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The New Light of Myanmar

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

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

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

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than enjoys Maha Doat Drama Marionette Contest

NAV PYI TAW, 22 Oct — Maha Doat Drama Marionette Contest of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the assembly hall of University of Agriculture in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin at 7 pm today.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, members of the leading committee, work committee and sub-committees for organizing the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions,

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than enjoys Maha Doat Drama Marionette contest. — MNA

North-West Command clinches title seeing off Eastern Command 2-1

YANGON, 22 Oct — The final match of the 23rd Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Commander-in-Chief’s Cup U-21 Football Tournament was held in conjunction with the awarding ceremony in YTC Thuwunna this evening.

North-West Command clinched the title after seeing off Eastern Command with 2-1 in the final match.

Among the spectators were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, senior military

Foreign countries’ onesided erroneous views on Myanmar affairs

The attitude of Myanmar people toward Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has changed a lot. The reason is that the majority of Myanmar people have come to know that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has received cash and kind as well as the instructions from the US.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards extended cultivation of beans and pulses

The government is making all-out efforts for development of national economy based on agriculture.

For development of the agricultural sector the government is taking all necessary measures for boosting the per acre yield, extending the sown acreage, introduction of double and mixed cropping, and making available fertilizer and agricultural techniques.

The sown acreage of the nation has increased to over 29 million. As a result, the nation has been able to put over 46 million acres under monsoon paddy, summer paddy, edible oil crops and beans and pulses.

Beans and pulses constitute a major foreign exchange earner. Green gram is mainly grown in Ayeyawady, Bago, Yangon, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions while pigeon pea is grown in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and Shan State. And chick pea thrives well in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions.

Green gram and pigeon pea of Myanmar are in high demand for their good flavour. If they are produced in abundance they will be able to penetrate the international market.

The export of beans and pulses has increased significantly after 1988, for they are in high demand in the international market, save the cultivation and production costs and are easily grown as double and mixed crops.

As Myanmar is the second largest exporter of beans and pulses to the international market, the generation of foreign exchange will be on the increase if farmers are fully engaged in extended cultivation of beans and pulses.

Myanmar to participate in Invitational U-21 Football Tournament in Vietnam

YANGON, 21 Oct — Myanmar U-21 Selected Football Team left for Vietnam by air this morning to participate in Vietnamese Invitational U-21 Football Tournament to be held in Vietnam from 24 to 28 October. Myanmar comprises U Ohn Myint Oo as team leader, U Tin Han as manager, U Soe Moe as assistant coach and U Sai Maung Maung Oo as goal coach, Dr Oak Soe Oo as medical officer, U Kyaw Khine as male nurse and Nay Hlaing, Min Naing, Naing Lin Tun, Zaw Naing Tun, Yan Myo Aung, Than Tun Aung, Nay Aung, Lin Htwe, Zaw Zaw Oo, Tin Win Aung, Ko Ko Maung, Wai Lin, Myint Naing Pi Ya Pyo Oo, Aye Moe, Win Thu, Zin Myo Aung and Kyaw Kyaw Khine as players. — NLM

Myanmar soccer team poses for a group photo at Yangon International Airport before their departure for Vietnam. — NLM

Commander attends harvesting of first paddy, cultivation of second paddy in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 21 Oct — The harvesting of first paddy and cultivation of second paddy was held in the 10-acre plot of farmer U Myint Thein in Padan Village of Hlinethaya Township yesterday morning.

At the briefing hall, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Hlay Win heard reports on cultivation of harvesting of monsoon paddy, cultivation of edible oil crops and others in Hlinethaya Township presented by officials.

In his address, the commander said that double cropping of monsoon paddy contributes to the increasing of local farmers’ income and local food sufficiency. Yangon Division has put over 1.21 million acres of monsoon paddy exceeding the target. It is necessary to harvest paddy by modern machinery and place it under shelter. And the commander stressed the need to use natural and chemical fertilizers for meeting the targeted production.

Annual general meeting of Ayeyawady Division USDA held

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct — The annual general meeting of Ayeyawady Division Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the city hall in Pathein today.

Member of Central Panel of Patrons of USDA Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and CEC member of the USDA Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt spoke on the occasion.

The commander and the minister accepted the donations.

CED member Minister Col Thein Nyunt presented a TV set and two computers to Joint Secretary of Division USDA U Aung Tin Myint.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt accepts cash donated by a well-wisher.

MNA
At least ten killed in US’ Baghdad strikes

Baghdad, 22 Oct — US air strikes killed at least 10 people and wounded 42 early on Sunday in the northeastern Baghdad district of Sadr city, a stronghold for Shi’ite militants, police and hospital sources said.

A police source in Sadr city said a 14-year-old boy was among the dead and that the raid at dawn on Sunday left several houses, shops and cars ablaze.

A second police source gave the same toll and said the heavy strikes came after a US vehicle was targeted by a roadside bomb. He said the death toll may rise.

A Health Ministry source said 10 bodies and 42 wounded had been taken to Imam Ali hospital in Sadr City.

There was no immediate comment from US forces in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Pentagon announces plan on troop replacement in Iraq

Washington, 21 Oct — The US Military will begin to send seven Army national guard brigades with 18,000 troops to Iraq as replacement forces from next August, said Pentagon in a news release on Friday.

Two brigades will replace two active duty brigades currently in Iraq and assume responsibility for a battlespace where they will conduct the full spectrum of operations, it said.

Four other brigades will be deployed “with their subordinate elements to replace a capability currently being provided by more than 160 smaller, separate units in the country,” it added.—MNA/Xinhua

Three dead, six injured in England motorway crash

London, 21 Oct — Three people have died in a motorway pile-up in northern England, police said on Saturday.

