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The chairman and members at the mass rally in support of the seven future policies and programmes of the State. — MNA

YANGON, 10 Oct.—A mass rally, organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, was held in support of the Prime Minister's clarification on seven

Association, Working Committee for Women Affairs, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, faculties of University of Sittway,

and band troupe marched into the Danyawady Sports Ground from the front of City Hall and took their designated places.

Similarly, Bayintnaung

of Rakhine State Court with flag bearers and band troupe marched into the Sports Ground from No 4 Basic Education High School and took their designated places sys-

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

Out of seven-point political roadmap, the two points—successful holding of the National Convention and the emergence of the enduring State Constitution—are of paramount importance

We need to be well aware of the dangers posed by internal and external destructive elements

Mass rally held in support of Prime Minister's clarification on seven-point roadmap

policies and programmes of the State (roadmap) in Sittway, Rakhine State on 9 October morning.

Present on the occasion were Central Executive Committee members of USDA, members of USDAs in Rakhine State, members of Sittway, Thandwe, Kyaukpau and Maungdaw district USDAs including 17 townships in the state, members of Maternal and Child Welfare

Sittway Government Technological College and Government Computer College, departmental officials, nurses, members of chambers of commerce and industry, workers and local people totalling more than 6,000.

Before the mass rally, Anawrahta column led by Column Leader Director of Rakhine State Development Affairs Department U Nyo Win Myint with flag bearers

Column led by Column Leader Head of Rakhine State Immigration and Population Department U Khin Maung Yin with flag bearers and band troupe marched into the Sports Ground.

Likewise, Aung Zay Ya Column led by Column Leader Law Officer of Rakhine State Law Office U Ye Aung Myint and Hsinphyushin Column led by state Justice U Than Myaing

tematically.

At the rally, Pro-Rector of the University of Sittway U Wan Tin presided over the mass rally together with Physician of Sittway People's Hospital Dr Myo Win, Thet national U Hla Tun Kyaw of Maungdaw Township, Prof Daw Khin Than Nu of the Philosophy Department of the University of Sittway and Executive of Rakhine State USDA U U Hla Tun as mem-

bers. Kyaukpau Township USDA Executive Daw Yi Yi Thein and Mrauk U Township USDA Executive Daw Moe Moe Hlaing acted as masters of ceremonies.

First, the master of ceremonies announced the commencement of the mass rally. Next, Pro-Rector U Wan Tin made a speech on the occasion. He said:

Today's mass rally is to support the Prime Minister's

speech on the seven-point political roadmap of the State delivered at the Pyithu Hluttaw building on 30 August. The entire national races have been living in Myanmar sharing weal or woe since time immemorial. The national races are the brethren who live under one roof. That is why all the national races are to make efforts for further strengthening of national unity.

(See page 8)



Those in attendance at the mass rally to support the State's future political roadmap at Danyawady sports ground in Sittway, Rakhine State. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 11 October, 2003

Beneficial Myanmar-China relations

Practising independent and active foreign policy, the Union of Myanmar is cooperating fully with nations of the world especially with regional countries.

After its full membership of ASEAN, Myanmar, hand in hand with regional countries, has been actively participating in efforts to promote regional economy, social affairs and culture through cooperation in the region.

At the invitation of President of the Republic of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the 9th ASEAN Summit, the Summits of the ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and ASEAN-India Summit held in Bali, Indonesia from 6 to 8 October.

On 6 October, the Prime Minister met with Premier Mr Wen Jiabao of State Council of the People's Republic of China, Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad and Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong and attended the working dinner of ASEAN Heads of State/Government.

At the meeting, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao of State Council of the People's Republic of China cordially discussed matters related to bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The Chinese Premier said that China wishes Myanmar united, stable and developed and wants to promote bilateral relations. He also pledged to promote economic cooperation with Myanmar.

General Khin Nyunt said that Myanmar-China relation is most satisfactory and the bilateral economic cooperation is fruitful; that Myanmar thanks China's stand regarding Myanmar in all aspects; and that the assistance of China for development of natural resources, infrastructures, agriculture and human resources is very much beneficial to Myanmar.

In 1955, Myanmar, China and India proposed the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and they have contributed much towards promoting relations among countries and efforts for preserving world peace and stability.

As China understands her, Myanmar, on her part, will constantly abide by the One-China policy of the People's Republic of China.

We firmly believe that as Myanmar is cooperating with the nations of the world and those in the region, she will be able to promote cooperation in economic, social and cultural sectors with other countries.

Boiler user course concludes

YANGON, 10 Oct — The closing ceremony of the boiler user course No 3/2003, organized by the Regional Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department of the Ministry of Industry-1 was held at the Electric Inspection and Boiler Inspection Department in Mayangon Township yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for In-

dustrial-1 U Aung Thuang, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises.

The minister made a speech and presented prizes to the outstanding trainees. Altogether 75 trainees of the ministries and private workshops attended the six-week course. — MNA

Abhidhamma Day observed at famous pagodas in Yangon

YANGON, 10 Oct — Today is Full Moon Day of Thadingyut (Abhi-dhamma Day). The Buddha, after the attainment of enlightenment, preached Abhidhamma on the celestial abode of Tavatinsa for three months with the aim of repaying the gratitude to His deceased mother who was reborn as Santusita Deva.

The Buddhists traditionally observe the lighting festival on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut. Being the day on which the preaching of Abhidhamma ended, ceremonies to commemorate the Abhidhamma Day are held. The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees held the precepts receiving ceremony in conjunction with a ceremony to mark the success of alms offering at the pagoda images prayer's hall on the platform of the pagoda this morning. Pagoda Board of Trustees Ovadacariya Nyaungdon Pali Tekkatho Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sobana

invested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

Afterwards, members of the pagoda board of trustees and wellwishers donated offertories to 11 Ovadacariya Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. The Nyaungdon Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits gained.

For the same reason, the Sule Pagoda Board of Trustees organized the observance of Abhidhamma Day at the pagoda this morning. Five thousand lights were offered to the pagoda in the evening.

Similarly, Botahtaung Kyaikdayup Pagoda, Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Ngahtatgyi and Chaukhtatgyi Pagodas in Bahan Township, Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township, Okkalapa Pagoda in South Okkalapa Township, Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township, Thadugan Pa-



Visitors on the platform of the Shwedagon Pagoda on Thadingyut Full Moon Day (10-10-2003).

MNA

goda in Shwepyitha Township, Shwephonepint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township, Kyaikkalo and Kyaikkalei Pagodas in Mingaladon Township,

Maelamu Pagoda in North Okkalapa Township, Kyaikkhaik Pagoda in Thanlyin Township and Kyaikhmawwunayle Pagoda in Kyauktan Township were crowded with pilgrims doing meritorious deeds and the Abhidhamma Day was observed there. — MNA

Abhidhamma Day observed

YANGON, 10 Oct — Led by Course Instructor Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Panñasami of the Basic Buddhist Culture Course of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the trainees observed Abhidhamma Day (Full Moon Day of Thadingyut) at Maha Theindawgyi on Thirimingala Kaba Aye Hill here this morning. On the occasion, 'soon', flowers, water and lights were offered to the Buddha Image and religious verses recited. The trainees paid homage to the Sayadaw, followed by sharing of merits. — MNA



The Abhidhamma Day observing ceremony in progress. — MNA

Thadingyut festival celebrated in Yangon University and Latha BEHS N0 2

YANGON, 10 Oct — Thadingyut festival was held on a grand scale in Yangon University and N0 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township yesterday morning and evening. Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and U Myo Nyunt, directors-general and officials concerned visited Thadingyut and sale festival at Yangon University yesterday morning and viewed the foodstalls and goods shops of the respective major departments at the festival.

They together with the students took eatables made by the latter.

A similar festival was held in N0 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township at 6 pm yesterday. The minister and party

viewed the lighting festival and enjoyed entertainment programmes presented by the students.

There was also music entertainment programmes on the lawn of Yangon University Convocation Hall at

8 pm yesterday, attended by the minister and party, and teachers who compiled books on 'environmental conservation and further development' and 'development in Myanmar'.

MNA



Pagodas in Yangon were teeming with visitors on the whole Thadingyut Full Moon Day (10-10-2003). — MNA

There was no adequate alternative to the United Nations

While the need to implement the objectives of the Millennium Declaration had been made clear, the consensus and cooperation for implementation, which had been evident three years ago, had waned somewhat.

Nationally, Mexico had made headway in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. They had been fully adopted into national policy, and some progress had been made on the path to poverty eradication.

