Puja ca pujaneyyanam, to honour those worthy of honour; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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

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

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives military attaches of Thailand Col Kasem Nakpun and his successor Col Prissapa Suvanatat. — MNA

YANGON, 5 Oct — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Thai Defence, Army and Air Attache Col Kasem Nakpun who had completed his tour of duty and his successor Defence, Army and Air Attache Col Prissapa Suvanatat at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinttha, here, at 11 am today. Present on the occasion were Military Adviser to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For fitness and mental health of the people

Nowadays, the Government, enlisting the might of own national resources, is making all-out efforts on self-reliant basis for the country to stand shoulder to shoulder with the global nations.

In the process, participation of the entire national people is of utmost importance. To be able to fully enjoy the fruitful results of development, the entire national people need to be strong and healthy.

Therefore, the Government has been implementing the national objective—split of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation.

The health standard promotion programmes have been laid down and are being implemented for the people to enjoy longevity and be free from diseases.

At present, health care services are being provided with full capacity for the people in all parts of the nation including border areas. For successful realization of the project, priority is being given to prevention of disease, diagnosis and treatment, and rehabilitation.

Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 3 October 2004 inspected Hepatitis-B Vaccines Factory in Hlegu Township and Mental Health Hospital in Dagon Myothit (East) and gave instructions to officials.

Hepatitis-B Vaccines Factory is producing two kinds of Hepatitis-B Vaccines—one produced from serum and another through genetic technology, and all the two vaccines have gone through the quality test.

During his inspection tour, Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met officials of Mental Health Hospital and gave instructions aimed at full use of the human resources. In this connection, the Prime Minister called for extensive educative programmes on public mental health.

Therefore, we would like to call on township organizations and health staff to take health educative measures extensively for the people to actively participate in nation-building endeavours, while providing health care services for them.

Minister Col Tin Hlaing speaks at the Seminar on International Humanitarian Law

YANGON, 5 Oct — The International Committee of Red Cross and the Ministry of Home Affairs today jointly organized a seminar on International Humanitarian Law here, attended by thirty-one participants from the MOHA, Attorney General’s Office, Supreme Court and University of Yangon. Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Home Affairs, made an opening speech, followed by a presentation speech of Mr. Patrick Vial, ICRC Head of Delegation in Myanmar. The HIL lecture was conducted by Col Aleardo Ferretti, ICRC Regional Delegate.

PBAKRDA Minister leaves for Singapore

YANGON, 5 Oct—Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt left for Singapore by air this afternoon to attend the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication to be held in Singapore. The minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for PBAKRDA Col Tin Ngwe, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Simon Tensing de Cruz, and officials.—MNA

Minister Col Thein Nyunt being seen off at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

柴油发动机久事被检查

YANGON, 5 Oct.—Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin on 3 October afternoon arrived at the construction site of the diesel engine factory of the Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries in Yedaide Township in Bago Division and inspected the construction of buildings.

At the briefing hall of the project site yesterday, officials reported to the minister on arrangements for construction of buildings and tasks being undertaken to supply electricity to the factory. Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected the construction work and gave instructions.—MNA

Myanmar Motion Picture Day to be observed

YANGON, 5 Oct.—Myanmar Motion Picture managed to screen the first film of the nation namely Myitta Hnin Thayar (Love and alcohol) on 13 October 1920.

In honour of Myanmar motion picture, Myanmar Motion Picture Day will be observed for the fourth year at Myanmar Motion Picture Asiyamon on 13 October.

At the ceremony, U Hlay Aung will present talks on the shots in successive eras compiled by Myanmar Motion Picture Museum Committee; actresses Myo Thandar Tun, on film and life, and experiences of Golden Cock Hundred Flowers.

UMFCCI Vice-President U Zaw Min Win and party being seen off at the airport. — UMOCC

Myanmar delegation leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 5 Oct.—A Myanmar delegation comprising Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin and Joint Secretary Dr Maung Maung Lay this morning left here for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to attend the ASEAN Trade Fair 2004 from 6 to 10 October and 9th Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF IX) on 7-8 October in Hanoi, Vietnam.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by UMFCCI President U Win Myint, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Adviser U Htein Win and officials. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects imported goods at Myanma International Thilawa Terminal. — TRANSPORT

International Film Festival; film director Kyi Soe Tun, on post production. — MNA
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 6 October, 2004

Children and women are again victims of Fallujah air raids

BAGHDAD, 4 Oct—Overnight, the US military continued its offensive on Fallujah, carrying out another wave of airstrikes.

A strike in the central Junubiyya area killed nine people, including three women and four children, said Dr Adil Khamis of Fallujah general hospital.

Twelve were injured, including six women and three children, he said. They included residents of neighbouring houses that were damaged in the attack. An Iraqi journalist, Abu Bakr Al-Dulaimi told Aljazeera that nine people had been killed. He said the two targeted homes were completely destroyed and two nearby houses damaged.

The reporter described Fallujah as almost paralyzed, with shops and schools closed.

At dawn American warplanes unleashed strikes on two houses in Fallujah, killing at least 11 people, including women and children. The strike in the city’s southern al-Shukada neighbourhood killed two people.

It was the latest in weeks of air strikes on the city where Baghdad’s bin Hamid left scores of Iraqi civilians dead.—Internet

French water company invests nearly 10b yuan in China

GUIYANG, 4 Oct—France-based Veolia Water, one of the world’s leading water companies, has invested nearly 10 billion yuan (about 1.21 billion US dollars) in Chinese Mainland’s water market, said Sophie Lamaqu, managing director of Veolia Water South China Ltd at a recent forum.

Since its first co-operation with China’s first waterworks in Tianjin in 1997, the French company has successfully won bids for 13 water projects throughout the country, she said.

“Our company is quite professional, and we have rich experience and advanced technology in urban water supply and waste water disposal,” said Sophie Lamaqu. “But, more important is the social responsibility we undertake in our work. We try to provide our best service to local people. That’s the main reason for our successful investment in China”.

Last December, the company bought a 45 per cent stake of the Shenzhen Water Group for 400 million US dollars, which has been the largest water project purchased ever in China. Earlier this year, Veolia Water bought the operation rights of two water works in Zunyi, a city of Guizhou Province, for 152 million yuan (about 18.3 million US dollars).

With China’s rapid urbanization, we still have great potential in the country’s water market. China will be one of the most important markets for our investment both now and in the future,” she said.

2004 annual meeting of IMF, World Bank ends

WASHINGTON, 4 Oct—The 2004 annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank ended on Sunday with world financial leaders calling for measures to lower the oil prices and to reduce debt burden of poor countries.

Speaking at the plenary session of the meeting on Sunday, the IMF executive director Rodrigo Rato said that “policy-makers need to monitor carefully — and be prepared to address — the near-term effects of higher oil prices on their economies.”

The IMF also called on Saturday in a communiqué for all countries to make more efforts to address the risks to a global recovery threatened by high oil prices and worsening imbalances.

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1,058 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 5 Oct—As of Monday, 4 October 2004, 1,058 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 803 died as a result of hostile action and 255 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since 1 May 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 920 US military members have died, 694 as a result of hostile action and 226 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers as of Monday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

—Two US soldiers were killed Sunday by small arms fire at a traffic control point near Baghdad, Iraq.

—Army Sgt Jack T Hennessy, 21, Naperville, Ill; killed Friday by small arms fire at a checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraq.

