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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Materialize the agricultural objectives with high-yield crops

According to an FAO report, about 840 million people in various parts of the world are still suffering from hunger and malnutrition. To help address the problem, Myanmar has been cooperating with the international community and taking part in its activities, drawing and implementing programmes to contribute towards global food security.

Thanks to her land and water resources and a temperate climate that are suitable for crops to grow well, Myanmar has been implementing an economic system based on agriculture. As the nation’s policy is to give priority to increasing the agricultural sector’s production, she is not only producing surplus food for her citizens, but also contributing to fulfilling the regional requirement.

The livelihood and production business of the majority of over 53 million people of Myanmar, in one way or another, relate to the three sectors — agricultural, fish and meat and forestry sectors. Hence, the Government is providing infrastructures and assistance to the three sectors in all spheres to increase their output thereby contributing much to the national economic development and food security.

The main objective of the nation is to ensure food sufficiency for domestic consumption and to fulfill the global food markets need to a certain degree. And in accord with the objective, Myanmar is working hard to utilize her land and water resources to the most possible degree, cultivate high-yield crops and transform from conventional to mechanized farming.

In the drive to materialize the objective, the Government has been laying down and implementing irrigation projects for agricultural progress, and has built 164 dams and sluice gates and 265 waterworks to this date since fiscal 1988-1989, and now the nation can grow rice throughout the year.

Besides, the nation is making efforts for progress of the fish and meat sector that is playing a key role in developing the economy. The Myanmar waters along the far-stretching coastal line are also rich in resources with high potentials for sound economic foundations of the nation.

Myanmar is among the countries in Asia and Pacific region having the largest forest-covered areas, and is concentrating on conserving the natural environment, natural lands, wildlife parks and biodiversity and establishing more forest reserves.

Farmers are required to use more high-yield strains, farm machinery and advanced methods to realize the nation’s objective and to help contribute to global food security, and the officials concerned should also render all-round assistance to them.

Fourth batch course of Myanmar Canaan Farmers’ Training Centre begins

YANGON, 21 Oct — Course No 4/2004 of the Myanmar Canaan Farmers’ Training Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was opened on 18 October at the centre in Pyin Oo Lwin with an address by Managing Director of Myanmar Agriculture Service Col Myit Shwe.

A total of 30 trainees are attending the course.

PM talks on Myanmar farmers training centre

Prime Minister(0) said the new training centre in Pyin Oo Lwin would be an asset for the Myanmar farmers, and his government was concerned about food security issues. He told the trainees that the centre would equip them with modern farming techniques.

Training of hundreds of farmers in Pyin Oo Lwin

The 4th batch of farmers from Pyin Oo Lwin are being trained here on 18 October. The training is being held under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Talks given honouring 40th anniversary of UDNR

YANGON, 21 Oct — Talks were given to honour the 40th anniversary of the University for Development of National Races (UDNR) at the convocation hall of the university on 19 October morning.

Present on the occasion were UDNR Central Management Committee Chairman Civil Service Selection and Training Board Chairman U Than Nyun, CSSB member U Aung Myint, UDNR Rector Col Zaw Min Thein, Civil Service Selection and Training Department Deputy Director-General U Wai Myint, the pro-rectors, heads of department, professors, faculty members and students.

Resource persons who gave talks on the occasion were Myanmar Education Research Bureau Chairperson Daw Khin Swe Tun, Information and Public Relations Department Director-General U Chit Naing, Professor Daw Nu Na Win of Sagaing Institute of Education, Professor of U Khin Maung Aye on behalf of UDNR Education Planning and Training Department Deputy Director-General U Tun Hla and Deputy Professor Daw Cho Cho Mar of UDNR on behalf of Pro-rector Daw Htu Htu of Yangon Institute of Education.

As a gesture of commemorating the anniversary, fun fairs will also be held. — MNA

Police stations inspected

YANGON, 21 Oct — Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi inspected police stations in Bago Division.

Brig-Gen Khin Yi, together with Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu, inspected Paingkyaung Police Station in Kayin State and live-stock breeding tasks at the station.

