of Edwards Air Force Base at the northern edge of Los Angeles County, involved eight vehicles and four big rigs, said LACFD officials.

The sandstorm was whipped up by winds gusting up to 55 miles per hour, the National Weather Service said. The accident happened not far from the site of a fiery truck pileup in a tunnel on the Interstate 5 freeway Friday night.

The cause of that crash, which killed three people and injured 10, is still under investigation.

—MNA/Xinhua

Thai Govt extends state of emergency in restive south

BANGKOK, 18 Oct—Thai Government on Tuesday extended the state of emergency in the country’s southern border provinces by three more months. The new extension lasts from 20 October to 19 January, government spokesman Chaiya Yimwilai said. The prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has imposed state of emergency in the restive South since 19 July, 2005 to cope with separatists who stage daily killings against villagers, government officers, teachers, police and soldiers.

Since then, the state of emergency has been renewed every three months in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces as attacks on innocents lives continue.

—MNA/Xinhua

Tornado leaves 40 injured in southern Bangladesh

DHAKA, 17 Oct—At least 40 villagers were injured, dozens of mud houses destroyed and innumerable trees uprooted Monday as a tornado hit a village in Bangladesh’s southern coastal district of Patuakhali, 160 kilometres south of the capital Dhaka.

The tornado that lasted for four minutes struck Chabaroshiba Village at about 2:30 pm local time. More than 50 houses and innumerable trees were flattened.

Of the injured, 10 people were admitted to local health complex.

Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner Meer Mashuri said local administration and Red Crescent were asked to conduct rescue and relief operations.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Meteorological Office said squally weather may affect the country’s maritime ports due to deep convection over the North Bay.

—MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in California car pileup caused by sandstorm

LOS ANGELES, 18 Oct—At least two people were killed and 16 others injured in a pileup caused by a sandstorm in the high desert north of Los Angeles Tuesday.

The sandstorm caught drivers by surprise and caused a crash that left at least a dozen vehicles scattered across the highway, according to the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD).

The accident, just west of Edwards Air Force Base at the northern edge of Los Angeles County, involved eight vehicles and four big rigs, said LACFD officials.

The sandstorm was whipped up by winds gusting up to 55 miles per hour, the National Weather Service said. The accident happened not far from the site of a fiery truck pileup in a tunnel on the Interstate 5 freeway Friday night.

The cause of that crash, which killed three people and injured 10, is still under investigation.

—MNA/Xinhua

Thai Govt extends state of emergency in restive south

BANGKOK, 18 Oct—Thai Government on Tuesday extended the state of emergency in the country’s southern border provinces by three more months. The new extension lasts from 20 October to 19 January, government spokesman Chaiya Yimwilai said. The government of depo-sed prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has imposed state of emergency in the restive South since 19 July, 2005 to cope with separatists who stage daily killings against villagers, government officers, teachers, police and soldiers. Since then, the state of emergency has been renewed every three months in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces as attacks on innocents lives continue.

—MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in California car pileup caused by sandstorm

LOS ANGELES, 18 Oct—At least two people were killed and 16 others injured in a pileup caused by a sandstorm in the high desert north of Los Angeles Tuesday.

The sandstorm caught drivers by surprise and caused a crash that left at least a dozen vehicles scattered across the highway, according to the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD).

The accident, just west of Edwards Air Force Base at the northern edge of Los Angeles County, involved eight vehicles and four big rigs, said LACFD officials.

The sandstorm was whipped up by winds gusting up to 55 miles per hour, the National Weather Service said. The accident happened not far from the site of a fiery truck pileup in a tunnel on the Interstate 5 freeway Friday night.

The cause of that crash, which killed three people and injured 10, is still under investigation.

—MNA/Xinhua

Thai Govt extends state of emergency in restive south

BANGKOK, 18 Oct—Thai Government on Tuesday extended the state of emergency in the country’s southern border provinces by three more months. The new extension lasts from 20 October to 19 January, government spokesman Chaiya Yimwilai said. The government of depo-sed prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has imposed state of emergency in the restive South since 19 July, 2005 to cope with separatists who stage daily killings against villagers, government officers, teachers, police and soldiers. Since then, the state of emergency has been renewed every three months in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces as attacks on innocents lives continue.

—MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in California car pileup caused by sandstorm

LOS ANGELES, 18 Oct—At least two people were killed and 16 others injured in a pileup caused by a sandstorm in the high desert north of Los Angeles Tuesday.

The sandstorm caught drivers by surprise and caused a crash that left at least a dozen vehicles scattered across the highway, according to the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD).

The accident, just west of Edwards Air Force Base at the northern edge of Los Angeles County, involved eight vehicles and four big rigs, said LACFD officials.

The sandstorm was whipped up by winds gusting up to 55 miles per hour, the National Weather Service said. The accident happened not far from the site of a fiery truck pileup in a tunnel on the Interstate 5 freeway Friday night.

The cause of that crash, which killed three people and injured 10, is still under investigation.

—MNA/Xinhua

Thai Govt extends state of emergency in restive south

BANGKOK, 18 Oct—Thai Government on Tuesday extended the state of emergency in the country’s southern border provinces by three more months. The new extension lasts from 20 October to 19 January, government spokesman Chaiya Yimwilai said. The government of depo-sed prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has imposed state of emergency in the restive South since 19 July, 2005 to cope with separatists who stage daily killings against villagers, government officers, teachers, police and soldiers. Since then, the state of emergency has been renewed every three months in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces as attacks on innocents lives continue.