He said that radical reform was needed for the Organization to respond to the many challenges and threats confronting the international community. He reaffirmed that the great strength of the Organization was found in the legitimacy and principles enshrined in its Charter. It must be recognized that there was no adequate alternative to the United Nations. He supported the establishment of a panel of eminent personalities, and felt that the working procedures of the Assembly must be revitalized and updated and the role of the ECOSOC, strengthened.

The ECOSOC should act as the coordinator of activities between and within specific agencies, including those of the Bretton Woods system, he concluded. The ability of the United Nations to impact economic and financial issues would depend largely on its understanding of the role ECOSOC was to play. Moreover, the work of the Security Council must be made more transparent, its membership more representative and the use of the



Adolfo Aguilar Zinser of Mexico

veto curtailed, in order to ensure greater legitimacy and support for its decisions.

**Ambassador Adolfo Aguilar Zinser,
Permanent Representative of Mexico to
the United Nations**

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The Assembly assumed its authoritative and political role as the universal, representative body

Recent developments had shown that peace and development remained the international community's primary tasks.

In addition, it was necessary to redouble efforts for economic and social development and poverty eradication.

In the current global trading system, developing countries would always remain disadvantaged due to protectionist measures and anti-dumping, which prevented their products from entering developed countries' markets.

That situation would only be corrected through the establishment of more democratic and open trade and financial systems, which would also ensure favourable conditions to developing countries. While some progress had been made in reaching the Millennium Development Goals, a long way still remained in meeting the international community's common needs and expectations.

The attainment of those Goals required a more effective and democratized United Nations. In that regard, he welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to establish a high-level group to consider proposals to strengthen the Organization.

**Vietnam's Deputy Permanent Representative to UN
Ngo Duc Thang**

Revitalization of the Assembly was key to making the wider Organization more efficient and transparent



Arnaldo M Listre

The urgent threats to global security should not make Member States lose sight of the need to ensure sustainable socioeconomic development for all.

He agreed with the Secretary-General that there was currently a huge gap between the rhetoric of inclusion and what was actually practiced. To that end, he supported efforts to follow-up on implementation of the major United Nations conferences of the past decade.

As the Secretary-General's report pointed out, major differences existed in the way developed and developing countries viewed international macroeconomic

and fiscal policies. That, coupled with the failure of the recent Cancun round of the World Trade Organization, had underscored the need for a successful round of international trade talks aimed at revitalizing the economy and strengthening the process of development, so that small countries could achieve growth, based on resources derived from their respective competitive advantages.

On United Nations reform, he believed revitalization of the Assembly was key to making the wider Organization more efficient and transparent.

**Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Argentina
Arnaldo M Listre**

During day two of a debate on Secretary-General Kofi Annan's annual report on the work of the United Nations, as well as his progress report on implementation of the Millennium Declaration, speakers at Fifty-eighth General Assembly Plenary 25th & 26th Meetings on 7 October 2003 stressed that in 2003, the world had seen more violent conflict, accompanied by heightened international tension and the fear of terrorism.

The restoration of security in Iraq and the resumption of the exercise of sovereignty by its people were of priority

A multilateral approach, with the United Nations at its core, could not be cast aside when addressing global security threats and achieving development.

It was in the common interest of all countries to safeguard the authority of the Organization. Yet, appropriate reforms were necessary to keep pace with the times, including improved efficacy and increased capacity to respond to various challenges and promote economic and social development.

The restoration of security in Iraq and the resumption of the exercise of sovereignty by its people were of priority. He urged Israel and Palestine to stop violence and resume talks as early as possible. In Africa, progress had been made in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia, but it was still a long-term task to achieve peace in other



Wang Guangya

areas of the continent. Terrorism and the proliferation of dangerous weapons required consistent measures that touched on their root causes. To achieve coordinated and balanced development in the world, it was vital to implement the Millennium Development Goals, he said. To do so, globalization should be geared towards universal enjoyment of benefits by all through joint participation.

**Ambassador and Permanent
Representative, Chinese Mission to
the United Nations.
Wang Guangya**

Goncalo Santa Clara Gomes (Portugal)

The usefulness of the United Nations would always be judged by its capacity to avoid and handle conflicts.

Conflict prevention had three fundamental dimensions, namely security, institution building and development. Those three dimensions were closely intertwined; the failure of one put in jeopardy, all the others.

The Security Council, besides its continuing efforts in security and peacekeeping, had recently considered justice and the rule of law as essential elements for nation and state-building, and had explored ways to give more emphasis to that dimension.

The Economic and So-

cial Council, on its part, had been trying to address the development component of conflict prevention through the formation of ad hoc working



**Ambassador Santa Clara
Gomes**

groups for specific countries. He reiterated his Prime Minister's suggestion for the creation of a new Commission with a mandate to rou-

tinely monitor cases of conflict prevention and to promote the creation of conditions for peace and development.

In conjunction with the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council; which would both, preserve their respective areas of competence, and under a mandate given by them, that committee could identify and deal with the most pressing needs.

It could also draw up, for countries at risk, integrated strategies allaying the objectives of security, reinforcement of institutions, and economic and social development.—Internet

Globally, the collective security agenda should most appropriately be pursued through the United Nations

While the fight against terrorism had originally brought the international community together in a climate of global consensus and cooperation, recent challenges to multilateralism and collective security had tested the international system.

In addition, progress in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration had been slow. Those issues could be altered with the necessary political will. For example, although conflicts continued to undermine their sustainable development, African nations had begun, step by step, to discharge their responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and stability on the continent. Thus, the entry into force of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union would contribute to collective efforts already under way.

Globally, the collective security agenda should most appropriately be pursued through the United Nations, he said. Thus, it was

essential to strengthen the Organization, particularly the Assembly, to regain the confidence of Member States and world public opinion. Without reform, the Security Council would continue to provide inadequate qualitative and quantitative representation for developing countries while the Assembly would see its powers further undermined. Moreover, the achievement of the Millennium Goals must remain the most important task of the United Nations, he concluded. As global implementation required global partnerships and cooperation, the international community, in particular developed countries, was urged to provide the necessary support to developing countries, including through increased official development assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investment.

**Filipe Chidumo Permanent
Representative of Mozambique to UN**

Six months on, Iraq ponders price of freedom

BAGHDAD, 10 Oct—Six months after US troops tore down Saddam Hussein's statue in central Baghdad another has replaced it, a nameless figure holding high a sun and crescent moon. It was supposed to symbolize a new dawn, a new Iraq.

"I understand the symbolism, it means freedom," money changer Haidar Abbas said, squinting up at the sculpture from the rickety table where he tries to sell grimy dinars. "But in Iraq, today, that means nothing." Half a year since their capital fell to US troops, welcomed by cheering crowds, Iraqis are waiting to see the benefits of the US-led occupation.

"Six months on, we haven't seen anything," said Kais al-Shara. Until April 9, his barber shop looked out on the statue of Saddam. Now clients watch the jams on Firdaws Square, traffic diverted from side roads blocked because of security.

"They said America will give us peace, comfort, change Baghdad," he

said. "Do you see electricity in my shop? There is none. But they said they would make it better."

Outside now is the new statue erected in May by a group of Iraqi actors and artists who call themselves al-Najin (The Survivors), referring to the fact they survived Saddam's rule.

US-led authorities say much has been achieved. They have removed Saddam but have so far failed to capture him. They have restructured and retrained security forces, rebuilt schools and power lines, formed an Iraqi Governing Council, poured money into health and reconstruction.

But explosions and gunfire often shatter the routine. Women, once unveiled, now cover their heads to attract

less attention. Civilians stay at home to avoid getting caught gunfire aimed at the occupying forces.

"Nothing has changed," said 25-year-old Bassam Youssef. "If anything it's worse...There are criminals everywhere."

Baghdad, and the volatile region around where resistance to the occupation is strongest, may give a skewed impression of Iraq today. There is less violence in the north and south, better power supplies, less crime.

Few Iraqis volunteer solutions to the current turmoil, all say they want life back to normal.

"The US are the ones who came in, they need to find a solution," Mohammad Ali Hussein said. "It's not for us to find one."—MNA/Reuters

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324 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 10 Oct—As of Thursday, Oct 9, 324 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence.

The British military has reported 50 deaths; Denmark, one; and Ukraine, one. On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 186 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,448 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 333. The latest deaths reported by US Central Command: A 4th Infantry Division soldier died Thursday after an attack northeast of Baghdad, Iraq. —Internet



A soldier of the US Army's 720th Military Police Battalion walks next to a shepherd as soldiers prepare to question him, on 9 October, 2003 during a raid on farmland just outside Tikrit, Iraq.—INTERNET

Nine killed in Iraq suicide blast, Spanish diplomat murdered

BAGHDAD, 10 Oct—A suicide bomber attacked a Baghdad police station, killing eight other people, a Spanish diplomat was murdered and a US soldier died in an ambush, as Washington tried to play up progress made in the six months since Saddam Hussein fall.