Afterwards, Brig-Gen Khin Yi presented medicines for the station and gave instructions.

Myanmar, ROK traders meet

ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Kyung Woo attended the trade meeting between Korean and Myanmar entrepreneurs. — MNA

Myanmar and ROK sign MOU for technical cooperation

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for technical cooperation between the two countries was signed by Minister of Science and Technology Dr Myint Htwe and ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Kyung Woo in Yangon.

ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Kyung Woo and Mr Cho Yoon Tae, the ROK’s First Secretary, met with Dr Myint Htwe, Minister of Science and Technology, and discussed cooperation projects.

Thereafter, an agreement on the execution of technical cooperation projects was signed.

Korean investors interested in Myanmar

Korean businesspeople, who visited the country, said they were interested in venture capital ventures, especially in the public sector.

Myanmar is a country with a large population of 53 million and has an uninterrupted coastline of 7,200 km.

Myanmar has a per capita income of $1,300 and a literacy rate of 81%.

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US raids kill family of six
in Iraq

Fallujah, 20 Oct — US warplanes have killed a family of six in raids against rebels led by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, while a top international aid agency has suspended Iraq operations after its manager was kidnapped.

A Reuters witness saw a man and a woman and four children, two boys and two girls, being pulled out of the rubble of a razed home in the rebel-held city of Fallujah, about 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad on Wednesday.

The US military denied a family of six was killed, saying it launched four strikes against safehouses used by Zarqawi’s fighters.

Bush, Kerry Trade jabs over Iraq

Waterloo (Iowa), 21 Oct — President George W Bush and challenger John Kerry accused each other of misjudging the stakes and lacking the leadership to deal with Iraq and terrorism as they campaigned 60 miles apart in Iowa, a state Bush narrowly lost four years ago.

“The next commander in chief must lead us to victory in this war and you cannot win a war when you don’t believe you’re fighting one,” Bush said Wednesday in Mason City, a northern Iowa farming community. “My opponent also misunderstands our battle against guerrillas and terrorists in Iraq, calling Iraq a ‘a diversion from the war on terrorism.’”

Kerry, campaigning in Waterloo, said Bush failed to grasp what the United States faces in Iraq, where more than 1,100 US soldiers have been killed.

“If President Bush cannot recognize the problems in Iraq, he will not fix them. I do recognize them and I will fix them.”

With time running out before the November 2 election, national polls say the race is very close, with some showing a slight advantage for Bush. Polls in key swing states like Florida, Ohio and Wisconsin also show the two candidates running about even.

Iraq and terrorism dominated the debate Wednesday as Bush focused on Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin — all states that went against him four years ago and where polls show him in a close race with his Democratic rival.

After Iowa, Kerry held a rally in Pittsburgh with supporters, including singer Jon Bon Jovi, actor Ted Danson and Hall of Fame football player Franco Harris, before returning to Ohio for the night. Four years ago, Bush lost Pennsylvania and won Ohio; this year the race is tight in both states.

“The President says he’s a leader. Well, Mr President, look behind you, there’s hardly anyone there,” Kerry said, pointing out considerable adversity to the opposition.

“It’s not leadership if we haven’t built the strongest alliance possible and if America is going almost alone.”

Saying Bush was trying to focus the election on national security, Kerry said, “I welcome that debate. Believe a president must be able to defend this country and fight for the middle class at the same time.”

Bush, trying to depict his opponent as lacking the credentials to be commander in chief, said Kerry was guilty of “a fundamental misunderstanding of the war we face and that is very dangerous thinking”.

He said the threat posed by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian terrorist who has pledged allegiance to Osama bin Laden and is believed behind beheadings in Iraq, “shows how wrong” Kerry’s thinking is.

“If Zarqawi and his associates were not busy fighting American forces, does Senator Kerry think he would be leading a productive and useful life?” Bush asked. “Of course not. And that is why Iraq is no diversion.”

