Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses World Food Day commemorative ceremony

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 the 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 Solidarity 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, to enjoy food sufficiency most imperative human rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four political objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order</td>
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<tr>
<td>* National reconsolidation</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution</td>
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<td>* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution</td>
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<th>Four economic objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well</td>
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<td>* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system</td>
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<td>* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad</td>
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<td>* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples</td>
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<th>Four social objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation</td>
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<td>* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and protection of cultural heritage and national character</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit</td>
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<td>* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation</td>
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For the entire mankind, to be free from starvation, to enjoy food sufficiency most imperative human rights
**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 and discipline in enforcing 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 road map.

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.
The following are excerpts from the speech delivered by Francisco Guerrero Prats, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, at the 55th 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 -

... The vigilance of all Member States must be redoubled. Terrorism is a dark menace, which it had exerted in the past on all Member States.

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.

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.

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

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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.
Hu Jintao hails China’s success of its first manned spacecraft

JILIN, 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 9:03 and moved into the preset orbit at about 9:10, carrying Lieutenant Colonel Yang Liwei who has become the first Chinese astronaut in the outer space.

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.

“Car overtook our motorcade as we approached our district in Baghdad... a man emerged with an AK-47 and started firing,” said Abdul Rahman Mustawi, a deputy on Iraq’s US-appointed Governing Council told Reuters.

“Our guards immediately shot back,” he said. Musawi said the attack happened as he was returning home with Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloom, 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 beheading 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

Chinese first astronaut debuts

JILIN (Gansu), 16 Oct—Three and a half hours before liftoff, Lieutenant Colonel Yang Liwei, in shiny space suit, asked Li Jinnai, 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 14,000 applicants.

MNA/Xinhua

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 as that the Iraqi Governing Council we will be able to provide, to meet those deadlines,” Foreign Minister Hoshyar 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 (OIC).

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.

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

“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.”

Zebari 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

Turkey’s 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 TV 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 embassy staff 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.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq’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 spacecraft,” he said.

Yu was engaged 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

Chinese 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


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

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

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

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 focusing 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 Iraq self-rule.

Annan spoke to reporters as the United States told Security Council envoy to be ready to vote this week on the draft, which proposes a multinational force and a December 15 date for 25-member Iraqi Government.

Annan, whose remarks have been criticized, 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 timetable 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.

It asks 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.”

Annan said each ICO member country has the right to make its own decision on whether or not to send troops. —Internet

Bombs in Iraq since Aug 7

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

Oct 14: A suicide car bomber killed 39 people and wounded another 13 in a Shi’ite district.

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

Sept 25: A planted bomb damaged a hotel housing journalists in Baghdad, killing himself and an Iraqi policeman who stopped him and wounding six 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 at a mosque in the Shi’ite Muslim holy city of Najaf, killing more than 85 people including Shi’ite leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim.

Aug 19: A truck bomb 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

Poll finds support for Bush on economy, Iraq slipping

WASHINGTON, 16 Oct—A Washington Post poll shows 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.

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 the 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
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 Travelers 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 included 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 Cardiology Conference in Vienna in August.

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

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 stayed 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 publishing 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 government to release him. They even strengthened their fabrication in the morning programme thus, continued it in the 8.15 evening programme by interviewing Daw Khin Myo Myint.

I would like to explain the readers how the BBC, the VOA and the UNESCO, the BBC said UNESCO had requested the government to release him. They even strengthened their fabrication the interview with Daw Khin Myo Myint.

It may be recalled that Dr Khin Zaw Win did not engage 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, Singapore currencies, and classified documents containing some facts about the Ministry of Energy from him.

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 spies 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 is 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. There-fore, 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)

(13-10-03)

Pauk Sa

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 455,852 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 appealed
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 received 10 medals.

FAO Resident Representative to Myanmar Mr Tang Zhengping presents an outstanding township prize for sesame cultivation to Namguk Township. — mna
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt…
(from page 8)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented the first 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, Thaninthayi Division, and the third to U Tun San Kyaw of MraukU Township, Rakhine State, the first prize (summer paddy) to Kyakkaik Township, Ayeyawady Division, the second to Shweswe Township, Sagaing Division, and the third to Hantabin Township, Yangon Division, the first prize (summer paddy) to U Tin Pe of Myanmarya Township, Ayeyawady Division, the second to Shwe Kyin Township, Namkhkan Township, Shan State (North), and the third to U Aung Han 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 (summer paddy)) to BTB Co in Ahlon Yangon Division, and prize (breeding fish (pre-monsoon long staple cotton)) to Thida Co in Kawthoung Township, Thaninthayi Division.

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

Director-General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Maung Naing Nyunt presented the first, second and third prizes for outstanding township for development of livestock breeding to Myaungmyan Township, Kawa Township, and Hpa-an Township; outstanding livestock breeder prizes to U Tin Hte Win of Magway Township and U Saw Thaw of Hlegu Township who raised over 500 local fowls; and pig breeding first, second and third prizes to U Ye Aung of Kyangin Township and U Aung Tun of Aunglan Township.