Three policemen, five civilians and the bomber were killed in the morning car-bomb attack on the station in the capital's main Shiite neighbourhood of Sadr City, US military police spokesman Captain Sean Kirley said.

A hospital official said another 38 people were wounded in the blast, which sent bodies flying on to the roof of the police station. One police officer said he found the bearded head of the bomber.

The latest suicide blast, which left a crater three metres (10 feet) wide and one metre deep, came six months to the day since US troops entered Baghdad, overthrowing Saddam's regime.

It was the deadliest attack in the Iraqi capital since 22 people were killed in the August 19 suicide bombing of the UN offices here.

On another day of carnage, a Spanish intelligence officer was murdered early Thursday when he opened the door of his Baghdad home to several gunmen, the foreign ministry said in Madrid.

The dead man, named as Jose Antonio Bernal Gomez, was a military attache and intelligence official who had been on assignment in Iraq for the past two years, it said. Spain is part of the US-led coalition that is occupying Iraq, where it has about 1,250 soldiers. —Internet

Iraqi minister calls for more aid from South Korea

SEOUL, 10 Oct—Visiting Iraqi Trade Minister Ali Alawi Thursday called on the South Korean Government to pledge both financial and military support to Iraq as part of efforts to help reconstruct the devastated country.

"I am aware that the Seoul government already pledged 60 million US dollars' worth of financial donations related to the fields of education, vocational training, medical and health to Iraq. We are very appreciative for that," he said at a Press conference.

Alawi, who arrived here Wednesday, expressed belief that the South Korean Government would pledge a sizable contribution to Iraq during a conference of donor nations scheduled for October 23-24 in Madrid, Spain.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed in attack northeast of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 10 Oct—An American soldier was killed in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on a military convoy northeast of the Iraqi capital early on Thursday, a US military spokeswoman said.

She said the soldier from the 4th Infantry Division was pronounced dead in a US military hospital a few hours after the attack at about 2 a.m. (2300 GMT Wednesday) near the town of Baquba.

The US military says 92 US soldiers have been killed in action in Iraq since major combat was declared over on May 1.

Baquba lies 40 miles northeast of Baghdad, in Iraq's "Sunni triangle" where resistance to the US occupation is strongest. Military convoys are attacked almost daily.

MNA/Reuters

Returned students help China's modernization

BEIJING, 10 Oct—Thousands of young Chinese people swarm to foreign universities each year, but returned scholars are playing a huge role in China's modernization.

As one of China's largest returned overseas students groups, the Western Returned Students' Association (WRSA), has had over 11,000 members since it was established 90 years ago, deputy chief Han Qide said here Wednesday.

Han, also vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, said on the 90th anniversary celebration of the WRSA that it had made new efforts to foster China's reform and modernization. —MNA/Xinhua



Anti-war protesters wearing reservists' uniforms chant slogans at a rally in Seoul on 9 October, 2003. Dozens protested on Thursday against the possible dispatch of South Korean troops to Iraq.—INTERNET

Urban minimum living allowance system covers most of China

BEIJING, 10 Oct—China has achieved major progress in carrying out its urban minimum living allowance system, which has covered the urban areas of the country, according to a report released Wednesday by the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

A total of 21.825 million Chinese urban residents were registered as recipients of the minimum living allowance up to August this year, says the report.

The payment of the subsidies totalled 9.51 billion yuan (1.15 billion US dollars) for the first eight months this year, with 9.2 billion yuan from the central government. All the subsidies have been distributed to the local destinations.

MNA/Xinhua

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



An Iraqi man sits on a bed in front of a US armored personnel carrier during a search for weapons by the US 720 Military Police Battalion, from Fort Hood, Texas, in a village some 15 km northeast of Tikrit, on 9 October, 2003. US President Bush, in a new push to defend the war on Iraq in face of mounting doubts, said on Thursday he acted to protect Americans from Saddam Hussein.

INTERNET



A young Iraqi girl enters a school through a damaged wall in Douleiyah, 100 kms north of Baghdad. A key congressional committee overwhelmingly approved a controversial White House request for 87 billion dollars to stabilize and rehabilitate Iraq and Afghanistan.—INTERNET



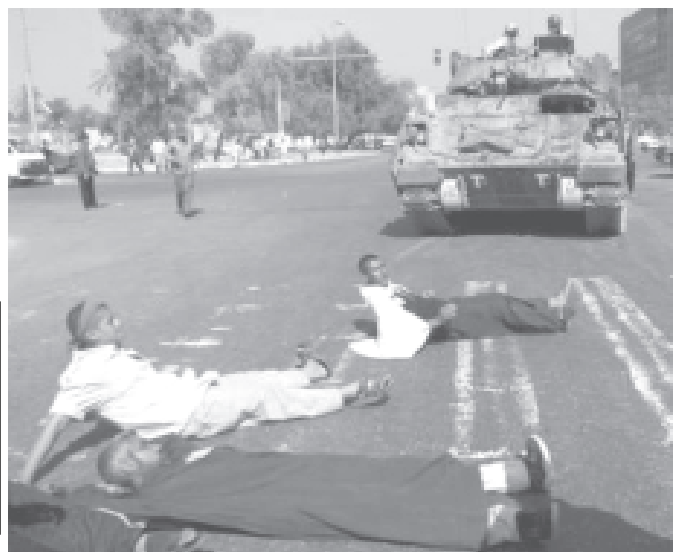
Soldiers of US Army 101st Airborne Division guard a bank entrance as Iraqi customers stand in a line in downtown Mosul, 400 kms (250 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday 9 October, 2003. The new Iraqi dinars will go into circulation on 15 October.—INTERNET



A mortar attack targeted Iraq's foreign ministry Wednesday after stalemate at the UN left US troops facing a long haul in efforts to stabilize and reconstruct the country "under new management" from Washington.—INTERNET



More than 2,000 protesters blocked the entrance to the US headquarters in the Iraqi capital yesterday to demand the release of a Shia cleric. It was the second day that demonstrators had confronted American soldiers to call for Sheikh Moayed al-Khazraji, who was arrested from a Baghdad mosque on Monday, to be set free.—INTERNET



Shi'ite Muslim protesters lie down in front of a US Army Bradley vehicle after hundreds marched to the Baghdad headquarters of the US led administration in Iraq, on 8 October, 2003. More than 2,000 Shi'ite Muslims marched to the headquarters on the second day of protests demanding the release of a cleric arrested by US forces.—INTERNET

CPJ seeks US details on journalist deaths in Iraq

NEW YORK, 10 Oct—The Committee to Protect Journalists said on Wednesday it had filed new requests for information from the Pentagon seeking details on incidents that led to the deaths of several journalists in the war in Iraq.

The committee filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests regarding two April 8 attacks that killed *Reuters* cameraman Taras Protsyuk and Spanish television cameraman Jose Couso, and Al Jazeera correspondent Tareq Ayyoub, as well as the August 17 killing of *Reuters* cameraman Mazen Dana.

The requests involve military investigations that have been conducted but not made public by US officials.

Comment from the Pentagon was not immediately available.

Reuters filed its own FOIA request for information about the Dana incident on September 24. Dana, an award-winning Palestinian cameraman, was killed by a machine-gunner on a tank as he was filming near the Abu Ghraib Prison outside Baghdad.

Reuters Chief Executive Tom Glocer wrote to Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld last month of his dismay that neither *Reuters* nor Dana's family had been properly informed of the conclusion of a military investigation into Dana's death.

The committee's executive director Ann Cooper said in a statement on Wednesday,

"The failure of the US military to provide an honest and open accounting of what occurred keeps alive questions about whether US forces are taking the necessary steps to avoid endangering journalists."

"These questions are urgent because hundreds of journalists continue to work in Iraq, and their reporting is vital for the world's understanding of events in this postwar period."

Protsyuk, a 35-year-old Ukrainian, and Couso were killed when a US tank fired on the Palestine Hotel, where most of the international Press corps in Iraq was headquartered during the US-led war. Ayyoub was killed earlier that day when US forces bombed the generator at Al Jazeera's Baghdad bureau.

The committee also asked for information regarding the March 22 death of British ITV News reporter Terry Lloyd, whose two colleagues remain missing.

