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State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends message of congratulations to President of PRC

YANGON, 16 Oct — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China on the successful launching of a manned-spacecraft by the People's Republic of China. — MNA

Vice Senior General Maung Aye sends message of congratulations to Vice President of PRC

YANGON, 16 Oct — Vice Senior General Maung Aye, Vice Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Zeng Qinghong, Vice President of the People's Republic of China on the successful launching of a manned-spacecraft by the People's Republic of China. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of congratulations to Premier of State Council of PRC

YANGON, 16 Oct — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China on the successful launching of a manned-spacecraft by the People's Republic of China. — MNA

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses World Food Day commemorative ceremony To be free from starvation, to enjoy food sufficiency most imperative human rights

YANGON, 16 Oct — The ceremony to mark the 2003 World Food Day took place at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this morning, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of

the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the mayor of Yangon, deputy ministers,

ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign embassies in Yangon, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, members of Myanmar Academy of Agricultural, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences, departmental heads, officials of the Central Committee for Holding the ceremony and Work Committee, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Union Solidar-

ity and Development Association, prize winners, national entrepreneurs and guests.

The Prime Minister delivered a speech on the occasion. In his speech, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said: I would like to extend my best greetings and wishes to dignitaries of State, departmental heads, diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies, and distinguished guests to be in peace of mind and body, and also to the entire mankind of this

world to be free from famine, poverty and evils of social inequality and to become the people capable of making the world a peaceful place to live in.

For the entire mankind, to be free from starvation and to enjoy food sufficiency are the most imperative human rights. At the ceremonies commemorating the World Food Day being held today all over the globe, every nation of the world is giving a pledge to work together to ensure balanced share of these

rights among all the human beings of the world.

I would like to vow solemnly that Myanmar, as a food-producing nation, will take an active part in the struggle to ensure food sufficiency and eliminate poverty in cooperation with the international communities dutifully.

In today's world, Nature has provided all of the global people with sufficient food, and human beings also have already been in possession (See page 8)

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the World Food Day commemorative ceremony. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 17 October, 2003

For successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap

Development of a country or a region depends much on prevalence of peace, stability and tranquillity of the country or the region. Only when there is peace and tranquillity in a region will the people be able to carry out development undertakings.

With this end in view, the Government has been laying emphasis on national reconsolidation, peace and tranquillity of a region and law enforcement in building the nation to become modern and developed one with strong economy. In doing so, measures are being taken for emergence of economic, social and development infrastructures.

Building national unity and carrying out the tasks for bringing about regional development and economic structures and raising the living standard of people are foundations for democracy.

At present the Government is striving for emergence of a modern and developed democratic nation based on historical backgrounds, culture and traditions of Myanmar. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, on 30 August 2003, clarified matters relating to the future policies and programmes of the State, the seven-point roadmap.

The roadmap indicates the past, present and future development of the State. With national outlook, it also guides the way to be followed by the State.

People living in various states and divisions in the country show their support for the roadmap.

In support of the Prime Minister's clarification on seven policies and future programmes of the State (roadmap), a mass rally, organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held in Pyay, Bago Division (West) on 14 October.

At the mass rally, Chairman Rector U Mya Win of Pyay University urged the mass to make efforts for emergence of a modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation with full nationalist spirit and Union Spirit.

The seven-point roadmap is based on the objective conditions and changes in historical trends of the State.

It is also based on culture, customs and tradition of the national people and geographical conditions of the State.

We would like to urge all the national people to take part in endeavours for successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap that is in conformity with the objective conditions of the State.



Yin Htwe (Taylormade) in action in the second leg of Myanmar Golf Tour. — (MGF)

Sports Minister leaves for China

YANGON, 16 Oct — The Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint left here by air yesterday evening to attend the fifth civil sports festival of the People's Republic of China to be held in Chansa, Hunan Province, the PRC, from 18 to 22 October.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office U Ko Lay, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and the embassy staff and families of the delegation members. The delegation comprised Joint Secretary of the MOC Director of the Sports and Physical Education de-

partment U Than Zaw and member of the MOC President of Myanmar Wushu Federation U Khin Maung Lay.

MNA



Myanmar delegation led by Sports Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint leaves for the PRC to attend the Fifth Civil Sports Festival on 15-10-2003. — NLM

Construction Minister receives ambassador

YANGON, 16 Oct — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun received Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia at the former's office this morning.

Also present at the call together with the minister were Deputy Minister U Tint Swe and departmental heads of the Public Works. — MNA



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr R K Bhatia. — CONSTRUCTION

Dipavali Day falls on 25 October

YANGON, 16 Oct — The Government Office of the Union of Myanmar today announced that Dipavali Day, which falls on 25 October 2003

(1st Waxing of Tazaungmon, 1365 ME), is a public holiday under section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. MNA

Second leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2003 opens

YANGON, 16 Oct — The second leg Shwesaryan open golf championship of Myanmar Golf Tour 2003, organized by the Central Command, the Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, was opened at Shwesaryan Golf Course in Mandalay this morning.

Mayor of Mandalay Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win, Executive of MGF and MPGA U Ko Ko Lay, Special Project Manager of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd U Myint Thein and Managing Director of Htoo Trading Co Ltd U Tay Za teed off the ball to opened the cham-

pinship.

In the first day 18-hole match, Yin Htwe (Taylormade) was leading the tour with 72 strokes in the professional golfers division, followed by Myint Shwe (Wilson) and Aung San Win (MGC) with 73 each. In the men's amateur division, Kyaw Thiha stood first with 73 strokes, Htay Aung Htay second with 76 and Myo Min Aung third with 77.

Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, Htoo Trading Co Ltd, Nadi Myanmar Hotel, Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Munsing Wear), Loi-Hein (Alpine), Honma, Wilson, Canon, UPG and Myanmar Elephant Cement sponsored the tour. The championship continues tomorrow.

MNA

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 16 Oct — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of Managing Director U Htay

Aung of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism on expiry of the one year probationary period. — MNA

Tekkatho Tin Kha's book in circulation

YANGON, 16 Oct — The Naing-Ngan Gonyi Book House today published a book named "Those who shaped Myanmar Literature" which includes 24 articles written by National Litera-

ture Award winner writer Tekkatho Tin Kha.

The book features the works of celebrated doyen literati such as Sayagyi Tha Khin Ko Daw Hmaing, U Bagyi Ngo, Thakhin Ba Thauang, U Pho Kya, Saya Zeya, Deedok U Ba Cho, P Moe Nin and Saya Zawgyi, and those of other well-known authors.

The book is K 600 per copy and available at the Naing-Ngan Gonyi Book House (Tel: 374532), the News and Periodicals Enterprise Book Shop, the Sarpay Beikman Book Shop and other book shops in Yangon and Mandalay.

MNA

Poppy plantations destroyed in Pinlaung Township

YANGON, 16 Oct — A combined team comprising of members of Myanmar Police Force, departmental staff in cooperation with members of Special Region-6 in Shan State (South), on 19 September destroyed 10.28 acres of poppy plantation at estimated map references of (R-348478) near Htitamaung Village in Pinmon Village Tract,

Pinlaung Township. Similarly, a total of 35 acres of poppy plantation—10 acres at estimated map reference (R 374243), 15 acres at (R 381254), four acres at (R 385254) and six acres at (R 387245)—near Leintar Village in the township were also destroyed by the team on 21 September.

MNA

To contribute to restoration of sovereignty of Iraqi people

The following are excerpts from the speech delivered by Francisco Guerrero Prats, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, at the 58th session of UNGA.

Francisco Guerrero Prats, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, said that in this time of reflection on the part of the international community, reform had become a priority task for the Organization. Representation on the Security Council, in particular, must be made more equitable and its decision-making processes more transparent. More -

over, global challenges, such as terrorism, organized crime and the illegal traffic in arms and drugs demanded that all worked together to respond decisively. The Millennium Declaration, he recalled, had established the reduction of poverty by half by 2015 as a priority goal.

Yet, despite some advances, poverty continued to represent a fierce calamity. All States must join to-

gether to meet the needs of the present generation while ensuring that future gen-



Francisco Guerrero Prats

erations' capacity to satisfy their own needs was not destroyed.

He described his country's humanitarian assistance to Iraq, which aimed to contribute to a secure and stable environment, leading to the restoration of sovereignty of the Iraqi people.

Francisco Guerrero Prats, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic

In order to assist the people of Iraq in restoring their sovereignty as soon as possible, it was vital for the Council to give the United Nations a clear and realistic mandate

Simeon De Saxe-Cobourg, Prime Minister of Bulgaria, said the 19 August attack against the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad had sounded an alarm: terrorism was far from defeated.

The vigilance of all Member States must be redoubled and the effectiveness of their counter-terrorism activities tripled.



Simeon De Saxe-Cobourg, Prime Minister of Bulgaria

The Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee should work with regional and subregional organizations to ensure the efficacy of its work, in which context a high-priority role would naturally devolve upon the European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

All 12 major counter-terrorism conventions should be universally ratified and the root causes of the phenomenon addressed.

Yet it remained clear that international peace and stability required the active participation of the United Nations. It was to be hoped that the Council would recover its unity on Iraq, as ensuring the stability and prosperity of that country was in the interest of the entire international community.

Thus, in order to assist the people of Iraq in restoring their sovereignty as soon as possible, it was vital for the Council to give the United Nations a clear and realistic mandate.

Simeon De Saxe-Cobourg, Prime Minister of Bulgaria

Rebuilding Iraq with the aim of helping its people regain control of their destiny and a future of peace with their neighbours

Jan Petersen, Foreign Minister of Norway, said that unless security needs were met in Iraq, democracy, as well as economic and social development, would be lost. Without a safe and secure environment, the United Nations would be unable to help Iraq. Norway urged focused attention on rebuilding Iraq with the aim of helping its people regain control of their destiny and a future of peace with their neighbours.

Terrorism was a dark force, he said, calling for strengthening the role of the United Nations in multilateral disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation.

The establishment of the International Criminal Court was a historic turning point, and Norway was committed to achieving progress in realizing the Millennium Development Goals. Noting that the legacy of civil war was often another war, he said the United Nations

could act to prevent that by stopping economic conflict drivers, such as diamonds and other natural resources, from fuelling and prolonging conflicts. In the case of Africa, the United Nations



Jan Petersen, Foreign Minister of Norway

would assist the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in their endeavours towards social and economic development. Norway urged the Sudan to step up efforts to reach a final settlement.

Jan Petersen, Foreign Minister of Norway

Developed nations to end protectionist measures and subsidies

Biossey Kokou Tozoun, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo, said that the democratization of his country was fully endorsed by the Togolese people and their Government.

However, he noted, it was a process that required courage, determination and patience. In Africa, the success of democratic rule depended on economic opportunities and on the creation of institutions, which required more resources than were currently available to most countries in the region.