—MNA/Xinhua
NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct — People of Tanai Township in Kachin State, Taze, Myaung and Tamu townships in Sagaing Division, Toungoo, DaikU and Thanatpin townships in Bago Division, who favour stability of the State, prevalence of law and order and community peace and tranquillity, walked in procession on 14, 16, 17 and 18 October in the respective regions to denounce the recent demonstrations instigated by some monks and NLD members.

As they regarded the recent protests as a threat to peace and stability, they walked in procession after seeking permission from the authorities concerned.

On 14 October morning, over 11,000 people from six wards and one village-tract walked in procession in Tanai. They marched in procession from the new block of the township to the township sports ground through Tanai-Myitkyina-Panhsaung road, Tanai bridge, Boggyoke Aung San road, Panhsaung road, Tabinshwehti road, holding 14 State Flags and placards and chanting slogans “We don’t want protests”, “We don’t want internal and external destructive elements” and “The State’s seven-step Road Map must meet with success”. They also held placards bearing “We favour stability”, “We favour peace”, “We oppose unrest and violence”, “Fight against the dangers of internal and external destructive elements”, “Our enemies are our protesters”, “We support the National Convention”, “We welcome the upcoming Constitution”, “The seven-step Road Map must meet with success”, “Unrest and violence is opposite to democracy”, “Don’t disrupt peace”, “We don’t want neo-colonialism” and other placards.

On 16 October, a similar ceremony to walk in procession was organized in Taze of Sagaing Division, attended by over 24,000 local people from two wards and 45 village-tracts. Likewise, over 14,000 people from four wards and 22 village-tracts of Myaung Township walked in procession from Myaungthiri sports ground to the urban area of Myaung, chanting slogans and holding placards.

On 17 October, over 25,000 local people from 18 village-tracts and 45 villages including four wards of Tamu, five wards from Khampat Sub-Township, three wards from Myothit Sub-Township marched to the mass rally in Tamu.

Yesterday, over 20,000 local people of Toungoo, over 26,000 local people of DaikU and over 35,000 people in Thanatpin of Bago Division participated in the similar processions in the respective regions, chanting slogans “the seven-step Road Map must meet with success”, “We don’t want internal and external destructive elements”, “We oppose unrest and violence”, and “Carry out promotion and propagation of the Sasana”, and holding placards bearing “Skyful liar BBC and VOA”, “Oppose interference in the internal affairs”, “Beware! Don’t be bought by those ill-wishers”, “BBC lying”, “VOA deceiving” and “RFA setting up hostilities”. MNA
Aunty Suu, we are living in hope or Our only wish is to see a win-win situation -1

Chan Mya Aye

We were all hopeful and happy when the government’s Announcement (1/2007) came out. The announcement has made an offer saying that Senior General Than Shwe will meet Aunty Suu in person if she abandons her four means to block Myanmar. It is the government’s official offer. I expected something important might happen when Mr Gambari met Aunty Suu twice during his visit to Myanmar. It is the government’s official offer. I expected something important might happen when Mr Gambari met Aunty Suu twice during his visit to Myanmar.

Aunty Suu and NLD are doing. We are tired of watching a stalemate for a long time considering that we should not go on like this forever. There should be some forms of compromise. If one side makes a concession, the other side should do so. The situation will get worse if both sides are arrogantly intransigent refusing to budge from their stand.

Concerning the demand for the release of Aunty Suu first, I would like to say as much as I understand. I assume that the government is not intentionally imposing the restriction order on her. The government may have unavoidable circumstances and reasons to do so. Concerning the matter both sides may have many different opinions and much to discuss. But it is not an unsolvable problem. I hope that it can be solved one day.

If we look back the recent past, we can see that Aunty Suu became popular on the Myanmar political stage with NLD as the springboard after the 1988 unrest. To the extent of my knowledge, when the unrest began in March 1988, underground elements of BCP decided to accelerate the unrest and to keep Daw Khin Kyi as a national leader in the forefront. As Daw Khin Kyi’s health was deteriorating, they planned to present her daughter Aunty Suu as public leader. I have learnt that BCP UGs were successful in approaching you in May that year; and that you met with old politicians such as U Nu, Mahn Win Maung, Bohmu Aung and U Saw Kya Doe and signed the proclamation to form the People’s Advisory Committee. At a clandestine meeting held on 21-8-1988, Aunty Suu was designated as the leader and spokeswoman of United Alliance. Later, Aunty Suu became a public figure after giving speeches to the strikers at the compound of Yangon General Hospital on 23-8-1988 and talks at the ground lying in the west of the Shwedagon Pagoda on 26-8-1988. I was one of your supporters then. (See page 9)

I am just an ordinary member of the public like the others. And as an ordinary person I am able to share and appreciate the aspirations, convictions and hopes of most of the people. Besides, I believe in and support democracy. I am a person who is actually in favour of the nation’s present democracy transition. But I am not a man who applauds everything the government does or blindly trusts in and supports all what the anti-government elements do. I am just a duty-conscious person who is never hesitant to support or condemn an act after assessing all its good and bad effects with my own conscience.

So, I am not a follower of anyone. I accept myself a neutral standing on my own free will and views and stance. My only wish is to see my nation and people standing tall among the global community and enjoying progress and prosperity. I totally hate the present national hardships that are entirely against the interest of the nation and the people. Keeping in mind long-term interest of the nation and people, I would like to frankly tell the government as well as Aunty Suu everything I deem necessary. As I am going to present my own vision impartially, I solemnly believe that my discussions will reflect the aspirations of today’s entire public.