The crash, involving a lorry and six cars, happened on the M62 on Friday night. Humberside Police said. Six people sustained injuries in the accident, on a westbound stretch of the motorway between junctions 35 and 36 at 6.45 pm on Friday, and are being treated at Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

No details were released so far about the nature of their injuries.—MNA/Reuters

Six dead at suspected murder near Vancouver

Vancouver, British Columbia, 21 Oct — Six people were found dead in what police described on Friday as a graphic murder scene in an apartment building in a Vancouver suburb. The bodies were discovered in a condominium in Surrey by emergency personnel who were called to the scene for a reported natural gas leak, police said.

All victims were adults and police describe the scene to local media as a “graphic homicide.” The victims were not immediately identified.

The reported gas leak caused chaos during the evening rush hour, forcing the closure of roads near

the building as well as a station on Vancouver’s Skytrain mass transit system.

MNA/Reuters

Polish opposition would seek quick Iraq exit

Warsaw, 21 Oct — Poland’s main opposition party would seek to quickly bring Polish troops back from Iraq if it wins Sunday’s parliamentary election, the Civic Platform’s leader said on Friday.

The party, just ahead of the ruling conservatives in opinion polls, has long questioned the presence of troops in Iraq as part of the US-led force, but has not been so clear that it would make withdrawal a priority.

“We will quickly fulfil our mission in Iraq,” said Donald Tusk, listing 10 priorities if the party wins.

Poland’s ruling Kaczynski twins, close allies of Washington, have said that withdrawal from Iraq would amount to desertion. Iraq has not been central to the election campaign debate in the EU member of 38 million, but the Iraqi engagement gained in importance after recent insurgent attacks that targeted the Polish ambassador and troops.

MNA/Reuters

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Baghdad

Baghdad, 21 Oct — An American soldier was killed and another injured in a roadside bomb attack and small arms fire in southern Baghdad, the US military said on Saturday.

The attack took place on Thursday when insurgents blew up a roadside bomb followed by small arms fire on their unit in southern the capital, a military statement said.

The soldiers’ unit continues conducting targeted raids and clearing operations to disrupt insurgent and militia elements operating in this part of Baghdad, the statement said.

The latest death brings the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to more than 3,830 since the US-led invasion in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua
Iran's atomic negotiator Larijani resigns

TEHERAN, 21 Oct—Ali Larijani, who has fronted Teheran's efforts to defer an atomic row with the West, has resigned as Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, the government's spokesman said on Saturday.

Saeed Jalili, Deputy Foreign Minister for European and American affairs, was expected to replace Larijani, the official IRNA news agency said.

Larijani was set to meet EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana in Rome on Tuesday for more discussions about Iran's nuclear ambitions, which the West says are aimed at building atomic bombs despite Teheran's denials.

Government spokesman Gholamhossein Elham, quoted by IRNA, said Larijani's replacement was expected to meet Solana as planned.

Some analysts have said Larijani had differences with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad over tactics in handling the atomic row. But the analysts have said both oppose halting the nuclear programme.

The final say in all matters of state, including nuclear policy, lies with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei under Iran's system of clerical rule.

"Ali Larijani, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, resigned from his position," Elham said, adding that Ahmadinejad had accepted his resignation after previous offers by Larijani to resign were turned down.

"Despite Larijani's resignation, there will be no change in the council's programme and the new secretary will meet Javier Solana."— MNA/Reuters

Man held over Sheffield teenager's shooting

LONDON, 21 Oct—Detectives arrested an 18-year-old man on Friday night on suspicion of killing teenager Jonathan Matondo who was shot dead in a Sheffield park earlier this week.

Matondo, 16, was found by police and paramedics in the Burngreave part of the city at about 7:30 pm on Wednesday. A post mortem revealed he had died from a single bullet wound in the head.

South Yorkshire Police said they had arrested the man at his home in Burngreave and he was now being questioned at a police station in Sheffield.

"This arrest is a direct result of community involvement and we hope to make further arrests," said Chief Superintendent Jon House. "Hopefully this will encourage other people to come forward and give us more information."— MNA/Reuters

US mily kills 49 in Sadr City, Iraqi Govt protests

BAGHDAD, 22 Oct—The Iraqi Government protested against a raid by US forces in Baghdad on Sunday in which the military said 49 gunmen were killed in fierce fighting, but police and witnesses said claimed the lives of many civilians.

The fighting erupted during an operation in Sadr City, the main stronghold of anti-American Shi'ite cleric Moqtada, to capture an Iranian-linked militant suspected of attacking US-led coalition soldiers and other foreigners.

Iraqi police said 13 civilians were killed and 69 wounded in the clashes, in which the US military said troops backed by attack helicopters battled militants armed with rocket-propelled grenade launchers and machineguns.

MNA/Reuters

Activists arrested near IMF-World Bank meetings

WASHINGTON, 22 Oct—Two protesters were arrested in Washington on Friday evening during demonstrations on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank semi-annual meetings.

"A couple people got unruly and were locked up," police spokesman DJ Jackson said on Saturday about the mainly peaceful protest in the upscale Georgetown neighbourhood.

Activists said another rally was planned for Saturday several blocks from the White House and the headquarters of the IMF and the World Bank. Large numbers of police were massed in the vicinity and several streets were closed to traffic.

Finance ministers and other officials are gathered in Washington through the weekend for the twice-annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank, institutions set up after World War II to provide stability to the world economy.

MNA/Reuters

Death of Philippine mall bomb blast rises to nine

MANILA, 22 Oct—Philippine police confirmed on Saturday that military-grade explosives caused a powerful blast in an upscale Manila shopping mall and that they were reviewing security camera footage to look for suspects.

The Glorietta mall blast at lunchtime on Friday killed nine people and wounded 120, although many of those wounded have been discharged after treatment, police and hospital sources said.

Explosives experts said the bomb was apparently set off in the basement of Glorietta, a sprawling three-storey complex of department stores, high-end fashion boutiques, restaurants, other shops and cinemas in the heart of the Makati business district.

Several luxury hotels and serviced apartment blocks surround the complex.

MNA/Reuters

US forces in Iraq find 19 tons of explosives

BAGHDAD, 21 Oct—US forces in Iraq discovered nearly 19 tons of explosives in a weapons cache north of Baghdad this week, one of the biggest finds of its kind, the US military said on Saturday.