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As the remains of the car bomb lie in the foreground, the remains of one of the four-wheel drives carrying foreigners are seen at the other side of the street, after a car bomb ripped through Saddown Street in Baghdad, Iraq, on 4 Oct 2004.—Internet
**Blasts rock Baghdad and Mosul**

**Baghdad, 4 Oct—** A series of car bomb blasts have torn through Baghdad and the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing at least 21 people and wounding scores.

In the first attack on Monday, witnesses said a car raced towards one of several entrances to the Green Zone, home to the Iraqi interim government, but detonated before reaching the gate, exploding near a recruitment post for the US-established Iraqi National Guard.

In the second explosion, on the other side of the Tigris river on one of Baghdad’s main streets, a large bomb detonated as a convoy of US military vehicles was passing, witnesses said.

The explosion occurred in front of the Baghdad Hotel, a building used by US contractors and government personnel.

A doctor at nearby Yarmuk hospital said eight people were killed and 30 wounded in the first explosion; several of them civilians who were passing by when the bomb went off.

At least four people were killed and a dozen wounded in the second, Iraq’s Interior Ministry said.

The second blast destroyed several cars, shattered dozens of shop windows and sprayed wreckage across the street, leaving a car door hanging from a street sign.

In a separate development, two US soldiers were killed in an attack with small arms at a traffic control checkpoint in the Iraqi capital on Sunday, the US military said on Monday.

**IMF calls for more efforts to ensure world economic growth**

**Washington, 4 Oct—** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Saturday called for all countries to make more efforts to address the risks to a global recovery threatened by high oil prices and worsening imbalances.

In a communiqué issued at the end of the tenth meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the policy-making body of IMF, IMF said that downside risks to the world economic recovery have recently increased, stemming in part from the increase and volatility in oil prices which reflect geopolitical tensions, strong global demand, and market dynamics.

The IMF reiterates the desirability of stability in oil markets and prices which are consistent with lasting global prosperity. To this end, it welcomes the decisions by oil-producing countries to continue to expand production and urges further measures to increase capacity, and calls on oil-consuming countries to take measures to promote energy sustainability and efficiency.

The committee also stresses the importance of dialogue between consumers and producers, and of further progress to improve oil market information and transparency.

On the trend of the rising short-term interest rates, the IMF said that continued good communication of policy intentions will be essential to facilitate orderly adjustment in financial markets to higher interest rates. Although world inflation remains low and risks to price stability remain moderate, policymakers should be ready to contain any inflationary pressures, including from higher commodity prices, to ensure a non-inflationary growth.

The IMF also said that all countries should take advantage of the recovery to address medium-term vulnerabilities and challenges with renewed commitment.

**Poll shows Bush’s lead vanishes after presidential debate**

**Washington, 4 Oct—** US President George W. Bush’s lead in the race for the White House before his first face-to-face debate with John Kerry has vanished, as a solid majority of voters concluded that Kerry won the presidential debate, a Newsweek poll showed Saturday.

In the first national telephone poll after Thursday’s debate, 47 percent of registered voters said they would vote for Kerry, compared with 45 percent for Bush, in a three-way race. Independent candidate Ralph Nader did not take part in the debate.

In a two-way contest, the Kerry-Edwards ticket leads the Bush-Cheney ticket with 49 percent versus 46 percent, the poll showed. Four weeks ago the Republican ticket, coming out of a successful convention in New York, enjoyed an 11-point lead and Bush was supported by 52 percent of the vote and Kerry just 41 percent.

Among 74 percent of registered voters who say they watched at least some of Thursday’s debate, 63 percent see Kerry as the clear winner, 19 percent pick Bush as the victor and 16 percent call it a draw. Even 33 percent of Republicans say they felt Kerry won.

**Iran hints at participation in conference on Iraq**

**Teheran, 4 Oct—** Iran hinted on Sunday that it might participate in an international conference on Iraq to be held in Cairo next month, saying it welcomed any effort to restore peace in the war-torn country, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“The Islamic Republic welcomes any initiative to establish stability in Iraq, but details of Iran’s participation in this conference will be announced later,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi was quoted as saying. “As Iraq’s neighbour, we are attentive to the country. All talks are about preserving Iraq’s territorial integrity as well as establishing security and a broad-based government,” Asefi said.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said on 26 September that a conference on Iraq would be held in November, saying foreign ministers from major Western countries and several Middle Eastern countries would attend the meeting. —MNA/Xinhua

**Indonesian women released in Iraq**

**Baghdad, 4 Oct—** An Iraqi group has released two Indonesian women captives who were handed over to the United Arab Emirates’ embassy in Baghdad, Arab television reported.

The UAE’s state-owned television showed footage of the two veiled women who appeared to be in good health. A UAE diplomat told the channel they would be handed over to the Red Cross in Iraq.

“There is no Indonesian embassy in Iraq so we received them for humanitarian reasons. We are now coordinating with the Red Cross to hand them over,” the diplomat said on Monday. Aljazeera aired footage from the captors showing the two terrified-looking women, each being handed a copy of the Muslim holy book, the Quran.

The Islamic Army in Iraq said last week they had seized the women among a group of 10 captives, which also included six Iraqis and two Lebanese men.

They later offered to release the women if Jakarta freed cleric Abu Bakr Bashir, detained on suspected terror links. But the Indonesian Muslim cleric refused to be freed in exchange for the women and Indonesia also said it would not free him.

It was not clear what fate awaited the remaining eight hostages.

The Islamic Army in Iraq is believed to be the same group holding two French journalists hostage for more than a month. —Internet

**Trucks wait to fill their tanks with gas**

Trucks wait to fill their tanks with gas at a refinery in Shaiba, 15 km north of the Iraqi city of Basra on 4 October, 2004. —INTERNET
US bombs US bombings kill two civilians in Fallujah

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 4 Oct—US warplanes hit Iraq’s guerrilla-held town of Fallujah for the second time in a night, killing two people and wounding 10, a hospital official said on Sunday.

The official told Reuters the dead were civilians and 10 others were also wounded in the attack, the latest in a weeks-long campaign of bombing against suspected rebel hideouts.

The US military said the overnight Fallujah raid was “another precision strike” against a building where 10-15 “anti-Iraqi forces” were moving weapons.

Anti-Iraqi forces is a term used to describe guerrillas.

Forty-five minutes of secondary explosions indicated the building was being used as a huge weapons/ammunition cache. A large number of enemy fighters are presumed killed,” the US military said.

“Throughout the operation, multiple measures were employed to ensure no innocent civilians were present when the strikes took place. Precautions were made to keep collateral damage to a minimum,”

The military said the attack was part of efforts to crush fighters loyal to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has claimed responsibility for a series of devastating suicide bombings and hostage beheadings that have rocked Iraq.

Fallujah residents say the US military is exaggerating the number of foreign fighters in the city and complain that the raids have only killed civilians, fuelling resentment against the United States and its allies in Iraq’s interim government.

The US military has pledged to retake all guerrilla-held areas in Iraq, which would include Fallujah and nearby Ramadi, before the end of the year so that elections can be held in January.

As part of that plan, US and Iraqi forces launched an offensive to retake rebellious Samarra, north of Baghdad, two days ago, and say they have seized back control of the city.