Honesty is the best organizational method. I wish to assess and present all the current political incidents of the nation sincerely. In my view, our political situation is in a stalemate facing hardships without moving forward with greater momentum. It is not good if the stalemate is too long. Even at present we are grappling with economic and social hardships due to political deadlock. Time and again, disturbances and demonstrations are springing from political, economic and social troubles. The consequence is that the nation is in a bad shape and is unable to march straightly to public-desired democracy or implement market economy well.

Actually, we, ordinary people, are just the audience watching what the government, Aunty Suu and NLD are doing. We are tired of watching a stalemate for a long time considering that we should not go on like this forever. There should be some forms of compromise. If one side makes a concession, the other side should do so. The situation will get worse if both sides are arrogantly intransigent refusing to budge from their stand. We were all hopeful and happy when the government’s Announcement (1/2007) came out. The announcement has made an offer saying that Senior General Than Shwe will meet Aunty Suu in person if she abandons her four means to block Myanmar. It is the government’s official offer. I expected something important might happen when Mr Gambari met Aunty Suu twice during his visit to Myanmar. But it’s true that I dared not expect to that degree. The Announcement (1/2007) is indeed good news for the nation’s future. My appreciation is that it is a constructive new step the entire people of Myanmar will have to welcome.

(See page 9)
Aunty Suu, we are...

(from page 8)

Aunty Suu, you became the general secretary of NLD when the government permitted formation of political parties. The NLD central executive committee was formed with 42 members, 14 each from the three-party alliance – Aung-Suu-Tin group. On 3-12-1988, U Aung Gyi broke away from the NLD and formed a separate party with the excuse, saying that leftists were dominating your group. After U Aung Gyi quit NLD, it was solely dominated by Aunty Suu and the NLD CEC was just nodding to all what you said. NLD members were not able to differentiate between the NLD central and you. Personality cult was common in the party then. NLD CECs were like lay attendants of an abbot monk. They didn’t dare do anything without your knowledge. The matter is like approving what I have known from the paper “National Political Movement and Assessment on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi” compiled by Moe Thee Zun in which he said NLD CECs didn’t dare decide even a small matter without Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s knowledge.

The government said that the NLD instead of launching its organization campaigns and adopting and presenting policy guidelines within the framework of the law and principles as a duty conscious party was sticking to its extremist idea of opposing and confronting the Tatmadaw. During the time, we were not able to distinguish between right and wrong. We had to accept your declaration “Defy all orders as a duty” you had made at NLD press meet held on 5-6-1989 as your political stand.

Later, we began to see Aunty Suu attempting to grab power through short-cut or in other words making instigation for recurrance of the 1988 unrest rather than working in accord with democracy principles within the framework of law. You even tried to organize a mass walk with the slogan “Martyrs never die” on the Martyrs’ Day in 1989, plotting to stage a 1988-unrest-like civil commotion which you named “the Second Revolution” if the government tried to stop it. Hence, the government had to take preventive measures to expose and arrest BCP UGs acting from behind the scenes. It is said that discussions were held at the NLD office the whole night on 18-7-1989 to decide whether such mass walk should be staged or not. In the end, the meeting agreed to obey your order. After viewing and discussing the matter from various angles again and again you decided to call off the plan. It is a very important decision. Because of your correct decision, just in time the nation managed to avoid undesirable riots, appalling losses and unpleasant incidents. It is true that you won public respect for that decision.

As your order to call off the plan did not arrive at the township party offices in time, the situation went beyond limit in some townships. In my view, your slogan “Martyrs never die” was so severe that it would result in evil consequences. For the first time, the government had to impose restriction order on Aunty Suu on 20-7-1989 as it found 40 persons including joint in-charge of support committee of ABSDF insurgents illegally staying in your house. It imposed the order on Aunty Suu in accord with section 10 (b) of the law to protect the nation from the danger of those willing to destroy it. As you understand law more than us you will know best whether the action was in accord with the law or not.

Aunty Suu, leaders of the State met you on 20-9-1994 and 28-10-1994 while you were under restrictions. We had watched on TV the Head of State cordially clarifying the situation and discussing with you during the second meeting. It is indeed a joyful and pleasant scene for all. Ordinary people like me were glad with the thought that a way had been found for national reconsolidation. Your late husband Michael Aris visited you and on his return to England he issued your declaration at Bangkok Airport on 22-1-1995. Your declaration which said that you would continue to launch anti-government campaign destroyed all our hopes.

However, the government lifted the restriction order imposed on Aunty Suu on 10-7-1995 although your stance was to continue your anti-government campaign. As the NLD was participating in the National Convention at the time, the government seemed to hope that you would appreciate the comprehensiveness and profound essence of the NC. We the people also had the same expectation as the government.

However, one day after you were released, you held a news conference making a demand, saying “We have to choose either dialogue or utter devastation”. My understanding was that failure to fulfill that demand would meet with utter devastation. During your frequent meetings with diplomats and foreign journalists and in your letters to the UN and other international bodies you made constant demands to stop investing in Myanmar and providing humanitarian aids to the country and to bar tourists from visiting the country. You also demanded international bodies to isolate Myanmar. According to government records, diplomats visited your home over 90 times and you also visited them over 40 times and met with foreign journalists for over 170 times within the one-year period after you had been released from restriction order.