The cache was discovered west of Tarmiya, some 30 kilometers (19 miles) northwest of the capital Baghdad, in Salahuddin Province where Sunni Arab militants have a strong presence. The find was made up of 41,000 pounds (18.6 tons) of ammonium nitrate and 35 mortar bombs. US forces destroyed the cache. "It's a crippling blow against the enemy, it's really huge," said Peggy Kageleiry, a spokeswoman for US forces in northern Iraq.

MNA/Reuters


MNA/Reuters
Bangladesh, Laos to strengthen cooperation in eco ties

DHAKA, 21 Oct — Bangladesh and Laos agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment and tourism sectors. The broad-based agreement came at a meeting between Bangladesh’s Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain and visiting Laotian First Vice-Foreign Minister Phongsavath Boupha here Saturday, private news agency UNB reported.

This is the first high-level official contact between the two countries since they established diplomatic ties in 1988.

“We discussed how to develop our cooperation in trade, investment and tourism and increase people-to-people contact,” Boupha was quoted as saying. He said the two sides agreed in principle to ease the visa regime by offering on-arrival visa for officials and businessmen and exempt visa for holders of diplomatic passport.

Boupha hinted that Laotian businessmen might be interested in buying medicine from Bangladesh considering its quality and price as Laos imports medicines.

The two sides also discussed how to improve connectivity between Bangladesh and Laos, the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia with a six million population.

E C O N O M I C   N E W S

UAE national airline to increase flights by 29%

ABU DHABI, 22 Oct— Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), will increase its total weekly flights by 29 percent from 28 October, local newspaper Khaleej Times reported on Sunday. The total weekly flights provided by the Abu Dhabi-based Etihad will increase from 556 to 718 in the airline’s new winter schedule, which starts on 28 October, according to the report.

The majority of the increased flights will take off in the Gulf Region, Europe and the Indian subcontinent.

“As Etihad Airways continues its expansion we’re continually looking at opportunities to make improvements to our timetable,” the airline’s CEO James Hogan said.

Etihad will also launch a new service to Kathmandu on 28 October, providing four flights a week linking Abu Dhabi and the Nepalese capital.

Established in July 2003, Etihad launched its first flight on 6 November of the same year. It currently has a network covering 46 global destinations.

DP World invests $300m in port security

ABU DHABI, 22 Oct— Dubai Ports World (DP World), the world’s third-largest port operator, is investing around 300 million US dollars in port security, local newspaper Gulf News reported on Saturday.

“We are investing roughly 300 million dollars to secure 42 terminals that we operate worldwide,” DP World’s director of security David Fairnie was quoted as saying.

DP World has commissioned a three-tier fool-proof container security initiative that involves X-ray, radiation and Optical Container Recognition (OCR), according to Fairnie.

“These can detect any radiation being emitted from the container, while the OCR captures container data and manages the supply chain.

The company has also employed closed-circuit television (CCTV), alarm systems as well as anti-invasion systems across all its ports and terminal facilities.

“Hundreds per cent security is no longer a myth, but a reality.

At DP World, we are setting a global benchmark for security,” Fairnie said.

DP World, which manages 42 terminals in 22 countries, currently owns a capacity of 48 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent container units).— MNA/Xinhua

Decorations of mouse were shown in the supermarket in Shenzhia. — XINHUA
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than enjoys…

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...officers, military attachés of foreign embassies to Myanmar, officials of the Ministry of Sports, military officers, other ranks, their families, members of social organizations, guests and fans.

After the final match, the awarding ceremony followed. Mingaladon Air Base Commander Brig-Gen Zin Yaw presented prizes to third placed South-East Command Team and runner-up Eastern Command Team.

Aye Hlaing Troupe representing Ayeyawady Division took part in the contest and performed 14 scenes. The manuscript for Maha Doat Drama of Aye Hlaing Troupe was written by U Ko Ko Gyi (Hinthada) and directed by U Than Win (Hinthada).

North-West Command clinches title seeing off…

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...commanders, military attachés of foreign embassies to Myanmar, officials of the Ministry of Sports, military officers, other ranks, their families, members of social organizations, guests and fans.

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Next, Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command Headquarters Commodore Win Shein handed prizes to champion North-West Command Team. Then, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win gave away prizes to best situational players and fair play award to North-West Command Team.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented championship trophy and duplicated trophy to North-West Command Team. — MNA

People of Bago, Sagaing and Magway Divisions denounce recent protests

NAY Pyi Taw, 22 Oct — People of Zigon Township in Bago Division, Miggin Township in Sagaing Division, and Magway, Sinhaungwe and Kanma Townships in Magway Division who favour stability of the State, prevalence of law and order and community peace walked in procession on 16, 19, 20 and 21 October in the respective regions to denounce the recent protests 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 16 October in Zigon Township in Bago Division, some 27,000 people holding the placards that read “We favour stability,” “We favour peace,” “We don’t want unrest and violence,” “Fight against the danger of internal and external destructive elements”, and “We can not serve as slaves”, and chanting “Our Three Main National Causes” gathered at the Zigon Township Hall and marched to Yangon-Pyay Road, Tarpin Road, Pagoda Road and finally to Postal Road in the town.

On 19 October in Mingin Township of Sagaing Division, about 10,000 people holding 20 State Flags and the placards marched in procession from Township Sports Ground to Thayettaw Street, Hsutaungpyae Pagoda Street, Thingaha Street, Bank Street, Postal Street and finally to Ohntaw Street in the township.

On 20 October in Kanma Township of Magway Division, about 6,000 people holding 14 State Flags and the placards walked in procession from Kanma Township No 4 BEPS to Kanle Pagoda Street, Hospital Street, Uyintan Street, School Street, No 1 Street and finally to Bank Street in the town.

Similarly, on 20 October in Magway Township in Magway Division, over 11,000 people holding 64 State Flags and the placards walked in procession in the town.

