It is necessary to thwart the penetration of alien cultures and make a flourishing and ever-lasting own national culture with national outlook.

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- 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

Efforts for nation to be able to stand in dignity among international community is might of national culture

Secretary-1 addresses the dinner in honour of maestros, panel of judges of Performing Arts Competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — A dinner was hosted in honour of the panel of judges of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions at the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Patron of Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo arrived at the city hall where he was welcomed by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and members of the committee.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo said that he was very glad to see all maestros who have been maintaining and promoting Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts healthy and happy.

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are the forefront of maintaining national culture. The gratitude of the maestros who have made energetic efforts for the success of the competitions year after year is enormous.

(See page 8)

Scolari’s vote for World Player goes to Lampard

LONDON, 30 Oct—Chelsea manager Luiz Felipe Scolari has hailed Frank Lampard as his choice for FIFA World Player of the Year award after the midfielder put the Blues on the path for victory at Hull City with a brilliant goal last night.

The Blues, who had lost at the weekend to Liverpool, beat the high-flying Tigers 3-0 with Nicolas Anelka and Florent Malouda adding to the scoreline after England international Lampard had opened the account with a wonderfully executed left-foot chip from the edge of the box.

“My vote for World Player of the Year is for Frank. Only he could score that goal,” Scolari said in The Sun.

It’s one of the best goals I’ve seen. There’s only one player with this quality to score that goal, he said.

Internet

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers a speech at the ceremony to present certificates of honour to panel of judges of 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

MNA
Preserve and promote traditional cultural performing arts

Myanmar society has been civilized since time immemorial. Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts portray Myanmar society’s social ethics, customs, fine traditions, attitude and attributes.

Now, the government is reviving and promoting the cultural heritage, while safeguarding the national character. At the centre of this noble aim lies the annually organizing of Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions.

The 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions for this year have been organized on a grand scale in Nay Pyi Taw. A total of 2605 contestants took part in singing, dancing, song composing and musical instrument playing competitions in conformity with the essence of Myanmar cultural arts. The contestants played their roles and presented brilliant performances in the competitions, thereby enhancing the Myanmar traditional cultural arts.

Throughout the successive periods, Myanmar maestros, artistes and artists have related views, opinions and etiquettes to the people in a gentle way. Present generation of maestros, artistes and artists are also dutiful in preserving and safeguarding the national prestige and integrity and cultural heritage steadfastly.

Today, alien culture and lifestyle are penetrating variably into way of life of the people. So, artistes have to make sustained efforts for safeguarding and uplifting the traditional cultural heritage and national character.

All artistes are, therefore, duty-bound to work hard to continuously serve the interest of the people through the might of arts, while preserving and promoting Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts.

Forestry Ministry honours sports medalists

YANGON, 30 Oct—The Ministry of Forestry honoured its outstanding athletes at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here on 28 October.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivered an introductory speech. The minister and heads of department presented gifts to the medal winners.

In 2007-2008 fiscal year, athletes of the ministry won three gold, nine silver and 15 bronze in international sports events, and 47 gold, 42 sliver and 50 silver in local sports events.—MNA

10th Anniversary ICT Exhibition to be held at Tatmadaw Convention Hall

YANGON, 30 Oct—Under the guidance of Myanmar Computer Federation, organized by Myanmar Computer Professionals Association and Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association, the 10th Anniversary ICT Exhibition will be held at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 31st October to 2 November.

Courses such as CICT/Diploma in Software Engineering and CICT Diploma in Business IT recognized by Cambridge of Malaysia from Myanmar Professionals Education, Microsoft Net, Java Programming and Web Design to be jointly opened by Beacon School of Technology of Singapore and MPEC of Myanmar are on display at the exhibition.—MNA

MNA
Suicide blast inside Afghan government building

KABUL, 30 Oct—A suicide bomber blew himself up inside the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture on Thursday, killing at least three people, officials and witnesses said. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

The bomber shot two police officers outside the ministry building in the centre of Kabul before entering the large hall inside, where he blew himself up, said Abdul Jabar, a security guard near the ministry building. It was unclear whether the officers died of their injuries.

Zabiuallah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, said three militants stormed the building by throwing hand grenades at the guards at the main gate. One carried out the suicide attack and the other two fled, he told The Associated Press.

It was impossible to immediately verify the details of Mujahid’s claim.

At least three people were killed in the attack, said Ali Shah Ahmadzai, Kabul’s deputy police chief. Another 12 people were wounded in the explosion, said Abdul Fahim, the spokesman for the health ministry.

One of the walls of the building collapsed. Glass littered the roads nearby and office equipment was scattered over the area.

Ministry workers were helped out of the building by security personnel and ambulances carried the wounded to hospitals. —INTERNET

Congo soldiers fleeing Goma along with refugees

GOMA (Congo), 30 Oct—Firing wildly, Congolese soldiers commandeered cars, taxis and motorbikes Wednesday in a retreat from advancing rebel fighters, joining tens of thousands of terrified refugees struggling to stay ahead of the violence.

As gunfire crackled in this eastern provincial capital, the Tutsi rebels said they had reached the outskirts of Goma and declared a unilateral cease-fire to prevent panic as the army retreats and residents flee.

Congo said Rwandan troops had crossed the border and attacked its soldiers—raising the specter that neighboring nations will again be drawn into Congo’s war. Rwanda’s Tutsi-led government immediately denied the charge, but Congo turned to Angola for help defending its territory.

As the chaos mounted, the US announced its officials were leaving Goma and urged all American citizens to do the same. The State Department said Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer was heading to the capital, Kinshasa, and would arrive Thursday.

“There is a lot of violence,” said spokesman Sean McCormack. “This is of deep concern to us.”

Thousands of panicked refugees clogged the dirt roads out of Goma, struggling to reach safety.

Bombs kill at least 33 in India’s Assam state

NEW DELHI, 30 Oct — A series of bomb blasts ripped through India’s restive northeastern state of Assam today, killing at least 33 people and injuring more than 100.

At least 13 bombs exploded in four towns including Guwahati, Assam’s main city, just before midday.

Most of the explosions occurred in busy marketplaces, timed to strike daytime shoppers. One bomb went off a few hundred yards from the offices of Assam’s chief minister.

The US Embassy immediately denied the report, but Congolese tanks and thousands of displaced people stream into Goma in eastern Congo, on 29 Oct, 2008. Thousands of refugees started streaming into the eastern provincial capital of Goma in the afternoon, impeded by army tanks, trucks and jeeps pulling back from the battle front. —INTERNET

Afghans carry an injured woman after a suicide attack in Kabul on 30 Oct, 2008. An explosion in a crowded area outside Afghanistan’s information ministry in the heart of the capital on Thursday caused some casualties, residents and a ministry official said. —INTERNET

Syria hardens stance after deadly US raid

DAMASCUS, 30 Oct—Syria threatened Wednesday to cut off security cooperation along the Iraqi border if there are more American raids on Syrian territory, and the US Embassy announced it would close Thursday because of a mass rally called to protest a deadly weekend commando attack.