US Marines previously launched a major offensive to retake Fallujah in April but withdrew from the volatile town after hundreds of Iraqis were killed in the fighting.

Fallujah, the biggest rebel-held town, is likely to put up the fiercest resistance against the offensive by US and Iraqi forces. —MNA/Reuters

Kerry accuses Bush of avoiding “facts, truth” about Iraq

AUSTINTOWN (Ohio), 4 Oct—John Kerry accused President George W Bush on Sunday of avoiding “the facts and the truth” about the White House’s use of questionable intelligence to justify invading Iraq.

Kerry cited a report in The New York Times on Sunday that said the White House knew before ordering the invasion of Iraq that key intelligence on Saddam Hussein’s alleged nuclear weapons programme was questionable.

Kerry said the report not only raised “serious questions about whether the administration was open and honest” about Iraq but also might explain Bush’s upbeat assessment of the US economy.

“All too often the administration also chooses to avoid the facts and the truth,” Kerry said at a campaign stop in northeastern Ohio, an economically distressed pocket of this battleground state at the heart of America’s rust belt.

He said Ohio had lost more than 230,000 jobs since Bush took office and yet the President has said during campaign appearances here that the US economy was strengthening.

“The President has been here many times,” Kerry told a Town Hall meeting in Austintown, Ohio. “Does he really see what’s going on in the lives of middle class Americans, people fighting for survival?”

Ohio is one of a handful of pivotal states in the election and no Republican has ever won the White House without carrying the state. Bush won Ohio by about 3.5 percentage points over Democrat Al Gore in 2000, and some polls show the race is very tight again this year.—MNA/Reuters

China makes major breakthrough in human organ transplant

FUZHOU, 4 Oct—China recently recorded a successful simultaneous liver, pancreas and kidney transplant, reportedly the first of its kind in Asia.

Experts said that it is extremely difficult to transplant more than two organs at the same time, due to clinical complications, large area of operation trauma and time limits in preservation of organs to be transplanted.

The above operation was made late September at the Fuzhou General Hospital of Nanjing Military Command in Fuzhou, capital city of east China’s Fujian Province.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe launches new duty card for cross-border traders

HARARE, 4 Oct—Zimbabwe has launched a new duty card for cross-border traders, aiming to curb the externalization of the Zimbabwean dollar and ease congestion at the country’s border posts, according to the Sunday Mail newspaper.

President of the Zimbabwe Cross Border Traders’ Association Killer Zivhu was quoted as saying that the launch of the new payment system in conjunction with a local freight company, Real Freighters International, would also help in eliminating the foreign currency parallel market at border posts as traders will not be forced to change their foreign currency to pay duty.

MNA/Xinhua

US-lead forces tighten grip on Samarra

SAMARRA (Iraq), 4 Oct—US-led forces backed by warplanes tightened their grip on the rebel stronghold of Samarra on Saturday, saying they had killed 125 rebels in one of the largest offensives since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

The two-day offensive to retake Samarra, some 60 miles north of Baghdad, also resulted in the capture of 88 guerrillas, the commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division said.

Major-General John Batiste told CNN that operations in the town would continue for several days.

Sporadic gunfire could be heard in the city centre on Saturday, near a revered mosque, but otherwise the town was quiet two days after 5,000 US and Iraqi troops launched the operation, the first in a campaign to retake all rebel areas.

More than 80 bodies were brought to Samarra’s hospital on Friday, and five more on Saturday. Others were left in the streets, with health workers too busy to collect them.

The Iraqi Red Crescent said it had evacuated 25 wounded people late on Friday, including a young girl who later died. Some residents fled, fearing for their lives.

“It took me three hours to get to a safe place,” said Abu Muhammad, a labourer, standing on Samarra’s outskirts on Saturday as a thick plume of dark smoke rose up behind him.

“Not all of us are the resistance. You can see the resistance. Go see the bodies in the streets of Samarra.”

“Snipers are positioned over houses. They shoot at us when we try to go out,” he said, not specifying whether he meant American or guerrillas gunmen.

The US military said in a statement that Iraqi National Guards had secured Samarra’s hospital and a team of 70 Iraqi volunteers had arrived from Tikrit, 45 miles to the north, to help deal with the wounded.

Iraq’s Interior Minister, a former senior official in the Samarra regional government, visited the city on Saturday to look at what the offensive had achieved and gauge local opinion.—MNA/Reuters

An Iraqi policeman holds back mourning relatives and friends during the funeral of a policeman who was killed in tribal clashes in the southern Iraqi town of Basra on 2 Oct, 2004.—INTERNET
Malaysia posts record-high trade surplus in August

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 Oct — Malaysia recorded a trade surplus of 2.12 billion US dollars in August this year, the highest monthly trade surplus since December 1999.

The country’s 82nd consecutive month of trade surplus for August surged by 5.5 per cent year-on-year, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said in its preliminary release of the Malaysia External Trade Statistics on Monday.

MITI said Malaysia’s exports in August continued its strong performance with a value of 10.9 billion US dollars, up 23.7 per cent over the same month last year.

Leading the export expansion were exports of electrical and electronic products, crude petroleum, chemicals and chemical products, refined petroleum products, liquefied natural gas and wood products.

The export markets that recorded significant increases included members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) with an increase of 30.1 per cent, the United States 32.4 per cent, Japan 24.7 per cent, Australia 56.7 per cent and Korea 62.9 per cent, MITI said.

ASEAN, now grouping 10 states in the region, was set up in 1967 to boost regional cooperation. It said that ASEAN, the United States, the European Union (EU), Japan, China and Hong Kong collectively absorbed 80.3 per cent of the country’s total exports in August.

Meanwhile, imports for the month stood at 8.78 billion US dollars, a surge of 29.1 per cent from a year ago, but 4.7 per cent lower than the record high of 9.21 billion US dollars registered in July 2004, according to the statistics.

MITI said that the surge in imports was mainly due to growth in imports of intermediate goods.

The trade surplus for the January-August period this year reached 13.87 billion US dollars, lower from 14.27 billion US dollars in the same period last year. — MNA/Xinhua

Arroyo to push through development agenda in ASEM

MANILA, 5 Oct — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would promote her 10-point development agenda in an interregional and multilateral context through the participation in the upcoming 5th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 5) to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from October 7 to 9, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G Romulo said Monday.

Romulo said in a statement that President Arroyo will be joining 22 other heads of state and government at the ASEM 5, which carries the theme “Further Revitalizing and Strengthening the Asia-Europe Partnership.”

“The President’s 10-point-domestic agenda will be pushed in an interregional and multilateral context by promoting Asia-Europe cooperation and dialogue on enhancing regional and global stability and prosperity,” he said.

Romulo also noted that the government places much importance on multilateral and interregional organizations such as the ASEM in accordance with the President’s eight foreign-policy realities.

“ASEM allows the Philippines to interact and cooperate with European and Asian partners in a spirit of mutual respect, understanding and benefit across a wide range of issues such as counter-terrorism, sustainable development, increasing trade and investments and promoting cultural exchanges,” he said.

The secretary explained that the European Union had become an increasingly important partner of the Philippines in its development thrusts.

“The 5th ASEM Summit will afford the Philippines with opportunities to expand relations with the EU countries and the European Commission, as well as intensify regional cooperation and coordination between the Philippines and its Asian partners,” he added.