On 20 October in Sinhaungwe Township in
COMMANDER WATCHES VIOLIN, DONMIN CONTESTS

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct — Chairman of the Leading Committee for organizing the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and wife Daw Swe Swe Oo watched violin and Donmin contests this afternoon.

First, the commander and wife watched the basic education level (10-15 age group) girls’ violin contest held at the assembly hall of the Forest Research Department.

Next, they also watched the basic education level (10-15 age group) girls’ Donmin contest and (15-20 age group) boys’ Donmin contest held at a lecture hall of the University of Agriculture. Later, the commander and party cordially greeted the members of panel of judges. — MNA

TRoupe representing Sagaing Division takes part in Suvannasama Drama Contest

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct — Suvannasama Drama Contest of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the final day at the convocation hall of the University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin this evening.

Among the audience were Deputy Minister for Construction U Tin Swe, heads of departments, officials of the work committee and sub-committees, service personnel from ministries, families of battalions and regiments under Nay Pyi Taw Command and local people from townships, wards and villages of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District. The drama was directed by U O Wai.

Director-General U Yan Naing Oo addresses the coordination meeting for organizing Kwatseik and play contests. — MNA

Objective of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalize patriotism and nationalism that is based on strong Union Spirit,
— To ensure uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and integrity,
— To ensure flourishing of Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts,
— To nurture spiritual development of the youths,
— To prevent the influence of alien culture.

Myanmar delegation leaves to attend film festival in China

YANGON, 22 Oct — A four-member delegation left here yesterday to attend the 16th film festival to be held in Sughou, the People’s Republic of China, from 23 to 29 October.

The members of the delegation are Deputy Director U Hla Swe of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise, Vice-Chairman-1 of Myanma Motion Picture Asyyion Daw Myint Myint Khaing, Joint Secretary-1 U Win Kyi and actor Wai Lu Kyaw.

Myanmar film Hsahthugan (hexagon) will participate in the film festival. — MNA

Mid-year Gem Emporium slated for Nov 14-26

YANGON, 22 Oct — The Mid-year Gem Emporium 2007 is scheduled earlier to be held from 7 to 19 November. However, the emporium is to take place from 14 to 26 November. — MNA
Frankly, I got confused when I watched the scene in which Journalist Mr Nagai Kenji, 30, fell to ground due to the shot of a security member. I felt very sorry for the death of Mr Nagai Kenji. At the same time, I thought it was impossible that Myanmar military government aimed at and shot at ordinary people especially at a foreign journalist, and it might be just an unfortunate accident resulting from various reasons. Regarding the government’s taking of action against the protest marches staged especially by monks in Myanmar, the media of almost all of the European countries and Japan said that democracy activists staged protest marches. They stated the death of Mr Nagai as the incident resulting from the military government’s armed suppression.

I served as Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar for more than three years from 1995. After my tour of duties, I paid a visit to Myanmar almost every year. According to these experiences, my review is very simple. The Myanmar government being criticized as the military government is totally different from Cambodia in the time of the Pol Pot regime, and the Philippines in the time of Marcos. However, the media of European countries and Japan did not release any kinds of news that showed goodwill to the Myanmar government. For instance, regarding the number of participants in the protesters, all Japanese newspapers mentioned about 100,000, but it was much different from the real number when it was guessed according to the view on the screen. This is not the first time foreign media exaggerate the number of participants in the movements against Myanmar government. During my discharge of duties as an ambassador, some people gathered in front of the house of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the weekends. Japanese newspapers stated the number of the crowd to be 3000 or 4000. One day, I asked one of my subordinates to count the number of the people there, and learnt that the number was 300 or 600 only. I do not want to point out as to whether they exaggerated or not, but I would like the people to know that in the media world, the number of participants in the anti-government movements is exaggerated five or six times, and sometimes about 10 times.

So, it is not reliable that the media state the number of about 100,000. I know well that I will be accused of being the same party with the military government for my words. Supposing the military government is on the right and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and anti-government groups on the left, I think I am in the middle of the two sides. Nevertheless, the media world is now standing by Daw Suu Kyi. So, they assume that I am standing by the military government. I can’t help it.

In reality, so far, the news stories about Myanmar have stood by Daw Suu Kyi. Again this time, they do the same. The Japanese media failed to state the news Myanmar radio station had broadcast repeatedly such as the NLD hired the people for the protests, and the protester group threw stones at the security forces and tried to grab the arms, so the security force unavoidably fired shots. Actually, the protesters were not ordinary people, and the majority of them were those hired by the NLD such as unreliable ones and jobless persons.

Moreover, I learnt that in some regions, protester monks committed some acts that cannot be called peaceful protests such as seizing the security members in the compound of the monastery and setting fire to the vehicles. Japanese media have not stated these news up to now.

Daw Suu Kyi’s instigation

Japanese media world is making comments that the military government should release political prisoners. However, Myanmar government said that there was no political prisoner in the country. That is the Myanmar government’s stance. There are the ones who have been detained for their protests and gathering. It is because they violated the laws that had been in force such as not more than five persons could not assemble for political purposes in public places such as roads and parks, and permission shall be sought in advance for assembling more than 50 people for political purposes in a building. This is just a routine of the State’s administrative machinery. However, the news world is still mentioning all the government’s action as suppression.

The one who was in breach of the existing law and was put under restrictions is none other than Daw Suu Kyi. Although she has a large compound she organized the people and gave anti-government talks in the street in front of her compound. Although the security members asked her to give talks in the compound she neglected the intimation. But if the arrest was made she shouted at the top of her voice “democracy is imperilled” in order that foreign broadcasting stations could air about it. During the period of twenty years European media regarded Daw Suu Kyi as a hopeful star of Myanmar democracy. Due to one-sided reports of those foreign broadcasting stations the authentic Myanmar news was distorted and misunderstood.