When the government asked Aunty Suu to give up your schemes – confrontation, utter devastation and sanctions including economic sanctions — to block Myanmar, Aunty Suu’s followers and foreign destructionists are rejecting the offer as if they are hearing the words that they had never heard before, saying that the offer was like a demand asking her to promise that she would never commit again the offence she had never committed before. But no one can hide the thunder “Defy all orders as a duty” and the words “We have to choose either dialogue or utter devastation” which you have said in English and the demands for imposition of economic sanctions. And, it is not difficult to change and amend your stance and deeds.

Afterwards, Aunty Suu began to continuously slander and attack the National Convention in which the NLD was also participating. After meeting with US Permanent Ambassador to UN Ms Madeleine Albright on 9-9-1995, Aunty Suu held thorough discussions with NLD and other political parties and said that NLD would leave the Convention if its procedures were not changed. Aunty Suu further intensified her slanders and threats against the Convention and in the end she gave an ultimate order to NLD to stop taking part in it. Eighty-six NLD delegates left the NC on 28-11-1995. It was so agonizing. We really felt sorry for the NLD delegates that left the NC with a heavy heart.

I will continue.

(To be continued)

Translation: TMT
NAY PYI TAW, 19 Oct — The 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the second day at the designated places in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin yesterday.

Present on the occasions were Chairman of the Work Committee for the Performing Arts Competitions Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein, Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thinn Thinn, departmental heads, officials of the leading committee, the work committee and subcommittees, service men and family members of regiments and units in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Station, local people from Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Talkon and Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and students of BEHS No 1 in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.

At University of Agriculture, Assistant Director (Music) (Retd) vocalist Daw Tin Tin Mya and party supervised the singing contest. Seven contestants participated in the higher education level (men’s) classical song contest and 11 students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls’ classical song contest.

Chairman of the panel of judges U Sein Mar Din and party supervised the dancing contest at the convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science. A total of 13 contestants competed in the higher education level (women’s) dancing contest and another four in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ dancing contest.

The song composing contest, supervised by Chairman of the panel of judges U Maung Latt and party, was organized at the hall of Agricultural Research Department. Altogether 15 contestants participated in the amateur level (second class) men’s and women’s song composing contests. At the hall of Forest Research Division, leader of the panel of judges Pianist U Ni Ni and party supervised the piano contest. Five persons from States and Divisions took part in the amateur level (second class) men’s piano contest and seven students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls’ piano contest.

At the assembly hall of Agricultural Research Department, four students competed in the basic education level (5-10 age group) boys’ Dobat contest and another four in the higher education level (men’s) Dobat contest, supervised by leader of the panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party. Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Satin and party made assessments on competitions of the contestants in the orchestra contest at the convocation hall of University of Agriculture. Seven troupes participated in the amateur level (first class) men’s orchestra troupe contest and six student troupes in the basic education level (10-15 age group) boys’ orchestra troupe contest.

At the lecture hall of University of Agriculture, Chairman of the panel of judges U Yee Nwe and party supervised the harp contest. The amateur level (first class) men’s harp contest was held with the participation of two persons from States and Divisions. Likewise, two persons from States and Divisions competed in the amateur level (first class) women’s harp contest, six students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls’ harp contest and four students in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ harp contest.

convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science. A total of 13 contestants competed in the higher education level (women’s) dancing contest and 14 students in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ dancing contest.

The song composing contest, supervised by Chairman of the panel of judges Chairman of Myanmar Music Asaiyone U Maung Maung Latt and party, was organized at the hall of Agricultural Research Department. Altogether 15 contestants participated in the amateur level (second class) men’s and women’s song composing contests. At the hall of Forest Research Division, leader of the panel of judges Pianist U Ni Ni and party supervised the piano contest. Five persons from States and Divisions took part in the amateur level (second class) men’s piano contest and seven students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls’ piano contest.

At the assembly hall of Agricultural Research Department, four students competed in the basic education level (5-10 age group) boys’ Dobat contest and another four in the higher education level (men’s) Dobat contest, supervised by leader of the panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party. Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Satin and party made assessments on competitions of the contestants in the orchestra contest at the convocation hall of University of Agriculture. Seven troupes participated in the amateur level (first class) men’s orchestra troupe contest and six student troupes in the basic education level (10-15 age group) boys’ orchestra troupe contest.

At the lecture hall of University of Agriculture, Chairman of the panel of judges U Yee Nwe and party supervised the harp contest. The amateur level (first class) men’s harp contest was held with the participation of two persons from States and Divisions. Likewise, two persons from States and Divisions competed in the amateur level (first class) women’s harp contest, six students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls’ harp contest and four students in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ harp contest.

convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science. A total of 13 contestants competed in the higher education level (women’s) dancing contest and 14 students in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ dancing contest.

The song composing contest, supervised by Chairman of the panel of judges Chairman of Myanmar Music Asaiyone U Maung Maung Latt and party, was organized at the hall of Agricultural Research Department. Altogether 15 contestants participated in the amateur level (second class) men’s and women’s song composing contests. At the hall of Forest Research Division, leader of the panel of judges Pianist U Ni Ni and party supervised the piano contest. Five persons from States and Divisions took part in the amateur level (second class) men’s piano contest and seven students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls’ piano contest.