On the agenda of the ASEM 5, Romulo said that the participants are expected to discuss regional and international developments and global challenges, closer economic partnership between Asia and Europe, protecting cultural diversity, and the future directions of ASEM. — MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia ratifies agreement with UN on DK tribunal

PHNOM PENH, 5 Oct — The Cambodian Parliament on Monday ratified an agreement with the United Nations on the setting up of a tribunal for bringing former Democratic Kampuchea leaders to justice.

The ratification was approved by all the members of the Parliament who were present at the floor.

Last year, Cambodia and the United Nations signed the agreement aimed at setting up a joint tribunal bounded for Democratic Kampuchea leaders responsible for the deaths of Cambodian people in late 1970s.

But due to busy domestic issues, the Cambodian Parliament has failed to ratify the bill until Monday.

According to the agreement, the UN will send foreign staff including judges and prosecutors to seat on a two-level chamber. Two foreign judges will seat on the Trial Chamber of five judges, and another three on the Supreme Chamber of seven judges. Cambodian judges will be placed a majority in both levels.

The ratification will allow the administrative and legal works for establishing a court.

As the deal goes on, budget for a three-year planned trial is being cautious by Cambodian Government.

Recently, both Prime Minister Hun Sen and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong have expressed their concern over the estimated 57 million US dollars of budget, fearing a shortage of foreign assistance.

Pol Pot, supreme Democratic Kampuchea leader died in 1998, while his senior colleagues such as Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan, all in their late 70s remain alive in the country. — MNA/Xinhua

Najib warns price hike following oil price increases

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Oct — Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak of Malaysia on Sunday warned those trying to hike prices by taking advantage of the oil price increase to stop doing so or face legal action.

“The government was monitoring the situation and would not hesitate to take action against those who raised prices, Najib told reporters after opening a family day interaction for the disabled here.

“We will not allow an unjustified increase in prices of goods and services. I hope there are no parties who exploit the situation and burden the people. It is not reasonable (to raise prices) and we take a serious view if anyone takes advantage,” he said.

He was commenting on calls by various quarters for an increase in price of several goods and services following the rise in prices of petrol, diesel and gas.

Malaysia raised 5 sen (1.31 US cents) for every litre of petrol, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas starting Friday. Following the increase, the price of petrol is now 1.42 ringgit (37 US cents) a litre and diesel costs 83.1 sen (21 US cents) in the peninsula.

The rise in petrol prices is the second time this year after a two-sen (0.52-US-cent) increase in May.

Najib said the government would monitor prices and act through the various laws. “The government has a lot of modes of persuasion. — MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.
Tasks for upgrading of Yangon City inspected

YANGON, 5 Oct—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected tasks for upgrading of Yangon City this morning.

The commander and the mayor looked into upgrading of platforms at Thienbyu and Bo Min Yaung Streets in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon East District, and sanitation work between 118th and 119th Streets. Next, they inspected replacing of old concrete tiles with new ones at the junction of Bayintnaung Road and Parami Road in Hline Township, Yangon West District, upgrading of Bayintnaung Road. Officials concerned reported on work progress sector-wise.

In response, the commander and the mayor gave instructions on maintaining the standard in upgrading platforms in the capital. — MNA

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Senior Officials' Meeting of 26th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry concludes

YANGON, 4 Oct — The Senior Officials Meeting of the 26th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry continued for the second day at Sedona Hotel, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, this morning and successfully concluded in the afternoon.

Present on the occasion were senior officials of agriculture and forestry and representatives from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, officials of ASEAN Secretariat, FAO in Bangkok of Thailand, officials of IRRI in Manila of the Philippines and officials of ASEAN-US Business Council.

Chairman of SOM 26th AMAF Meeting Director-General U Tin Htut Oo of Agriculture Planning Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, leader of senior officials of Myanmar made a speech on the occasion.

Next, those present discussed matters relating to priority areas for accelerating ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and road map for integration of wood-based products sector enhancing cooperation in timber product.

After that, senior officials and representatives of regional organizations held discussions on jointly organizing programmes with ASEAN and FAO, ASEAN and IRRI and ASEAN and US Business Council.

During the discussions, representatives of Myanmar gave suggestions on importance of water resources, global warming and manpower in cultivation of rice, availability of sufficient water supply, measures so as not to slow down the cultivation of rice, arrangements for bringing about more manpower in the agriculture sector.

Afterwards, those present coordinated matters relating to cooperation in agriculture between ASEAN and India and rice research in Asia continent.

Later, those present discussed draft on joint-declaration of the Senior Officials Meeting of the 26th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Senior Officials Meeting of the 4th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three, designation of venue and date for holding the Senior Officials Meeting of the 26th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and approval of report of senior officials meeting.

The meeting successfully concluded in the afternoon.

The Senior Officials Meeting of the 4th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three will be held tomorrow. Representatives of South Korea arrived here by air this morning to attend the meeting.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of subcommittee for organizing and accommodation of the meeting.

Preliminary discussions on the Senior Officials Meeting of the 4th ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry Plus Three were held at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road at 7.30 pm today.

It was attended by senior officials of ASEAN countries and representatives of three dialogue partners.

The Senior Officials Meeting of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry in progress at Sedona Hotel. — MNA

Myanmar gets through semi-final in first ASEAN Women’s Soccer Tourney

YANGON, 5 Oct—The first ASEAN Women’s Soccer Tournament (2004) continued in Ho Chi Minh City, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, this afternoon.

In Group (A), Myanmar team held 1-1 draw with Vietnam (A) team. Local rivals opened scoring in the 20th minute, but striker Malar Win levelled the match in the 43rd minute with a header.

After the round robin matches, in Group (A), Myanmar stood at the top with seven points from three games. The runner-up Vietnam (A) team had five points, while Thailand and Maldives from Group (A) and Singapore and the Philippines from Group (B) left the tourney.

Vietnam (B) team and Vietnam (A) team will meet in the first semi-final match, and Myanmar and Indonesia, in the second semi-final match on 7 October. Myanmar team thrashed Maldives 17-0, beat Thailand 1-0 and tied 1-1 draw with Vietnam (A), scoring 19 goals and conceding only one goal. Among them, Malar Win scored seven goals, Zin Mar Wan four, Aye Nandar Hlaing, Than Thani Htwe and Khan Kyaw Htwe two each, and Thet Thet Win and Thudar Win one each. — MNA
There is need for emergence of... (from page 16)

Actively in worthy international events. At the same time it draws attention to the fact that Myanmar is carrying on and promoting its long cultural tradition of reverence and respect for the term “Teacher” and its connotations.

Furthermore, it also shows that Myanmar, in designating the Promotion of National Education as one of its national objectives which is now in the process of implementation, acknowledges the vital role of teachers.

In today’s Age of Education, where education is considered the most dominant and deciding factor in all sectors of development, there is a need for the emergence of a highly educated populace with a strong and adequate force of intellectuals and technocrats. For only then, shall we be able to realize our vision of a developed nation and peoples with our very own resources.

We shall then be able to face and overcome the many challenges of this rapidly changing world. With this firm conviction the Government of the Union of Myanmar, has thus laid down the plans and programmes for the Promotion of National Education which are now being implemented and which will finally result in a national education system of high standard that will be of benefit to the nation and the people.