To explain that such attitude could lead to complete misunderstanding one needs to know thoroughly about the Myanmar history during the period under suppression. In the past, the Union of Myanmar was called “Bamar Naing-Ngan”. In the early 19th Century, the British intruded into Myanmar

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Foreign countries’ onesided...
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and occupied it as their colony. Myanmar is one of the colonial countries occupied by the British and it was under foreign subjugation very badly. Bamar who represented 69 per cent were under some national races who converted to Christianity, Chinese and Indians and lost all the rights of human society.

During WWII, Bogyoke Aung San in cooperation with the Japanese managed to drive the British out of the country. But Bogyoke Aung San was assassinated and he failed to witness independence of Myanmar regained in 1948. The wife of Bogyoke Aung San became the Myanmar ambassador to India and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pursued education at Oxford University. In 1972, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi married an English. Myanmar people forgot her for a certain period.

Civil strife reigned in the nation after the independence was regained. In 1962, Maj-Gen Ne Win of Myanma Tatmadaw assumed the State power and formed Myanma Socialist Programme Party. The situation in the country was like the period of the British colonialists. Due to a series of sanctions imposed the country’s economy was going from bad to worse. Consequently, the people were dissatisfied with such situation that culminated into the ‘88’ disturbances. At that time, the actual number of people who got involved in the demonstration was about 100,000. As a result, the present Tatmadaw government has emerged. At that time, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi came to Myanmar to look after her sick mother. Her arrival to Myanmar coincided with the incident. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who is a British subject had become a symbol of democracy movement overnight.

In collision with the US
At present, it is true that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has become a hopeful star of democracy. Under prevailing situation, can you guess what would happen if the election is held? The European and Japanese media are still regarding Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as the hopeful star. However, the attitude of Myanmar people toward Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has changed a lot. The reason is that the majority of Myanmar people have come to know that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has received cash and kind as well as the instructions from the US. As a matter of fact, Myanmar people who had witnessed the bitter experiences of foreign subjugation detested the alien influence and cooperation. When I was the Japanese ambassador to Myanmar in Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi frequently contacted Albright of the US Administration and received anti-government instructions as well as cash and kind.

A press conference held with journalists at home and abroad by the government revealed that communications devices addressed to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sent by the US were found at the border. But the incident was neglected by foreign media. The press conference was attended by Japanese correspondents. In this regard, I enquired why they did not make public the incident. He said that the company wanted only news stories about bloodshed occurred in Yangon of Myanmar resulting from anti-government activities. And the reason Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has become unpopular among the people was that she brazenly gave anti-government talks to the people. She just spoke loudly about the anti-government activities but never mentioned specific political aim or the mission from her mouth.

Most of the people who know the point began to get disappointed with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. There emerged those who left her and those who opposed her. The proof is that there happened an incident in 1996 in which Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s car was burned and she was surrounded by violent attackers.

When danger was about to befall her, she was rescued by security forces. As requested by her, the government placed three or four security guards in front of her house. There was no harm to her.

How is the current situation of the military government? In 1988 eighteen national race armed groups rose against the government on an extensive scale and in collision. The battles were so fierce that even townspeople could hear the gunshots. The greatest victory of the military government was putting an end to international insurgencies. In 1999 I paid a visit to Insein Jail, the biggest one in Myanmar. The scenes I saw there were peaceful and quiet and it was rather unbelievable that the country was ruled by the military junta. The prisoners could have their baths twice a day and meet their families once a week. Some might think that these benefits of the prisoners were shown only to foreign guests. However, one can witness the current situation of the jail. Besides, there were five or six cases of capital punishment a year in the past but in the time of the military government it was no longer used. The top official of the government is simple and natural. There has been public support of the government as the nation sees more than five percent of economic growth every year in spite of the fuel price hikes that provoked the recent protests.

Democracy trend
This is why I think most of the Myanmar people are marching toward the way the military government is doing. The National Convention is responsible for writing a constitution completed in early September. Ordinary people of Myanmar do not assume the current situation to be the best but they understand it is an unavoidable transition to democracy.

It is not possible for a nation that has experienced colonialism to start practising democracy overnight. A break-up of the nation can be envisioned if democracy is practised superficially without systematic preparations and measures after politicians have taken over power and abused it. Knowing the situation, the military government is taking step-by-step measures in the march towards democracy after setting a preparatory period, in other words, after having taken power for a certain period. Myanmar people also understand this point.

In that case, how should the international community treat Myanmar? Naturally, the making of a nation calls for a task that is to be implemented by the citizens in accord with the history, culture and character of that nation. Nonetheless, if other nations interfere in the affairs of a country without understanding its true situation, it can undermine the efforts of that nation. Therefore, the international community should avoid interfering in the affairs of Myanmar unnecessarily. Instead, it should give the country a helping hand such as trading, making investments and rendering technologies.

However, if we review the response of Europe and Japan to Myanmar, let alone giving assistance in nation-building tasks, they are imposing trade embargo against the nation.

Situation in Myanmar today is totally against that should be. Now is the time when Myanmar government is building the nation.

I would like to ask the international community a question. Isn’t it a task that the international community should undertake as the very first step to stop tarnishing the image of Myanmar by making Daw Aung San Suu Kyi a leading actress and the government a villain?

Translation: MS+TS+ST
Myanna Alyn+Kyemon: 22-10-2007

The Japanese media failed to state the news Myanmar radio station had broadcast repeatedly such as the NLD hired the people for the protests, and the protestor group threw stones at the security forces and tried to grab the arms, so the security force unavoidably fired shots.

Actually, the protesters were not ordinary people, and the majority of them were those hired by the NLD such as unreliable ones and jobless persons.

I would like to ask the international community a question. Isn’t it a task that the international community should undertake as the very first step to stop tarnishing the image of Myanmar by making Daw Aung San Suu Kyi a leading actress and the government a villain?
NAV PYI TAW, 22 Oct — The 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the fifth day at the designated places in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin yesterday.