The journalists group called on US officials to ensure US troops take all measures to avoid harming members of the media and order US commanders to review operational guidelines and rules of engagement as relates to protecting journalists. —MNA/Reuters

Moderately strong earthquake jolts northern Japan

TOKYO, 10 Oct—A moderately strong earthquake jolted Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido on Thursday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

National broadcaster NHK said the quake, measuring 5.9 on the open-ended Richter Scale, struck at 8:15 a.m. (2315 GMT Wednesday) and was centred off Kushiro, on Hokkaido's southeastern coast at a depth of around 30 kilometres.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq on track for mid-October northern oil restart

TIKRIT (Iraq), 10 Oct—Repairs to Iraq's northern oil export pipeline through Turkey are running to schedule for an expected mid-October reopening, the US military said on Tuesday.

Colonel Robert Nicholson of the US Army Corp of Engineers in Tikrit also said the line would be able to pump pre-war capacity of 800,000 BPD of Kirkuk crude by the end of 2003.

"Right now the northern fields are producing 500,000 BPD but they could produce more if the pipeline was functioning," he told *Reuters*.

That means that, barring further sabotage attacks of the type that have kept the northern line closed since the US-led invasion of the country, Iraq's total crude exports should be close to pre-war volumes by the end of year.

Baghdad already is averaging about a million barrels daily of exports from its southern fields through the Gulf port Mina al-Bakr.

MNA/Reuters

မြို့ခြံချွေတာ၊ ဆိန်ပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်တုန်မြင့်

Kofi Annan concerned by Iraq security

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Oct—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said he was "greatly concerned" about the state of security in Iraq after the attacks in Baghdad.

Annan "strongly condemns" the suicide bombing at a Baghdad police station in which eight people and the bomber were killed, and the killing of Spanish diplomat, Jose Antonio Bernal, in Baghdad, said the secretary general's deputy spokesman Hua Jiang.

"The secretary general reiterates that all terrorist acts, from whatever quarter and whatever their justification, are morally repugnant and indefensible. He remains greatly concerned about the security situation in Iraq," said the spokesman.

"The secretary general is deeply saddened by the toll of dead and wounded arising from these murderous attacks. He conveys his condolences to the families of the victims and hopes that the injured will make a full recovery."

The United Nations has withdrawn about 600 of its expatriate staff from Iraq after being the target of attacks in recent weeks. There are about 50 now.

A truck bomb outside UN headquarters in Baghdad on August 19 killed 22 people including the international body's top Iraq envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello.

A second suicide bomb near the UN offices on September 22 killed two people, plus the attacker, and injured 17.

Martti Ahtisaari, the head of an independent commission looking into UN security in Iraq, went to Baghdad this week, Hua said.

The visit was not announced earlier for safety reasons, the spokesman added.

Ahtisaari has met US representatives and other officials, Hua announced, without giving details.

The former Finnish president was named on September 22 to head the commission that will look into security relations with the US-British coalition and the circumstances of the attacks on the UN offices.

Internet



Iraqi police officers secure the area in Baghdad's Mansur district where a Spanish military attache was killed outside his home on 9 October, 2003.—INTERNET

Clark now asserts he would have opposed Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 10 Oct—Wesley Clark who has made seemingly conflicting statements on whether he would have supported a congressional resolution to authorize the war in Iraq has now asserted unambiguously that he would have opposed it.

"I would never have voted for war," the retired four-star general said at a Democratic presidential debate sponsored by CNN television.

"The war was an unnecessary war, it was an elective war, and it's been a huge strategic mistake for this country," Clark said.

"I always supported taking the problem of Saddam Hussein (news - web sites) to the United Nations and bringing international resolve to bear," Clark added at a debate in the southwestern US city of Phoenix, Arizona.

"I fully supported taking the problem to the United Nations, and dealing with it in the United Nations."

Asked if he hadn't altered his position on Iraq, Clark flatly answered: "No."

"I would have voted for a resolution that took the problem to the United Nations. I would not have voted for a resolution that would have taken us to war," he said. "It's that simple."—Internet

Natural disasters kill 1,911 with eco losses of 150b yuan in China

BEIJING, 10 Oct — Natural disasters has claimed 1,911 lives this year and caused direct losses of 151.4 billion yuan (18.2 billion US dollars), the Ministry of Civil Affairs revealed Wednesday.

Yang Yanyin, Chinese Vice-Minister of civil affairs, said the central government had reinforced disaster relief efforts as the nation had suffered more than the usual number of natural disasters this year.

China was jolted by a total of 29 earthquakes above five on Richter Scale this year in addition to severe insect pest problems in the north and flooding in the south. Approximately 2.62 million residential buildings tumbled and damages or cracks were brought to 6.8 million. Over 50.7 million

hectares of crops were seriously affected by various natural adversities. About 6.31 million people were displaced from their homes.

The central and local governments had made strenuous, substantial efforts in the disaster alleviation campaign. Since the beginning of this year, Yang said, the central government had allocated 2.83 billion yuan (some 340 million US dollars) in special funding as well as 140,000 tents to disaster-affected areas.

MNA/Xinhua



A member of the US 720th Military Police Battalion touches a mortar round found in fields nine miles northeast of Tikrit, Iraq on 9 October, 2003. The weapons seizure and the arrest of two suspected guerrillas thought linked to a September 18 ambush that killed three US soldiers climaxed an afternoon raid in the area.—INTERNET

The Border Region (Homain, Monhtaw-Monhta, Manpan, Monghin-Mongha, Shwepyiaye and Narai Regions)

Myint Soe (Na-Ta-La)

Together with the winter

The name was the title of my only novel published in a Magazine. The issue of the Sitpyan (Veterans) Magazine which carried the story coincided with the Armed Forces Day of 1998. The plot of the story was set up in Anya upper Myanmar Region, and the battalion I discharged duties in 1987, Thitsa hostel of Mandalay University, Mandalay Hill and U Pain bridge, Waybu Mountain and elephant dance shows in Kyaukse were all depicted in the beginning of the story.

The girl in the story was featured as a Shan national girl under the influence of the MTA. She is tall and beautiful, and has a fair complexion. She met with a young military officer for the first time in Naunglai Village in Tangyan Township, the native of U Khun Sa. Then, the girl disappeared from the scene for a time.

The story continued with the border area development tasks in Homain, Monhtaw-Monhta regions carried out after the surrender of the MTA on 5-1-96. Some members of MTA from Monhtaw-Monhta happened to go to Homain and stepped on a land mine they had laid before their surrender. One of the victims of the land mine (the girl of our story) was taken to Homain hospital, and at the time she was a platoon commander of MTA. At the hospital she again met with the young military officer whom she met at Naunglai Village. And again, she was brought from Homain to Tuanggyi Defence Services Hospital by Tatmadaw helicopter. (During the time, Light Infantry Division Headquarters used to arrange for the serious patients to be carried by Tatmadaw helicopter.)

When the girl recovered, they returned to Homain, walked along the bank of Naunglon Lake, chattered, and paid homage to Myo Oo Pagoda. In reality, victims of land mine are usually amputated at least under the knees or limbs. But, I created my heroine to be hurt only by some bomb splinters so that she could return to Homain.

It was not the main theme of the story whether they got married or not. My purpose of writing the story is that the MTA surrendered to the government and their drug trafficking business came to an end together with the winter. Of the 15,000 members of MTA, some returned home to their parents and relations, and actively took part in the development tasks of the region. Some groups led by U Maha Kya in Shan State (South) Homain Region, U San Mon in Shan State (East) Monhtaw-Monhta region, U Sai Mon (Bo Sai) in Shan State (North) Manpan-Naunglai region, U Lawma in Shan State (North) Monghin-Mongha region, U Khun Mein in Shwepyiaye (Kathakwin) in Pekhon Township, U Lee Chan in Shan State (South) Narai Region in Namhsam Township have taken part in regional development tasks together with the State. In other words, opium poppy or hell flowers dropped, and regional development tasks started together with the winter in the region.

Development of Homain region

I shared the delight with the people of Homain region when Homain-Narmonlon 45-mile strategic road for the region was constructed. The first axis of the road was designed to pass Taronmu-Point 3775-Mayoyan-Namlin and Homain. It was too steep and long. Besides, it was too dangerous to cross the Thanlwin between Tarsohtain and Taronmu. Current in the river was strong when it was brimming, and it had too many rocks when it was shallow. There were damages and casualties due to the capsizing of boats. The new road was to cross the river aboard rafts and again cross the Namse creek. A bailey bridge on Namse creek has been constructed. Z-crafts for crossing the Thanlwin river are also being built.

Thanks to the construction of Homain-Khanpa 47-mile road, Monhtaw-Monhta is now accessible to Shan State (East) regions. Roads in Homain have been already tarred. The school, which was opened in May, 1996 as a branch of Homain Basic Education Middle School, was upgraded into a high school in 2002. There are nine primary schools in the region. The hospital of MTA and another one under construction have been handed over to the government. In addition to these hospitals, three rural health care centres have opened in the region.