CARE halts work in Iraq after abduction

Baghdad, 20 Oct — CARE today suspended its humanitarian relief efforts in Iraq one day after gunman kidnaped the British-born woman who for decades has led the group’s drive to improve living conditions here.

The kidnapping of a ransom demands and an American contractor working for a Halliburton unit died in a separate mortar attack on a US base in Baghdad.

US and Iraqi officials have said they expected violence to escalate during Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting that began last week.

Iraqi men inspect a destroyed building in the al-Shuhadaa area of Fallujah, Iraq, west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 19 Oct, 2004. — INTERNET

Senior Chinese leader meets Philippine Congress leaders

MANILA, 20 Oct — Wu Guanzheng, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met here on Monday with the leaders of the Philippine Congress.

During his meeting with Philippine Senate President Franklin Drilon, Wu said that China and the Philippines have carried out fruitful cooperation in various fields over the past few years as relations between the two countries have witnessed smooth development.

Wu said that China is willing to work together with the Philippines to implement the major agreements reached during President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s visit to China in early September, in order to gain more results from their cooperation and push the Sino-Philippine relations to a higher level.

Wu also reiterated China’s principle on the Taiwan issue. For his part, Drilon said that the rapid development of relations between the two countries in the past few years has enhanced understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

He said that it is very important to further deepen and increase bilateral exchanges and cooperation so as to consolidate the relations between the Philippines and China.

Drilon stressed that the Philippines understands China’s sacred goal of national reunification and will adhere to the “one China” policy now and in the future.

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A British soldier from the Black Watch regiment patrols the streets in the southern city of Bagru on 20 Oct, 2004. — INTERNET

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US soldier pleads guilty to abuse at Iraq’s Abu Ghraib Prison

Baghdad, 20 Oct — A US Army soldier pleaded guilty to five charges of abusing Iraqis held at Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib Prison in a case that sparked international outrage. Army Lieutenant Colonel Steven Boylan, a US military spokesman, said by telephone from Baghdad.

Staff Sergeant Ivan “Chip” Frederick, 38, of Buckingham, Virginia, admitted to most elements of the five charges against him: conspiracy to maltreat detainees, maltreatment of detainees, dereliction of duty, assault and indecent acts.

He will probably be sentenced tomorrow.

Frederick could receive a sentence of as much as 11 years in prison, forfeiture of pay, a demotion to the rank of private, and a dishonorable discharge. He would likely serve any prison time in the US, Boylan said.

Frederick, the highest-ranking soldier to be charged in connection with Abu Ghraib mistreatment, told the court-martial at Camp Victory near Baghdad that he threatened a detainee with electrocution, all the while snapping photographs “to take back home,” an Associated Press reporter in the courtroom recounted in an e-mailed pool report distributed by the US-led Military Police operation in Baghdad.

An Army criminal investigator said the prisoner, who was naked and standing on a box in a shower, had information about the bodies of four US soldiers and he wanted the person “stressed out” to aid an interrogation, according to the pool report’s account of Frederick’s testimony. Frederick said he wrapped a wire around the detainee’s finger and two other soldiers also attached wires to the person’s body.

An Iraqi soldier keeps watch outside a National Guard facility after a mortar attack in Mashahida, 24 miles north of Baghdad, on 19 Oct. 2004. — INTERNET

Two US reporters suspended for attending ‘Vote for Change’

ST PAUL (Minnesota), 20 Oct — Two newspaper reporters who attended a political fund-raising concert calling for the ouster of President George W. Bush were suspended from their jobs for violating the newspaper’s ethics policy.

The St Paul Pioneer Press suspended investigative reporters Chuck Laszewski and Rick Link for three days each after they attended the October 5 “Vote for Change” concert by Springsteen, REM and other artists.

The Newspaper Guild is contesting the unpaid suspensions.

Pioneer Press Editor Vicki Gowler wrote in a September 27 memo to staff that the paper’s ethics policy bars them from activities that would conflict with their employment, including “concerts that are held as political fundraisers.”

Several other newspapers had issued similar warnings to reporters.

Gowler said Tuesday that the reporters who were disciplined served occasional weekend duty and could be called upon to handle political stories.