Managing Director Dr Thein Hlay of Myanmar Cotton and Textile Enterprises presented first, second and third prizes for outstanding township in cultivation of late-monsoon long staple cotton to Monywa Township, Aunglan Township, and Myaungmyan Township, and outstanding grower prizes for cultivation of late-monsoon long-staple cotton to U Kan Tin of Singgaw Township, U Yin Thwai of Singgaw Township and U Po Ni of Myaungmyan Township.

Managing Director U Kyaw San Win of the Irrigation Department presented the outstanding cashew runner (large) prize to U Kyaw Htet Myint of Maw township, outstanding rubber (small) prize to U Than Tun of Aunglan Township, and outstanding jute producer (small) prize to Myoma Township.

Director-General U Kyaw Tun Lwan of Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank presented outstanding rubber (large) prize to U Kyaw Htet Myint, rubber (medium) prize to U Yu Maung of Taunggaw Township, and oil palm (large) prize to South Dagon Co in Bokpyin Township.

Manager General U Tin Hlaing of the Agricultural Mechanization Department presented outstanding soybean oil and plant vaccine production prize to U Htan Harain of Taungdaw Township, outstanding rubber runner (medium) prize to U Thein of Myaungmyan Township, and outstanding soybean oil (large) prize to U Htet Oo of the Agricultural Utilization Department.

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 Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise U Tin Aung, on 11 October inspected installation of 132 KV power lines from Mone to Chaung crossing. The minister went to the Paunglaung Hydro Power Station the next day and also saw over construction of intake structure, spillway, and installation of machines at under ground station and earthwork.

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

11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural... (from page 16)

At the basic education level violin contest (aged 5-10, boys), six contestants competed with Myanmar, China, Japan, United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and members of the European Union. The amateur level xylophone contest (male) and male/dacca at the basic education level xylophone contest (aged 15-20, girls) will be held tomorrow...

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) held in the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and members of the European Union. The President 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 Police Coordinating Centre and PRC cooperation meeting. The meeting concluded in the evening.

Joint-Secretary of CCCC Police Colonel Kham Aung hosted a dinner in honour of the delegates to the meeting. — MNA
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

The Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory under Myanmar 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
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, therefore must continue to strengthen their relations in culture and arts sectors.

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

“Unity and diversity of the ASEAN community will enable us to counter any global is- sues and problems to- gether. Each country has its special attractions and con-
tributions,” Abdullah said in his keynote address at the meeting of the ASEAN min-
isters responsible for culture and arts affairs here.

Under the circum-
stances, 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 this speech was read out by Information Min-
ister 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 re-
gional level.

“Culture is certainly an important, if not a leading factor, in nation-building. It is something which is inher-
tent in people’s way of living. Any coun-
try who wishes to unite or strengthen the unity of its people must necessarily strengthen its cul-
ture as one of the weapons,” he said. ASEAN, which groups 10 countries, 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 services, agriculture, forestry, energy, information, transportation and tourism.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam faces HIV/“AIDS” spread

HO CHI MINH CITY, 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 30, 2003 and some 1,300 others have been infected with HIV.

The numbers are increasing, said Nguyen Hue, country coordinator of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS Epidemiology, at a med-
dia briefing here on Tuesday. Notably, the number of underreporting and misdiagnosis of HIV carriers across the country is consider-
able. 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.

While some of the reported HIV cases, drug users currently account for 60 per cent. Meanwhile, the percentage of prostitutes infected with HIV is becom-
ing larger. HIV/AIDS transmis-
sion is not just concen-
trated in high-risk groups such as drug addicts and prostitutes, but now making its way into general population.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian farmers earn profit from grasshopper trade

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

The newspaper 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 grasshopper can fetch up to 200 US dollars. Every day, villagers can catch more than two tons of grasshopper to 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 hunt-
ing started when the first warms 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 un-
veiled its StratáFlash wireless memory system, claim-
ing it as a cost-effective memory solution designed for next-generation handsets that require memory stor-
age 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 memory storage in each memory cell. The system contains code execution, data storage and RAM working space—three types of memory functionality wire-
less developers require in a single device.

The system also features 1.8 volt operation for longer battery life and memory den-
ities up to one Gb. It comes in one tiny package that sim-
plifies the design process for wireless handset makers.

The Intel StratáFlash Wireless Memory System is designed specifically for next-generation handsets that are driving data adop-
tion rates at a rapid pace,” said Ron Smith, senior vice-presi-
dent and general manager of Intel’s Wireless Communi-
cations and Computing Group.

MNA/Xinhua

Motorola expands into flat-screen TV business

BRUSSELS, 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 spokes-
woman said last month in the deal, Hong Kong-listed Proview International Hold-
ings Ltd, would make the products, which would be sold in China before being launched globally.

Motorola, the world’s second-largest mobile phone man-
ufacturer, aims to make TVs, computer screens and DVD players for shipment to stores around the world by 2003, it said in a statement on Tuesday.