Thousands were expected to participate in the government-sanctioned protest. Though authorities usually keep Syria under tight control and Americans have generally been welcomed, violence against US and European interests at protests has erupted in the past.

“The US Embassy will be closed on Oct 30th due to past demonstrations which resulted in violence and significant damage to US facilities and other embassies,” the embassy said on its website.

It also said an American rubber bullet hit a demonstrator in Damascus Wednesday.

A policeman inspects a damaged vehicle at the site of a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad on 30 Oct, 2008. Internet

A victim of the bomb blast is taken to hospital from the Ganeshguri blast site in the heart of Guwahati city, northeast India on 30, October, 2008. Internet

Internet
Pakistan army helicopters search for quake survivors

QUETTA, 30 Oct—Pakistan army helicopters scoured mountains on Thursday for survivors of a powerful earthquake that struck the previous day killing more than 200 people.

The 6.4 magnitude quake struck the Ziarat valley in the southwestern province of Baluchistan at dawn on Wednesday, leveling about 1,500 mud-walled houses, triggering landslides and leaving nearly 15,000 homeless.

Efforts shifted from rescue to relief as hundreds of injured people were shifted to hospitals. But a senior army official said searches were being conducted in the mountains above the valley for any stranded villagers.

"Along with the relief operation, we’re still looking for survivors and our helicopters are still flying," said Major-General Saleem Nawaz, commander of the paramilitary Frontier Corps in the province.

The quake struck just over three years after 73,000 people were killed when a 7.6 magnitude quake hit Pakistan’s northern mountains. Last year, the worst floods on record in Baluchistan killed hundreds.

The epicentre of Wednesday’s quake was in Ziarat district, a picturesque valley and one of the province’s main tourist spots.

Qantas airliner guided to safety after weather radar fails

SYDNEY, 30 Oct—A Qantas jumbo jet flying from Los Angeles to Australia was guided into New Zealand by another airliner after its weather radar failed over the Pacific Ocean, the airline said Thursday.

The faulty weather radar was discovered on the Boeing 747-400 flight QF12 carrying nearly 300 passengers a few hours after it left Los Angeles on Monday night, a spokesman said.

"An Air New Zealand flight was a short distance ahead and it provided the Qantas aircraft with information from its own radar system throughout the journey," he told AFP.

New Zealand television reported that the Air New Zealand flight was 35 kilometres (22 miles) away from the Qantas plane when the captain made radio contact asking for assistance.

New Zealand’s Boeing 747 then flew 1,000 metres (1,100 yards) off the Qantas plane’s port wing, relaying weather updates, and guided it into Auckland Airport on Wednesday morning, TVNZ said.

Passengers awoke to sunrise over Auckland and the announcement the flight had been diverted, passenger Sean Lygo told the broadcaster.

A Qantas jumbo jet flying from Los Angeles to Australia was guided into New Zealand by another airliner after its weather radar failed over the Pacific Ocean, the airline said on 30 Oct, 2008.

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Anthrax hoaxes from Calif man still in mail


SAN FRANCISCO, 30 Oct—A California man was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of sending hoax letters labelled “anthrax” to scores of media outlets, the FBI said Wednesday, warning that many of the threats may still be in the mail.

Marc M Keyser, 66, sent more than 120 envelopes containing a compact disc that had a packet of sugar labelled “Anthrax Sample” along with a biohazard symbol, the FBI said in a news release. The CD was titled “Anthrax: Shock & Awe Terr.”

Keyser was taken into custody without incident at his home in Sacramento on three counts of sending a hoax letter, the FBI said. At least some of the packages had Keyser’s return address on them, said FBI agent Steve Dupre.

Keyser is being held at the Sacramento County jail and is expected to make his first court appearance Thursday.

It wasn’t known Wednesday evening whether he had a lawyer.

Protesters push against the shields of anti-riot policemen during a rally outside the US embassy on 30 Oct, 2008.

OTTAWA, 30 Oct—A Canadian man found guilty in terror trial

OTTAWA, 30 Oct—A Canadian man who admitted Osama Bin Laden and who was the first to be charged under a tough new anti-terror law was found guilty on Wednesday in a trial linked to a plot to carry out bomb attacks in Britain.

Judge Douglas Rutherford of the Ontario Superior Court ruled that 29-year-old software engineer Momin Khawaja had been involved with a British terrorist group, which he knew was involved in terrorist activity.

Rutherford convicted him of five of seven terrorism offenses, as well as two separate criminal offenses of having worked on a device to activate a bomb detonator and possessing an explosive substance.

Khawaja was tried without a jury.

China sends officials to handle Sudan hostage crisis

BEIJING, 30 Oct—China sent a team of officials to Sudan on Thursday to seek the release of kidnapped oil workers in the disputed aftermath of the 1998 and 1999 kidnappings.

Chinese hostages were held by the disputed aftermath of the 1998 and 1999 kidnappings.

Officials from the Foreign Ministry, Commerce Ministry and China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) left Beijing to negotiate with the Sudanese side on all-out efforts.

Xinhua news agency reported the Foreign Ministry said two were still being held.

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Chinese premier says multipolar world conducive to peace, development

MOSCOW, 30 Oct—China believes that a multipolar world is in the interest of the world people and is conducive to peace and development across the globe, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Wednesday.

In an interview with Russia’s Interfax and Interfax news agencies, Wen said that people across the world need a peaceful, stable, secure and harmonious environment.

To meet the need, all countries should abide by the UN charter and various international laws and give full play to the United Nations and other international organizations in their roles of maintaining world order, Wen said. He stressed that developing countries should have more say in world affairs as they are the majority in the international community.

Russia and China share the same stance in this regard, the Chinese premier said. As a developing nation, China is still facing many structural problems during its economic development such as income inequality, regional development discrepancy, and unbalanced development between urban and rural areas, Wen said while being asked about China’s role in the world economy.

China, with a huge population of 1.3 billion, is one of the leading countries in the world in terms of total economic output. However, its per capita GDP still lags far behind, Wen said.

Cambodian Prime Minister to visit Vietnam

HANOI, 30 Oct—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen will pay a two-day official visit to Vietnam from 4 Nov, reported by the local newspaper Thanh Nien on Thursday.

The visit is at the invitation of Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, the newspaper quoted the Vietnam’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs as saying.

The Prime Minister will hold talks with Vietnamese officials to discuss measures for promoting bilateral cooperation in all fields in the future, especially in the sectors of economy, trade and investment.