Togo, he said, did not deserve the suspension of foreign aid, given its commitment to democratization. In that context, he appealed to the international community to resume cooperation with his country, and emphasized that the continuation of sanctions would deepen poverty among the Togolese people and bring about anarchy.

Emphasizing the damaging effects of the burden of debt and the deteriorating terms of trade on developing countries, he urged developed nations to end protectionist measures and subsidies. He also called for reforms to the United Nations and welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a panel of eminent persons to help guide such reforms.

Biossey Kokou Tozoun, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo

ထုတ်တုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း

Establishing a democracy should not be regarded as a simple process, but rather as a most complicated evolutionary one

Emomali Rakhmonov, President of Tajikistan, said that the process of establishing a democracy had certain common features, but each nation's struggle took on a unique character.



Emomali Rakhmonov

Establishing a democracy should not be regarded as a simple process, but rather as a most complicated evolutionary one. The democratic process in Tajikistan would continue to gain momentum.

Poverty remained an unsolved issue within the international community, he said, and the shortage of freshwater was one of the most urgent concerns of the millennium.

Some 1.2 billion people lived without access to freshwater, and annually

more than 5 million people died from water-related diseases. To support economic growth and reduce the burden of poverty, significant investments for updating technology and improving water-resources management were needed.

Noting that terrorism posed a threat to democracy, he said, Tajikistan had been an active participant in efforts aimed at uprooting that evil. However, terrorism could not be curbed only by military methods, but also by dialogue. Terrorism did not have an ideology, nor a nation, nor a homeland.

Turning to religion, he said, attempts by the mass media to equate terrorism and extremism with Islam distorted the peaceful essence of Islam and presented the religion as a source of evil and violence. Islam, in fact, was not a religion of violence, but one of mercy and compassion, peace and accord.

Emomali Rakhmonov, President of Tajikistan

Reform of UN indispensable and could no longer be delayed

Didier Opertti-Badan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, said reform of the United Nations was indispensable and could no longer be delayed. That process should be founded on four premises: to preserve intact the purposes and principles of the Organization as enshrined in its Charter; to strengthen multilateral action; to engage in a process of self-criticism and self-reform; and to change the conduct of Member States in fulfilling their international obligations within the Organization. While the modalities for each of the four premises differed, Uruguay believed the most important aspect of those reforms was the strengthening of the General Assembly, he said. Its decisions were the most genuine manifestations of the will of the international community.

Although recent reform aimed at making the Assembly more effective, more profound changes were needed in order to restore the authority, which the Charter granted it and which it had exerted in the past.



Didier Opertti-Badan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay

Another area requiring reform was the improvement of the relationship between the Organization's different organs. Just as in the fight against poverty, he said, terrorism could not be defeated as a conventional enemy would be with a victorious battle. Its eradication was an ongoing objective whose achievement required time, patience and perseverance. Only a joint approach and multilateral action directed at its roots would reduce and hopefully eliminate that perverse and ubiquitous enemy. Uruguay, a party to most international instruments on terrorism, thus attached priority to the conclusion of a general convention against international terrorism.

Didier Opertti-Badan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay

Iraq Council says security vital before political steps

PUTRAJAYA (Malaysia), 16 Oct—The foreign minister of Iraq's Governing Council said on Tuesday the US-backed provisional body was willing to take on the role of "interim authority" but security must be improved before further political steps could follow.

A US draft resolution to the UN Security Council proposed that the Governing Council come up with a timetable by December 15 for a Constitution and elections, in cooperation with the US-led occupation authority and a UN representative.

"We have always expressed our readiness, our willingness that as the Iraqi Governing Council we will be able to provide, to meet those deadlines," Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told reporters.

Zebari, in Malaysia for meetings ahead of a summit of Muslim leaders, has held two days of talks with other ministers from the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (ICO).

Asked by *Reuters* to what extent the

Governing Council was influenced by the United States, Zebari said: "Well, we are friends with the US, okay, we are allies. 'We work together, we have a convergence of interest, we are not opposed to each other.'"

Zebari explained why the Governing Council objected to ICO ministers seeking to draft a resolution setting a specific timeframe for US-led troops to withdraw from Iraq.

"We want a transfer of authority as soon as possible. We as Iraqis are very keen to regain our sovereignty and independence as quickly as possible, as practical as possible," he said.

Speaking to reporters, Zebari said establishing a new political order in his country would depend on how fast the security situation improves.

"A great deal depends on the security situation, on the security environment," he said. "Unless this is improved, it will be difficult to carry out any further political steps."

He also called on the United Nations to become more involved, but made no mention of giving the world body the central role that other ICO members have sought.

"Everybody agrees there should be an expanded role for the UN. It has to be more involved and more engaged," Zebari said.

Zebari is accompanied by Iyad Allawi, the new head of the Governing Council under its rotating leadership, who will represent Iraq at the ICO summit on Thursday and Friday.

MNA/Reuters

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Turkish embassy blast in Iraq kills two

BAGHDAD, 16 Oct—A car bomb exploded Tuesday at the gates of the Turkish embassy, killing two people including the driver and injuring two or three others, witnesses and US soldiers said.

Turkish NTV television said two embassy employees were hurt. Witnesses said the car tried to ram through the gates of the embassy at mid-afternoon and suddenly exploded. US troops and Iraqi police sealed off the area and would not permit journalists and others to approach the building.

The blast occurred two days after a powerful car bomb exploded at the Baghdad Hotel, home to US officials and members of the Iraqi Governing Council. At least eight people including the bomber were killed.

Turkey's parliament has approved a government request to send peacekeeping troops to Iraq, a move hailed in Washington but opposed by the Iraqi Governing Council and the country's Kurdish minority. The Turks would be the first major contingent from a Muslim country.—*Internet*

Hu Jintao hails China's success of its first manned spaceflight

JIUQUAN, 16 Oct—President Hu Jintao hailed China's success in hurling its first manned spacecraft into the orbit Wednesday, calling it "the glory of our great motherland and a mark for the initial victory of the country's first manned space flight and for the significant, historic step of the Chinese people in the advance of climbing over the peak of the world's science and technology."

The Party and the people will never forget those who have set up the outstanding merit in the space industry for the motherland, the people and the nation, said Hu, who is also the general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

China's first piloted space vehicle *Shenzhou-5* was launched at 9:00 and moved into the preset orbit at about 9:10, carrying Lieutenant Colonel Yang Liwei who has become the first Chinese astronaut in the out space.

MNA/Xinhua



Staff members examine the re-entry capsule of *Shenzhou 5*, China's first manned spacecraft, in Inner Mongolia on 16 October, 2003. The re-entry capsule of *Shenzhou 5* landed safely in Inner Mongolia early Thursday, with astronaut Yang Liwei coming out in good situation.—*INTERNET*

China's spaceflight monitoring network reaches world levels

BEIJING, 16 Oct—The mature spaceflight monitoring and controlling network China has developed on its own has reached advanced world levels, Yu Zhijian, chief designer of the system for monitoring manned space flight, told *Xinhua* on Wednesday.

"Advanced in all technical indices and with a complete range of functions, the spaceflight monitoring and controlling network is capable of real-time transmission of voice, TV images and data that ensure face-to-face communications between the cosmonauts and ground controllers and at the same time of timely measuring the flying state of spaceships, said Yu, who has been engaging in the designing of spaceflight monitoring and controlling system since 1999 when China launched its first *Shenzhou* spacecraft.

The network is capable of providing monitoring and controlling support services for more than 20 satellites and spaceships simultaneously, Yu said.

MNA/Xinhua

China's first astronaut debuts

JIUQUAN (Gansu), 16 Oct—Three and a half hours before liftoff, Lieutenant Colonel Yang Liwei, in shiny space suit, asked Li Jinai, commander of China's manned space programme, for permission to start the scheduled space travel.

In an exclusive interview with *Xinhua*, Yang said he was fully confident of the nation's first-ever space-faring. Yang, 38, was born to a teacher's family in Suizhong County in the northeastern Liaoning Province. He has an 8-year-old son. He is 1.68 metres tall.

While a fighter pilot, Yang had at least 1,350 hours of flight experience. His comrades describe him as a "miraculously dedicated man".

Yang has two backups, Zhai Zhigang and Nie Haisheng. They were chosen from among Air Force fighter pilots like Yang.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq oil minister, aide attacked in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 16 Oct—Iraq's oil minister survived an assassination attempt in Baghdad at the weekend, an Iraqi official caught up in the attack said on Tuesday.

"A car overtook our motorcade as we approached our district in Baghdad... a man emerged with an AK-47 and started firing," Nabeel Musawi, a deputy on Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council told *Reuters*. "Our guards immediately shot back."

Musawi said the attack happened as he was returning home with Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum, the son of a leading Shiite scholar, in a seven-car convoy after a meeting on Sunday in central Baghdad.

"The security assessment is that a car was waiting for us and alerted a second car," he said.

But Musawi said beefing up personal protection was not the long-term answer to

Iraq's postwar break down in law and order.

"We need to hand over security operations to Iraqis so they can deal with the criminal element and terrorists. Iraqis know their counterparts better than a soldier from Pennsylvania or Arizona," he said.

Some pro-Saddam Iraqis and others have denounced top officials of the Governing Council as collaborators for working with occupying US forces. Akila al-Hashemi, a Council member, died from wounds after she was shot last month.

"Anyone who's associated with the government is a natural target for the forces who want to regress into the old darkness," Musawi said.—*MNA/Reuters*



Turkish activists shout anti-US and anti-war slogans during a rally in Ankara on 15 October, 2003 a day after a car explosion near Turkish Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, killed at least one person and injured more than a dozen others. The banner reads: 'We will not be US soldiers!'—*INTERNET*

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



A US soldier peers from an armoured vehicle during a security alert in central Baghdad on 15 October, 2003.

INTERNET



A US soldier in a Bradley military vehicle mans a roadblock in Baghdad. The US is to call a UN Security Council vote on the latest draft of its Iraq resolution as the war-torn country's interim Governing Council mulled ways to confront the growing wave of violence.—INTERNET



US soldiers foot patrol the city of Mosul in northern Iraq on Tuesday.

INTERNET



Shiite Muslims protest in southwest Baghdad, Iraq, where some 600 demonstrators at a Shiite Muslim mosque confronted US soldiers on Tuesday 7 October, 2003. The protesters claimed the Americans had illegally detained their imam, Sheikh Mohammed al-Sudani.—INTERNET



US soldiers inspect a suicide bomb attack outside the Turkish embassy in Baghdad. Turkey came under pressure to revise its decision to send troops to Iraq following the embassy bombing — which many saw as a warning to Ankara to stay out of the war-torn country.—INTERNET



Saddam Hussein is believed to have been hiding out recently in Tikrit, influencing the anti-American resistance, the US military said Monday. Fresh attacks by resistance forces across central Iraq were reported to have killed three American soldiers and wounded five others.—INTERNET

Summit of 57 Muslim nations opens with Iraq, Middle East topping agenda

PUTRAJAYA, 16 Oct—The world's Islamic leaders opened their biggest summit meeting since the September 11 attacks on the United States, with turmoil in Iraq and the Middle East topping their agenda.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) leaders — representing 57 Muslim nations and 1.3 billion people — met under a heavy veil of security in Malaysia's new administrative capital Putrajaya, near Kuala Lumpur.