“Proview is one of the world’s top five display mak-
ers. Those advanced display products are a natural exten-
sion of our leadership in dig-
tal entertainment,” Dan Moloney, president of Motorola’s broadband com-
munications sector, said in a statement.

The products would bear the Motorola brand name, the firm, which is strug-
gling to hold on to its leading position in the geographic mobile phone sector, did not give any details on product pricing or expected unit ship-
ments. The Schaumburg, Ill-

o-based company beat ex-
pecations on Monday by post-
ing a quarterly profit of five cents a share, twice Wall Street’s estimates, due to strong demand for its cellphones.—MNA/Reuters

CLAIRWAY HOLDING

CLAYTON, N.Y., Oct. 15 — The Port of Yangon.

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR

voy No (338) are hereby 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.

FORTUNER

MYSORE, 10 Nov — Consignee of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY No (338) are hereby 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.

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MNEAGLE @MBP

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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 (WHO) 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 in the provinces of 5 SARS-stricken areas in China, where the disease first originated last November. China was among the worst-hit nations by the epidemic caused by coronavirus.

"The experts will be separated into several groups and do research in infection control, epidemiology and others," said Bob Dietz, a WHO spokesman in Beijing.

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 12 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 or- ganized by the Ministry of Health and Chinese Centre for Disease 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 Guandong Province last Novem- ber and infected 5,327 people.

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 informa- tion 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.

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 deter- mined to be encephalitis, four others are still seriously ill, said Sandra Mulin of the city’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Between late September and early Octo- ber, the five patients, ranging in age from 22 to 54, began showing symptoms of an en- cephalitis-type virus, including fever, head- ache 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 testified negative for West Nile and Eastern Equine viruses, which can cause encephalitis. Mulin said.

On Saturday, the Department of Health said it was concerned about a possible out- break 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.

French Government maintains tobacco tax hike

PARIS, 16 Oct— The French Government said on Mon- day 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 will go up to 2.18 US dollars on October 20, and then to 5.46 US dollars in January after a hike in October despite reports that French

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 a better job keeping youths from accessing material depicting violence, but eight out of 10 youngsters in the survey were still able to buy adult-rated DVDs.

The Federal Trade Com- mission 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 young youths in the survey were able to buy adu- lterated movie tickets, a drop of 12 percentage points from the previous survey in 2001. It said 53 states of the children were able to pur- chase adult-rated music, down seven percentage points, and 69 per cent could buy videotape 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, is not specific 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.

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 156.5 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.

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

MANSFIELD, 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 inscription 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, "SS Tennessee." The 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 meters.

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Houllier defends Heskey over Turkey bust-up

LONDON, 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.

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.

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.

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.

Banco 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.

Alpay given time off after Beckham row

LONDON, 16 Oct—Aston Villa’s Turkish defender Alpay Ozalan, who taunted England skipper David Beckham last weekend, has been given time off to be with his family.

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’s future in England is now in doubt. He has tried to play his way back into Turkey’s squad for the Euro 2004 qualifier in Istanbul, which finished goalless to send England through to the finals in Portugal.

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.”

Alpay, who plays for the 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.

“Don’t accept that.”

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. Red 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 Ahmet Comoglu, in an interview with the state-run ATV news agency, expressed support for Alpay and said the English were deliberately distorting events.

Udinese’s Carsten Janczer 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.—MNA/Reuters
Over 10,000 children die every day in ICO countries

ICO Follow-up to the UN Special Session on Children, was launched by UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Kul Gautam before the 10th ICO Summit which is scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

The ICO, which now groups 57 member states from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, was formally established in 1971 to pool together the resources of Islamic countries in promoting their interests and to consolidate their efforts to work together with a single united voice in advancing peace, security and development of the Muslim world.

Every year, about 4.4 million children die in the ICO member states, which have 21 percent of the world’s population, accounting for 41 percent of the world’s child deaths annually, the report said.

About half of all the under-five deaths are linked to malnutrition and the rate of malnutrition is significantly higher in ICO countries than the average of the developing world, it indicated.

Twentieth Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Marketing
Nineteenth Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development
Eighth Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment
Bagan, Union of Myanmar
October 29-30, 2003

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagun Division, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States, rain or thunderstorms have been widespread in Tanintharyi Division, scattered in Shan, Rakhine States, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Yangon (Cico Island) 2.36 inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-10-2003 was 31.5°C (88°F). Minimum temperature on 16-10-2003 was 20.6°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-10-2003 was 74%.

Total sunshine hours on 15-10-2003 was (1.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 16-10-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, 6 mm at Kaba-Aye and 6 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 31-12-2002 (69.3 mm) at Kaba-Aye 2287 mm (90.05 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2347 mm (92.40 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 15-10-2003. Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea, Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 17-10-2003: Rain or thunderstorms are likely to be widespread in Ayeyawady, Tanintharyi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine, Shan States, Bago, Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (90%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thunderstorms are likely in lower Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-10-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-10-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

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 Myanma 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

Minister inspects Mid-year Gems Emporium

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