The two sides will also hold discussions on how to speed up the implementation land demarcation and strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the regional and multi-lateral forums.—Xinhua

China launches telecom satellite for Venezuela

XINHUA

A Long March 3H1 rocket, carrying a Venezuelan telecommunication satellite blasts off from the launch pad at the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 30 Oct, 2008.—Xinhua

China to support Sochi in hosting Winter Olympics

SOCIETY, 30 Oct—The Chinese government will firmly support Russia’s Sochi in its preparation work for the Winter Olympic Games in 2014 and encourage Chinese enterprises to take part in the infrastructural construction, said a senior official here on Wednesday.

Chinese State Councillor Liu Yandong expressed congratulations for the Black Sea resort’s successful bidding for the Olympics and appreciated Russia’s support to China during the Beijing Olympics in August.

She also hailed the booming China-Russia relations, saying the cooperation between the two countries’ regions has great potential.

Sochi is the second leg of Liu’s visit to Russia after her stay in Moscow.—Xinhua

Open source technology casts new perspective on China’s development

BEIJING, 30 Oct — A senior official of a world leading IT company said recently that open source technology stands as a significant opportunity for China’s development.

Crawford Beveridge, vice president of Sun Microsystems Inc (NASDAQ: JAVA), said that open source software, the source of which can be used, modified and published by public, and other open IT standards are cheaper, more stable and flexible and are new ways to ensure local and sustained growth.

Its characteristic of openness can prompt the creation of indigenous innovative companies, regardless of macroeconomic or other international challenge, Beveridge said.—Xinhua

HK stocks soar over 5% during early morning session

HONG KONG, 30 Oct—Hong Kong stocks rose 716.03 points, or 5.64 percent to 13,418.10 in the first 20 minutes of Thursday’s morning session, tracking gains in regional markets’ early trade after a half-point interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve overnight.

Hong Kong’s benchmark Hang Seng Index opened at 13,280.44 on Thursday, up 578.37 points, or 4.55 percent.

South Korean benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) stocks opened more than 7 percent higher Thursday while Tokyo stocks opened higher with the key Nikkei index up 2.42 percent. Wall Street trades mixed Wednesday after the Fed cut a key interest rate by half a percentage point to 1.0 percent to prevent the economy from slipping into deep recession.—Xinhua

Survivors receive medical treatment in the worst-hit area in southwestern Pakistan’s Balochistan province, on 29 Oct, 2008.—Xinhua

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YANGON, 30 Oct—The management committees of the Industrial Zones in Yangon Division held a meeting at Yangon Command on Kommyintha here this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence in his speech said that he often met with entrepreneurs in the industrial zones in Yangon Division and was attending to their needs and so were ministers in charge of the industrial zones concerned, adding that therefore he believed the functions were going smooth.

He said that the purpose of the meeting was to seek ways to work out the problems of the industrialists. He called for cooperation of industrialists and departments for the industrial development.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin reported on ongoing measures for industrial development in Yangon Division and programmes for providing assistance.

Chairmen and officials from the industrial zones and entrepreneurs reported on work progress and requirements. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the mayor dealt with the reports and fulfilled their needs.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave concluding remarks.

MNA

Winners awarded in 16th Myanmar Traditional...

(from page 16)

prizes to the winners in the dancing contest and Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, prizes to the winners in the Kwetsik Contest and the marionette contest.

Chief Justice U Aung Toe presented first, second and third prizes to U Kyaw Lin of Sagaing Division, U Than Shem of Ayeyawady Division and U Myint Soe of Kayin State in the amateur level (first class) song composing contest, first, second and third prizes to U Khin Maung Zaw of Bago Division, U Myint Swe of Mandalay Division and U Than Win of Yangon Division in the aateur level (second class) song composing contest and first, second and third prizes to Maung Htay Lyan Kyaw of Sagaing Division, Ma Chaw Su of Kayah State and Ma Nang Thein Kyi Win of Mon State in the higher education level song composing contest respectively.

Next, gold medalist U Kyaw Lin of Sagaing Division presented his created song.

Attorney-General U Aye Maung presented prizes to the winners. U Chan Tha of Mon State who stood first in the amateur level (first class) men’s harp contest; Maung Wai Phyo Naing of Rakhine State, who stood first in the amateur level (first class) harp contest, and Maung Ye Htet Aung of Mandalay Division, second and Maung Kyi Win of Ayeyawady Division, third respectively; Daw Tin Nilar Win of Ayeyawady Division who stood first in the amateur level (first class) women’s harp contest; Daw Lwin Mar Thein of Taninthayi Division, second and Daw Nanda Aye of Mandalay Division, third respectively; the second prize to Daw Nanda Aye of Mandalay Division in the amateur level (second class) women’s harp contest; Ma Khin Moe Hein of Kayin State, who stood first in the amateur level (second class) women’s harp contest, Ma Khin Aye Mon of Yangon Division, second and Daw Win Thein Kyaw, third respectively; Ma Yadana Htay of Mandalay Division who stood first in the higher education level (women’s) harp contest, Ma Ei Ei Mon of Mandalay Division, second and Ma Yupa Htay of Yangon Division, third respectively; Ma Nang Thi Htun Khin of Mandalay Division who stood first in the basic education level (aged 15-20) girls’ contest and Ma Aye Su Kyaw of Mandalay Division, second, second prize to Maung Thein Theint Nway of Yangon Division who stood first in the (aged 10-15) girls’ harp contest, Ma Khin Zar Mon of Ayeyawady Division, second and Ma Chu Thinza Theint of Taninthayi Division, third respectively; and Ma Mya Kay Thwe Gyawt of Sagaing Division, first, Ma May Aye Aye Chan (a) Kyar Lay Sei of Yangon Division, second and Ma Su Yadana of Mandalay Division, third in (aged 5-10) girls’ harp contest respectively.

Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung presented prizes to the winners in the xylophone contests: U Kaung Thant of Mandalay Division who stood first in the amateur level (first class) men’s contest; U Khin Yi (a) Sein Kyaw Thu of Bago Division, second and Pantaya Sein Hla Myaing of Yangon Division, third; U Khang Myo Kyaw of Mandalay Division, first in the amateur level (second class) men’s contest, U Win Tun Oo of Mandalay Division, second and U Min Ko of Yangon Division, third; Maung Myo Thu of Mandalay Division, first in the higher education level men’s contest, Maung Lwin Ko Ko Oo of Ayeyawady Division, second and Maung Myo Zaw Hein (a) Myo Zaw Aung of Yangon (See page 7)

Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung presents prize to Ma Wah Wah Win Shwe, first prize winner in xylophone contest.—MNA

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Thein presents prize to Mg Zaw Min Maung, first prize winner in piano contest.—MNA
Winners awarded in 16th Myanmar Traditional...
Efforts for nation to be able to stand...

(from page 1)

This is why every time one event of cultural performing arts competitions concludes, a grand dinner is hosted to honour and recognize the efforts of maestros. For the development of a nation, efforts need to be made to ensure that the country harmoniously develops not only economically and physically but also culturally and socio-economically.

The Secretary-1 said although science and technology can actually bring about national development, striving for the nation to be able to stand in dignity among the international community is the might of national culture.