“We’re not saying the company doesn’t have a right to be concerned about the ethics, and the off-duty behavior of its reporters,” said Mike Sweeney, the Guild’s executive officer. “But they have to meet a standard. We can’t allow a company to subjectively decide what is or is not a conflict.” — MNA/AP

Panama, US differ at free trade talks

PANAMA CITY, 20 Oct — Panama and the United States maintained their differences on vital issues Tuesday during the second day of the negotiations for a free trade agreement.

The biggest differences focused on agricultural and food issues, especially tomato paste and beef, the Panamanian Trade and Industry Ministry said.

The United States presented a “very aggressive” proposal for tomato paste, far from the expectations of Panama, the Panamanian Government said.

Washington, for its part, said Panama’s proposal on beef is unacceptable, and that it would make a counterproposal.

However, progress was reported in the textile and telecom sectors.

The Panamanian Government said it is necessary for the two sides to identify the differences in the negotiations for fair and transparent guidelines to promote investments. — MNA/Ninhua

Kerry accuses Bush of mishandling eco, war on terrorism

DAYTON (Ohio), 20 Oct — Democratic White House challenger John Kerry said the United States needed a leader who could do more than one thing at a time, and accused President George W. Bush on Tuesday of mishandling both the economy and the war on terrorism.

On the attack with two weeks until the November 2 election, the Massachusetts senator also rebuked Bush for talking tough about his efforts to catch or kill Osama bin Laden, blamed for the 11 September, 2001, attacks on the United States. The al-Qaeda leader is still at large.

Kerry suggested at a rally before thousands of supporters in Dayton that Bush was way over his head at the White House.

“Let me tell you what the real test of this race is,” Kerry said. “We need a President of the United States who can do more than one thing at the same time.”

“We need a president who understands that not only do we need to do the job of being the head of state and commander in chief, but we need a president who also understands what it means ... to get the job done for the middle class in America,” he said.

Kerry mocked Bush for complaining over and over in their first debate that the presidency and establishing security in Iraq was “hard work.”

“I kept hearing the President say in that debate, ‘It’s hard work, it’s hard work,’ ” Kerry said. “Well, Mr President, I’m very happy to relieve you of that hard work.”

He called Bush’s economic policy “deja vu all over again,” comparing his record to that of Herbert Hoover, the last president to lose jobs on his White House watch, and accused Bush of “raiding and privatizing” the Social Security retirement system.

“Has he become the first president in more than 70 years to have the income of American families decline in each year of his presidency,” Kerry said in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania earlier.

“He has become the first president to turn a record surplus into the largest deficit in history and he has become the first president to launch an all-out assault on Social Security.” Pennsylvania and Ohio are two of the biggest battlegrounds in this year’s election. — MNA/Reuters

IISS reports Iraq war increases risk of terrorism against West

LONDON, 20 Oct — War in Iraq has increased the risk of terrorism against the West, at least for the short term, the International Institute for Strategic Studies said on Tuesday in its annual report on the world’s militaries.

The IISS has added a section on Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda network to The Military Balance, its authoritative yearly defence handbook, which lists the size and capabilities of the world’s Armed Forces. “Overall, the risk of terrorism to Westerners and Western assets in Arab countries appeared to increase after the Iraq war began in March 2003,” it concluded. — MNA/Reuters

US warplanes hit Fallujah

Baghdad, 20 Oct — US warplanes hit the gue-rilla-held Iraqi city of Fallujah overnight as part of a drive to thwart expected attacks during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

US and Iraqi forces also surrounded the town of Duluiya, north of Bagh-dad, raiding homes, de-taining scores of suspected guerrillas and calling in helicopter strikes on suspected guerrillas hiding in surrounding orchards, Iraqi officials said on Tuesday. There was no word on casualties from either operation. — MNA/Reuters

An Iraqi National Guard member aims his rifle as he stands on a rooftop at his base in Mashahida, a town about 40 kilometres north of Baghdad on 19 Oct, 2004. — INTERNET