I used to sit under a tree near a spirit altar on the bank of Naunglon Lake. Thinking about my duty, I used to gaze at the surface of the lake and listen to the pleasant sound of bells of Myo Oo pagoda. In order to generate electricity, the lake, which contains 240,000 cubic feet of water, was constructed by MTA in 1993. Now, power generation works were being carried out there. In June, 1996, the group led by U Mya Thein and U Khin Maung Htway of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise conducted surveys on Namli creek waterfall south of Homain.

I still remember that U Win Myint Aung of MRTV and his team, climbing one hill after another in the vicinity of Homain, chose the site for construction of a TV retransmission station. Now, a 50-watt TV retransmission station is in operation in Homain. Before the opening of post offices and telegraph offices in the region, a letter to Yangon at least took a month or one and half months to reach its destination. Though phones installed by Thailand were available, but their service charges were high. Local people had to pay oversea charges for a call within the country. Money they had in their pockets lasted only a few minutes. Now, a telegraph office installed with TW-7000 communication equipment has been opened, they can chat for a long time on the phone. I would like to express my thanks to Ko Thaug Han, who takes charge of the Yangon communication station.

(To be continued)

Translation: MWT

(Kyemon+Myanmar Alin: (7.10.2003)

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

Boxing Tournament concluded

YANGON, 10 Oct — Boxing Tournament of Division Commander's Shield of No 11 LID 2003 started on 5 October and the prize presentation of the tournament

was held at the hall of division command headquarters on 9 October.

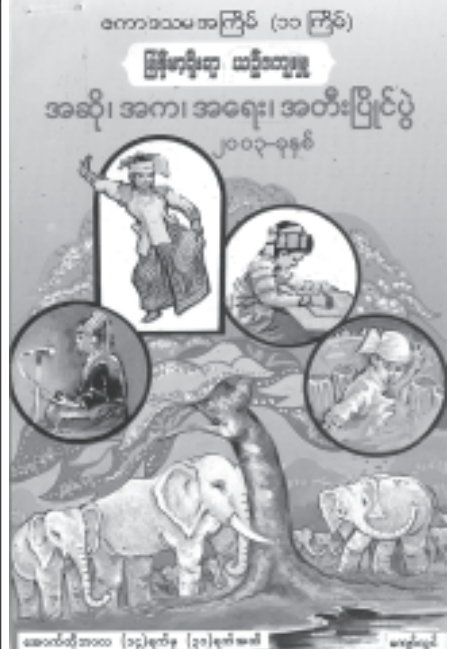
It was attended by No 11 LID Commander Col Hla Htay Win and wife, senior

military officers, and athletes. Commander Col Hla Htay Win presented the shield to Local Battalion team of InnDaing Station.

MNA

Myanmar Wushu secure one gold and one silver

YANGON, 10 Oct — Myanmar Wushu athlete Thura Soe secured one gold, Hong Kong, one silver and Vietnam, one bronze respectively in the event of age 12 to 14 at the 2nd Asian Youth Wushu Tournament for the year 2003 being held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China. In the event of age 15 to 17, Myanmar athlete Myo Min Soe secured one silver, China, one gold and China (Taipei), one bronze respectively. After the events of today morning, the People's Republic of China with three gold secured the first place followed by Myanmar with one gold and one silver and Vietnam with one bronze. — MNA



Out of seven-point political...

(from page 1)

Helping each other, co-operation, having loving-kindness for one another, understanding and forgiveness are the Union Spirit of the national races.

Due to dogmatism, sectarianism, various isms, the national races had to live in a miserable condition. Drawing lessons from the past, the entire national races are to engage in the future national work programmes that could guarantee the development of political, economic and social sectors of the State.

To ensure the emergence of the discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the Prime Minister clarified the seven-point political roadmap of the State on 30 August 2003.

In the first part of the speech, the Prime Minister clarified all-round development achieved in the nation with firm tables and figures as the Tatmadaw had made strenuous efforts day in, day out after its assumption of the State's duties for national and regional development.

The second part of the speech includes political undertakings. And the third part dealt with lucid and precise political policies and programmes to be carried out for the emergence of a modern and developed democratic nation in line with cultures and characteristics of Myanmar in the future.

The seven future policies and programmes are:

- (1) Reconvening the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996.
- (2) After the successful holding of the National Convention, step by step implementation of the pro-

cess necessary for the emergence of a genuine and disciplined-flourishing democratic system.

- (3) Drafting of a new constitution in accord with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.
- (4) Adoption of the constitution through national referendum.
- (5) Holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaw (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution.
- (6) Convening of Hluttaws attended by Hluttaw members in accord with the new constitution.
- (7) Building a modern, developed and democratic nation by the state leaders elected by Hluttaw; and the government and other central organs formed by Hluttaw.

The four political objectives out of the 12 objectives of the State correspond with the seven-point political

We all the national races welcome the seven-point political roadmap of the State clarified by the Prime Minister.

roadmap of the State in essence. Out of seven-point political roadmap, the two points—successful holding of the National Convention and the emergence of the enduring State constitution—are of paramount importance.

In view of serving the interests of the State and the people, the government commenced the National Convention in 1993. The six objectives of the National Convention are:

- (a) Non-disintegration of the Union
- (b) Non-disintegration of the national solidarity
- (c) Perpetuation of the national sovereignty
- (d) Flourishing of a genuine multiparty democracy system
- (e) Further flourishing of worldly values—justice,

liberty and equality in the nation

- (f) Participation of the Tatmadaw in the national political leading role of the future State

At a time when the National Convention was holding to successfully adopt the basic principles for drafting the constitution, the representatives of the NLD walked out of the National Convention on 29 November 1995.

The NLD decided to ignore the future of the country and put the attitude and wishes of an individual and the interests of its own party above the national cause, and hatched up a scheme aimed at destroying the National Convention. Consequently, efforts for political development have now faltered at half way point.

Under such circumstances, we must do what we should in the interests of the State and the people.

The entire national races have been living in the same land in weal or woe keeping

nest and eggs intact and partaking water from the same source in the course of history. There has been the fine tradition in which the national races collectively ward off the whatever danger posed to the Union in line with the saying "blood is thicker than the water". The Union Spirit based on the taproot of the nationalism and patriotic spirit has been flourishing among the national races. Based on the Union Spirit, the nation-building endeavours are to be undertaken with added momentum.

Therefore, we all the national races welcome the seven-point political roadmap of the State clarified by the Prime Minister. And we feel encouraged in anticipation of the future image of the State. But we need to be well aware of the dangers posed by internal and external destructive elements. Thus, I would like to urge all the national races to actively participate in realization of the seven-point political roadmap of the State by doing their bit with full Union Spirit to ensure the emergence of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Sittway District USDA Secretary U Tun Win tabled a motion, calling for active participation of the entire people with the sense of Union Spirit in any sector for the successful implementation of the seven-future policies and programmes of

the State. He said that Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 30 August made a speech, consisting three parts. In the first part of the speech, the Prime Minister clarified that the Tatmadaw government has been striving day and night for enabling the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with world nations in cooperation with the people, resulting in the development of the State in all sectors.

The public witnessed that the nation was on the point of collapse in the 1988 unrest, which was worthy of taking lesson for the people. During the period of anarchy, unscrupulous elements destroyed and set fire to State-owned and private-owned mills and factories

Tatmadaw rebuilt the nation whose situation was at the lowest point. It constructed economic infrastructure as well as infrastructures such as roads, bridges, irrigation facilities, schools, universities, colleges and hospitals the length and breadth of the nation.

In view of cumulative development in all spheres, the government placed emphasis on the development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of industrial and other sectors of the economy as well.

In the first phase, based on paddy, the main crop, it took measures for extension of sown acreage, employing of advanced agricultural methods and hybrid strains



The chairman and members chanting slogans at the mass rally. — MNA



Chairman Pro-rector U Wan Tin delivers an address at the mass rally. — MNA



Kyaukpyu Township USDA Executive Daw Yee Yee Thein acts as master of ceremonies together with MraukU Township USDA Executive Daw Moh Moh Hlaing. — MNA

and as a result the entire nation was on the edge of disintegration. All the people were in alarm and disarray. The transport sector was out of order. Since its assumption of State's duties, the

of crops, cultivation of summer paddy and seeking various ways and means for water supply for agricultural purpose. The total paddy output was 654 million (See page 9)



The mass rally to support the State's seven future policies and programmes in progress at Danyawady sports ground in Sittway, Rakhine State. — MNA

Out of seven-point political...

(from page 8)

baskets in 1988, compared with 1,000 million baskets in 2000-2001 fiscal year.