So it is necessary to thwart the penetration of alien cultures and make a flourishing and ever-lasting own national culture with national outlook at a time when the nation is trying to develop by strengthening its relations with the international community. As most of the people including artists have conscientiously safeguarded their own national culture, Myanmar’s traditional arts and culture have firmly existed till today.

Therefore, the maestros are to get today’s youth to know the essence of preserving their own national culture and inculcate them with the spirit of cherishing their national culture through the might of performing arts.

As Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions are held with the participation of national contestants from across the country, it can be said that these competitions are the primary source of arts. By making good use of artistic resources spreading throughout the country, all are to strive for hand down performing arts from generation to generation, for the flourishing of Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts in the whole Union, for the entire national people to adore and respect their national culture and for the people to further promote the Union Spirit.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged all the maestros to continue to try to promote the might of cultural performing arts that have been flourishing thanks to the traditional cultural performing arts competitions and national cultural heritage with fine traditions and customs.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented certificates of honour to members of the panel of judges through Daw Tin Tin Mya, Chairman of the panel of judges for singing contest, U Sein Mar Din, Chairman of the panel of judges for dancing contest, U Maung Maung Latt, Chairman of the panel of judges for song composing contest, U Ye New, Chairman of the panel of judges for music contest.

U Hla Win of Myanmar Radio and Television and U Saw Htar Lon of Kayin State.

On behalf of members of the panels of judges, Daw Nwe Nwe San spoke words of thanks.

With the harp accompaniment by U Thet Wai, Dancer San San Nu (a) San Nilar Win and Singer Daw Myint Myint Kyi entertained those present at the dinner.

Afterwards, gold medalists Maung Myo Thha Kyaw (a) Paung Paing and Ma Thu Zar Hlaing also entertained those present at the dinner with dances and dancers of Ministry of Culture also entertained with dances with the accompaniment of the orchestra by Aung One Two.

After the dinner, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo cordially greeted the maestros and judges.

Energy Minister visits fuel stations in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Tun accompanied by officials visited Fuel Station Nos (0612), (0601) and (0611) of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise in Mandalay on 27 October.

The minister gave necessary instructions and looked into the sale of fuel at the stations.

Next, the minister and party went to Oil Distribution and Storage Depot in Mandalay. The minister inspected distribution and storage of fuel and gave instructions on preventive measures against fire. The minister also oversaw condition of bowsers. — MNA

Meeting No. 1/2008 of CCDAC, task forces held

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — Meeting No. 1/2008 of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and secretaries of task forces held at the headquarters of Myanmar Police Force here today.

Secretary of CCDAC Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi addressed the meeting.

Joint-Secretary of CCDAC Police Col Khum Aung reported on the accomplishment of the resolutions at the Meeting No. 1/2007 of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and secretaries of working groups and meeting No. 1/2007 of CCDAC.

Secretaries of the alternative development programme, livestock breeding task force, the tasks force for educating students, the task force raising awareness of danger of narcotic drugs, the task force for rehabilitation, the committee for supervising chemicals and the committee for international relations reported on the measures taken by respective committees.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Secretary of CCDAC Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi.— MNA
Organizing of 16th Performing Arts Competitions reviewed

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — The Leading Committee for Organizing the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held a meeting to review the competitions that had successfully concluded recently was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Culture here this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Leading Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin.

Present also were Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Chairman of the Work Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, members of the leading and work committees the deputy minister, departmental heads, officials of the sub-committees, representatives of States and Divisions, Chairman of the patron of judges, maestros and guests.

In his address, Maj-Gen Wai Lwin said that the competitions had successfully concluded due to collaborative efforts of maestros, the ministries concerned, officials and contestants from states and divisions, the rectors and faculty members of the universities on Yezin University Campus. He stressed the need to review strong and weak points of this year’s competitions in order to make preparations for holding the 17th Performing Arts Competitions next year.

Next, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint presented a review on medal standing in the 16th Performing Arts Competitions compared with the previous year and explained the arrangements of the Ministry of Culture to provide necessary assistance for the contestants.

Afterwards, those present reported on their respective works and held discussions on general matters.

The commander gave necessary instructions and made concluding remarks.

MNA

HPID, Colenco Power Engineering Ltd signs agreement of consulting services

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — Department of Hydropower Implementation and Colenco Power Engineering Limited of Switzerland hold the signing ceremony for agreement of consulting services. — MNA

Special fee tickets worth over K 7 million to be distributed to visiting students

YANGON, 30 Oct — As a gesture of hailing the 10th Anniversary ICT Exhibition to be held at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 31 October to 2nd November, M3WI (Myanmar WWW Institute) will distribute special fee tickets worth over K 7 million to visiting students and the people.

M3WI was founded in 2003 and it is the first ever-IT training school in Myanmar. It is nurturing IT technicians and students. Any one who will buy computer accessories at K 20,000 and above will have to attain special fee tickets at sales centres.

During the exhibition days, four IT companies will sell latest PC, Laptop, 3G Phone, iPod, MP 4 Player, Printer, Scanner and Computer Software at special price. In addition, special fee tickets will be distributed as gifts.

The courses available at M3WI are Web Essentials, Net Application Developer, Professional Sever Administrator, System Essentials, Java, Professional Multi-Designer and 3D Animation & Modelling.

Special fee ticket winners may contact and enroll at Myanmar Info Tech on Hline Universities’ Campus (Tel-652258, 652288 and 652320) not later than 30 November. — MNA

Earthquake report

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct — A strong earthquake of intensity (6.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (2030) miles Northwest of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory outside of Myanmar (Pakistan) was recorded at (18) hrs, (09) min, (20) sec MST on 29th October 2008, Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued today. — MNA

Refer to the full article in THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR.
Aquatic world among mountains charms visitors

By A. M. Soe

The village of He-ya-Ywama was established about 500 years ago,” Saya Aye, a native of Inle Lake said. The number of villages in the lake has reached over 60 today.

Intha villages live in stilt houses in 64 villages on Inle Lake. This aquatic world is home to over 120,000 Intha people, who constructed houses on stilts over the surface of the lake and farm floating islands created from mud and reed. The only mode of transportation is by boat.

This aquatic world with floating islands, stilt houses, fishermen, markets, boat traffic, and wildlife is truly an amazing place.

While the Intha men are known for their farming and fishing skills, women are known for their superb silk weaving skills. The Intha people who live in the lake grow fruit and vegetables on floating gardens attached to the lake bottom with bamboo poles. The lake produces rice, tomatoes, sugarcane, maize and sunflower.

They make floating islands by mixing reeds, water hyacinth and mud, dredged from the lakebed, and held together with long bamboo poles driven into the bottom of the lake.

There are over 10,000 acres of tomato gardens and they grow tomatoes in monsoon and cold season.

“In an attempt to conserve the natural environmental and value of Inle Lake, farmers are being educated to use fertilizer and insecticides systematically,” said Mya Than Tint of Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA).