In striving for a system of national education that shall always be for the long-term benefit of the nation no matter what the circumstances are, national education plans were drawn up and implemented; and they have been reviewed each year and fresh work programmes drawn up for future implementation. In these stages of implementation, the Government has made suitable arrangements to provide opportunities for the participation of teachers at every stage.

In addition, arrangements have been made to enable teachers to assume leadership in the different stages for the Promotion of National Education with opportunities provided for teachers to enhance their own capabilities as well.

The Special Four-Year Plan and the long-term Thirty Year Education Plan were laid down with the express purpose for promoting Myanmar national education to reach a par with Southeast Asian nations that are foremost in the education sector today. With this in view, special provisions have been made to improve teaching techniques and methodology and to raise the capability of teachers.

The progress that we see today in the higher quality of education and in the improved capabilities and qualifications of teachers is proof that these systematic and unremitting efforts have begun to yield favorable results.

Myanmar, in designating the Promotion of National Education as one of its national objectives which is now in the process of implementation, acknowledges the vital role of teachers.
Kandawgyi Gardens pride of Yangon helping enhance its beauty and splendor
Prime Minister discusses ways to further upgrade Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a certificate of honour to Rector U Maung Maung Kha (Retd) of Yangon University. — MNA

There is need for emergence of...

In the country today, there are now altogether 156 colleges and universities as against 32 in 1988 and 40,505 basic education high schools as against the former number of 33,000. There has also been an increase in student population. Where there were a little over 138,000 university students and 5.24 million basic education high school students, altogether making a total of 5.38 million students in 1988, there are today approximately 749,000 university students and 7.64 million basic education high school level students, numbering altogether over 8.38 million students.
In accordance with the programmes and provisions of the Special Four-Year Plan and the long-term Thirty Year Plan for the Promotion of National Education, curricula and school syllabi have been revised and the teaching and learning systems have been streamlined together with the system of educational assessment for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Efforts have also been directed towards raising the standard of teacher training and teaching methodology. Thus, where there were only one Institute for Education, one Institute for Development of National Races, four teacher training colleges and 13 teacher training schools, making a total of only 19 such training centres in 1988, today the total number has been increased to 23 centres that include two higher Institutes of Education, one University for Development of National Races and 20 teacher training colleges.

In the basic education sector, the number of teacher training courses has also been increased to enhance the educational qualifications of teachers. At present there is an in-service diploma course for teachers, who are just matriculates. The institutes of education offer B. Ed. courses, post-graduate diploma courses (PGDT), post-graduate media training courses (in education) and the PGDMA diploma courses for graduate teachers. Moreover, a training course leading to a Certificate in Educational Technology (CEDT) is available for teachers with master’s degrees from other institutes and universities.

Furthermore, there are other courses such as the in-service correspondence courses, teacher training courses offered by education colleges and township-based teacher training courses and correspondence courses offered by the Institutes of Education leading to a Bachelor’s degree in Education.

These courses not only enhance the quality of teacher education but also open up opportunities to those who wish to join the teaching profession from other occupations. There are also training courses leading to higher degrees such as the M. Phil., M.Ed. and D. Ed. degrees.

Due to the variety and availability of many courses in education, there has also been a considerable increase in the number of students in the field. In the academic year of 1998 - 1999, there were only a little over 6,300 students in teacher training. In the present academic year, 2004 - 2005, there are now over 50,000 undergoing teacher training, which is an increase of 8 times within 6 years.

In other fields of higher education also, it can be seen that with the increase in the number of students, the teaching staff have a full teaching load. Now that post graduate courses for Master of Research and Ph.D degrees are available to all who are eligible, the momentum of research has also increased which is of great benefit to the country. The centres for Human Resource Development functioning in various universities and colleges in accordance with the “One Campus- Multi-System” concept offer a diversity of undergraduate and post-graduate diplomas. This has increased the tasks and responsibilities of teachers. But it also means that the Government has provided the required foundations for teachers to enhance their qualifications on a self-help principle.

Beginning from 1998, when the Myanmar Government with a view to promoting national education systematically drew up and began to implement National Education Plans, it took into consideration the need to raise the quality of teachers; so it included suitable provisions within the Plans and took appropriate follow-up action. As a result, today we can see tangible results in the rise of the standard of education in the country together with teachers who have become better qualified.

The motto for the “World Teachers’ Day” for 2004 is “Quality Teachers for Quality Education”. I would like to say that Myanmar has laid down firm foundations for the realization of this goal. This has been possible, because for Myanmar, by culture and by tradition, the connotations of “Saya” (Teacher) I have always stood for that which is considered most honourable and noble and have invoked great reverence throughout our history. This fine tradition and custom of honouring and paying homage to “Teachers” is still very much alive today.

On certain auspicious days like the New Year or the end of the Lenten period in Thadingyut (October), students customarily pay obeisance to their teachers. But this practice is not confined to current students and teachers only. Old students, themselves getting on in years with some holding positions of rank and wealth, humbly kneel down and with palms together pay homage to aged teachers as their benefactors. This is a truly honourable tradition in which our nation can take great pride. But, again by tradition, just as a student has certain obligations and duties towards his teachers, the teachers are also obliged to fulfill certain duties and commitments to their students; moreover their duties do not end with the lessons they teach. They are responsible for teaching their students by precept as well as by example to lead a successful but upright and moral life.
In Myanmar there are laws,...

(from page 16)

Development Council Office and heads of departments. Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said the meeting was to coordinate practical future programmes for prevention against recruitment of minors from joining military service and safeguarding their interests.

He said in the country there are laws, rules, orders and directives that protect the rights of the children. Forced labour is prohibited as Myanmar people are noble-minded. He spoke of the need to observe laws, orders and directives prescribed laws and orders regarding the prevention against recruitment of minors from joining military service, cooperation with international organizations including the UN, Law of the Child prescribed in 1993, rules on child prescribed in 2001 and protection of the rights of the child.

Brig-Gen Ngwe Thein of the Adjutant-General’s Office of the Ministry of Defence reported on implementation of the resolutions passed at the second coordination meeting.

Next, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and those present discussed future tasks to be carried out.

In conclusion, the Secretary-2 said as is known to all there are laws and rules that protect the rights of the children and there are laws, orders and directives that prevent the children from recruiting for military service. He spoke of the need to observe laws, orders and directives precisely in practice. Actions will be taken against those who violate the law. Clarifications are to be made systematically.

The meeting then came to a close.

MNA

Second to seventh standard student Ma Zon On Hlaing of Bago Division (East) Nyaung laybin BEHS, the third to sixth standard student Ma Saw Mya Sandi of Sittway No 4 BEHS Rakhine State in BEHS level essay competition.

Next, Minister for Education U Than Aung presented the first prize to win second year student Ma Hnin Thiri Aung of Toungoo Education College, the second to second year student Maung Htin Aung of Yankin Education College and the third to second year student Ma Nwe Ni Hlaing of Yankin Education College in college level poem contest; the first prize to eighth standard student Ma Hnin Win Hsan of Panpetak BEHS (Branch), Mudon, Mon State, the second to ninth standard Ma Yu Mon Kyaw of An No 1 BEHS, Rakhine State and the third to eighth standard student Ma Thet Wai Ei of Myoma BEHS, Yekyi, Ayeyawady Division in BEHS level poem contest; the first prize to sixth standard student Ma Maung Maung Kha who also served at Yangon University as a rector up to 1962, Dr Maung Maung Kha who also served at Yangon University as a rector, U Than Oo who served at Ministry of Education as a director-general and U Thaung Tut who served as a rector at the Institute of Education.