The two-day summit is focussing on the Palestinian conflict, amid increasing violence in the Middle East, and attempts to restore stability in Iraq following the US-led invasion which ousted Saddam Hussein's regime.

With world attention on Islamic terrorism following the 2001 attacks against the US and the Bali bombings a year later, the OIC is meeting in an atmosphere of near crisis. —Internet

US faces criticism from key powers, Annan on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 16 Oct—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan criticized on Tuesday the new US-draft resolution on Iraq for making few significant changes as France, Russia and Germany submitted amendments to speed up Iraqi self-rule.

Annan spoke to reporters as the United States told Security Council envoys to be ready to vote this week on the draft, which proposes a multinational force and a December 15 date for 25-member Iraqi Governing Council to devise a timetable toward self rule, a concession to critics.

France, Germany and Russia, in six amendments obtained by *Reuters*, want the Governing Council, along with the United Nations and the US-led occupation, to develop a more specific schedule for when Iraqis would take power.

China supports the amendments, diplomats said.

But the new proposals do not do specifically insist on a date within five months for an interim Iraq Government to take over before any elections as these four countries originally proposed. And the amendments do not give the United Nations a central role.

Diplomats said they are aimed at making sure the concept of a provision government is not excluded in the future.

Annan, whose remarks have been crucial in influencing Security Council members, said that as long as the occupation continues "the resistance will grow". He

made clear he had no plans to send UN staff back to Iraq immediately and said this was recognized in the draft.

"Obviously, the current resolution does not represent a major shift in the thinking of the coalition," Annan said, adding, however, that some of his suggestions were accepted.

"It is not a question of finding words to stitch words together. We need to think of the impact that the resolution and our action will have on the ground because that is the test of the effectiveness of an Iraqi resolution," Annan said in hoping the draft would get broad support. In a gesture to critics, the US-drafted resolution also says the Iraqi Governing Council "will embody the sovereignty of the State of Iraq".

It says the Governing Council has to draw up a time table for a Constitution and elections by December 15, without specifying a precise date for a handover of power. However, it still asks the UN Security Council to endorse the occupation.

Asked about this provision, Annan said, "It's a nice phrase but the resolution also says that the occupying power is the authority and is a government."

MNA/Reuters

ICO not to send troops to Iraq

PUTRAJAYA (Malaysia), 16 Oct—A senior official of the Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO) claimed here Tuesday that the ICO would not send any troops to Iraq under the umbrella of the ICO.

The chairman of the ministerial preparatory meeting of the 10th ICO Summit, Syed Hamid Albar, stressed at a Press conference Tuesday evening that "the ICO is not a military bloc, it has never sent and is not to send any troops to Iraq under the flag of the OIC." However, he said, the OIC is also not entrusted to stop any member state to send troops to Iraq.

Syed Hamid Albar, the Malaysian Foreign Minister, said each ICO member country has the right to make its own decision on whether or not to send troops.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi man detained for shouting slogans praising Saddam Hussein during a demonstration refuses to sit down when ordered by a US Army soldier in central Baghdad on 15 October, 2003. —INTERNET

မြို့ခြံချွေတာ၊ ထိန်းသိမ်းလွယ်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်



Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (L) greets President of Iraqi Governing Council Ayad Allawi as he arrives for the 10th Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in Putrajaya near Kuala Lumpur on 16 October, 2003. Leaders of Muslim nations opened a summit in Malaysia on Thursday with more words than influence to expand on the Islamic world's two hottest subjects, Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts. —INTERNET

Poll finds support for Bush on economy, Iraq slipping

WASHINGTON, 16 Oct—Support among United States voters for President George W Bush on his handling of the economy and on Iraq has declined, an ABCNEWS/Washington Post poll shows.

The survey, which was released Tuesday, found support for the war on Iraq had declined, with 54 percent of those canvassed saying the war was worth fighting, down from 70 percent in April. And 50 percent approved of Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq, down from 67 percent in June and 75 percent in April.

Forty-six percent of those surveyed said they approved

of Bush's performance on economy, while 51 percent disapproved.

While 53 percent agreed on the way Bush was handling his job as president, his best marks, 67 percent, were for his work on the campaign against terrorism, down from 79 percent last spring.

On the investigation of the leak of a CIA undercover agent's identity, only 39 percent thought the administration was fully cooperating, down from 47 percent on Sept. 30.

The survey also showed that if the 2004 presidential election was held now, 46

percent of Americans would vote to re-elect Bush, while 47 percent would favour the Democratic candidate.

Among Democrats and Democratic leaning independents, 17 percent said they would now vote for former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, 13 percent for Representative Richard Gephardt of Missouri, 12 percent for retired general Wesley Clark, and 10 percent for Massachusetts Senator John Kerry.

The poll was conducted on Oct 9-13 among a sample of 1,000 adults and has a three point error margin.

Internet

Bombings in Iraq since Aug 7

BAGHDAD, 16 Oct—A list of recent bombings in Iraq:

Oct 14: A suicide car bomber exploded his vehicle outside the Turkish Embassy, killing the driver and a bystander, and wounding at least 13.

Oct 12: A suicide car bomber attacked the Baghdad Hotel in downtown Baghdad, killing himself and one other person, at least 32 are wounded.

Oct 9: A suicide bomber drove his Oldsmobile into a police station in Baghdad's Sadr City district, killing himself and nine other people.

Sept 25: A planted bomb damaged a hotel housing the offices of NBC News, killing a Somali guard and slightly injuring an NBC sound technician.

Sept 22: A suicide car bomber struck a police checkpoint outside UN headquarters in Baghdad, killing himself and an Iraqi policeman who stopped him and wounding 19 people.

Sept 9: A suicide bomber targeted a US intelligence compound in northern Iraq, killing three people and seriously wounding four American intelligence officers.

Aug 29: A car bomb exploded outside a mosque in the Shiite Muslim holy city of Najaf, killing more than 85 people including Shiite leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim.

Aug 19: A truck bomber struck at the headquarters of the United Nations at the Canal Hotel, killing 23 people, including the top UN envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Internet

Those who daren't show their face (48)

Pauk Sa

As I did not want my sleep to be disturbed by some paltry things these days, I had not uttered any word and kept silent.

But, people of our country could not help hearing some fabrications that were exaggerated at will, and I felt disturbed. So I have to point out some facts.

It is like this. The BBC broadcast a fabrication at 6.30 am on 24 September 2003 that the UNESCO had requested the government to release U Khin Zaw Win, who had been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and jailed by Myanmar government since 1994. According to the BBC, U Khin Zaw Win was arrested on charges of carrying documents relating to the NLD while he was about to leave Yangon International Airport for Singapore.

The BBC did not stop there. The BBC, introducing the fabrication in the morning programme thus, continued it in the 8.15 evening programme by interviewing Daw Khin Myo Myint, wife of U Khin Zaw Win under the title "BBC interview with Daw Khin Myo Myint, wife of Dr Khin Zaw Win".

I would like to explain the readers how the BBC, as is known to all, manufactured a story, shamelessly taking every opportunity to slander Myanmar government as it is their usual practice.

They said Dental Surgeon Dr Khin Zaw Win, who had returned from Singapore University to Yangon for a short stay, was arrested at Yangon Airport on his way to Singapore after conducting research for his term paper in Myanmar. The BBC said UNESCO had requested the government to release him. They even strengthened their fabrication citing the interview with Daw Khin Myo Myint.

People of Myanmar are not so naive to believe such fabrications and interviews though BBC broadcast them as important news.

What I would like to say is that we were surprised to hear Dr Khin Zaw Win had been described as a philanthropist, a researcher, and a democracy hero by the BBC, the VOA and the UNESCO.

It may be recalled that Dr Khin Zaw Win did not engaged in providing health care services and conducting researches. He returned to Myanmar on research reason. Airport security teams and customs staff, discharging their normal duties, searched Dr Khin Zaw Win (a) Calvin at Yangon Airport on his trip to Bangkok, Thailand, on 4 July 1994. The security teams and customs staff seized 62 polished rubies and sapphires to be smuggled out of the country to Thailand, Singapore currencies, and classified documents containing some facts about the Ministry of Energy from him.

How has the much-praised hero of the BBC, the VOA and the UNESCO, a dental surgeon, a philanthro-

pist, and a hero of democracy, turned out to be a man who smuggled gems out of his own country?

It is food for thought which country, government, or company he would sell the classified documents of the Ministry of Energy for self-interest. It is very clear. Is it the work of a democracy hero to smuggle rubies and sapphires out of his country and sell them in a foreign country for self-interest?

But there is one thing to say that expatriate Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung, who can freely get in and out of the International Labour Organization (ILO) with the help of his wise guys and gurus, is also a gems and jewelry smuggler. So, it is not strange that Khin Zaw Win is included in the list of democracy heroes.

Just think about it. What a great profit he would make if he sold the classified documents related to the Myanmar energy of the Ministry of Energy to some foreign spy organizations which are trying to harm the interests of the State and the people.

When UNESCO, a major organization itself, requested the release of a thief, a job which is not related whatsoever with its cultural and economic matters, it added that Dr Khin Zaw Win was seriously ill. I felt very bad when I learned about this. It is improper for a famous organization under the UN to irresponsibly write the case based on an unreliable source.

Actually, the health of Dr Khin Zaw Win is nothing serious of no specific disease to speak of. But, he might have caught cold or something. His family also visits him regularly and gives foods and snacks to him.

However, the BBC and VOA exaggerated the incident with the intention of discrediting Myanmar government. Is it the way of such broadcasting stations to try to introduce the democratic system to Myanmar? If so, it may be assumed that the two broadcasting stations are the ones which encourage and abet thieves.

According to the teachings of the Buddha, jealousy is like fire. If one feels jealous of another, he will be engulfed by the flames of his jealousy.

Although international neo-colonialists and the BBC and VOA media including internal and external destructive elements are essaying to undermine the success and development of Myanmar out of jealousy from all aspects, she will always be on her own way. Therefore, the more the country continues her own way without caring any internal or external disturbances, the more they get jealous, and they will shout and praise the thief, Khin Zaw Win, as a democracy hero or democracy scholar through the air. So, I would like to say that they all are the persons who daren't show their face.

(Translation: MWT+ST)

(Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 13-10-03)

Implications of Europa in Myanmar held

YANGON, 12 Oct—Under the aegis of Cardiac Society (Myanmar Medical Association), a Q & A forum with Specialists on Implications of EUROPA in Myanmar was held at Traders Hotel, Yangon. Prof Khin Maung Aye, Chairman of Cardiac Society, Prof Khin May San, Head of Cardiology Department, Institute of Medicine (I), Prof Col Aung Kyaw Zaw, Head of Cardiology Department,

Defence Services Medical Academy and invited medical correspondents attended the session.