At the assembly hall of Agricultural Research Department, four students competed in the basic education level (5-10 age group) boys’ Dobat contest and another four in the higher education level (men’s) Dobat contest, supervised by leader of the panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party. Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Satin and party made assessments on competitions of the contestants in the orchestra contest at the convocation hall of University of Agriculture. Seven troupes participated in the amateur level (first class) men’s orchestra troupe contest and six student troupes in the basic education level (10-15 age group) boys’ orchestra troupe contest.

At the lecture hall of University of Agriculture, Chairman of the panel of judges U Yee Nwe and party supervised the harp contest. The amateur level (first class) men’s harp contest was held with the participation of two persons from States and Divisions. Likewise, two persons from States and Divisions competed in the amateur level (first class) women’s harp contest, six students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls’ harp contest and four students in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ harp contest.

convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science. A total of 13 contestants competed in the higher education level (women’s) dancing contest and 14 students in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ dancing contest.

The song composing contest, supervised by Chairman of the panel of judges Chairman of Myanmar Music Asaiyone U Maung Maung Latt and party, was organized at the hall of Agricultural Research Department. Altogether 15 contestants participated in the amateur level (second class) men’s and women’s song composing contests. At the hall of Forest Research Division, leader of the panel of judges Pianist U Ni Ni and party supervised the piano contest. Five persons from States and Divisions took part in the amateur level (second class) men’s piano contest and seven students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls’ piano contest.

At the assembly hall of Agricultural Research Department, four students competed in the basic education level (5-10 age group) boys’ Dobat contest and another four in the higher education level (men’s) Dobat contest, supervised by leader of the panel of judges U Sein Ba Maw and party. Leader of the panel of judges U Sein Satin and party made assessments on competitions of the contestants in the orchestra contest at the convocation hall of University of Agriculture. Seven troupes participated in the amateur level (first class) men’s orchestra troupe contest and six student troupes in the basic education level (10-15 age group) boys’ orchestra troupe contest.

At the lecture hall of University of Agriculture, Chairman of the panel of judges U Yee Nwe and party supervised the harp contest. The amateur level (first class) men’s harp contest was held with the participation of two persons from States and Divisions. Likewise, two persons from States and Divisions competed in the amateur level (first class) women’s harp contest, six students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) girls’ harp contest and four students in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ harp contest.
The 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>20.10.07</td>
<td>Ayeyawady Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>21.10.07</td>
<td>Mandalay Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>22.10.07</td>
<td>Sagaing Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Suvannasama Drama**

- 20.10.07 — Ayeyawady Division
- 21.10.07 — Mandalay Division
- 22.10.07 — Sagaing Division

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and wife and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and wife enjoy Maha Doat Drama Marionette Contest. — MNA

**Satellites to make fishing easy in Malaysia**

**Kuala Lumpur, 19 Oct —** In an effort to improve the income of some 90,000 fishermen, the Malaysian Government is undertaking a fish-forecasting programme which will enable them to fish at the right spot at the right time, local media reported on Thursday.

This will translate into better yields and more income, the *The New Straits Times* reported.

The pilot project is under way in northern states of Kelantan, Terengganu and central state of Pahang.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Jamaludin Jarjis and the Malaysian Government is undertaking a fish-forecasting programme which will enable them to fish at the right spot at the right time, local media reported on Thursday.

The project is to raise the production to two million tons by 2010.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattened
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Nepali farmer to visit 193 capitals in 11 years by bike

KATHMANDU, 18 Oct—A Nepali farmer set to visit capital cities of 193 countries of the world by bicycle in 11 years, local newspaper The Himalayan Times reported on Wednesday.

Ram Chandra Poudel, 47, started on Tuesday the voyage across the world by a bicycle. He said he would be visiting the capital cities with three messages: green revolution, free education and health, and organic farming.

Poudel, a farmer residing in Hetauda, some 25 kilometres south of the capital Kathmandu, has already visited nine out of 14 Nepali zones and he is scheduled to enter the neighbouring India via the other zones.

The voyage is expected to end after 11 years. “I would be concluding my journey by returning to Nepal after 11 years,” he said.

Poudel said, “After returning to Nepal, I would spend the rest of my life being involved in agriculture by making Nepal free from the use of chemical fertilizer and toxins.”

Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives Chhathra Biswokarma on Tuesday bade farewell to Poudel at a function organized at the Department of Agriculture.

MNA/Xinhua

At least eight killed in Rio slum drug raid

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Oct—At least eight people, including a four-year-old and a police officer, were killed on Wednesday in a clash between security forces and a drug gang in a Rio de Janeiro slum, authorities said.

The clash in the slum was the deadliest in the crime-ridden city in four months. Helicopters and armoured cars provided support to 500 police taking part in the operation in the area.

Police said they were greeted by a hail of bullets when they entered the slum looking for weapons and drugs.

At least six of those killed were suspected of being involved with drug trafficking, while the child was hit by a stray bullet, they said. A police chief supervising the raid was wounded and had to be evacuated by helicopter.

“The Security Secretariat has free rein to act against drug traffickers,” Rio state Governor Sergio Cabral told reporters as the raid was in progress.

Rio police are notorious for rough tactics against drug gangs that control many of the city’s shantytowns and innocent bystanders often get killed by stray bullets.

MNA/Reuters

WMO says ozone hole over Antarctica “relatively small”

GENEVA, 18 Oct—The hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica is “relatively small” at about 25 million square kilometres this year, but it will still take decades for it to heal over, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Tuesday.

The ozone hole, about the size of North America, appeared earlier than usual in 2007 developing in August and is the third smallest in the past decade.