Farmers also use reeds dredged from the lakebed to make natural fertilizer for tomato plants.

During the visit to Za-yatgyi Village, north of Phaung-daw U Pagoda, we found the fishing technique of the fishermen. They use a large bamboo cone-shaped framed net to catch the fish. While paddling on the crystal clear water surface, they have to search water bubbles rising through the reeds on the lake bottom. After placing a large bamboo framed nets on air bubbles, they put a bamboo with iron through the top of the net to frighten the fish.

“When the framed nets are vibrated or shaken, we know that the fish is hooked with the net”, Hla Myint, a fisherman, a father of four said. “We usually catch Nga-hpein, a type of carp and Telavia and sell them for about K 5000 per viss, he added.

While the fishermen of this region are famous for their leg rowing technique, standing on the stern on one leg and wrapping the other leg around the oar, the silk and lotus weaving skills of women are also famous.

Visitors may observe silk and lotus weaving in the village of Inn-paw-khon, silver and goldsmith and sculpture in He-ya Ywama, blacksmith in Hserekhaung, etc.

Several villages are situated on water. He-ya Ywama is the largest village on the Inle Lake and there are some beautiful teak houses built on large wooden piles driven into the lake bed.

Namppan market, the largest one in Inle, is located on eastern bank of the lake and it opens every five days. Visitors can find a real local atmosphere with a variety of produce from the lake.

In the neighborhood lie villages of Pa-O and other hill tribes come to Namppan market held every five days and floating markets to sell their produce including oranges, garlic, potatoes, dried tea leaves, maize etc. Their colourful costumes also add to the attraction of Inle Lake.

According to U Ngwe, Manager of Golden Island Hotel, the arrival of tourists to the lake reaches its peak in November, and December is the coldest month in Inle, and after the Christmas and the New Year Celebrations, the arrival of tourists ups again.

In an attempt to conserve the unique eco-system of the lake, one of the tourist attractions of Myanmar, the 30 mile radius of Inle Lake greening project is being implemented by the Ministry of Forestry. According to the main functions of the project, efforts are being made to prevent the sedimentation from surrounding streams flowing into the lake, to remove water hyacinths, debris and water weeds from the lake, to limit extension of housing and floating islands and to promote rehabilitation and reforestation in watershed areas.

“We hope that the natural environment of Inle Lake can be conserved with the cooperation of local people, NGOs and ministries concerned,” said Mya Than Tint of BANCA.

A farmer rows a boat past floating islands in Inle Lake on 12 October, 2008. —PHOTO BY A.M. SOE.

A Pa-O woman prepares vegetables as she waits for customers in Namppan Village on 13 October, 2008. —PHOTO BY A.M. SOE.
Boeing sees China new largest plane market outside US by 2028

LOUIS ANGELES, 30 Oct—US aircraft maker Boeing said Wednesday China will become the second largest market for new commercial airplanes after the United States in the next 20 years, as the country’s aviation sector continues to grow rapidly.

Boeing anticipated that China will buy 3,710 airplanes before 2028 with a potential market value of 390 billion US dollars, making the world’s new largest airplane market outside the United States. “China will continue to be the fastest-growing aviation centre in the world, requiring 41 percent of the entire Asia-Pacific region’s airplane demand,” said Randy Tinseth, Boeing’s commercial airplanes vice president of marketing, in a statement. “This makes China the largest market outside of the United States for new commercial airplanes.”

China’s passenger and cargo growth is likely to triple its total fleet number from 4,650 airplanes, about as many planes as there are in Europe today, according to the company. Boeing said it expects single-aisle aircraft will account for 70 percent of new Chinese purchases and the company’s next-generation 737 jetliners will make up the largest category with 2,600 scheduled deliveries.

Meanwhile, China’s demand for wide-body planes, such as Boeing 777 and the long-awaited 787 Dreamliner, will count for about 780 plane deliveries.

A strike by about 27,000 machinists working on Boeing’s assembly lines has forced the company to delay delivery of new airplanes to customers in last two months. — Internet

Twenty-nine miners trapped in northwest China coal mine gas explosion

XI’AN, 30 Oct—Twenty-nine miners are believed to be trapped after a gas explosion at a coal mine in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province late on Wednesday.

The blast occurred at around 8 pm in the shaft at the Yaotou mine in Chengcheng county, in central Shaanxi, and emergency workers launched a rescue operation shortly after, said a provincial government spokesman. The blast was reported to officials shortly after it occurred and the provincial government reported it to the State Administration of Work Safety the same evening, said the spokesman. No further details were yet available, he said. — Internet

Indonesia firm operates 1st power plant fueled by palm oil

JAKARTA, 30 Oct—Indonesian state-owned electricity company Perseroan Listrik Ne-gara (PLN) has started cooperate a power plant fueled by crude palm oil (CPO), the first one in the Asia-Pacific region, a newspaper said here Thursday.

The move follows a government regulation mandating the use of biofuel in all sectors.

The firm director Murtaqi Syamsuddin quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying that the power plant had a capacity of 10 megawatts and was located in Dumai, Riau Province.

“This is a pilot project. The power plant has been operated, but is still at the commissioning stage,” Murtaqi said.

The directors said that the power plant was initially fueled with diesel but was later converted to a crude palm oil (CPO)-fueled power plant by installing converter equipment at the plant.

The converter equipment is provided by Neue Maschinenbau Halberstadt GmbH (NMBH), a global biofuel engines producer based in Germany.—Internet

Superjet-100 targets markets at home and abroad

Preliminary tests have been passed by a new generation of Russian passenger plane, the Sukhoi Superjet-100. The aviation project, costing around $US 1.4 billion, is to help overhaul Russia’s ageing passenger aircraft fleet.

On Friday, the Superjet-100 was put on show after passing its tests with flying colours at Khabarovsk airport. Now the airliner is ready for certification trials, which are expected to be completed by the second half of 2009. Another 500 flight hours are needed before the plane is allowed to carry passengers.

The Sukhoi Superjet is a short-distance airplane. So far, since its maiden flight in May, aviation specialists and potential clients have been its main passengers. The $US 1.5 billion dollar Superjet project is the first civil aviation venture of a company well-known for its military airplanes. The armies of 30 countries around the globe are equipped with Sukhoi SU fighter jets.

You can’t put a price on a dream

Space tourist Richard Garriott, whose father, Owen, was an American astronaut, says he is thankful to NASA medics, who strengthened his wish to go into space regardless of their barrier.

“When I was a teenager, the medical group at NASA told me that my poor eyesight would prevent me from becoming a government astronaut,” said Richard Garriott. “At that time it was like being told that I was not eligible to be a member of the club that everyone I knew was a member of. I reacted to it by deciding, at a young age, that I was going to change the rules and help advance and bring into existence civilian spacecraft.”

Garriott even had an operation to improve his eyesight. However, NASA rules still prevent such people from going into space.