The cardiologists discussed the implications of EUROPA (European trial on Reduction Of cardiac events with Perindopril in stable coronary Artery disease) in Myanmar. Europea is the largest morbidity — mortality trial ever conducted in patients with stable coronary artery disease which in-

cluded 12,218 patients through 424 centres from 24 European countries. Patients were randomized to Perindopril 8 mg once daily or placebo, in addition to optimal therapy for Coronary Artery Disease, for four years. Perindopril reduced the combined primary endpoint of cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction and cardiac arrest by 20% as announced at the latest European Society of Cardi-

ology Conference in Vienna in August.

Perindopril, a long acting Angiotensin Converting Enzyme inhibitor is sold under the brand Coversyl by a French Pharmaceutical Firm, Servier.

At the meeting, Specialists commented on EUROPA, "I admire EUROPA trial as it is well designed" commented Prof Col Aung Kyaw Zaw and "we are very much interested in EUROPA because of increasing incidence of Coronary Artery Disease" said Prof Khin May San on the results. The medical correspondents asked questions on the prevalence and current management of Coronary Artery Disease and were answered by the Specialists.

Afterwards, dinner was served and the session was successfully ended.



The Q & A forum with Specialists on Implications of EUROPA in progress. — MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

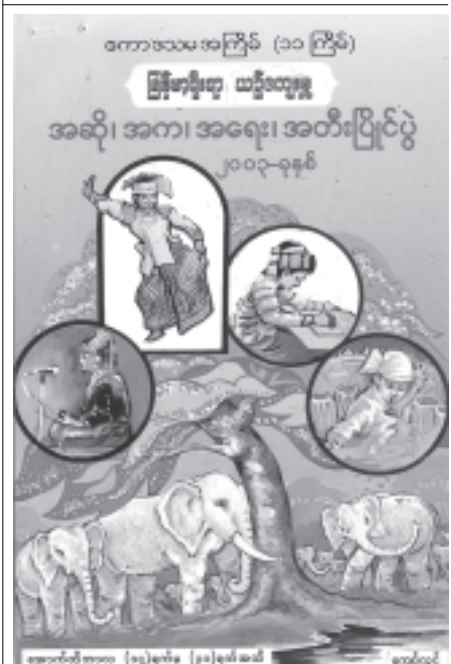
There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt...

(from page 1)

of intellects capable of making the full use of food Nature has provided.

However, of more than six billion people residing in the world, 840 million are still faced with shortage of food. On account of this inequality, apparent are the necessity of mutual and well-intentioned cooperation among the world nations to bridge the gap between the rich and poor and technological divide as well, and to find an equitable solution to opportunity gap in developing one's own nation and race.

Owing to the side effects of the advancing science and technology, wider interaction among the world nations is in need indeed, especially at a time when special care has been taken to produce wholesome food for human beings and to deter the environmental degradation, the extinction of bio species, ecological catastrophe and adverse climatic changes.

At such a time like this, the Union of Myanmar, which is making constant efforts to boost the food production in order to supply not only herself but also the world nations suffering food shortage, will enhance its constructive cooperation with the international communities in the task for food production and sufficiency.

Throughout the course of history, the Union of Myanmar has possessed the status of an agro-based country where the adequacy of sustenance is assured.

The agricultural sector of Myanmar is in a strategic position to fulfil enough foodstuffs for its citizens as well as promote their socio-economic life and enhance rural development. The Government is taking measures to contribute to the progress of national economic life through the agricultural development.

Moreover, encouragement is being given to agricultural and livestock breeding industries to speed up the rural economic development while plans have been laid down and are being implemented earnestly to raise the living standard of rural people.

In doing so, the Government is also making systematic arrangements to encourage the investment put in the boosting of crop yields continuously, reclamation of new farmland for extensive cultivation, proper management of productive capacities, and the inroads of agricultural produce into foreign markets.

For ensuring sufficient water supply, which plays a key role in the agricultural sector, and irrigation of cultivable land all year round, since 1988, the government has constructed 265 river water pumping stations, over 7,400 underground water tapping stations and 150 large and medium dams and diversion weirs on self-reliance and without any overseas aid.

Thanks to such systematic measures for sufficient water supply, over five million more acres of cultivable



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party view round the World Food Day commemorative booths. — MNA

land have been reclaimed, thereby extending the nation's cultivable land reaching up to over 26 million acres.

The private sector plays an important role in Myanmar's agricultural sector and is a major business of rural areas and so the government has allowed free trade in the field in conformity with the market-oriented economic system. So, farmers look forward to a boost in agricultural production this year.

Similarly, with the assistance and encouragement of the government, the meat and fish sector that is related to the agricultural sector, has developed rapidly.

The government is placing great emphasis on extended distribution of quality species of fish and prawn, speeding up livestock and fishery tasks, and boosting the livestock breeding in rural areas from small scale to commercial scale.

The sea and fresh water fish and prawn production was only nearly 700,000 tons in 1988, and the output increased to over 1.5 million tons in 2002-2003. The production of meat has now increased to around three times more than 1988's output. The State has achieved an average annual meat and fish production of over 12 per cent during the period from 1996-97 to date.

At the same time, the government has been taking measures for prevention against extinction of fish and prawn species and deteriorating the bio-ecological system.

In the forestry sector, the government has been extract-



FAO Resident Representative to Myanmar Mr Tang Zhengping presents an outstanding township prize for sesame cultivation to Naimauk Township. — MNA

ing timber to ensure sustainable yield for conservation of the environment, bio-diversity and bio-ecological system and ensuring temperate weather.

Moreover, the government is taking systematic measures for conservation of forests, wildlife parks and watershed areas and afforestation. At the same time, it has been implementing the arid zone greening project.

Particularly, the arid zone greening project is being systematically implemented, with the fruitful results of wet soil, temperate weather and greening in the arid regions.

Resulting from such self-reliant efforts in all sectors, Myanmar has enjoyed food sufficiency, and the education, health and social standard of the people has risen to some extent. Besides, success has been achieved in constructing good foundations for conservation of natural resources.

MES to hold respect-paying ceremony

YANGON, 16 Oct — Under the patronage of the Myanmar Engineering Society, a ceremony to pay respects to senior engineers and architects, aged 70 and above, will be held at the Assembly Hall of the Yangon Technological University on the

morning of 15 November 2003.

All members of the MES are invited to the ceremony, and donations can also be made for the ceremony by calling the telephone numbers 652294 and 652295.

H

In cooperation with neighbouring countries, ASEAN members, regional nations and UN agencies, Myanmar has accelerated its endeavours for restoration of peace, security, development and economic cooperation including boosting of food production and environmental conservation.

Today, the developing countries are necessary to carry out positive cooperation and at the same time the developed nations need to extend help and fair treatment to the developing nations for the emergence of a stable, peaceful and just world.

Only then, will poverty, famine, gap between the rich and the poor, technological gap, and unfair treatments which result from discrimination vanish and will there emerge a peaceful and pleasant world in which food is sufficient, human rights and value prevail and equal treatment and justice can be practised among the world nations.

Now, the goal "globalisation" benefits only the wealthy and technological powers, but makes the developing countries lag further behind in development and even broaden the gap between the rich and the poor as well as the technological

gap. It still needs effective cooperation and help among the nations of the world.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the world nations to work together till the emergence of a world free from famine in accord with this year's World Food Day motto and to make further positive cooperation for enabling the world nations to fully enjoy the fruitful results of food sufficiency, the basic human right.

Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhengping read the message of Director-General of UN FAO Dr Jacques Diouf.

Next, those present watched the documentary video show.

The Prime Minister and party and guests viewed the World Food Day commemorative booths there.

Next, the prize-distribution ceremony followed. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin presented the first prize for outstanding performance in producing monsoon paddy (township) to Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Division, the second prize to Pyu Township, Bago Division (East), and the third prize to Kyauktan Township, Yangon Division, the first

(See page 9)

Victorious Wushu athletes arrive back

YANGON, 16 Oct — Led by Myanmar Wushu Federation President U Khin Maung Lay, the Myanmar Wushu team arrived back here by air this afternoon. The team won two gold, three silver and five bronze at the Second Asian Youth Wushu Championship, held in Beijing, China, from 10 to 12 October.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials from the ministry, members of the Panel of Leading

Patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, executives and athletes, member of Cultural Council of Chinese Embassy Mr Pan Seng, trainees of Sports and Physical Education Training School, athletes of sports federations and others welcomed them.

Seven members of the team that took part in the championship for the first time seized 10 medals.

MNA



The victorious Myanmar Wushu team in the Second Asian Youth Wushu Championship seen together with MWF President U Khin Maung Lay. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt...

(from page 8)

prize for outstanding performance in producing monsoon paddy (individual) to U Hla Win of Kyauktan Township, the second to U Aye Kywe of Palaw Township, Taninthayi Division, and the third to U Tun San Kyaw of MraukU Township, Rakhine State, the first prize (summer paddy) to Kyaiklat Township, Ayeyawady Division, the second to Shwebo Township, Sagaing Division, and the third to Htantabin Township, Yangon Division, the first prize (summer paddy) to U Tin Pe of Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Division, the second to U Kant Kham of Namkhan Township, Shan State (North), and the third to U Aung Hsan of Mudon Township, Mon State.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presented prizes (fresh water fish breeding) to U Than Lwin of Kayan Township, Yangon Division, and U Myint Wai of Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division, prize (breeding fish with the use of cage system) to Yuzana Co in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Division, prize (fresh water fingerlings production) to Ayeyawady Modern Fingerlings Enterprise in Patheingyi Township, prize (sea fish breeding) to Pyae Phyoo Tun Co in Kyaukse Township, Taninthayi Division, prize (sea fish production) to Thida Co in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Division, the prize (fresh water prawn breeding) to U Shan Kyi of Htantabin Township, Yangon Division, and prize (fresh water shrimp production) to BTB Co in Ahlone Township, Yangon Division.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung presented the first prize for 500-acre establishment of special teak plantation to Bawbin forest reserve in Nattalin Township, Bago



A&I Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin presents the first prize for outstanding performance in cultivating summer paddy (township) to Kyaiklat Township, Ayeyawady Division.—MNA



L&F Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presents prize for outstanding performance in production of sea fish to Thida Co in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Division.—MNA

Division (West), the second to Pyukun plantation in Pyu Township, Bago Division (East), the third to Kaing forest reserve in Pyinmana Township, Mandalay Division, and consolation prize to Kyaukse forest reserve in Saw Township, Magway Division.

Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhengping presented prizes (groundnut) to Taze Township in Sagaing Division and U Aung Soe of Shwekyin Township, Bago Division (East), prizes (sesamum) to Natmauk Township, Magway Division, and U Mya Soe of Mawlamyinekyun Township, Ayeyawady Division, prizes (sunflower) to Chaungzon Township, Mon State, and U Khin Nyein of Kyauktan Township,



Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhengping reads out the message of the Director-General of FAO.—MNA

Yangon Division, and prizes (black pulse) to Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division (East) and U Nyunt Tin of Minhla Town-

ship, Bago Division (West). Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung presented prizes (green gram) to Thongwa Township, Yangon Division, and U Aye Han of Kayan Township, prizes (pigeon pea) to Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Division, and U Kyi Aung of Mahlaing Township, the first prize (tea) to Pintaya Township, Shan State (South), the second to Pinlaung Township, Shan State (South) and Namhsan Township (North), the first prize for planting new tea plantations most to Tiddim Township, Chin State, the second to Mindat Township, Chin State, and the third to Falam Township,

Message of the FAO Director-General Dr. Jacques Diouf On the occasion of World Food Day 2003

Rome, 16 October 2003

"International Alliance against Hunger"

Today, as people gather around the world to celebrate World Food Day, I would like to remind everyone of the paramount significance of this celebration; to rid the world of hunger.

For still 840 million people, around 800 million of them in developing countries, suffer from chronic hunger. This leaves us much too far from the World Food Summit goal set in 1996 to cut by half the number of hungry people by 2015.

Never before in the history of the world has so much food been produced. And we have technologies that can substantially increase farm productivity and ensure better water management.

But what is needed is the political will to tackle the underlying causes of hunger in all its manifestations. Nations must turn verbal commitments to fight hunger into practical programmes. In most developing countries, the majority of people live in rural areas and derive their livelihoods from agriculture. It therefore makes sense to invest in agriculture.

The international community, at the World Food Summit: five years later in June 2002, resolved to create an "International Alliance against Hunger".

This Alliance provides a forum for advocacy. It is also meant to promote joint actions by its members. And it encourages partners to offer assistance, whether training, policy advice, or help in developing hunger reduction strategies.

But we must never forget that the prime responsibility for reaching our goals lies with each government and its people: who must set their own national targets. I applaud the foresight of nations where leaders have made fighting hunger their top priority.

A group of NGOs has formed a coalition to campaign against hunger. Other alliances the world over are encouraging signs of the kind of energy and determination needed to eradicate hunger once and for all. In a growing number of countries, all sectors of society including food producers and consumers, international organizations, scientists, academics, religious groups, NGOs, donors, policymakers and individuals concerned about the problem of hunger, are joining together to fight against food insecurity.

So, on this World Food Day, I appeal to one and all to join the fight against hunger. The "International Alliance against Hunger" gives us a way to move forward together, to reduce poverty and to guarantee the most basic of human rights - to be free from hunger.

Chin State, prize for planting new tea plantations most to U Aung Lwin of Namhsan Township, Shan State (North), first prize for cultivating crops most to Magway Division, the second to Mandalay Division and the third to Ayeyawady Division, first prize (pre-monsoon long staple cotton) to Pyawbye Township, the second to Myittha Township and the third to Yamethin Township, Mandalay Division, first prize (pre-monsoon long staple cotton) to U Shwe Mann of Pyawbye Township, the second to U Tun Tha of Yamethin Township and the third to U Kyaw Tint of Pyawbye Township.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein presented prize (sea prawn production) Shwe Family Co in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyawady Division, prize (sea shrimp

production) to Pearl Nadi Co in Patheingyi Township, prize (new items of marine products at high prices) to Ahsaungkaung Co in Kyaukse Township, prize for exporting marine products (regular trade) to Min Zarni Co Ltd in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Division, prize for exporting marine products (border trade) to Kyaw Kyaw Thein Co in Mayangon Township, Yangon Division, prize for regularly exporting marine products produced by traditional methods to International City Trading Co in Bahan Township, and prize for new methods (border trade) to Namyang Co in Hline Township, Yangon Division.

Director-General of the Forest Department U Shwe Kyaw presented prizes to U Nyunt Win of Nattalin Township, U Than Aye of

(See page 10)



THE SIXTEENTH ASEAN SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM)
THE SECOND ASEAN+CHINA SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM+CHINA)
THE SECOND ASEAN+JAPAN SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM+JAPAN)

ATM RETREAT

THE NINTH ASEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM)

THE SECOND ASEAN+CHINA TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM+CHINA)

THE FIRST ASEAN+JAPAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM+JAPAN)

20-25 OCTOBER 2003

YANGON, MYANMAR

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt...

(from page 9)

Yedashe Township, U Han Soe of Saw Township, U Tin Kha of Pynmana Township, U Ye Aung of Kyangin Township, Daw Nyi of Kanbalu Township and U Lu Daw of Hlegu Township for their outstanding performance in teak growing.

Next, Chairman of the Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forest, Livestock and Fisheries U Tin Hlaing presented research prizes to U Soe Myint and Daw Than Than Soe of MAAFLF in agricultural science field, U Min Thant Sin, U Zaw Naing Tun, U Maung Maung Aye, Daw Khin Nyein Chan Win and Ma Chaw Chaw Sein of MAAFLF in forestry field, and Dr Ye Tun Win and Dr Aung Than of MAAFLF in fisheries and livestock breeding field.

Director-General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Maung Maung Nyunt presented the first, second and third prizes for outstanding township for development of livestock breeding to Myaungmya Township, Kawa Township, and Hpa-an Township; outstanding livestock breeder prizes to U Tin Htwe of Magway Township and U Saw Thoma of Hlegu Township who raised over 500 local fowls; and pig breeding first, second and third prizes to U Sai Lon of Shwepyitha Township, U Htay Lwin of

Bago Township, and U Aung Myint Oo of Helgu Township.

Director-General of the Fisheries Department U Than Tun presented outstanding prize for breeding and export of local ornamental fish to Hein Beauty Fish Co Ltd in Sangyoung Township, fisheries and livestock breeding prize to Uto-Kya-in Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Camp of YCDC, milk-cow breeding first, second and third prizes to Tapel Village in Tada U Township, Kalagon Village in Taikkyi Township and Thewa Village in Taikkyi Township, mithun breeding prize to U Htan Harain of Thantlang Township, and vaccine production prize to Upper Myanmar Laboratory in Pyin Oo Lwin Township.

Managing Director Dr Thein Htay of Myanma Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise presented first, second, and third prizes for outstanding township in cultivation of late monsoon long staple cotton to Monywa Township, Aunglan Township, and Myinmu Township, and outstanding grower prizes for cultivation of late-monsoon long-staple cotton to U Kan Tin of Singgaing Township, U Yin Thway of Singgaing Township and U Po Ni of

Myinmu Township.

Managing Director U Myo Myint of Myanma Sugarcane Enterprise presented first, second and third outstanding township prizes for cultivation of sugarcane to Toungoo Township, Pyu Township, and Kyaikto Township, and first, second, and third outstanding sugarcane grower prizes to U San Ya of Pynmana Township, U Nyan Win of Pyay Township, and U Kyaw Win of Aunglan Township.

Managing Director U Tin Lwan of Myanma Agriculture Development Bank presented outstanding rubber rancher (large) prize to U Yon Kyu of Hopang Township, rubber rancher (medium) prize to U Yu Maung of Taikkyi Township and rubber rancher (small) prize to Daw Thein Myint of Mudon Township, and oil-palm rancher (large) prize to South Dagon Co in Bokpyin Township, oil-palm rancher (medium) prize to Vintage Co of Palaw Township and oil-palm rancher (small) prize to U Win Thein of Thayetchaung Township.

Director General U Kyaw San Win of the Irrigation Department presented the outstanding cashew rancher (large) prize to U Khin Maung

Win of Ottwin Township, cashew rancher (medium) prize to U Kyaw Min of Patheingyi Township, and cashew rancher (small) prize to U Tin Soe of Thaboung Township.

Director-General U Win Maw of the Agricultural Mechanization Department presented outstanding macadamia rancher prize to U Min Nyan Shein of Nawngkhio Township, outstanding township prize for rubber cultivation to Thanbyuzayat Township, and outstanding highland reclamation prize to Pansay U Kyaw Myint of Muse Township. Managing Director of Myanma Farms Enterprise Col Myint Shwe presented outstanding township award for oil-palm cultivation to Kawthoung Township, outstanding township award for cashew cultivation to Patheingyi Township and outstanding coffee grower award to U Sai Aik Paung of Pyin Oo Lwin Township.

Managing Director of Myanma Jute Enterprise presented outstanding township award for jute cultivation to Moenyo Township, outstanding jute grower prize to U Tin Than of Pandanaw Township and outstanding jute purchasing centre prize to Myoma purchasing centre of Moenyo Township. Pro-rector U Hla Tun of Yesin University of Agriculture presented the university level essay writing prizes to first prize winner Ma Nan Kaythi Hlaing and second prize winner Maung Zaw Myo Kyaw of the university.

Deputy Director-General Col Ye Phone Myint of the Settlement and Land Records Department presented the Institute of Agriculture level essay writing prizes to first prize winner Maung Aung Kyaw Thu Tun of Myaungmya Institute of Agriculture, second prize winner Maung N Htutai of Patheingyi Institute of Agriculture, and third prize winner Maung Naing Tun of Patheingyi Institute of Agriculture.

Director-General U Win Htut Oo of the Agricultural Planning Department presented first, second and third outstanding food producer (Institute of Agriculture Level) prize to Tharyawady Institute of Agriculture, Pynmana Institute of Agriculture, and family level agricultural prize for telefood project to U Nyunt Maung of Taikkyi Township. —MNA

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Minister inspects installation of river crossing power lines

YANGON, 16 Oct — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, together with Director General of the Hydro-electric Power Department U Win Kyaw and Chief Engineer of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise U Tin Aung, on 11 October inspected installation of 132 KV power lines from Mone to Chauk crossing

Ayeyawady River.

The power line is 61 miles long from Chauk to Mone and installation is now completed.

On 12 October, the minister met with responsible officials of the HEPD and Irrigation Department at the briefing hall of the Mone Chaung Hydel Power Station and also inspected installation of turbine generators, sluice gate and

steel pipes.

The minister went to the Paunglaung Hydel Power Station the next day and also saw over construction of intake structure, spillway, and installation of machines at under ground station and earth work.

He gave necessary instructions to officials of Kunchaung Hydro Power Station on 14 October.

MNA



Contestants participating in the basic education level song composing competition (aged 5-10). — MNA



Amateur level team-wise saing competition (men) being held at Padonma Theatre. — MNA



A contestant participating in the amateur level dance competition. — MNA

11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural...

(from page 16)

At the basic education level violin contest (aged 5-10, boys), six contestants competed with Tatmadaw In-ah (classic/modern) song, at the basic education level violin contest (aged 10-15, boys), six contestants competed with Mitta Gon (classic/modern) song.

At the basic education level violin contest (aged

10-15, girls), six contestants competed with Myan Khan Kyun Twin (Kyo) song. Chairman of Judges Tayaw U Tin Yee and members made judgments on the performance at the song composing contests.