“The Antarctic ozone hole of 2007 is relatively small. This should not be taken as a sign of ozone recovery,” Geir Braathen, a WMO senior scientific officer, told a news briefing. The ozone layer shields the Earth from damaging ultra-violent rays that can cause skin cancer.

The small ozone hole is due to relatively mild temperatures in the Antarctic stratosphere during the 2007 winter, as low temperatures increase ozone loss, he explained.

The WMO and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have said the ozone layer would likely return to pre-1980 levels by 2049 over much of Europe, North America, Asia, Australasia, Latin America and Africa. But in Antarctica, recovery would likely be delayed until 2065.

However, increasing amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere mean more severe ozone holes could develop in coming decades.

In 1987, governments agreed the UN’s Montreal Protocol to phase out depleting substances 10 years ahead of schedule, which Canadian Environment Minister John Baird called a “pivotal moment” in the fight against global warming.

MNA/Reuters

UAE recalls medicines posing risks to heart

ABU DHABI, 18 Oct—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to recall all medicines containing a chemical substance called “Clobutinol Hydrochloride”, local newspaper Khaleej Times reported on Wednesday.

The UAE’s Ministry of Health has decided to withdraw medicines that contain Clobutinol Hydrochloride following reports of potential cardiac problems associated with it, Issa bin Jakkha Al Mansoori, Director of the Central Drug Control Department (CDCD) of the ministry, was quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam facilitates independent power plant construction

HANOI, 18 Oct—Vietnam is urging investors in non-state sectors to accelerate construction of small- and medium-sized hydroelectric plants in the 2007-2008 period to offset delays on some large state-funded power projects, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Wednesday.

Seven hydroelectric plants with combined capacity of 41.6 megawatt, being developed by independent power producers, are expected to become operational in the last quarter of this year, raising the total number of such plants in Vietnam to 216 with a total capacity of 4,067 MW.

MNA/Xinhua
**Four Iraqis killed, 14 wounded in Diwaniyah clashes**

**Baghdad, 17 Oct** — The US military said Tuesday that four civilians were killed and 14 others were wounded, including two coalition soldiers, when insurgents attacked a US-run military base in Iraq’s southern city of Diwaniyah on Monday. “The attack wounded two MND-CS soldiers, killed four civilians and injured an additional 12 civilians,” a military statement said. “Camp Echo, a coalition base in the Iskan district of Diwaniyah, was attacked 15 October by mortar and small-arms fire,” the statement said. The coalition and Iraq security forces fought back the attackers “who fled to a wooded area near the base,” it said, adding all the wounded civilians were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. A police source from Diwaniyah said on Monday that Shi’ite militiamen of the Mahdi Army, loyal to radical Shi’ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, fired some dozen mortar rounds on the US-run base and a nearby joint security centre, which is jointly run by US Iraqi and Polish forces.

**Bangladesh storm kills ten, dozens injured**

**Dhaka, 17 Oct** — A powerful rainstorm swept through southern Bangladesh killing at least 10 people in mudslides and house collapses and injuring 100, officials said on Tuesday. A woman and her two children were among those killed in a mudslide at Bettunia in the southeast. Weather officials said nearly 225 millimetres (nine inches) of rain fell overnight in Chittagong port city, severing road links with the Chittagong Hill Tracts further to the southeast. The storm originating in the Bay of Bengal made landfall around Monday midnight, a weather official said, adding more rains were forecast across the country over the next couple of days. At least 20 fishing boats were reported missing at sea, police said.

**Danish Army officer dies after Afghanistan attack**

**Copenhagen, 17 Oct** — A Danish Army officer wounded in a clash with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan’s Helmand Province on Monday has died, the Danish Central Army Command said on Tuesday. The officer, a major, was wounded when his unit came under mortar and rocket grenade fire while recovering an armoured personnel carrier that had been hit by a mine. He died at a field hospital before he could be transported to Denmark. This month Denmark plans to increase the number of its troops in Afghanistan to about 550 from about 400.

**Yoga can give women with breast cancer a boost**

**New York, 17 Oct** — Special yoga classes can significantly improve the quality of life and well being of women with breast cancer patients — particularly those who are not taking chemotherapy — a new study shows. A diverse group of low-income women participated in the study, Dr Alyson B Moadel of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York, noted in an interview with Reuters Health. “Our patients really enjoyed the yoga classes, it was very well received by them,” she said. “It really fit in with their own cultural interests.”

There is mounting evidence that yoga can improve quality of life in both healthy and chronically ill people, Moadel and her team point out in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, while quality of life may be particularly affected for cancer survivors who belong to ethnic minorities and other underserved minority populations.

To investigate whether yoga could help cancer patients and survivors feel better, the researchers randomly assigned 128 women to a 12-week yoga intervention or a wait list “control” group. Classes were offered three times a week, and participants were urged to attend at least one class a week, and also instructed to do the exercises at home with the help of an audiotape.

The Hatha yoga-based exercises had been developed especially for breast cancer patients by one of the study’s authors, and were done while participants were either sitting in a chair or lying down.

During the course of the study, patients in the control group showed greater declines in well being than women in the yoga group.

When the researchers omitted patients undergoing chemotherapy from their analysis, they found that the women who did yoga showed improvements in quality of life; greater emotional, social and spiritual well being; and less distress.

People often feel fatigued and sick while undergoing chemotherapy Moadel noted, which is likely why yoga did not appear to be helpful for study participants on chemotherapy.

People often feel fatigued and sick while undergoing chemotherapy Moadel noted, which is likely why yoga did not appear to be helpful for study participants on chemotherapy.