Present on the occasions were Daw Swe Swe Oo, wife of Chairman of the Work Committee for the Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Myo Min, departmental officials, officials of the leading committee, the work committee and sub-committees, members of excursion groups from Kachin, Kayah and Chin states, local people from Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana, Nay Pyi Taw Takton and Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and students of BEHS No 1 in Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana.

Assistant Director (Music) (Retd) Daw Tin Tin Mya and party supervised the singing contest at University of Agriculture. Ten contestants participated in the amateur level (first class) men’s piano contest and five students in the basic education level (10-15 age group) girls’ piano contest.

At the hall of Agricultural Research Department, five teams competed in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ Ozi contest and another six teams in the basic education level (10-15 age group) boys’ Ozi contest. Chairman of the panel of judges U Sein Mar Din and party supervised the contest.

Chairman of the panel of judges U Sein Mar Din and party supervised the Ozi contest at the convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science. A total of 12 contestants participated in the higher education level (men’s) dancing contest and 18 students in the basic education level (5-10 age group) boys’ dancing contest.

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 (first class) men’s piano contest and five students in the basic education level (10-15 age group) girls’ piano contest.

Six students participated in the basic education level (10-15 age group) men’s harp contest and six students in the basic education level (10-15 age group) boys’ harp contest.

Likewise, a contestant from Yangon Division competed in the basic education level (15-20 age group) girls’ harp contest.

Similarly, five students participated in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ oboe contest at the hall.

U San Ko Lay of Bago Division participating in amateur level (second class) men’s harp contest. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun enjoy the higher education level (men’s) dancing contest. — MNA

USDA CEC member provides cash assistance to artistes from Bago Division

Chairman of the panel of judges U Yee Nwe and party supervised the contest. Six contestants from states and divisions participated in the amateur level (second class) men’s harp contest. Likewise, a contestant from Yangon Division competed in the basic education level (15-20 age group) girls’ harp contest.

At the assembly hall of Agricultural Research Department, five teams competed in the basic education level (15-20 age group) boys’ Ozi contest and another six teams in the basic education level (10-15 age group) boys’ Ozi contest. Chairman of the panel of judges U Sein Mar Din and party supervised the contest.

Chairman of the panel of judges U Sein Mar Din and party supervised the dancing contest at the convocation hall. — MNA

At the meeting, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min provided cash assistance amounting to K 1 million to the contestants from Bago Division.

On behalf of the contestants, U Khin Maung Than, leader of the team of contestants representing the division, accepted the assistance.

U San Ko Lay of Bago Division participating in amateur level (second class) men’s harp contest. — MNA

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The singing contest of the 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions is being held at University of Agriculture in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin.
The change of scene in rural areas

U Than Tun (Shwebo)

The magazine published on 1 December 1970 to mark the Golden Jubilee of Yangon University features an article “An Interview with U Gee” by Maung Kyee Pwa. The article is about the experiences of a member of the rural economic and social affairs study group of University of Economics in a rural area. I would like to present some excerpts from the article.

“Well, your name is U Po Khwe, isn’t it? And what are you?”

“I’m a farm-hand.”

“What is your educational qualification, please?”

“I used to attend a monastic school. My wife and daughter are illiterate. My son doesn’t go to school yet because he has to work in the field like me.”

“Well, what about the newspaper?”

“I read it sometimes.”

“When?”

“I do when I get a piece of newspaper that is used for packing.”

“It indicates that the man lacks knowledge because he neither reads newspaper nor listens to radio and watches an educative film. What a pity! I wonder what he wants now. Does he want paddy price increase, or does he want to get any cotton longyi (men’s wear nether garment) since he has not got them for a long time and if he asks me to inform the authorities concerned his difficulty, I have no power to fulfil his wishes.”

It is an event that took place 37 years ago in a rural area, according to the article of writer Maung Kyee Pwa. But, it was in the past.

Unlike that, today, in the rural areas, there are many big houses. Almost all school-age children go to schools. People listen to the radio in their houses or farms. Some households have TV sets. In the evening, video halls (there are some villages, each of which has two or three video halls) are crowded with audience. Some villages have even tea shops.

Each village has got rural health care centre and village library, and at some large villages there are auto exchange, village Peace and Development Council, primary school and middle school. Some big villages have electricity, a police station, police outpost, market and affiliated high school. Some villages have monastic schools.

The number of graduates, military and civil officers, service personnel and teachers of villages is on the increase.

Many farms use water pumps to get clean water and power-tillers to plough fields.

Today, rural people no longer have to rely much on rough cotton longyi (men’s wear nether garment) as their clothing and fish paste and peas as their main dishes. Rural villages have got motor vehicles, trailer-G trucks and motorcycles. These are the latest developments in rural areas today.

The government no longer controls paddy prices. So, farmers can sell their produce freely. Farmers are enjoying economic growth, so they can make more donations for building pagodas and monastic buildings.

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43 students hospitalized for gas poisoning in Xinjiang

URUMQI, 21 Oct—A gas poisoning accident has sent 43 students to hospital Saturday morning when they were participating in a birthday party at a night club in Urumqi, capital of northwestern China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

More than 20 students are receiving treatment, while the rest have been discharged from hospital, said Dai Yiqiang, an official with the city’s public security department.

“Doctors said the patients are all out of danger, but they need time for recovery,” said Dai.

The gas poisoning was caused by the malfunction of the fuel generator at the night club, said Dai.

All the victims are students from a transportation technology school of Urumqi and they gathered at the night club on Friday night to celebrate the birthday of one of the students.

However, some of the students began to feel dizzy at around 7 am on Saturday and some even fainted later, said witnesses.

Investigation shows the night club began to use a fuel generator to maintain its electricity after power cut on early Saturday morning. However, the malfunction of the generator has caused fuel deficient combustion and produces a large quantity of toxic carbon monoxide.—MNA/Xinhua

Tropical storm strengthens off Mexico’s Pacific coast

MEXICO CITY, 21 Oct—Tropical Storm Kiko strengthened off Mexico’s Pacific coastline Friday, and forecasters warned it may become a hurricane this weekend if it continues to gain strength on Friday.