The amateur level xylophone contest (male) and basic education level xylophone contest (aged 15-20, girls) will be held tomorrow. —MNA

Second Meeting of ACCORD Task Force III (Law Enforcement) held

YANGON, 16 Oct — The Second Meeting of ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD)

Task Force III (Law Enforcement) hosted by Myanmar was held at the Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Signal Pagoda Road this morning.

It was attended by delegates of ten ASEAN member countries including Myanmar delegation led by Member of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Deputy Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, delegates of the People's Republic of China, Resident Representative Mr Sandro Calvani of UNDOC, Bangkok, Senior Official Mr Keo Chea of the ASEAN Secretariat and members, and ob-

servers including representatives of the Embassies of the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and members of the European Union. Leader of the Task Force III Police Colonel Kham Aung presided over the meeting and those present discussed matters related to enforcement teams of respective teams, and regional cooperation under the supervision of the ASEAN and the PRC cooperation plan. The meeting concluded in the evening.

Joint-Secretary of CCDAC Police Colonel Kham Aung hosted a dinner in honour of the delegates to the meeting. — MNA



Second meeting of ACCORD Task Force III (Law Enforcement) in progress. — MNA

775 foreign merchants arrive

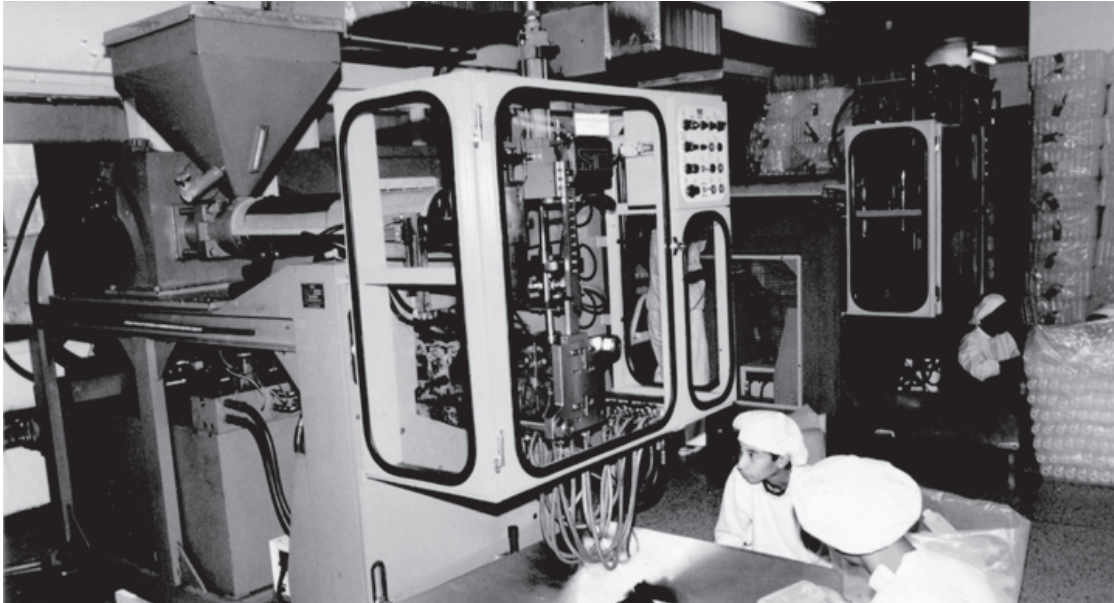
YANGON, 16 Oct — A total of 775 gems merchants—425 from 155 companies from abroad and 119 from local companies—visited Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium for 2003 being held at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here from 9 am to 5 pm today.

Foreign merchants are from China, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Australia, Indonesia, the United States, Italy and Austria.

Jade lots will be put on sale on 17-19 October through tender and competitive bidding system.

MNA

Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country



The Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory under Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries was constructed on 110.18 acres of land to the west of Kyogon station, Insein Township. The factory produces high quality tablets, medicines, injections, vaccines and intravenous injections.

PHOTO:
AUNG MYAT KYAW

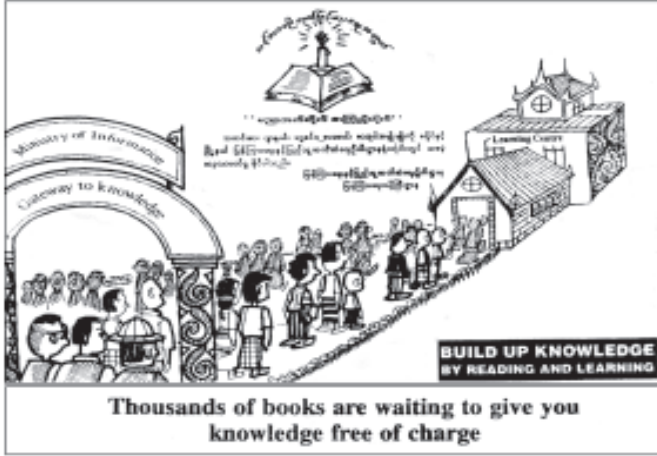
The Battery Workshop established in Dagon Myothit(South) under the Ministry of Industry-2 produces 50,000 National brand batteries a year to fulfil the domestic needs.

PHOTO: INDUSTRY-2



Kyaukse Shoe Factory has emerged in the industrial zone in the east of Kyaukse. The construction work started in 2001 and the factory was constructed on 25.94 acres of land. The factory came into operation in April, 2002. The factory produces slippers and sandals meeting international standard and 720,000 pairs of slippers a year.

PHOTO:INDUSTRY-1



ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (338)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR Voy No (338) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-10-03 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အဖွဲ့အစည်း

၁။ အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာစက္ကနစ် ဓာတုဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း၊ ကြေးမုံမြို့နယ်အောက်ရှိ စက်ရုံများအတွက် အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းများအား မြန်မာကျွန်းမြေ ဝယ်ယူရေးကြေးငွေ ကြွေးမြီအဖြစ်ပေးသွင်းပါသည်။

စဉ် အကြောင်းအရာ အရေအတွက်

- Motor for Hoist (for overhead crane) 1 No with brake system
- Caustic Soda (Solid) 2200 MT

၂။ တင်ဒါပေးရန်/အချိန် ၃-၁၁-၂၀၀၃ နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀နာရီ

၃။ သိရှိလိုသည့်အချက်များရှိပါက ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ဖုန်းနံပါတ် ၅၄၄၆၆၆ သို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာစက္ကနစ်ဓာတုဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း

မြည်တောင်ရေမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ

အဆင့်မြင့်ပညာဦးစီးဌာန (အောက်မြန်မာပြည်)

ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်

ပထမအကြိမ်တွဲနှင်းသဘင်ကျင်းပခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်မှ ကျင်းပမည့် သက်ဆိုင်ရာတွဲရ စာမေးပွဲများကို အောင်မြင်ပြီး တွဲတက်ရောက်ယူရန် လျှောက်ထားကြ သောအောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ကျောင်းသား၊ ကျောင်းသူများအတွက် တွဲနှင်း သဘင်အခမ်းအနားကို အောက်ပါအစီအစဉ်အတိုင်း ကျင်းပမည်ဖြစ်ပါ သည်- ကျင်းပမည်နေရက် - ၉-၁၁-၂၀၀၃ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) အချိန် - နံနက် (၉:၀၀)နာရီ ကျင်းပမည်နေရာ - တွဲနှင်းသဘင်ခန်းမ

စာမေးပွဲတွဲ (၂၀၀၃ မှ ၂၀၀၄ အထိအားလုံး) - မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာတွဲ (၁၉၉၆အခြေခံပညာအထက် တန်း အောင် အသက်) ၂၀၀၃ နေ့လယ် အောင် ကျောင်းသား၊ ကျောင်းသူများ - ဒီပလိုမာတွဲ (၁၉၉၇ မှ ၂၀၀၀ ထိ) - ၈-၁၁-၂၀၀၃ (စနေနေ့) - နံနက်(၁၀:၀၀)နာရီ

အစမ်းလေ့ကျင့်မည့် နေ့ရက် - အချိန်

(၁) အစမ်းလေ့ကျင့်မည့် တွဲနှင်းသဘင်အခမ်းအနား တက်ရောက် သူများသည်မြန်မာဝတ်စုံ တိုင်းရင်းသားဝတ်စုံ၊ အနောက် တိုင်း ဝတ်စုံ(အမျိုးသား) နှစ်သက်ရာဝတ်စုံကို အပြည့်အစုံဝတ်ဆင်၍ တက် ရောက်ရပါမည်။

(၂) တွဲဝတ်စုံများရန် တောင်းခံစာကို ၃-၁၁-၂၀၀၃(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) မှ စ၍ ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်တွဲနှင်းဌာနတွင် ထုတ်ပေးပါမည်။

(၃) အသေးစိတ်ကို တွဲနှင်းဌာနတွင်စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ကြည့်ကြည့်ဆွေ

မော်ကွန်းထိန်း

ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်

Don't smoke

မြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

ASEAN countries urged to strengthen culture ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Oct — Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Tuesday that ASEAN countries, one of the world's richest regions in terms of culture and arts, should continue to strengthen their relations in culture and arts sectors.

He said that the rich and diverse cultures and characters of each member country of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) should be regarded as opportunities to bring the countries close together.

"Unity and diversity of the ASEAN community will enable us to counter any global issues and problems together. Each country has its special attractions and contributions," Abdullah said in his keynote address at the

meeting of the ASEAN ministers responsible for culture and arts affairs here.

"Under the circumstances, a firm and focused effort in cooperation in the field of culture and arts will certainly bring our 550 million people closer together in the shortest possible time," he said.

The text of his speech was read out by Information Minister Khalil Yaakob.

Abdullah said the culture and arts of ASEAN would be something extraordinarily rich and colourful for each country to offer to the world and certainly with potential to attract millions of tourists from all over the world to the countries' shores.

Abdullah hoped that the meeting would result in policy decisions being made which

could be implemented at the national level of each ASEAN country and also at the regional level.

"Culture is certainly an important, if not a leading factor, in nation-building. It is to do with people and people's way of living. Any country who wishes to unite or strengthen the unity of its people will have to use culture as one of the weapons," he said. ASEAN, which groups 10 states in the region, was set up in 1967 to boost regional security and cooperation.

The grouping has made considerable progress in co-operation of various fields covering economy, finance, social welfare, agriculture and forestry, energy, information, transportation and tourism.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian farmers earn profit from grasshopper trade

PHNOM PENH, 16 Oct — Villagers in several Cambodian provinces have found new ways to deal with insects and earn extra money for families, the *Cambodia Daily* reported Tuesday.

The newspaper said that rice farmers in Banteay Meanchey, Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces, are busy in fields, not only for farming but also for catching

grasshoppers to export to Thailand, where they will be fried and eaten as delicacies.

One kilogramme of the crunchy insects can fetch a price of two US dollars. Every day, villagers can catch more than two tons of grasshoppers for export to Thailand.

The insects are caught in nets during the day; at night, farmers will go into the fields with mounted lamps in hopes

of catching more.