In a bid to upgrade the agricultural sector, dams, sluice gates, river water pumping stations and underground water tapping projects were undertaken across the nation. During the period from 1988 to date, a total of 152 dams and reservoirs have been constructed, which benefits some 2.9 million acres of cultivable land. Moreover, 39 dams and reservoirs are now under construction and arrangements are being made for construction of 84 irrigation projects. Emergence of 265 river water pumping stations has benefited over 280,000 acres of farm and paddy land.

At the same time, 257 large, medium and small State-owned factories and 24,293 private-owned factories have emerged. It reflects the government's strenuous endeavours in elevating the industrial sector, which can lead to the emergence of in-

dustrialized nation. Realizing that development of human resources depends on the national education and health sectors, the government has been constructing new schools, universities and colleges. In 1988, there were only over 30,000 basic education schools, but the number has increased up to 40,049 in 2003. Around 3,800 post-primary schools have been opened for enabling the students to pursue middle school level education. In 1988, there were only 32 universities and colleges, but now there are 154 universities and colleges.

In the health sector, there are 757 hospitals in 2003, compared with 617 hospi-

als in 1988. Besides, 84 dispensaries and 1,414 rural health care centres have been opened around the nation.

In addition to emergence of 140 new hospitals, a total of 114 hospitals have been upgraded from 25-bed hospitals to 50-bed ones, and 100-bed hospitals to 200-bed or 300-bed ones.

In the third part of the speech, the Prime Minister said that **as the Union of Myanmar is composed of over 100 national races who have lived together in unity and harmony for years countable by the thousands it is a nation which is giving the highest priority to building of national unity. Therefore, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty have been laid down as national policy of the country.**

Today, in conformity with the national policy, the government has been implementing four political ob-

wishes of the people. He solemnly called on the entire people to actively participate in drafting the constitution.

The people indeed preferred stability and development of the nation, he said. In retrospect, after regaining the independence, the nation encountered and suffered the bitter experiences due to internal armed insurgencies. However, during the time of the Tatmadaw government, peace has been restored and the State can stand tall with prestige and integrity. The development of economic and social life of the people is gaining momentum. **With the fruitful results of peace, and tranquillity and economic development, the people are urged to participate in building up a peaceful and developed**

Whatever system a nation pricetises, it needs to be based on the state constitution. In drafting a constitution, people from all walks of life should participate in the task and the State should give priority to the wishes of the people.

democratic nation.

In an endeavour to enable the nation to keep abreast with the nations of the world he added, the government is braving the destructive acts of internal and external destructive elements resorting to all possible means and ways. Despite great challenges, the government has made sure that the nation enjoy the fruitful results of development, and the people therefore thank the

Demonstrator Daw Ma Khin Win of Sittway University seconds the motion.

MNA

government for its brilliant performance.

He expressed his belief that the entire people can surely overcome the hardships and obstacles through the might of unity.

In conclusion, he tabled the motion, calling for **active participation of the entire people fully equipped with Union Spirit**



Those in attendance chanting slogans at the mass rally. — MNA

doing their bit for successful implementation of the State's seven future policies and programmes.

Afterwards, Demonstrator Daw Ma Khin Win of Zoology Department of

over 180 feet long. Seven more bridges namely the Min Kyaung Creek bridge, the Sanepauk bridge, the Londawpauk bridge, the Thethamagyi bridge, the Deedokpauk bridge, the Narikan Creek bridge and the Kinbon bridge are under construction. There are also roads being constructed and renovated in the region. A total of 83 miles of the Gwa-Thandwe road, 44 miles of the Ann-

to professors is 225.

In the health sector, there are now 30 hospitals, one traditional medicine hospital and one traditional medicine dispensary in the region, up from only six hospitals including the Sittway General Hospital in 1988, she added.

Altogether 17 national groups have returned to the legal fold to cooperate with the government in making efforts for regional develop-

Sittway Township Law Officer U Thein Shwe seconds the motion.

MNA



Padekaw-Ma-ei road, 42 miles of the Taungup-Kyaukphyu road, 40 miles of the Taungup-Ma-ei road and 202 miles of the Yangon-Sittway road have been tarred, she pointed out. The people in the state had to rely mainly on air and water transport in travelling to other regions. Thanks to the endeavours of the State, they can now travel by land to all parts of the country conveniently. With better transportation, amity and unity flourish among national brethren.

As regards the communication sector, telephone communication stations have been built in all towns. In addition, rural telephone stations have been opened in some townships.

There were only 2,319 basic education schools in 1988 in the state. The number increased to 2,820 in 2003. There are also opportunities for pursuing middle school education in rural areas. The number of teachers in the state was 9,310 in 1988 and it increased to 11,882 at present. In higher education sector, the Sittway Degree College was upgraded into a university to develop human resources. Moreover, the Sittway Technological College, the Kyaukphyu Educational College and the Sittway Computer College have been opened. The number of university/college students is 17,237, and the number of teachers ranging from tutors

ment and development of the State. There emerge numerous schools, markets, hospitals, dispensaries in a short period. Earthen roads have been upgraded into tarred ones.

She quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying **"armed groups in the jungle are sources on forces or resources of the State. Scattering of these forces will affect endeavours for stability and progress of the State."**

At a time when the government is making efforts for national reconsolidation, development of the State in all sectors, it encounters the perpetrations of insurgents at home and abroad with dogmatic views under the outside influence and unjust bullying of some big nations. The government, while tackling the destructive acts, is making nation-building tasks. Imposing economic sanction on Myanmar is in the interest of an individual or a party. This is an attempt to destroy the interest of 52 million citizens unjustly. This act will never lead to flourishing of democracy.

In conclusion, she said the seven-point future policies and programmes of the State included in the Prime Minister's speech are the national requirement for the future of the country. They depict firmly the eternal

(See page 15)



Sittway District USDA Secretary U Tun Win tables a motion.

MNA



Demonstrator Daw Ma Khin Win of Sittway University seconds the motion.

MNA



Aung Zeya Column marching to the mass rally to support the State's future political roadmap. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Secretary of Home Affairs of India Mr Shri N Gopalaswami. — MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt receives Indian Home Affairs Secretary

YANGON, 10 Oct — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received the visiting delegation led by Indian Home Affairs Secretary Shri N Gopalaswami at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta at 4 pm

today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Home

Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Shri Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and embassy staff.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt ...

(from page 16)

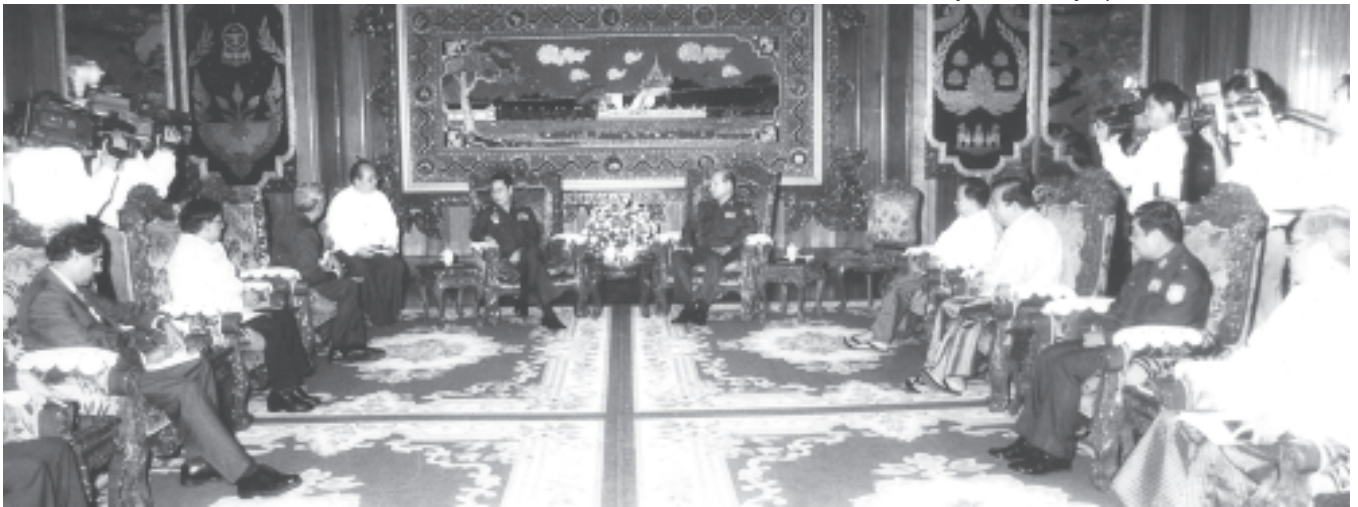
Shinawatra and Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai, Premier Mr Wen Jiabao of the PRC, Prime Minister of

Japan Junichiro Koizumi, President of the ROK Mr Roh Moo-hyun and wife, Prime Minister of the Republic of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Devel-

opment Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and ministers, deputy ministers, senior officials, the Secretary-General of ASEAN and guests.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Secretary of Home Affairs of India Mr Shri N Gopalaswami and party. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends the ASEAN + 3 Summit together with Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations pose for a documentary photo. MNA

Prize-presentation of Yangon Division Performing Arts Competitions held

YANGON, 10 Oct — The prize-presentation of the 11th Yangon Division Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at Saya San Hall in Kyaikkasan Ground this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Secretary Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and members, Myanmar Music Asiayon Chairman Accordion U Ohn Kyaw, Myanmar Artists and Artisan Asiayon Chairman U Sein Aung Min, chairmen

of district and township PDCs, judges of the competitions and guests.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented a flag to Major Mya Win on behalf of the artistes representing Yangon Division. Next, the commander made a speech and presented the championship shield for Yangon West District which won the first in the 11th Yangon Division Performing Arts Competitions. Yangon West District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein accepted the shield. Later, the artistes who judged the competitions were presented to gifts.