The country will maintain a “preventive alert” in the next 24 hours in the western states of Jalisco, Michoacan and Colima and follow Kiko’s erratic trajectory, said Mexico’s National Weather Service (SMN).

The storm had maximum sustained winds of 85 kilometres per hour and was moving toward the northwest. Forecasters warned it could dump up to 25 centimetres of rain on land. However, Mexico’s National Water Commission (CNA) said the eye of the storm was expected to move northwest, well away from the coast of Mexico.—MNA/Xinhua

Russia-China theme years boost bilateral ties

WELLINGTON, 21 Oct—An Air New Zealand Boeing 767 was towed off the runway at Auckland International Airport Saturday after a major alert as it landed with smoke coming from the front nose wheel.

The aircraft with 155 people on board was heading to Auckland from Tonga and reported problems shortly before it was due to land.

Fire Service spokesman Maui Barbara said five crew members were on standby along with airport emergency services after the pilot reported problems with the plane’s hydraulics before its scheduled landing.

MNA/Xinhua
Britain to start gene therapy trial for muscular dystrophy

London, 21 Oct — British researchers are going to start a gene therapy trial in London for the fatal disorder Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), the first such trial in the world.

A small group of patients will be injected with an experimental drug which it is hoped will extend their lives, BBC reported Friday.

DMD is caused by a single faulty gene on the X-chromosome and results in progressive muscle wasting. The injection contains a “molecular patch” targeting the faulty gene so that it should work again.

The treatment involves scientists making a very small piece of genetic material — a molecular patch which once inside the muscle cell, binds to the piece of code which surrounds the error in the genetic code on the gene.

The treatment enables the gene to produce a working version of the dystrophic gene which keeps muscles strong.

Trials of the drug in mice have proved highly successful, according to researchers.

WHO says yellow fever outbreak suspected in Sudan

Geneva, 21 Oct — The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday it was investigating a suspected outbreak of yellow fever in Sudan, which has killed nearly 30 people.

The viral disease, which causes jaundice and death, is yellow fever or not,” early next week whether we should know tested, we should know early next week whether it is yellow fever or not,” said WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl.

The outbreak was near the Nile about three hours from Khartoum and the samples were being sent to a laboratory in Cairo for analysis, he said.

Yellow fever symptoms include fever, muscle pain, nausea and vomiting, but most patients improve after three to four days, according to the United Nations health agency.

Carbon dioxide being soaked up by oceans reduced

London, 21 Oct — The amount of carbon dioxide being absorbed by the world’s oceans has reduced, British scientists who carried out a study over a decade said.

Researchers from University of East Anglia gauged carbon dioxide absorption through more than 90,000 measurements from merchant ships equipped with automatic instruments and the results of their 10-year study in the North Atlantic show carbon dioxide uptake halved between the mid-90s and 2000 to 2005, BBC reported Saturday.

The researchers believe global warming might get worse if the oceans soak up less of the greenhouse gas.

They said the findings were surprising and worrying because there were grounds for believing that, in time, the ocean might become saturated with carbon dioxide emissions, unable to soak up any more.

Of all the carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere, only half of it stays there; the rest goes into two major natural carbon sinks — the oceans and the land "biosphere", which are equivalent in size, each absorbing a quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions, the researchers said.

Guangzhou to build major garbage power plant

Guangzhou, 21 Oct — Construction of a large garbage power plant, capable of generating 200 million kilowatt hour of electricity per year, is expected to start by the end of this year in Guangzhou, capital of southern Guangdong Province.

With an investment of 970 million yuan, the Likeng garbage incineration power plant will be able to incinerate over 2,000 tons of domestic waste per day, almost one fifth of the city’s total, according to the Guangzhou-based Guangri Group, developer of the power plant.

The project will adopt the clean garbage power transforming technology of a Danish company to reduce the emission of waste gas, according to the group.

Researchers have found that garbage shrinks 90 per cent in volume and 80 per cent in weight after being incinerated.

Once incinerated, two tons of garbage can produce the same amount of energy as a ton of coal.

Visitors stand in an artwork at the exhibition in Shanghai, east China, on 19 Oct, 2007. The exhibition “Les yeux ouverts” from Centre National d’art et de culture g. Pompidou kicked off in Shanghai Art Museum on Friday. — Xinhua

Spyker Formula One driver Sakon Yamamoto of Japan (R) crashes against Renault Giancarlo Fisichella of Italy during the Brazilian Grand Prix, the final F1 race of the season, at the Interlagos racetrack in Sao Paulo on 21 Oct, 2007. — Internet
Empoli stuns Milan, Fiorentina go second

Rome, 22 Oct — A second-half goal by Luca Saudati gave Tuscan minnows Empoli a 1-0 win at AC Milan on Sunday, as the European champions continued their wretched home form.

Milan are still looking for their first league win at the San Siro this season and after eight games they have just 10 points, half as many as leaders Inter Milan, who beat Reggina 1-0 on Saturday.

Fiorentina defeated Tuscan rivals Siena 3-0 to move up to second place with 16 points. Juventini, who have 14 points, will leapfrog Fiorentina in the standings if they beat in-form Genoa in Turin later on Sunday.

Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi wasted a pair of good chances in the first half, while Davide Moro and Antonio Buscà came close for Empoli.

Saudati headed wide with the net at his mercy just after the break, but he made no mistake with a Francesco Tavarnini cross in the 55th minute.

The visitors had to play the closing stages in 10 men after defender Richard Vanigli got off injured with all the substitutions used, but they still managed to hold on.

The championship is still long, but we have not done well enough at home. Three points from four games is a negative record,” Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti told Sky television.

“When the spaces are tight we lack the movement needed to create chances. We play far too slowly and don’t put much pressure on our opponents.”

Captain Paolo Maldini made his first appearance for Milan since May’s Champions League final after recovering from knee surgery.

Beckham effort to no avail as La Galaxy bow out

Chicago, 22 Oct — David Beckham’s first campaign in Major League Soccer ended on Sunday as the Los Angeles Galaxy lost 1-0 to the Chicago Fire on the final day of the regular season.