He returned to Earth on 24 October, together with the 17th mission to the International Space Station, where he had spent ten days.

Wallet missing for six decades returned to family

More than 60 years after Mary Ruth Justice’s wallet disappeared, her family returned to Georgia College & State University to claim it.

Her niece, Majorie Williams, and nephew, Sterling Justice, went to campus Thursday to get the alligator-skin wallet of their aunt, who died two decades ago.

Construction crews renovating the university’s theater found the wallet a few weeks ago on the ledge of a wall in the basement. It contained five black-and-white photographs, a Social Security card and a Georgia state employment card bearing the woman’s name.

Campus officials tracked down her family and told them about the wallet, which disappeared in the 1940s.

Justice was born in 1920 in Sparta, but eventually moved to Buffalo, NY, where she died in 1978. She is buried in Milledgeville.

Paraguayan barbeque beef during an attempt to create the world’s biggest barbecue in Mariano Roque Alonso near Asuncion. In the attempt to get the Guinness World Record for the “Biggest barbeque in the World”, more than 30,000 people grilled 28,000 kilogrammes of beef on fires covering an area 60 m wide by 100 m long.

A zoo owner holds a 10-year-old albino python in suburban Manila. Demand among US and European consumers for exotic Asian luxuries such as snakes and coral has nosedived since the onset of the global financial crisis, raising fears of a surge in smuggling. — Internet

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French try plane technology in artificial heart

London, 30 Oct—In the race to build a better artificial heart, French scientists have turned to technology from satellites and airplanes to create a heart that they say responds better to the human body. So far, the new device, shown at a news conference in Paris on Monday, has only been tested in animals. Its makers hope it might one day help people survive without needing a human heart transplant.

American companies have already produced artificial hearts, and scientists in Japan and South Korea are also working on versions. But the French artificial heart is the first to be able to determine its patients’ needs and respond accordingly. And its maker is a subsidiary of the parent company of Airbus, the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Co. or EADS.

“It’s the same principle in the airplane as in the body,” said Patrick Coulombier, chief operating officer of Carmat, the manufacturer.

Coulombier said the same tiny sensors that measure air pressure and altitude in an airplane or satellite are also in the artificial heart, detecting things like the heart’s pumping speed and the pressure on its walls.

In this on 31 Jan, 2007, file photo, University of Michigan freshman Alicja Sobilo wears a surgical mask at work as part of a study as to whether the use of masks affects the spread of flu or other respiratory illnesses in Ann Arbor, Mich. —Internet

Hollow Pipe

Pub row erupts after feces found in ice cream

Sydney, 30 Oct—A bitter row has broken out between one of Sydney’s largest tourist pubs and a family of five who accused chefs of serving human excrement in their gelato after they complained about noise during a football match.

State government food minister Ian Macdonald confirmed on Wednesday that frozen fecal matter had been found in a serving of chocolate gelato offered to place pub patron Steve Whyte and his wife Jessica, who became “violently ill” after eating it. —Internet

In this on 31 Jan, 2007, file photo, University of Michigan freshman Alicja Sobilo wears a surgical mask at work as part of a study as to whether the use of masks affects the spread of flu or other respiratory illnesses in Ann Arbor, Mich. —Internet

Doorknobs and TV remotes are germ hotbeds

Washington, 30 Oct—Someone in your house have the sniffles? Watch out for the refrigerator door handle. The TV remote, too. A new study finds that cold sufferers often leave their germs there, where they can live for two days or longer.

Scientists at the University of Virginia, long known for its virology research, tested surfaces in the homes of people with colds and reported the results Tuesday at the nation’s premier conference on infectious diseases. Doctors don’t know how often people catch colds from touching germ surfaces as opposed to, say, shaking a sick person’s hand, said Dr Birgit Winther, an ear, nose and throat specialist who helped conduct the study. Two years ago, she and other doctors showed that germs survived in hotel rooms a day after guests left, waiting to be picked up by the next person checking in. —Internet

In this on 31 Jan, 2007, file photo, University of Michigan freshman Alicja Sobilo wears a surgical mask at work as part of a study as to whether the use of masks affects the spread of flu or other respiratory illnesses in Ann Arbor, Mich. —Internet

Claims Day Notice

MV Gati Majestic VOY NO (90309)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI MAJESTIC VOY NO (90309) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.10.08 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department

Myanmar Port Authority

Agent for: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

Myanmar Port Authority

Agent for: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

The Claims Day.

Internet

Extension of Tender Closing Date & Time

Tender Closing Date & Time: 4.11.2008(Tuesday)(12:00Noon) of Tender No.2/MR/INDIA(ML)2008-2009 for the Supply of Spare Parts for YDM-4 India Locomotives which was advertised in the New Light of Myanmar (on 2.10.2008 and 3.10.2008), the Mirror (on 4.10.2008 and 5.10.2008), Myanmar Ah Ian (on 5.10.2008 and 6.10.2008), is extended to 4.12.2008(Thursday)(12:00Noon). For further enquiries, please call 95-1-291994, 95-1-291985.
**NASAs probe shows Mercury more dynamic than thought**

WASHINGTON, 30 Oct —Earth’s first nearly full look at Mercury reveals that the tiny lifeless planet took a far greater role in shaping itself than was thought, with volcanoes spewing “mysterious dark blue material.”

New images from NASA’s Messenger space probe help settle a decades-old debate about what caused parts of Mercury to be somewhat smoother than it should be. NASA released photos Wednesday, from Messenger’s fly-by earlier this month, that gave the answer: Lots of volcanic activity, far more than signs from an earlier probe.

Astronomers used to dismiss Mercury, the planet closest to the sun, as mere “dead rock,” little more than a target for cosmic collisions that shaped it, said MIT planetary scientist Maria Zuber.

“This is at least 75 years old — the animal hospital where his condition was reported,” said Zuber, who has experiments on the Messenger probe, earning power is far lucrative than thought

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“This is at least 75 years old — the animal hospital where his condition was reported,” said Zuber, who has experiments on the Messenger probe.

**New Zealand surgeons cut giant tumor from baby**

WELLINGTON, 30 Oct — Doctors removed a tumor from an East Timorese baby that was almost one-third the child’s body weight during a life-saving operation in New Zealand, officials said Thursday.

Surgeons cut out the 7.3-pound benign tumor on Sunday from the abdomen of 14-month-old Alex Gonazaga at Wellington Hospital, hospital spokeswoman Trish Lee said.

The boy weighed about 24 pounds before the surgery and is expected to make a full recovery with no long term consequences, Lee said.

Bill Day, president of the Port Nicholson Rotary Club that sponsored the project, said Alex was already eating, moving about and well on the way to recovery.

“He’s looking good, he’s standing up holding on to mum, smiling and playing with toys, throwing things on the floor, you wouldn’t think there was anything wrong with him,” he told The Associated Press.