He also presented honourary prizes to six outstanding teachers PAT Daw Sein Htay of Maung Pyai Hlaing of Kyaukkyi Education College and Ma Aye Ma Aye Thaung of Yankin Education College who stood first, second and third at the Education University and College level Essay Contest. Next, he also presented prizes to Maung Pyai Hlaing of Maung Pyai Hlaing of Chaungzon Township BEHS in Mon State, Ma Nu Htet Htet Lwin of Sittwe Township No 4 BEHS in Rakhine State and Maung Aung Ko Latt of Myitkyina No 2 BEHS in Kachin State who stood first, second and third respectively in BEHS level essay contest. He then presented the first prize to sixth standard student Ma Nu Yin Min of Bago Division (West) Payu No 2 BEHS; the second to seventh standard student Ma Zon On Hlaing of Bago Division (East) Nyaung laybin BEHS, the third to sixth standard student Ma Saw Mya Sandi of Sittway No 4 BEHS Rakhine State in BEHS level essay competition.

Next, Prime Minister presented the prizes to four great teachers Dr Oo Tha Hla who served at Yangon University as a rector up to 1962, Dr Maung Maung Kha who also served at Yangon University as a rector, U Than Oo who served at Ministry of Education as a director-general and U Thaung Tut who served as a rector at the Institute of Education.

Hun, PAT of ThakhaLaba BEHS in Kawh邦 Township, Bago Division, U Soe Thein, Headmaster of Kyaidaw Village BEHS (Branch) in Padaung Township in Bago Division (West), U Thaung Nyunt, Headmaster of Kaungbo BEHS in Yangon Government, University, U Thant Mo, Director-General (Reid) of Yangon University, U Than Oo, Director-General (Reid) of the Basic Education Department, and U Thaung Tut, Rector (Reid) of the University of Education.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented the prizes to the six teachers — Daw Sein Htay of Maung Pyai Hlaing of Kyaukkyi Education College and Ma Aye Ma Aye Thaung of Yankin Education College who stood first, second and third at the Education University and College level Essay Contest. Next, he also presented awards to U Shwe Tin, JAT of Thaton Township No 1 BEHS in Mon State, Daw Moe Wah, JAT of Hline Township in Yangon Division and Daw Thazar Tin, JAT of Myitkyina Township BEHS in Mandalay Division who stood first, second and third respectively at the BEHS level essay contest (Teachers). Next. he then presented the prizes to Ma Ei Mo Zar Myint of Pathin Education College, Ma Aye Thandar Naing of Taunggyi Education College and Ma Aye Ma Aye Thandar of Yankin Education College who stood first, second and third respectively at the BEHS level essay contest (Teachers). Next. he then presented the prizes to Ma Ei Mo Myat Han of Loikaw No 1 BEHS, Kayah State in BEHS level poem contest.

Next, goal medallist schoolgirls presented a song in honour of teachers.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister cordially greeted teachers and students and viewed booths to mark World Teachers’ Day 2004.

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There is need for emergence of...
Iran says next IAEA report will be positive

TEHERAN, 4 Oct — Iran said Sunday that it was confident the next report of the UN nuclear watchdog on Teheran’s nuclear programme in November would be positive, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“All major questions about Iran’s case have been answered and there remain only one or two minor issues which are also solvable,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi said as quoted saying.

“We believe there is no ambiguity in our file, which is the subject of our dialogue with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and there remain only one or two minor issues,” Asefi said.

Asefi expressed Iran’s confidence that its case would not be referred to the UN Security Council.

“I don’t believe Iran’s file has to be sent to the Security Council. However, we are not worried about such referenda, and in that case, the only loser will be the opposite side,” Asefi said.

To receive the next report of the agency will be more positive and negotiations with the IAEA inspectors will help resolve all ambiguities,” he added.

Asefi criticized the United States, saying it has lost its credit among the world’s public opinion by making false accusations against Iran.

“America is making itself isolated through the approach it has taken,” he said, referring to the US sanctions on several foreign firms for trading with Iran.

The United States on Wednesday imposed sanctions on some foreign companies for allegedly selling weapons or sensitive technologies and equipments to Iran.

The IAEA last month adopted a resolution which urges Iran to suspend all the activities related to nuclear activities and fully cooperate with the inspectors.

Iran, being accused of developing nuclear weapons secretly by the United States, is making efforts to clear itself and claim its right to access to nuclear energy.

— MNA/Xinhua

Nominated CIA official resigns for shoplifting

WASHINGTON, 4 Oct — The man chosen for the third-ranking job in the CIA resigned under pressure from the US spy agency more than 20 years after being caught shoplifting, The Washington Post reported on Sunday.

Michael Kostiw, picked by new CIA Director Porter Goss to be the agency’s executive director, has resigned under final clearance to take the job, although he had been scheduled to be sworn in on Monday, the newspaper cited a friend of Kostiw whom it did not identify.

Citing past and current agency officials, the Post said Kostiw was caught shoplifting in late 1981 at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. He has been an officer for 10 years at that point.

He was put on administrative leave after responses to questions about the incident during a polygraph test, according to officials familiar with the situation, the Post reported. — MNA/Reuters

Tunisian Coast Guard finds bodies of 17 migrants

TUNIS, 5 Oct — The Tunisian Coast Guard has found the bodies of 17 migrants who drowned after a boat carrying them to Italy sank off the Tunisian coast, government officials said on Monday.

“Seventeen bodies were recovered, 11 people rescued and 47 are still missing,” a senior official told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

Kalam expresses corruption should be eradicated

CHENNAI, 4 Oct — Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam Saturday said corruption should be eradicated if the country had to develop and asked the student community to take a vow to eradicate the menace from society.

Interacting with children at various schools in the city, he said “for a corrupt free India, people should be righteous. If the people are righteous, there will be order in the country, peace in the world,” he said.

UAE bans livestock imports from Saudi Arabia

ABU DHABI, 4 Oct — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced that the country has banned livestock imports from Saudi Arabia after Rift Valley fever cases were reported in the kingdom, the official WAM news agency said on Sunday.

UAE Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Saeed Mohammed Al Rrahi said the ban on imports of Saudi sheep, goats, cows, camels and gazelles was slapped after the ministry received reports from the World Organization for Animal Health on appearance of the disease in Saudi Arabia. — MNA/Xinhua
Japan’s Earth Simulator to the second slot.

Gene/L to be the world’s most powerful computer, pushing the current ranks.

Shengli Oilfield builds largest offshore Oil production base

JINAN, 5 Oct — Shengli Oilfield, one of China’s key crude and gas producers, has built the biggest offshore oil production centre in China, according to a spokesman for the oilfield.

The centre is located on Bohai Sea and is capable of turning out two million tons of crude oil and gas annually.

Shengli Oilfield, based in Dongying City, east China’s Shandong Province, set up its marine petroleum development arm in 1994, with six shabby marine platforms for oil drilling and several re-fitted oil tankers. Up to now, the centre is constructed with more than 80 platforms for sea drilling and with 100-kilometre-long seabed pipelines for oil and gas transport. It has altogether produced 16 million tons of crude and gas.

In terms of area, the India Pavilion has recorded a robust growth of more than 20 per cent over the last year, said Kamal Vachani, Regional Director of ESC for the UAE and Middle East.