The grasshopper export trade is growing in the provinces, where the hunting started last year, after swarms of the insects destroyed rice plantations across the provinces.

And villagers hope that the grasshopper trade will improve their living standards.

MNA/Xinhua

Intel unveils new memory solution for wireless handsets

LOS ANGELES, 16 Oct — Intel Corp on Tuesday unveiled its StrataFlash wireless memory system, claiming it as a cost-effective memory solution designed for next-generation handsets that require memory storage for large embedded data applications such as camera images, audio and video files.

Intel, the world's largest chipmaker, said the new memory system is based on

the company's Multi-Level Cell (MLC) technology, which doubles the amount of information stored in each memory cell. The system contains code execution, data storage and RAM working space—three types of memory functionality wireless developers require in a single device.

The system also features 1.8 volt operation for longer battery life and memory densities up to one Gb. It comes

in one tiny package that simplifies the design process for wireless handset makers.

The Intel StrataFlash Wireless Memory System is designed specifically for next-generation handsets that are driving data adoption rates at a rapid pace," said Ron Smith, senior vice-president and general manager of Intel's Wireless Communications and Computing Group.

MNA/Xinhua

Motorola expands into flat-screen TV business

BEIJING, 16 Oct — Mobile phone giant Motorola Inc has signed a deal with a Hong Kong firm to make flat-screen televisions and computer displays, adding another player to the fast-growing industry.

A Motorola spokeswoman said its partner in the deal, Hong Kong-listed Provius International Holdings Ltd, would make the products, which would be sold in China before being launched globally.

Motorola, the world's

second-largest mobile phone maker, plans to make TVs, computer screens and DVD players for shipment to stores by the end of 2003, it said in a statement on Tuesday.

Provius is one of the world's top five display makers. "These advanced display products are a natural extension of our leadership in digital entertainment," Dan Moloney, president of Motorola's broadband communications sector, said in a statement.

The products would bear the Motorola brand name, it said. The firm, which is struggling to hold on to its leading position in China's cut-throat mobile phone sector, did not give any details on product pricing or expected unit shipments. The Schaumburg, Illinois-based company beat expectations on Monday by posting a quarterly profit of five cents a share, twice Wall Street's estimates, due to strong demand for its cellphones.—MNA/Reuters

Vietnam faces HIV/AIDS spread

HANOI, 16 Oct — Vietnam has still faced a spread of HIV/AIDS epidemic as a total of 71,530 local people were reported as HIV positive by September 12, 2003, and some 1,300 others have been infected with HIV.

The numbers are increasing, said Nancy Fee, country coordinator of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Epidemiology, at a media briefing here on Tuesday.

Notably, the number of underreporting and misdiagnosis of HIV carriers across the country is considerable. The Ministry of Health estimates that there were 160,000 HIV sufferers by the end of 2002, and that there will be 197,000 by the end of 2005.

Of the reported HIV cases, drug users currently account for 60 per cent. Meanwhile, the percentage of prostitutes infected with HIV is becoming larger. HIV/AIDS transmission is not just concentrated in high-risk groups such as drug addicts and prostitutes, but now making its way into general population.

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု

WHO experts to be stationed in China to monitor SARS situation

BEIJING, 16 Oct— Concerned over the possible resurgence of SARS epidemic, the World Health Organization has deployed about ten respiratory disease experts in China to monitor the situation, a report said here Tuesday.

"About half a dozen experts will arrive in Beijing next week to join four others who have already started working in China," the *China Daily* reported.

The experts would work on the prevention and control of SARS in China, where the disease first originated last November. China was among the worst-hit nations by the epidemic caused by corona virus.

"The experts will be separated into several groups and do research in infection control, epidemiology and other areas for fighting against the possible outbreak of SARS as cold weather approaches," said Bob Dietz, a WHO spokesman in Beijing said.

The team headed by Julie Hall will be responsible for WHO's SARS research programme to be carried out over the next two years, Dietz said.

The team will work in Beijing and possibly other areas in China for about three months, and then other experts might be sent to the country as the need arises.

The WHO experts will carry out their research in close co-operation with their Chinese counterparts organized by the Ministry of Health and Chinese Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC).

A sudden temperature drop in most areas of China has sparked fears of a possible return of SARS which first originated in South China's

Guangdong Province last November and infected 5,327 people.

Nearly 349 people succumbed to the epidemic in 24 provinces triggering a global health alert.

Meanwhile, the WHO has issued a warning that SARS could reappear in November.

A young researcher was infected with the disease while working in a laboratory in Singapore in August.

China's Ministry of Health has started issuing its public information releases as it did last year when the epidemic broke out.

No new suspected or confirmed SARS case has been reported to the ministry, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Germans drink more mineral water than beer

BERLIN, 16 Oct— Germans gulp down more mineral water than beer this year, although the beverage has been their favourite drink for decades.

According to figures released Monday by German mineral water producer Christinen Brunnen, each German is estimated to drink over 120 liters of mineral water this year, while average beer consumption will fall below the 120-liter level.

For decades, coffee and beer have been the most liked drinks in Germany, but beer consumption has declined in recent years.

Each German drank 156.3 litres of coffee, 121.5 litres of beer and 118.1 litres of mineral water in 2002, said Paul Gehring, of Christinen Brunnen.

He believed that unusually hot weather might have been the reason for increasing consumption of mineral water this year.

In the first eight months of this year, mineral water consumption rose by 18 per cent over the same period last year, while in August, it jumped by 37 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

NY doctors find cause for some cases of mystery disease

NEW YORK, 16 Oct— A team of doctors from New York City's Health Department is closing in on what caused four Staten Islanders to be stricken with encephalitis or an encephalitis-like virus.

While one person was released from Staten Island University Hospital on Saturday after being treated for what was determined to be meningitis, four others are still seriously ill, said Sandra Mullin of the city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Between late September and early October, the five patients, ranging in age from 22 to 54, began showing symptoms of an encephalitis-type virus, including fever, headache and fatigue.

Doctors so far have determined the cause of the encephalitis-like disease that struck two patients, but they did not elaborate on what it was. The other two patients have

been diagnosed with encephalitis. They tested negative for West Nile and Eastern Equine viruses, which can cause encephalitis, Mullin said. On Saturday, the Department of Health said it was concerned about a possible outbreak of the disease after five people were hospitalized with symptoms of encephalitis.

But the department said the illnesses are not evidence of an outbreak, and that there have been no similar cases beyond the people affected.

Encephalitis is a symptom of the West Nile virus, but the patients, between the ages of 22 and 54, have all tested negative for the mosquito-borne disease. — MNA/Xinhua



Workers construct what is being billed as the world's biggest representation of a pumpkin on 15 October, 2003, in the Europapark Rust, southwestern Germany. The pumpkin is 42 metres high and contains a volume of 38,792 cubic metres.

INTERNET

French Government maintains tobacco tax hike

PARIS, 16 Oct— The French Government said on Monday it sticks to the plan to raise tobacco taxes again next January after a hike in October despite reports that French smokers are buying cheaper cigarettes in Belgium.

"We're sticking with what has already been planned," said an aide to Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin.

The French Sunday newspaper *Le Journal* said the tax increase in January could be put off because high tobacco prices are driving northern French smokers over the border into Belgium in search of cheaper smokes. In average, a pack of cigarettes is now sold at 4.63 US dollars in France. The price will go up to 5.46 US dollars on October 20, and then to about 6.41 dollars next year — nearly a 40-per-cent increase overall. — MNA/Xinhua

WHO warns Asian cities face disease crisis

MANILA, 16 Oct— The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that the health of city dwellers in the Western Pacific Region will suffer dramatically unless urgent measures are taken now to alleviate worsening environmental conditions.

Highlighting the growing problems, Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, said the urban poor are more vulnerable to poor health and environmental hazards because they are more likely to lack adequate housing, sanitation and other basic services.

Shifting authority from central governments to municipalities can help make policies, plans and actions more

responsive, especially to the plight of the urban poor, the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific on Tuesday quoted Omi as saying in a statement.

"Decentralization, accompanied by empowerment of people to take action, can be a potent force for vitalizing communities," he said. "There is no longer a need to wait for the central government to take action. People and

their leaders can take on tasks on their own."

Many urban areas are growing in population so fast that economies, services and infrastructures cannot cope, said WHO. This will result not only in outbreaks of disease, but also in an upsurge in crime, violence, environmental degradation, pollution, poverty and unhealthy lifestyles.

MNA/Xinhua

Survey shows entertainment age curbs better enforced

WASHINGTON, 16 Oct — An undercover probe by the US Government released on Tuesday showed the entertainment industry was doing better in barring youths from access to material depicting violence, but eight out of 10 youngsters in the survey were still able to buy adult-rated DVDs.

The Federal Trade Commission hired a contractor to recruit youths aged between 13 and 16 to try to buy adult-rated movie tickets, movies on DVD, music, and electronic games at 899 theatres and stores in 39 states.

The survey found movie theatres enforced age restric-

tions most strictly — only 36 per cent of the unaccompanied youths in the 2003 survey were able to buy adult-rated movie tickets, a drop of 12 percentage points from the previous survey in 2001.

It said 83 per cent of the children were able to purchase adult-rated music,

down seven percentage points, and 69 per cent could buy violent video games, down from 78 per cent in 2001.

The survey said 81 per cent of the youths were able to buy adult DVD movies, included in the survey for the first time this year.

The survey, targeted at material portraying violence, did not specify at what age a consumer would be regarded as an adult for the various products involved.

Representatives of the movie-making and theatre industries hailed the survey results. — MNA/Reuters

Bell may identify ship lost with up to \$180m in gold

MIAMI, 16 Oct— A bell recovered off Georgia's coast could be proof that a Florida treasure salvage company has found a ship that sank almost 140 years ago with a cargo of up to 180 million US dollars in gold, the company said on Tuesday.

The bronze bell bears the inscribed letters "SSEE." The paddlewheel steamship, called the *SS Republic* when it sank, was originally named the *SS Tennessee* and ship's bells typically would carry the ship's original name,

Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc. said.

The Tampa, Florida-based firm said the rest of the inscription on the bell, found near the bow of the wreck, would not be visible until it was cleaned. — MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

CSKA Moscow suffer shock defeat in Russian Cup

Moscow, 16 Oct — Premier League leaders CSKA Moscow suffered a shock 1-0 defeat at Second Division Elets in a sixth round Russian Cup match on Tuesday.

Rotor Volgograd, Torpedo-Metallurg Moscow and Chernomorets Novorossiisk were the other Premier League teams to lose to lower division opponents in the sixth-round, first-leg ties.

Rotor lost 3-1 to First Division side Anji Makhachkala, who were relegated from the top flight last season, while Metallurg and Chernomorets went down to First Division teams Amkar Perm and Terek Grozny, 3-2 and 2-0 respectively.

After going a goal behind midway through the first half, CSKA pressed for an equalizer but failed to score against little-known Elets who are 10th in the 19-team central zone — one of five regional zones in Russia's Second Division.