Doctors expect the boy will be ready to go home in about 10 days.

**Elvis ranked top-earning dead celebrity**

NEW YORK, 30 Oct — Elvis Presley may have left the building several decades ago, but his earning power is far from diminished with Forbes ranking him at No 2 with $52 million in the past year.

Presley pulled in $52 million in the past year, helped by increased play of his music on Sirius Satellite Radio and is best known for his “Peanuts” comic strip, while Australian actor Heath Ledger nabbed third spot. Ledger, 28, died from an accidental prescription drug overdose in January and his last film role was as the Joker in “The Dark Knight.”

“While things might be topsy-turvy in the financial markets above ground, it’s still a bull market in the boneyard,” Forbes.com said.

Presley earned more between October 2007 and October 2008 than some of the music industry’s biggest living pop stars like Justin Timberlake ($44 million) and Madonna ($40 million), Forbes.com said.

Coming in at No2 with $33 million in earnings was cartoonist Charles Schulz, who died in 2000 and is best known for his “Peanuts” comic strip, while Australian actor Heath Ledger nabbed third spot. Ledger, 28, died from an accidental prescription drug overdose in January and his last film role was as the Joker in “The Dark Knight.”

“With the ‘The Dark Knight’ grossing $991 million in box office revenue worldwide, we estimate his earnings at $20 million,” the website said. — Internet

**Australians charged over attack on 75-year-old blind flamingo**

SYDNEY, 30 Oct — Four Australian teenagers were charged Thursday with attacking an almost blind greater flamingo that is believed to be the oldest bird in the wild.

The flamingo’s head and beak were injured and it was bleeding from an eye after the attack at Adelaide Zoo, which was attacked of this kind in the world, police and zoo officials said.

The zoo’s website describes the bird as “undoubtedly the oldest flamingo in the world,” adding that despite its great age its quality of life was very good.

Police said four men aged between 17 and 19 were charged with aggravated ill-treatment of an animal and released on bail to appear in court at a later date.

Several people at the zoo at the time of the attack had spoken about the incident with staff and officers wanted to interview them, a spokesman said.

The elderly bird, described as unafraid of humans, had a habit of coming close to the edge of his enclosure.

Known only as Flamingo One, he was sedated after the attack and was taken to the animal hospital where his condition was reported to be improving.

A girl looks at marionettes in downtown Prague, Czech Republic, Sunday, 26 Oct, 2008. — Internet

**Fatalities on the rise in vehicle-animal crashes**

WASHINGTON, 30 Oct — Fatalities from vehicle crashes with deer and other animals have more than doubled over the last 15 years, according to a new study by an auto insurance-funded high-way safety group that cites urban sprawl overlapping into deer habitat.

The report by the Highway Loss Data Institute found that 223 people died in animal-vehicle crashes last year, up from 150 in 2000 and 101 in 1993. Since 1993, Texas had the most deaths from such crashes, with 227, followed by Wisconsin with 123 and Pennsylvania with 112.

The Highway Loss Data Institute and its sister organization, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, looked at both insurance claims and federal crash data. According to the report, most accidents involving animals are with deer.

“We think it’s an awful lot of volcanic material.”

New images of filled-in craters one of the size of the Baltimore-Washington area and filled in with more than a mile deep of cooled lava show that 3.8 to 4 billion years ago, Mercury was more of a volcanic hotspot than the moon ever was, Zuber said.

A live band backs up a virtual Elvis during a memorial concert of Elvis footage in Memphis, Tennessee, on 16 August, 2007. — Internet

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Redknapp hails Spurs’ spirit after stunning fightback

Arsenal’s Emmanuel Adebayor (bottom) celebrates scoring a goal against Tottenham Hotspur during their Barclays Premier League football match at The Emirates Stadium in London. Internet

LONDON, 30 Oct — Harry Redknapp feels belief has flooded back into Tottenham Hotspur after his new charges earned an unlikely point in a thrilling 4-4 north London derby draw away to Arsenal.

The Spurs manager has only been in his new post five days, yet he has already breathed life back into this previously ailing club, following last Sunday’s first league win of the season with this extraordinary draw at home of their fiercest rivals.

Tottenham looked certain to lose as they trailed 4-2 with one minute of normal time remaining but then came a revival that almost defied belief.

First Jermaine Jenas scored a beautifully-crafted goal before Aaron Lennon reacted fastest to Luka Modric’s shot hitting the post for the equaliser.

AFC president urges new era of professionalism

AFC president Mohamed bin Hammam (seen in this file photo) has implored teams in Asia to embrace a new era of professionalism and become commercially viable to ensure the future of football in the region. — Internet

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Oct — AFC president Mohamed bin Hammam has implored teams in Asia to embrace a new era of professionalism and become commercially viable to ensure the future of football in the region.

The Asian Football Confederation chief made the remarks at the end of the first-ever Asian general managers seminar here designed to enlighten participants on the best practices of club management.

Topics covered included player development, generating revenue, attracting fans and sponsorship and media activities.

“After two days of intensive learning, I believe the participants now understand exactly what professionalism means and how, together, we need to take our continent to the future.” Bin Hammam told 150 club managers. — Internet

Fergie sets Ronaldo a goal challenge

Manchester United’s Portuguese midfielder Cristiano Ronaldo (left) vies with West Ham United’s Portuguese forward Luis Boa Morte during the English Premier league football match at Old Trafford, Manchester. — Internet

MANCHESTER, 30 Oct — Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has challenged Cristiano Ronaldo to repeat last season’s remarkable feat of scoring more than 40 goals.

Ronaldo took his tally for the current campaign to five following his first half brace at Old Trafford to inspire United to a comfortable 2-0 win over West Ham on Wednesday.

The Portugal winger struck on 14 and 29 minutes, and now Ferguson is backing Ronaldo to continue finding the back of the net as United go in search of another trophy-filled season.

He scored 42 times last season to finish the campaign as the leading scorer in the Premier League and Ferguson sees no reason why he can’t do the same again. — Internet

Former tennis 1 Federer sees the positives

PARIS, 30 Oct — Most players would love to have a ‘year to forget’ such as the one Roger Federer has experienced in 2008.

Knocked off your perch as world number one after almost five years at the summit, usurped by a young Spaniard nicknamed the ‘King of Clay’ but seemingly not destined to be master of your all-weather, all surface tennis universe up until a final to surpass all finals at Wimbledon.

Add Rafael Nadal’s Olympic success and suddenly the ‘Fed Express’ looked like he was running out of track.

Losing Wimbledon was “rough,” Federer recalled with neat understatement on Wednesday after reaching the third round of the Paris Masters – an event where he has some unfinished business having never won here.

The 27-year-old might have expected to lose the final on the other side of Paris, the French Open at

Top seed Petrova reaches Quebec WTA quarter-finals

QUEBEC CITY, 30 Oct — Top-seeded Russian Nadia Petrova advanced to the quarter-finals of the 175,000-dollar Bell Challenge WTA tennis tournament Wednesday with a straight-sets win over Varvara Lepchenko.