**Students cover their heads with rugs as protection from debris during an earthquake drill at a public school in Malabon Metro in Manila on 18 Oct, 2007.**

**Internet**

**A young mahout plays on the trunk of an elephant in the ancient Thai capital Ayutthaya, on 17 June, 2005 file photo. Elephants can literally smell out whether humans are friends or foes.** — **INTERNET**
**SPORTS**

**Henry breaks Platini’s scoring record for France**

**Nantes (France), 18 Oct — Thierry Henry broke Michel Platini’s record for France when he scored twice in two minutes to lead his country to a 2-0 win over Lithuania in Euro 2008 qualifying on Wednesday. The 30-year-old Barcelona striker netted his 42nd and 43rd goals from 96 international appearances in the 79th and 80th minutes.**

Henry broke the deadlock with a shot from inside the box before making it 2-0 after a sharp counter attack.

“It is a huge pleasure (to break Platini’s record). I can’t find the words, I’m overwhelmed,” said Henry.

“We absolutely needed to win and we did it. I think of my father who is not well. It’s for him.”

**Chile see off Peru to kick-start qualifying campaign**

**Santiago, 18 Oct — Chile beat arch-rivals Peru 2-0 in a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday to win a competitive game for the first time under new coach Marcelo Bielsa.**

Striker Humberto Suazo and midfielder Matias Fernandez scored early in each half to secure Chile’s first points of their 2010 qualifying campaign.

Chile, whose coach Bielsa led his native Argentina to the 2002 World Cup, have three points from two games while Peru, who have yet to score, also missed chances to equalize before halftime and, early in the second half, Farfan just failed to connect with Vargas’s low cross with the goal at his mercy. — MNA/Reuters

France’s Gregory Bourdy prepares for a putt on the 18th hole during the 2007 Portugal Masters golf tournament on 19 Oct, 2007, at Vilamoura’s Victoria Golf course in the Algarve, southern Portugal. Bourdy finished his first round with seven strokes under par 72. — INTERNET

**Czechs hammer Germany 3-0 to reach Euro 2008**

**Munich, 18 Oct — Czech Republic secured a place at Euro 2008 when they thumped already-qualified Germany 3-0 in Group D on Wednesday.**

Libor Sionko gave the Czechs a perfect start when he tapped the opening goal past Timo Hildebrand after just 112 seconds at the Allianz Arena.

Marek Matejovsky gave the visitors breathing space with a well-taken second in the 23rd minute and Jaroslav Plasil capped an outstanding display, individually and collectively, with the third in the 63rd minute.

Germany had become the first country to qualify for the finals in Austria and Switzerland with a draw in Ireland on Saturday and offered precious little in response. The result left the two teams with 23 points from 10 games and ended the qualifying hopes of Ireland and Cyprus.

The Czechs had a lot more riding on the game than Germany and it showed in the home side’s uncharacteristic carelessness, especially in the first half.

MNA/Reuters

**Okubo scores twice as Japan beat Egypt 4-1**

**Osaka (Japan), 18 Oct — Yoshito Okubo scored his first two international goals during the first half to help Japan to a 4-1 win over Egypt in a friendly international on Wednesday. Vissel Kobe striker Okubo stirred a delightful left-foot shot into the top corner in the 21st minute for his first goal in 21 appearances as Japan overcame the under-strength African Nations Cup champions.**

The former Real Mallorca marksman doubled the lead in the 42nd minute with a well-placed header before fellow forward Ryoski Maeda opened his international account 11 minutes later with a tidy finish.

Mohamed Fadl deflected in a Hosni Abdrabo free kick with his head to pull one back for the visitors in the 58th minute before Akira Kaji restored the three-goal advantage 10 minutes later with a well-placed strike.

Egypt manager Hassan Shehata left seven Al Ahly players at home while the team prepare to defend their CAF Champions League crown, while Middlesbrough’s Modo was also absent. — MNA/Reuters

**Arsenal’s Dutch player Robin van Persie (L) chases after the ball against Sunderland during the Premiership match at the Emirates Stadium in London, on 7 Oct, 2007. Van Persie will be sidelined for at least a month after suffering a knee injury playing for the Netherlands. — INTERNET**

**Russian roar back to beat England**

**Moscow, 18 Oct — Substitute Roman Pavlyuchenko scored twice as Russia came from behind to beat England 2-1 in a tense Euro 2008 qualifier on Wednesday after Wayne Rooney had put the visitors in front and then conceded a penalty. Rooney’s superb volley gave England a 29th-minute lead, and a scoreline that would have put them into next year’s finals. But Pavlyuchenko came off the bench to convert a 69th-minute penalty after Rooney tripped Konstantin Zyryanov on the edge of the area. He prodded home another four minutes later after keeper Paul Robinson could only parry Alexei Berezutsky’s shot. Russia’s victory puts their qualifying campaign firmly back on track, though England can also still reach the finals, along with favourites Croatia, from Group E.**

England coach Steve McClaren pointed to the spot kick as the decisive moment of the game, played on an artificial surface at the Luzhniki Stadium, after England had looked in control.

“We had it,” he told Sky Sports. “It was in our grasp and we’ve ended up losing it. I’ve just seen the penalty again and it’s an absolute disgrace — it’s outside the box. “We looked so comfortable, our attitude was excellent and our commitment, we were defending well, we’d got the goal and they were running out of ideas. “That just turned the game,” he said of the penalty.