GITEC 2004, the Middle East’s premier Information Technology show at the Dubai World Trade Centre, will host over 2,428 companies.

The GITEC Computer Shopper, the single largest IT retail platform in the Middle East, also opens with approximately 140 exhibitors representing over 500 companies.

With an expected visitor turnout of 80,000, the transaction levels at GITEC Computer Shopper is expected to surpass the 500 million rupees, achieved last year.

The 50 Indian companies that are taking part in the GITEC have already begun their move to take over the Gulf market, ESC. Additional Executive Director D P Gupta and Consultant General Yash Singh said, “We have already made a beginning with some of the 50 Indian companies attending the GITEC, already offering Arabic enabled software services,” he said.

One such firm is Quark India that will launch its Xpress 6.1 ME, developed specially for the Arabic markets.

Yash Singh pointed out that Indian IT giants such as Infosys was working in the banking sector in the Gulf, Tata Consultancy Services offering services to the Higher Institute of Technology in Abu Dhabi and Wipro in governance solutions for the Dubai Municipality.

MNA/PTI

IBM’s Blue Gene/L the current world toppler among computers

NEW YORK, 4 Oct — Computer major IBM claims it has developed the Blue Gene/L to be the world’s most powerful computer, pushing the current ranker Japan’s Earth Simulator to the second slot.

The Blue Gene/L system could perform over 36,000 billion calculations a second during tests, the company says and this will increase by a ten factor by the time the full version is installed next year at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.

The company team hopes eventually to reach a petaflop of speed, although they do not put a date on when this will be achieved, a Nature magazine report said.

The device, which will eventually be used to simulate everything from the behaviour of explosives to stars, was developed by IBM in just five years, Nature said.

The magazine said although experts have for long predicted top status for the system, the company’s claims are unlikely to be independently verified until November when the whole worldwide supercomputer league-table is published.

Blue Gene/L’s current competitor, the Simulator, best known for running high-resolution climate models and with a speed of 35,860 billion has held the first slot since June 2002.

Blue Gene/L could now overtake not just for its speed but for a range of factors such as cost and space, Nature report said.

Unlike the Earth Simulator, which is built from specially designed computer chips, Blue Gene/L uses hardware similar to that found in desktop machines.

Chirac to discuss “Rafale” fighter jet deal in Singapore

PARIS, 5 Oct — French President Jacques Chirac planned to discuss French Rafale fighter jet deal with Singapore’s leaders during his incoming visit to Singapore on Wednesday.

Chirac’s office declared Monday that “but we do not expect the Singaporean Government to make a decision before the start of next year”.

MNA/Xinhua

50 Indian “IT” firms to take part in GITEX 2004

DUBAI, 4 Oct — A record number of 50 Indian IT companies will take part in the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX), 2004 beginning Sunday with some of them providing Arabic-enabled software and Arabic support services to capture the major chunk of the market in the Gulf and North Africa, a top Indian official has said.

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MNA/PTI

Mozambican police nets three cocaine traffickers

MAPUTO, 4 Oct — The Mozambican police have detained three foreigners in connection with illegal drug trafficking and seized over two kilos of cocaine at Maputo International Airport, local media reported on Saturday. The police suspected the traffickers began their journey in Brazil, and the intended market for the cocaine was South Africa.

The police also arrested a group of ten foreigners accused of fraud and currency falsification. The group includes Nigerians, Ghanaians, Liberians and Congolese.

MNA/Xinhua

Ancient ivory fossil found in Xinjiang

URUMQI, 5 Oct — A 500,000-year-old ivory fossil was found recently at the Mongolia Autonomous Prefecture of Bortala in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Geologists from the Xinjiang Normal University confirmed that the ancient ivory fossil existed 500,000 years ago. They based their assessment on its features and surrounding geographical conditions. It is rare to find ancient ivory fossil in Xinjiang, and the fossil discovered at Bortala is the first one ever found in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

Visitors to the Johnston Ridge Observatory in the Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument evacuate from the area, on 2 Oct, 2004, after geologists from the USGS raised the threat level for another eruption to level three, the highest level. — INTERNET

MNA/PTI
**SPORTS**

Former Liverpool goalkeeper fired

Johannesburg, 4 Oct—Former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar has been fired by South African premier league club Manning Rangers after winning just one of their six matches of the new season, club officials said on Sunday.

The dismissal ends Grobbelaar's brief return to the game with the Durban-based club, who hired him in July.

Rangers lost four of their opening six matches and have just four points, languishing in 14th place in the 16-team league.

The Zimbabwe international has worked at four different South African clubs in his managerial career but was out of the game for the last two years working on an anti-malaria programme in southern Africa.

Grobbelaar won six First Division championships and three FA Cups in his playing career with Liverpool, and was the first African international to win the European Cup in 1984.

He is the second coach of a South African side to lose his job this season, just two months into the new campaign. —MNA/Reuters

Wenger praises Henry

London, 4 Oct—Arsene Wenger heaped praise on striker Thierry Henry after the Frenchman's double helped the champions to a 4-0 victory over Charlton Athletic on Saturday.

Charlton were proving stubborn opponents at Highbury as Arsenal looked to bounce back from a disappointing 1-1 draw by Middlesbrough at Old Trafford on Sunday.

In a later kick-off Jose Mourinho's Chelsea maintained the pressure on leaders Arsenal with a goal from midfielder Joe Cole sealing a 1-0 victory over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge.

Rooney's Premier League debut for Man Utd turns sour

London, 4 Oct—Wayne Rooney's Premier League debut for Manchester United turned sour as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Middlesbrough at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Rooney, who scored a hat-trick in the 6-2 Champions League rout of Fenerbahce on Tuesday, made his first start for United since joining from Everton for 27 million pounds (48.51 million US dollars), was a peripheral figure for much of the match.

The 18-year-old England striker had a couple of half-chances early on but rarely threatened a repeat performance and was shown a yellow card for a rash tackle on George Boateng.

Boro's youthful side survived early pressure and took a deserved lead in the 52nd minute when midfielder Stewart Downing converted a cross from the impressive James Morrison.

United enjoyed plenty of possession after the break but relied heavily on winger Cristiano Ronaldo for their attacking spark as Rooney and Ruud van Nistelrooy struggled to repeat the line-up play that saw off Fenerbahce.

Van Nistelrooy headed one effort against the wooden post while Boro's Gaizka Mendieta wasted a great chance to make it 2-0 when he lashed a shot over the bar.

Ten minutes from time United finally broke through when striker Alan Smith, who had just come on as a substitute for John O'Shea, headed Ronaldo's inviting cross beyond Mark Schwarzer for his fifth goal of the season.

The draw moved Manchester United up to fourth on 13 points, nine behind leaders Arsenal who thrashed Charlton Athletic 4-0 on Saturday and seven behind Chelsea who were good value for their victory over Liverpool. —MNA/Reuters

Federer beats Roddick to win Thailand Open

Bangkok, 4 Oct—Roger Federer of Switzerland beat Andy Roddick of the United States 6-4, 6-0 to win the Thailand Open on Sunday, and joined Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe as the only players to win 12 consecutive finals.

“When I came here I didn't know what to expect,” said Federer. “I took it easy after the US Open and was just hoping for a good tournament, and now I've won another one so that’s really fantastic.”