The former England captain played the final 33 minutes but was unable to lift the Galaxy in a game that was goalless until former Manchester United trainee John Thorrington’s goal in second-half stoppage time.

Beckham put a long-distance shot over the bar in the 10th minute.

MADRID, 22 Oct — Diego Forlan and Maxi Rodriguez inspired Atletico Madrid to a convincing 4-0 home win over Real Zaragoza in the Primera Liga on Sunday.

Uruguayan striker Forlan, who was bought for around 21 million euros (29.99 million US dollars) when Fernando Torres left for Liverpool in the close season, set up the opener for Argentine forward Maxi’s floated pass allowed him to beat Cesar with a clever lob in the 34th, and third, respectively, in the qualifying round for the pole position at the Interlagos racetrack in Sao Paulo on 21 Oct, 2007.

The final F1 race of the season, the Brazilian Grand Prix, will take place here on 21 Oct, 2007. — INTERNET

Forlan, Maxi inspire Atletico to 4-0 win

Sampdoria 3 Parma 0

A goal by Vincenzo Montella the 25th minute and Claudio Bellucci’s brace in the first 13 minutes of second half condemned Parma to their third consecutive defeat.

Udinese 1 Palermo 0

Brazilian striker Amauri completed a Palermo counter-attack with a low diagonal shot in the 17th minute.

Olympique Marseille’s Lorik Cana (R) challenges RC Lens’ Nenad Kovic during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille, on 21 Oct, 2007. — INTERNET

West Ham beat Sunderland 3-1

London, 22 Oct — West Ham United avoided a fourth consecutive Premier League defeat on Sunday, beating Sunderland 3-1 at Upton Park.

Carlton Cole headed West Ham in front after nine minutes but Sunderland gained a deserved equalizer shortly after the break when the lively Kenwyne Jones headed past Robert Green. Sunderland were unlucky not to go in front when Grant Leadbetter’s shot came back off a post and they suffered more ill fortune when West Ham substitute Nolberto Solano’s shot hit the woodwork and went into the net off keeper Craig Gordon.

Jones headed a good chance wide as Sunderland looked for an equalizer but Craig Bellamy sealed the points for West Ham with a neat finish in the 90th minute. Victory lifted West Ham one place in the table to 10th with 13 points. Sunderland are just above the relegation zone with eight points. The top seven all won on Saturday, with Arsenal maintaining a two-point lead over Manchester United thanks to a 2-0 home victory over Bolton Wanderers. United were 4-1 winners at Aston Villa. — MNA/Reuters
Foreigners show confidence in China-made products at Canton Fair

GUANGZHOU, 22 Oct — Chinese products are favoured by global buyers at a major important and export fair in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, despite a few product recalls of Chinese products since this summer.

Export transactions at the first phase of the autumn session of the Canton Fair, ending on Saturday, soared to 24.97 billion dollars, up 12.5 per cent over the last Autumn fair. The number of overseas buyers reached more than 123,000, up 1.3 per cent.

“Hundreds of people are basically here for Chinese goods. They are not looking for foreign goods,” said Steve Barek, President and CEO of the Florida-based Microflock Textile Group Corporation.

Barek said he plans to increase procurement by about 50 per cent at the fair.

To restore confidence in the Chinese-made products, the country has staged a slew of measures, including introducing recall systems, a four-month nationwide product quality campaign and offering intensive training courses to domestic manufacturers.

Cristina Goreeesci, representative of the Romania Flyfish Sanitary Ware, said compared to goods in Romania, Chinese goods are usually available with the same quality but lower prices.

“These days we visited many Chinese factories. Their production ability is approaching European standards,” said Rainer Muller from the German trade company Modena GmbH.

“We think that they have good quality. Now we buy more and more goods from China, such as refrigerator, microwave oven, dishwasher...” he said.

Two strong quakes hit Bengkulu, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 Oct — Two strong tectonic quakes hit Bengkulu Province of Indonesia’s Sumatra Island on Sunday evening, but no casualties or injuries were reported.

The first struck at 19:34 hours (1234 GMT) with a magnitude of 5.3 on the Richter Scale, and the second at 19:40 with a 5.5 magnitude.

Annuar news agency Monday quoted the coordinator of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency in Bengkulu, Adjat Sudrajat, as saying.

He said the epicentre of the first quake lies 3.2 degrees South Latitude and 100.45 degrees East Longitude, 30 kilometres deep, and 101 kilometres southwest of Muko-Muko District.

The epicentre of the second quake lies 3.14 degrees South Latitude and 100.78 degrees East Longitude, 72 kilometres southwest of Muko Muko in a depth of 10 kilometres.

Tremors continued striking the province after a 7.9 magnitude quake jolted it last month killing at least 15 people.

MNA/Xinhua

Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 23 October
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music
It’s all coming back to me now
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music
-I can’t give you anything but my love
5:00 am National news/Slogan
9:00 am Music
-Misery
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music
-Tell me
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
-Just the way you are
-Lost without you
9:00 pm English speaking course
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Weekly sports reel
9:35 pm Listening pleasure
-Tonight
-Listening 4U
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Monday, 22 October, 2007
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin State, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in lower Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfall in Mandalay Division and isolated heavyfall in lower Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukse (7.56) inches, Kambulu (3.42) inches, Tatoroo (2.32) inches, Katha (1.81) inches, PynOodWin (1.69) inches and Pathein (1.53) inches.

Maximum temperature on 21-10-2007 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 22-10-2007 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 22-10-2007 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 21-10-2007 was (6.7) hours approx.

Rainfall on 22-10-2007 was (Nil) at Mingladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mingladon, (140.75) inches at Kaba-Aye and (142.72) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from East at (10:30) hours MST on 21-10-2007.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-10-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin State and Tanintharyi Division, scattered in Rakhine State, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, isolated in Shan State, Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather is partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 23-10-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-10-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-10-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
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