Petrova, a former world No 3 who is currently ranked 11th in the world, beat the American qualifier 6-2, 6-4 to stay on course for a ninth career title. Petrova, 26, had a slow start to the season, but has picked up steam since August, when she captured her lone title of the year in Cincinnati.

Petrova also has played in two semi-finals and reached the Stuttgart final in the past two months.

She next faces Hungarian Melinda Czink, who defeated 2007 semi-finalist Julie Ditty of the United States 6-1, 6-1. — Internet

Kim to play European tour in 2009

SOTOGRANDE, 30 Oct — Anthony Kim has joined the European tour, the latest of a half-dozen US tour players who have decided to take up joint membership in Europe for the 2009 season.

Kim, a 23-year-old American whose two PGA Tour victories propelled him to No 8 in the world ranking, paid the $3.280 membership fee that makes him eligible for the season-ending $10 million “Race to Dubai” for the top 60 players and the additional $10 million bonus pool.

He is scheduled to play the HSBC Champions in Shanghai on 6-9 Nov.

Camilo Villegas of Colombia, who won the final two playoff events in the FedEx Cup on the PGA Tour, also paid his dues to become a European tour member. Also expected to join is Phil Mickelson, while former US Open champion Geoff Ogilvy previously said he would join. — Internet
UN votes against US embargo on Cuba for 17th year

United Nations, 30 Oct—UN member states voted in record numbers on Wednesday to urge the United States to lift its 46-year-old economic embargo against Cuba, in a non-binding measure adopted for the 17th straight year. The General Assembly passed a resolution entitled “necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” with 185 votes in favour, three against and two abstentions.

The resolution will have no impact on the outgoing administration of US President George W. Bush, who in an October 10 speech called Cuba a “dungeon” and vowed not to lift the embargo until Havana released political prisoners.

“We will change our policy when the people running Cuba free people of conscience from the prisons. But until then, we won’t change,” he said in Florida, home to many Cuban exiles who oppose the island’s Communist government.

Neither of the candidates standing in next Tuesday’s US presidential election is expected to abolish the embargo. However, while Republican John McCain supports keeping it, Democrat Barack Obama has backed loosening some parts of it. Voting with the United States against the UN resolution were Israel and the Pacific island state of Palau. Micronesia and the Marshall Islands abstained. The General Assembly has told the United States to lift the embargo every year since 1992. Last year’s resolution was approved by 184-4, with one abstention.

MNA/Reuters

Khamenei says Iranians’ hatred of US deep-rooted

Teheran, 30 Oct—Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Wednesday that Iranians’ hatred towards the United States is deep, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

“Due to the numerous plots by the US against Iran during the last 50 years, Iranians’ hatred towards the United States is deep,” Khamenei addressed the students who had gathered on the eve of November 4, the seizure day of the US Embassy in Teheran.

Being called the “nest of spying”, the US Embassy was stormed by Iranian students on November 4, 1979 and its personnel were held hostage for 444 days.

“The discord between Iran and the United States is more than just the difference on political outlooks,” he said, adding that “waking up to the Islamic Revolution, the United States found Iran no more as its major site in the Middle East.”

In the same rhetoric as Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Khamenei reiterated that “the United States will never be able to stop Iranians from soaring up on their way to independence and dignity.”

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Thursday, 30 October, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Rakhine State and Upper Sagraing Division, scattered in Kachin State and Lower Sagraing Division, fairly widespread in Shan State, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in Mon State, isolated thundershowers in Shan State, Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (Lewe) (1.02) inches, Nay Pyi Taw (Thapasyagone) and Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) (0.51) inch each, Nay Pyi Taw (Yezin) (0.43) inch, Kayan (4.02) inches, Thizenratay (3.54) inches, Kyekikkami (3.53) inches, Paung (2.36) inches, Taungtwingyi (2.05) inches, Pinaung (2.01) inches, Mekitla (1.65) inches, Mawlamyine (1.61) inches, Pyinuma (1.18) inches.

Maximum temperature on 29-10-2008 was 84 F. Minimum temperature on 30-10-2008 was 70 F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 30-10-2008 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 29-10-2008 was (5.4) hrs approximate.

Rainfall on 30-10-2008 was (0.16) inch at Mingaladon, (0.16) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.75) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (108.54) inches at Mingaladon, (120.28) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.47) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from South at (15:30) hours MST on 29-10-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 31 October 2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Tanintharyi Division, fairly widespread in Shan State, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady Divisions and scattered in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of atmospheric unsettled conditions in the Andaman Sea and the East Central Bay of Bengal.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 31-10-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-10-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-10-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Winners awarded in 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Oct—The prize presentation ceremony for the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 a.m yesterday, attended by Patron for Organizing the Performing Arts Competitions Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Mn Aung Hlaing, Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, members of the Leading Committee, deputy ministers, senior military officers, the director-general of the SPDC Office and departmental heads, secretaries of the Leading Committee and the Work Committee, officials of the subcommittees, members of the panel of judges, judges from States and Divisions, team managers, contestants, national races, guests and service personnel of the ministries.

U Hla Win, Daw Lein Maung Pan and Daw Kay Khaing Swe of Myanma Radio and Television acted as MC and read out the agenda of the ceremony.

First, the Secretary-1 delivered an address on the occasion and presented prizes to the winners in the Maha Buddhavamsa Renunciation marionette contest, the Lunge Ahman Moeyan Hsitoh Drama contest and the Bhuridat Drama contest.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun handed prizes to the winners in the song contest. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Aquatic world among mountains charms visitors

By A.M. Soe

I had planned to visit Inle Lake in Shan State to study its unique ecosystem consisting numerous floating gardens, wetlands, canals, villages, floating markets and fishing boats.

Though it can be reached by plane from Yangon, I made up my mind to go there by car to enjoy the scenic beauty of Shan Plateau. I left Yangon for Inle Lake at 1 a.m on 12 October and arrived at Nyaung Shwe in the southern Shan State early morning of the next day. It took only 45 minutes from a jetty in Nyaung Shwe to Phaung-daw U Pagoda in Inle Lake, the second largest natural lake in Myanmar, after Indawgyi Lake in Kachin State.

While taking a boat trip in the lake, I felt that the tranquility of the lake was broken by motor boats providing a network of freight and passenger transport from dawn to dusk.

Shortly after hearing traditional music of Intha nationals, I found a lot of Intha (men) paddling long boats towing a decorated royal barge. Each boat was paddled by over 50 Intha (men) exhibiting their one-leg rowing technique.

Over 30 boats were paddled by Intha men clad in traditional costumes to tow the decorated royal barge where revered statues were kept.

“We (Intha) celebrate the Phaungdaw-U Pagoda festival from late September to mid-October yearly.” Zaw Win, a driver of the motor boat we hired said. It is the greatest event of the celebration.