“I didn't believe I could somehow reach 10 titles this year, and it just keeps on going. Obviously I'm very happy.”

The Swiss world number one dominated the American seed, who received treatment in the second set for a right elbow injury.

“I hurt my elbow yesterday against Marat Safin, but I don't think that made a difference. Roger's been beating people all year,” said Roddick. —MNA/Xinhua

Chievo take 2nd place after beating Lecce 2-1

Milan, 4 Oct—Lecce's impressive run of early season results in Serie A came to an end with a 2-1 defeat by Chievo Verona on Saturday.

The win sends uneaten Chievo into second place, a point behind leaders Juventus who are at Udinese on Sunday.

Roberto Baronio fired Chievo into a 44th minute lead with a low shot from an indirect free kick.

Simone Tirimbicci made it 2-0 with a scrambled effort from close range in the 79th minute.

Lecce, who had picked up eight points from the opening four games, were unable to produce the attacking football that had characterised their recent displays.

The southerners grabbed a late consolation through a superyard struck from 20 metres by Serbian Mirko Vucinic.

Gianfranco Zola was on target for Cagliari as they picked up their third win in five games with a 2-1 victory over Brescia.

Former Parma and Chelsea striker Zola put Cagliari ahead from the penalty spot in the 13th minute, to claim his first goal of the season.

An Andrea Caracciolo header brought Brescia level seven minutes before the break but an 83rd minute solo effort from Antonio Langella ensured the victory for the Sardinians.

Cagliari forward Mauro Esposito and Brescia defender Davide Zoboli were sent off in the 89th minute.

Sunday's big game features Inter Milan at troubled AS Roma who will have new coach Luigi di Neri in charge for the first time. —MNA/Reuters

Arndt of Germany takes gold in women's road race

Vernon, 4 Oct—Judith Arndt of Germany took the gold medal in the Elite women's road race at the UCI world championships on Saturday, after winning the time trial silver medal on Tuesday.

Arndt won the road race with a well-timed attack on the descent of the final lap just six kilometres from the finish.

She powered clear to win alone, 10 seconds ahead of Italy's Tatiana Guderzo. Norway's Anita Valen finished third, 12 seconds behind.

Arndt was disappointed to finish second in the road race at the Athens Olympics in August but was all smiles after taking two medals in Verona.

"I'm not sad any more," she said in the news conference, wearing the rainbow jersey awarded to cycling world champions.

"It's a great day for German women's cycling because we haven't won a world title for over 20 years since Ute Enzenauer in Prague in 1981." Arndt's time trial expertise gave her a winning edge when she attacked.

"I only knew I'd won at 500 metres from the finish because I concentrated on riding as fast as I could," she said. "My coach told me via the radio not to look back and I never did. The Italian girl was very strong during the final lap and is also a good time trialist so I gave it everything almost to the line.

Guderzo just failed to catch Arndt but celebrated winning a silver medal by raising her arms as she crossed the line. —MNA/Reuters

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AS Monaco's Emmanuel Adebayor, left, challenges for the ball with Lyon's Antony Reveillere during their first division soccer match, on Saturday, 25 Sept. 2004 in Lyon, central France. —INTERNET

Federer beats Roddick to win Thailand Open

Bangkok, 4 Oct—Roger Federer of Switzerland beat Andy Roddick of the United States 6-4, 6-0 to win the Thailand Open on Sunday, and joined Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe as the only players to win 12 consecutive finals.

“When I came here I didn't know what to expect,” said Federer. “I took it easy after the US Open and was just hoping for a good tournament, and now I've won another one so that’s really fantastic.”

“I didn't believe I could somehow reach 10 titles this year, and it just keeps on going. Obviously I’m very happy.”

The Swiss world number one dominated the American seed, who received treatment in the second set for a right elbow injury.

“I hurt my elbow yesterday against Marat Safin, but I don't think that made a difference. Roger's been beating people all year,” said Roddick. —MNA/Xinhua
**Minister U Aung Thaung receives Mr Xu Xiang Chun and party of PRC, MNA**

**Myanmar Information delegation leaves for Cambodia**

**Yangon, 5 Oct** — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan this afternoon left here for Cambodia to attend the 8th ASEAN information ministers’ meeting on 6-7 October in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing, Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win, Managing Director of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi and officials of the departments under the ministry.

**Cash, gold plates donated**

**Yangon, 5 Oct** — The third cash donation ceremony for all-round renovation of Mahā Shweyinpyin Pagoda in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Division, was held on 29 September at the pagoda.

**Deputy Minister U Thein Sein gives talks**

**Yangon, 5 Oct** — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein gave talks on seven-point future policy programme of the State to the trainees who are attending Basic Oratory Programme in Pyin Oo Lwin Station Brjg-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and officials accepted 240 gold plates and K 2,160,000.

**Indian delegation leaves**

**Yangon, 5 Oct** — An Indian delegation led by Foreign Secretary Mr Shyam Saran of the Republic of India left here this morning after attending Foreign Office Consultations. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, the Indian Ambassador and officials.

**WEATHER**

**Tuesday, 5 October, 2004**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin State and upper Sagain Division, scattered in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Mon State, Magway and Bago Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Hkamti (2.05) inches.

Maximum temperature on 4-10-2004 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 5-10-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 5-10-2004 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 4-10-2004 was (8.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 5-10-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (110.94) inches at Yangon Airport, (106.18) inches at Kaba-Aye and (108.58) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 11 mph from Southeast at (14:15) hours MST on 4-10-2004.

**Bay inference:** According to the yesterday’s midnight observations, the depression over West Central Bay has crossed near Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh Coast, India. Weather is cloudy in the North and West Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 6-10-2004:** Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and North Mandalay Divisions, isolated in Mon State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of scattered or heavy thundershowers is low.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-10-2004:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-10-2004:** Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**“Untimely rainfall warning”**

(Issued at 10:30 hrs MST on 5th October, 2004)

According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Chin, northern Shan and north Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and north Mandalay Divisions within the next (48) hours commencing noon today.
YANGON, 5 Oct — Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address at the ceremony to mark World Teachers’ Day which falls on 5 October at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of MEC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, members of MEC, ambassadors of foreign embassies in Yangon, charge d’ affaires, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials of social organizations, officials of State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, directors-general, rectors, division education officers, principals of education colleges, township education officers, wellwishers, teachers, students and guests.

During the ceremony, schoolgirls Ma Yadana Aye Min and Ma Houth Khant Din of No 2 BEHS, Sangyoung acted as masters of ceremonies.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech on the occasion. In his speech, he said: The UNESCO at its 44th International Education Conference passed a resolution to designate 5 October “World Teachers’ Day” to honour teachers whose role is considered to be of great importance in the development of society.

The Union of Myanmar for the third consecutive year has commemorated “World Teachers’ Day” with appropriate activities to highlight its meaning and essence.

The ceremonies thus held every year to mark “World Teachers’ Day” show that the Union of Myanmar, as a responsible member of the world community, unfailingly participates and cooperates (See page 8)

In Myanmar there are laws, rules, orders and directives that protect the rights of the children

YANGON, 5 Oct — The committee for prevention against recruitment of minors from joining military service held its third coordination meeting at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyintha this evening, with an address by Chairman of the committee for prevention against recruitment of minors Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present were members of the committee Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing, Brig-Gen Ngwe Thein of the Adjutant-General’s Office of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and (See page 11)