“It was a bad four minutes after that and unfortunately we conceded a second, but I can’t fault the players for the game plan, the way they endeavoured to work, the commitment.

“We’ve ended up losing a game that really after 70 minutes I never thought we’d lose.”

MNA/Reuters

**Setback for Bulgaria in 1-1 draw with Albania**

**Tirana, 18 Oct — Bulgaria’s hopes of reaching the Euro 2008 finals suffered a major setback when they were held to a 1-1 draw away to Albania in their Group G qualifier on Wednesday.**

The result, after Albania missed a late penalty, left Bulgaria third with 19 points from 10 matches. Romania lead the group with 26 points from 10 matches, three points more than Netherlands.

Klodjan Duro almost gave Albania a dream start in the third minute, hitting the bar with a thunderous 20-yard shot, while unmarked Hamdi Salibi blasted over from close range after 11 minutes. Albania’s Croatian coach Otto Baric was sent off in the 24th minute after arguing with Austrian referee Fritz Stuchluk.

The home side, however, continued to press forward and took a deserved lead in the 31st minute when Bulgaria’s Radostin Kishishev headed into his own net as he tried to clear a Duro free kick. — MNA/Reuters

**Mechanics of the McLaren-Mercedes team push the car of current world champion Fernando Alonso at the Interлагos race track in Sao Paulo, on 18 Oct, 2007. One of the most thrilling and wild Formula One championships in decades comes down to the season-ending Brazilian Grand Prix on 21 Oct. 2007 — INTERNET**

**Czech soccer fans holding a Russian flag, celebrate victory of the national team in EURO 2008 qualifying soccer match with England outside the Kremlín in Moscow, early Thursday, 18 Oct, 2007. — INTERNET**
US teens have higher rate of sexual transmitted diseases

LOS ANGELES, 19 Oct — US teens between the ages of 15 and 19 have a higher rate of sexual transmitted diseases (STD) than any other age group, according to a new study.

The study by the Public Health Institute Centre for Research on Adolescent Health and Development also found half of all new HIV cases are Black females 15 years of age or older and Hispanic teen pregnancy is 68 per cent higher than the rate among non-Hispanic teens.

In order to promote abstinence, a national campaign "Parents Speak Up" was underway, according to Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne B Burke.

Citing the study, Burke said the number of new STDs among California youth is greater than previously thought.

He called for local participation in the national campaign designed to encourage parents to initiate conversations with their children about abstinence.

James Bolden, Press deputy for Burke, said, "We just can't be silent about what we're seeing. We have to encourage parents to talk to their children — tell them they face tremendous risks if involved with sex.

(There's) nothing wrong today to say to young people to stay away (from sex)."

"We approve of any effort that begins with abstinence and goes from there. But if you begin and end with abstinence you are putting young people's lives in danger," she said.

MNA/Xinhua

Poll shows voters unhappy with Bush, Congress

WASHINGTON, 19 Oct — Deepening unhappiness with President George W. Bush and the US Congress soured the mood of Americans and sent Bush's job approval rating to another record low this month, according to a Reuters/Zogby poll released on Wednesday.

The Reuters/Zogby Index, which measures the mood of the country, also fell from 98.8 to 96 — the second consecutive month it has dropped. The number of Americans who believe the country is on the wrong track jumped four points to 66 per cent.

Bush's job approval rating fell to 24 per cent from last month's record low for a Zogby poll of 29 per cent. A plurality 11 per cent gave Congress a positive grade, tying last month's record low.

"There is a real question among Americans now about how relevant this government is to them," pollster John Zogby said. "They tell us they want action on healthcare, education, the war and immigration, but they don't believe they are going to get it."

The dismal assessment of the Republican president and the Democratic-controlled Congress follows another month of inconclusive political battles over a future path in Iraq and the recent Bush veto of an expansion of the programme providing insurance for poor children.

The bleak mood could present problems for both parties heading into the November 2008 election campaign, Zogby said.

"We approve of any effort that begins with abstinence and goes from there. But if you begin and end with abstinence you are putting young people's lives in danger," she said.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Saturday, 20 October

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Namsham (1.18) inches, Hkambi (0.91) inch and Homalin (0.78) inch.

Maximum temperature on 18-10-2007 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 19-10-2007 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 19-10-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 18-10-2007 was (5.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 19-10-2007 was (Nill) at Mngladon, (Nill) at Kaba-Aye and (Nill) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mngladon, (140.75) inches at Kaba-Aye and (142.72) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (2) mph from Northeast at (09:30) hours MST on 19-10-2007.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20-10-2007: Likelyhood of rain or thundershowers will be scattered to the fairly widespread in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Mon and Shan States, Mandalay Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 20-10-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).


Weather outlook for forth weekend of October 2007: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
People’s Desire

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

☆ RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies
☆ RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!
☆ The public be warned of killers in the air waves — RFA, VOA and BBC

Who are the winners, who the losers from violent protests?

☆ Due to violence and unrest
  Only ordinary people have to suffer
  Daily wage earners become jobless
  Poor business for shopkeepers and vendors
  Taxi drivers and trishaw men have hard times
  Stores and restaurants have to be kept closed

☆ Due to violence and unrest
  Only the notorious neo-colonialists benefited
  Colonialist-funded media and expatriates earning dollar rewards
  Only saboteurs reap the benefits

☆ Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation
☆ BBC lying
☆ VOA deceiving
☆ RFA setting up hostilities
☆ Beware! Don’t be bought by those ill-wishers