However, the Army side can still avoid an embarrassing exit in the second leg tie in Moscow next month.

CSKA, who have a four-point lead over Zenit St. Petersburg with just three matches left in the season, are aiming for their first Russian league title in over a decade. —MNA/Reuters



Udinese's Carsten Jancker of Germany, left, fights an aerial duel with a unidentified Salzburg's defender during their UEFA Cup first round, second leg match between Udinese and Salzburg, at the Friuli stadium in Udine, Italy, on 15 October, 2003. —INTERNET

Alpay given time off after Beckham row

LONDON, 16 Oct — Aston Villa's Turkey defender Alpay Ozalan, who taunted England skipper David Beckham last weekend, has been given time off to be with his family, his Premier League club said on Wednesday.

Alpay has been vilified in the British media after his widely publicized clash with Beckham in Saturday's Euro 2004 qualifier in Istanbul, which finished goalless to send England through to the finals and Turkey into a playoff with Latvia. But the Turk told a TV interviewer on Wednesday the England captain spat on his shirt and should be the first to apologize.

Villa had issued a short statement on the club's website earlier in the day, confirming manager David O'Leary had met Alpay and allowed him to "spend more time with his family".

Alpay's future in English football has been questioned by commentators since he taunted Beckham after the midfielder missed a penalty on Saturday and then stuck a finger in the England captain's face as they left the pitch at halftime.

Seconds later, there was a tussle in the tunnel between players from both teams.

But in a Turkish television interview, filmed in Bir-

mingham, England, Alpay said: "Firstly, he (Beckham) should apologize for spitting on the (Turkish) moon-and-star shirt."

He said the media could do what they wished to him personally but added "...no-body can ever harm the moon-and-star shirt that I wear, I won't accept that."

Alpay said: "If I can stay (with Villa) I will and if not I have received unbelievable offers from Germany and Italy in the last week."

Alpay has had an unhappy time in English football and made only five appearances for Villa last season following repeated demands for a transfer. He has tried to play down the events in Istanbul, telling the Villa website on Tuesday that the brawl in the tunnel "was nothing really".

Turkey's team manager Can Cöbanoglu, in an interview with the state-run Anatolian news agency, expressed support for Alpay and said the English were deliberately distorting events.

MNA/Reuters

Coach says Alpay's Turkey career could be over

ISTANBUL, 16 Oct — Defender Alpay Ozalan might never play for Turkey again after his spat with England captain David Beckham in Saturday's Euro 2004 qualifier, Turkey coach Senol Gunes said on Tuesday.

Alpay, who plays for English Premier League club Aston Villa, taunted Beckham after his 37th minute penalty miss in their 0-0 draw in Istanbul and also jabbed a finger in his cheek as the players left the field at the break.

Italian referee Pierluigi Collina called both men to his dressing room at halftime, telling them to calm down, after a brawl in the tunnel involving Turkey and England players.

"You can say that under these circumstances he (Alpay) may not be called for duty from now on," Gunes told CNN Turk television.

Alpay sought to play down the incident on Tuesday, telling the Villa website: "What happened in the tunnel was nothing really. I tripped down some stairs and fell over. Something then happened behind me. It is forgotten now."

Saturday's draw

Houllier defends Heskey over Turkey bust-up

LIVERPOOL (England), 16 Oct — England's Emile Heskey must have been severely provoked to get drawn into a half-time fracas during the European Championship qualifier in Turkey, according to his Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier.

Houllier, who has spoken to his striker about the incidents in the players' tunnel in Istanbul on Saturday, said: "There is an enquiry being led by UEFA so I don't think you can say much. Let them do their job."

"But if Emile reacted it must have been something very serious. Emile is not a person who reacts, despite the provocation he gets. He is a very quiet man," he told a news conference.

"And he was not the only one to react. Whether it was for him or one of his team mates, I don't know. I think it's maybe something that has been done to one of them, but I don't know."

Television pictures have shown several players involved in the incident.

Heskey is set to lead Liverpool's attack in the second leg of their first-round UEFA Cup tie against Slovenian side Olimpija Ljubljana at Anfield on Wednesday. Michael Owen and Milan Baros are injured.

Houllier hoped to have Owen, who scored Liverpool's goal in a 1-1 draw in Slovenia to break Ian Rush's European goal-scoring record for the club, back to face Portsmouth at the weekend after he missed England's game in Turkey with a shin injury.

"The team doesn't only rely on Michael, fortunately. It's just a shame that we have Michael and Milan out at the same time," Houllier said.

Swiss international defender Stephane Henchoz is fit again following an ankle injury.

"We are aware that this sort of game could be a trap," added the Liverpool manager.

"They have nothing to lose so there's probably more pressure on us than on them."

"We know this sort of game is never easy to deal with, but the players will make sure they have the right attitude. We are confident." —MNA/Reuters

Chelsea go top despite Birmingham stalemate

LONDON, 16 Oct — Chelsea edged past London rivals Arsenal to go top of the English Premier League on Tuesday despite being held 0-0 at Birmingham City.

Claudio Ranieri's unbeaten Chelsea side had arrived at St. Andrews with a game in hand and needing just a draw to lead the table on goal difference.

They achieved that in a dull encounter at St. Andrews to take them to 20 points from eight games,

with a goal difference of 11 compared to Arsenal's 10.

Manchester United are one point back, also from eight games, with Birmingham moving past Fulham into fourth on 15.

Chelsea will have gained confidence for their next match at Arsenal on Saturday in what has become a top-of-the-table clash.

"It will be a very exciting match. For us it's important to continue this way. I have seen a good performance (by Chelsea) so far," manager Claudio Ranieri told Sky Sports.

His opposite number Steve Bruce added: "It was a fantastic effort by us against a really good Chelsea team. They have earned their point tonight."

Neither goalkeeper was really tested in the first half

on Tuesday night although Maik Taylor was the busier as Chelsea, starting with Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Hernan Crespo up front, dominated possession.

Birmingham, however, unbeaten at home this season, remained solid at the back while leaving Christophe Dugarry as a lone threat up front.

MNA/Reuters

Blanco gets three-match suspension, Passarella one

MEXICO CITY, 16 Oct — Volatile Mexican striker Cuauhtemoc Blanco has been given a three-match suspension after his latest sending-off, the Notimex news agency reported on Tuesday.

Blanco was handed the ban by a Mexican Football Federation disciplinary commission after receiving the red card for a bad tackle in the 21st minute of America's 2-1 defeat by Pachuca on Sunday.

Monterrey's Argentine coach Daniel Passarella was given a one-match touchline ban after being sent off during the 1-0 defeat at Morelia in the Mexican Apertura championship.

MNA/Reuters

Valencia's Argentine player Fabian Ayala, left, jumps as AIK Solna goalkeeper Hakan Svensson punches the ball clear during their UEFA Cup first round second leg match in Mestalla stadium, Valencia, Spain, on 15 October, 2003. —INTERNET





Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe enjoys the boy's violin competition (aged 10-15). — MNA

11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 16 Oct— Thanks to the successful holding of Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, the youth mass of the nation have come to value the high historical traditions and culture of Myanmar and they are awakened to uphold and safeguard national culture.

The Eleventh Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the third day at respective venues today. The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay road, the dance con-

test at the National Theater on Myoma Kyaung Street, the song-composing contest at Pantra School on Kaba Aye Pagoda road, the higher education level Saing men's contest (group) and at Padonma Theater on Bagaya road, and the violin contest at Kanbawza Theatre on Kaba Aye Pagoda road.

The competitions were attended by Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Patron of the Committee for Holding the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Prime Minis-

ter General Khin Nyunt, Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Committee for Holding the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of the Work Committee for holding the competitions Commander of No-3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan, officials of work committees and sub-committees and enthusiasts.

At the professional level religious song contest (female), a total of 12 contestants competed with Myinmopwe composed by Sein Wai Lyan.

At the basic education level classic/contemporary song contest (age 10-15, boys), a total of 16 contestants competed with Pariyathana composed by Ko Than Hlaing.

The amateur level religious song contest (male), and basic education level classic/contemporary song contest (age 5-10, boys) will be held tomorrow.

At the dance contest, Chairman of Judges Wunna Kyaw Htin U Sein Aung Min, Secretary Daw Mu Mu Khin and members made judgments on the performance.

A total of 11 contestants participated in the amateur level dance contest (female), and 15 contestants in the basic education level dance contest (age 5-10, boys).

The professional level dance contest (male) and higher education level dance contest (female) will be held tomorrow.

At the basic education level song-composing contest (age 5-10), nine contestants participated with Mi Ba Saya Yo Thay Pa song, and 10 contestants at the higher education level with Pyinnya Ye Yint Pwe Le Tint song.

Chairman of Judges Bogale U Tint Aung and

members made judgments on the performance at the song composing contests.

At the higher education level Saing men's contest (group), three groups took part in the contest. Member of Panel of Judges (central) U Sein Myint Khaing and members made judgments on the performance.

At the amateur level Saing men's contest (group), nine groups took part in the contest. Member of Panel of Judges (central) U Sein Nyunt Hlaing and members made judgments on the performance.

At the professional level violin contest (male), eight contestants participated with Aung Myay Mya Mann (Pat Pyo) song, and at the professional level violin contest (female), eight contestants participated with Aung Myay Tha San (Pat Pyo) song.

(See page 10)



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, enjoys performance of a young boy at the boy's dance competition (aged 5-10). — MNA

Minister inspects Mid-year Gems Emporium

YANGON, 16 Oct— Patron of the Committee for Holding the Myanmar Mid-year Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, together with officials, arrived at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road at noon today, where he was welcomed by Secretary of the Committee Myanmar Gems Enterprise Managing Director U Khin Oo and officials of sub-committees.

The minister inspected the display of gems and pearl lots, and cordially greeted the gem merchants from abroad who are viewing jade, gem and pearl lots there. He also inspected gems shops of private entrepreneurs on the ground floor and the Myanmar Gems Museum on the top floor.

After giving necessary instructions there, the minister left there in the afternoon.—MNA

Saddan Hsinmin Drama Competition continues

YANGON, 16 Oct— The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of the Saddan Hsinmin Drama Competition went on for the second day at the National Theatre in Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township here this evening.

U Aung Soe Min's drama troupe of Ayeyawady Division performed in the competition on that day.

Members of the panel of patrons of the 11th MTCAPAC Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for the Competition Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen

Aung Thein, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, Chairman of the Work Committee for the Competition Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan and

members, doyen artistes, and enthusiasts enjoyed the competition.

U Chit Oo Nyo, leader of the panel of judges, and members made the assessment of the performance

given by U Aung Soe Min's drama troupe.

Pantra Mya Kyi's drama troupe will stage Saddan Hsinmin drama at the same venue tomorrow evening.

MNA



Members of Panel of Patrons for Holding the competitions enjoy performance of U Aung Soe Min group from Ayeyawady Division in Saddan Hsinmin Drama Competition. — MNA