MNA

Foreign Minister receives Indian delegation

YANGON, 10 Oct — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung received Indian delegation led by Secretary of Home Affairs Mr Shri N Gopalaswami, who arrived here to attend the Ninth State level Myanmar-India Border Civil Authorities, at his office at 2 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of Political Department U Thaug Tun and Director-General of Consular and Legal Affairs Department U Thein Myint.

MNA

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

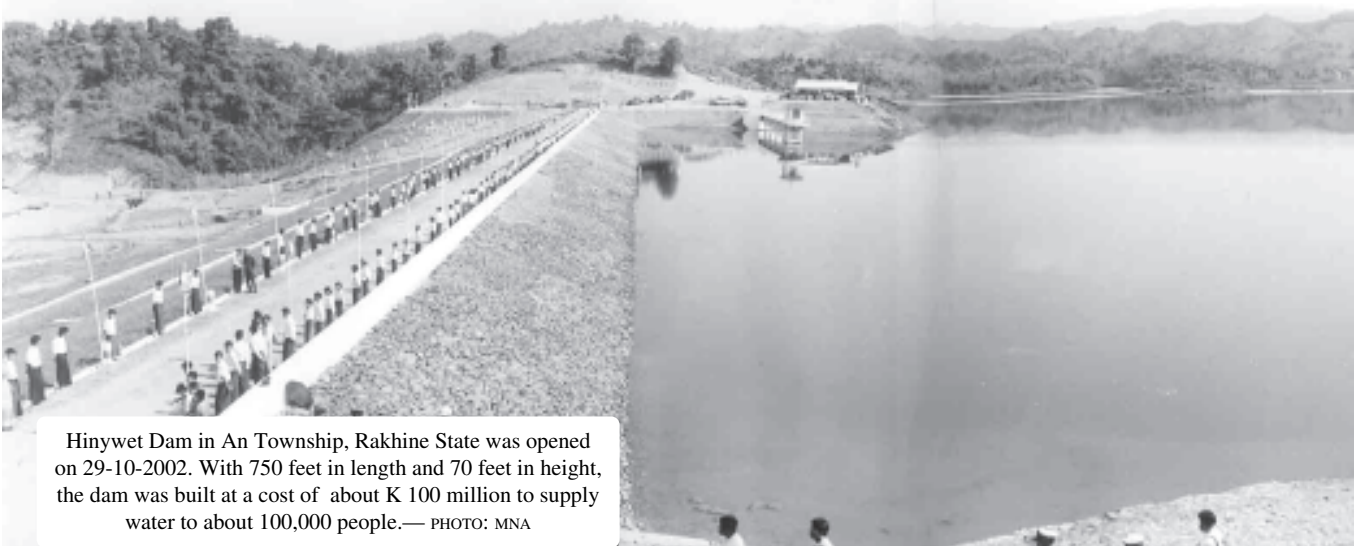
Ma-ei Creek Bridge linking Taungup Township of Thandwe District and An Township of Kyaukpyu District in Rakhine State was opened on 18-11-2001. The 940 feet long and 30 feet wide bridge was built at a cost of K 7,129 million.

PHOTO: MNA

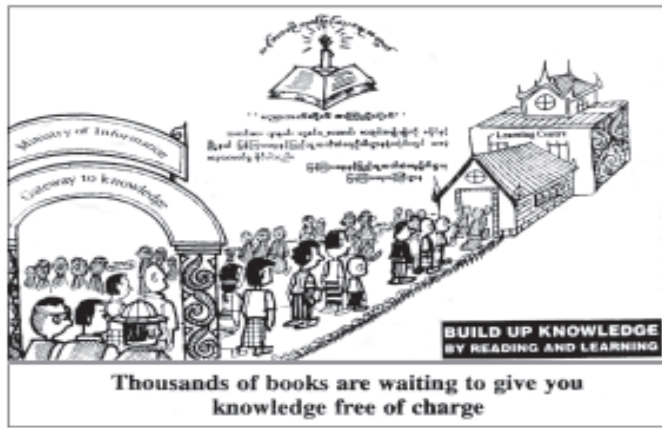


To promote the tourism industry, new hotels are being built while the old ones renovated. The photo shows Sittway Hotel in Sittway of Rakhine State.

PHOTO: MNA



Hinywet Dam in An Township, Rakhine State was opened on 29-10-2002. With 750 feet in length and 70 feet in height, the dam was built at a cost of about K 100 million to supply water to about 100,000 people.— PHOTO: MNA



ADVERTISEMENT

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းအတွက်

လိုအပ်သောစက်ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းတွင်အသုံးပြုရန်အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါစက်ပစ္စည်းများကို မြန်မာ့ကျွန်းပွင့်မြို့ ဝယ်ယူ လိုပါသည်။

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| (က) Computer (e-mac 800) | ၁၃ လုံး |
| Memory 128 MB | |
| Hard Disk 40 GB | |
| CD Rom 56 K Modem | |
| (ခ) Dot Printer A-3 (LQ 300) | ၆ လုံး |
| (ဂ) Dot Printer A-4 (LQ 300) | ၁ လုံး |
| (ဃ) Laser Jet Printer (HP 220 DN) | ၂ လုံး |
| (င) Copier (NP 1215) | ၄ လုံး |
| (စ) Duplicating machine electric | ၁ လုံး |
| (ဆ) Fax | ၁ လုံး |
| (ဇ) Exhaust Fan | ၂ လုံး |

၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို ၁၆-၁၀-၂၀၀၃ ရက် (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီတွင် ပိတ်ပါမည်။

၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့်အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါ လိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူချေရာကော်မတီ

မြန်မာ့ကျွန်းပွင့်မြို့

အမှတ် ၂၂၀/သိမ်မြောက်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
ရုံး- ၂၅၅၆၃၁၊ ၂၅၅၆၂၄၊ ၂၅၅၆၂၅

မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက်

လိုအပ်သောစက်ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအသုံးပြုရန်အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါစက်ပစ္စည်းများကို မြန်မာ့ကျွန်းပွင့်မြို့ ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

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|---|--|
| (က) China TV TX Sparefor 9 Base Station အတွက်စက်ပစ္စည်း(၁၀)မျိုး | |
| (ခ) အသံလွှင့်လုပ်ငန်းသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်း (၇) မျိုး | |
| (ဂ) Air Con (2Ton)(Split Type SANYO, NATIONAL) | |
| (ဃ) VHS VCR များ (Sony, Phillips, Panasonic) | |
| (င) Equipment for Renovation of Studio F အတွက် စက်ပစ္စည်း(၆)မျိုး | |
| (စ) 50 W VHF TV TX Equipment နှင့် 10W TV Transmitter | |
| (ဆ) 2.2 meter TVRO များ | |
| (ဇ) TV Receiver (21"/14") | |
| (ဈ) 7.5 KVA Generator နှင့် 13 HP Diesel Engine များ | |
| (ည) TV TX Spare များ (၆)မျိုး | |
| (ဋ) 100 KVA Generator Spare များ (FG Wilson) | |
| (ဌ) အသံလွှင့်လုပ်ငန်းသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများ (၂၀)မျိုး | |

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အမှတ် ၂၂၀/သိမ်မြောက်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
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China, Afghanistan working for closer economic, trade ties

KABUL, 10 Oct— The Chinese-Afghan Economic Promotion Seminar opened here Tuesday, aiming to promote economic and trade relations between China and Afghanistan.

The seminar, sponsored by the Chinese Embassy here, was attended by nearly 130 Chinese and Afghan businessmen.

Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan Sun Yuxi said the seminar was aimed at encouraging Chinese businessmen to take part in the reconstruction process of Afghanistan and seek further cooperation with their Afghan counterparts.

Moh Ghul Hoshmand, president of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce, said the 23-year-long destructive war has exhausted all of Afghanistan's material and intellectual resources, which reduced the country's economy to zero.

He said "we hope our friends, especially China to contribute actively to restoration of our economy".

Hoshmand added the transitional government had invited many domestic and foreign companies and private sectors to invest in the country, to take advantage

of the situation and invest in economic and trade fields.

At the seminar, Afghan businessmen expressed hope that in order to promote Afghanistan's export, trading centres should be set up in different parts of the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnamese population to reach 80.78 million in 2003

HANOI, 10 Oct— Vietnam's population is estimated to reach 80.78 million in 2003, increasing 1.3 per cent over last year, according to General Statistics Office on Wednesday.

Of which, the Central Highland (Tay Nguyen) and the Southeast region are expected to record the highest population growth rate of 1.8 per cent, followed by the Northwestern region with the growth rate of 1.6 per cent, the coastal central provinces with 1.4 per cent, and other regions with 1.1-1.2 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

More than 35 kilos of drugs burned in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 10 Oct— More than 35 kilos of heroin and methamphetamine seized last week by Cambodian police were publicly burned Thursday in Hun Sen Park, the centre of the capital.

Cambodian police seized record 40 kilos of heroin and other drugs in the Cambodian history during the last week raids, and arrested 13 suspects.

"Recent evidence has shown that the Mekong River, along which we have successfully eradicated marijuana plantations, has now become a major illicit drug and chemical precursor trafficking route," Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sar Kheng said at the burning ceremony.

"However, the Royal

Government of Cambodia always considers that drug control is one of the highest priority issues in its own leadership guidelines," Sar Kheng added. During the past nine months, the Phnom Penh Authority have made 32 drug busts and 68 suspect arrests, as well as confiscated lots of drugs including heroin and ecstasy.

Moreover, in last week's operation, the authority arrested 13 more suspects and 106 packs of heroin weighted 35.33 kilos which was burnt on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam strives to boost industrial production

HANOI, 10 Oct— Vietnam has worked out concrete measures to further boost the industrial production in the remaining months of 2003, according to a report of local newspaper *People* (Nhan Dan) on Wednesday.

The measures include concentrating on accelerating production sectors and products with advantages of competitiveness. Meanwhile, the government will accelerate the equalization process, invest more in developing new products with many opportunities to raise output and expand market share, serving for export.—MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ကိုအားပေးပါ

WB reports fewer business regulations lead to strong economies

WASHINGTON, 10 Oct— Fewer business regulations lead to strong economies, and poor countries regulate business the most, said a new World Bank report released on Tuesday.

The new report entitled "Doing Business in 2004", said regulation in poor countries is more cumbersome in all aspects of business activity.

A group of poor countries including Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mali, Mozambique, Paraguay, the Philip-

pinas, and Venezuela, regulate the most, said the report.

On the contrary, a much wealthier group including Australia, Canada, Denmark, Jamaica, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden and Britain, regulate the least, the report said.

"The report provides policy makers and the public with quantitative measures on business regulations — data that will facilitate the reform efforts of governments," said Michael Klein, vice-president for Private Sector Development of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank and the IFC chief economist.

"Doing Business in

2004", which is a report based on data from more than 130 countries, focuses on five topics including starting a business, hiring and firing, enforcing contracts, getting credit and closing a business.

"These topics cover the fundamental aspects of a firm's life cycle," said Caralee McLiesh, an author of the report. "And the report reflects the study of many public and private institutions."

"The report also offers answers to critical questions including what are the main obstacles to regulatory reform and what are the best regulatory models.

MNA/Xinhua

"THAI" airways reports favourable operation despite SARS

BANGKOK, 10 Oct— Thailand's national flag carrier THAI airways claimed "impressive" performance despite the fallout of SARS, local Press reported on Wednesday.

Despite the loss of some 10-billion-baht (about 238-million-US-dollar) sales caused by SARS, THAI managed to have a favourable financial performance for the past fiscal year ended in last month, president Kanok Abhirade was quoted by *The Nation* newspaper as saying.

Kanok attributed the satisfactory result to efficient cost-control policies adopted to deal with a series of negative fallout including the Iraq war and SARS.

The insurance expenditures alone saved the airways some 620 million baht (about 14.76 million US dollars) in the whole 2003 fiscal year, according to Kanok.

Besides, THAI had carried out revenue management and an organizational revamp to boost productivity.

Under the double fallout of the Iraq war and SARS, THAI suffered a loss of 1.07 billion baht (about 25.47 million US dollars) from March 15 to April 6.

The airline since then took thrift policies that deferred approval of expenses or investments, froze employment, controlled overtime, and reduced expenses incurred from holding receptions, corporate gifts and non-essential souvenirs.

On the other hand, THAI launched free-ticket draw for its flights to attract more passengers.

In the first three quarters of this year, the airline earned some 7 billion baht (167 million US dollars) net profit, which was 10 billion baht (238 million US dollars) for the whole year of 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

PDVSA decides to sell petroleum complex in Bahamas

CARACAS, 10 Oct— The Venezuela State-run oil company, PDVSA, has decided to sell its petroleum complex, the Bahamas Oil Refining Company International Limited, in the Bahamas, the *El Nacional* daily reported Tuesday.

The daily quoted officials in the national hydrocarbon sector as saying this was the second time that the oil refining company, valued at 100 million US dollars, had been put up for sale.

Previously, a bid of more than 25 million US dollars had been made for the oil company, but no deals were reached.

A former PDVSA manager said the authorities want to sell the company for a more strategically-situated one.

The oil refining company has a storage capacity of 20 million barrels.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု

Ninth ASEAN summit closes in Bali

BALI (Indonesia), 10 Oct— The ten-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) concluded Wednesday its ninth summit that also involved the leaders of China, India, Japan and South Korea, held on the resort island of Bali on October 7-8.

"We the ASEAN leaders held a meeting with each of the leaders of China, Japan, South Korea and India. During the meetings, all leaders of the dialogue partners expressed their support for the Bali Concord II as a solid platform to achieve an ASEAN Community based on political, security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation," chairperson of the summit, Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri, said in the conclusion remarks.

"We are heartened that China had committed itself to enhancing its relations with ASEAN by acceding to the TAC (Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in East Asia). We welcome China's accession to the TAC as a factor that would contribute further to the region's long-term peace and stability," she said.

China earlier in the day signed accession to the TAC that was issued by ASEAN in 1976. The treaty is aimed at promoting perpetual peace, everlasting amity and cooperation based on the principles of mutual respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and peaceful settlement of dis-

putes. Megawati said ASEAN and China had agreed to strengthen partnership in trade, investment, technical cooperation and social and cultural dialogue to promote stability and prosperity in the region.

Besides the TAC, China and ASEAN signed Wednesday a joint declaration on strategic partnership for peace and prosperity.

"The declaration would serve as a blueprint for fostering the partnership between the ASEAN states and China for peace and prosperity, its signing marked the beginning of a new stage in our relations," Megawati said in a Press conference. On ASEAN-Japan relations, the chairperson said the ASEAN leaders encouraged Japan to consider its accession to the TAC. "We reiterate the importance of ASEAN-Japan relations, which have been mutually beneficial and have matured in a period of over 30 years," she said. ASEAN agreed to strengthen cooperation with Japan by promoting a comprehensive economic partnership through capacity building, narrowing the development gap, engaging in sustainable development as well as establishing a

free trade area in the future.

The proposed ASEAN-Japan commemorative summit is also agreed by ASEAN to be held in Tokyo in December, co-chaired by Indonesia, as the ASEAN chair, and Japan.

"We hope that the summit will provide future directions for ASEAN-Japan partnership and bring about substantive and tangible agreement that encompasses concrete action plans," Megawati said.

Similar call for the accession to TAC was delivered to South Korea, with whom ASEAN has established cooperation for 14 years. "We reaffirm that ASEAN-South Korea relations, which have flourished in recent years, are very important and agree that there is a need to further strengthen our cooperation," Megawati said, adding that the ASEAN summit next year will attach great importance to mark 15 years of ASEAN-Korea relations. On two-year-old relations with India, Megawati said that ASEAN warmly welcomed India's accession to TAC as it confirmed India's strong determination to contribute to peace and stability in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

India joins ASEAN security pact

BALI (Indonesia), 10 Oct— Forging a new dimension to its ties, India on Wednesday joined the ten-nation ASEAN security pact as the two sides signed a declaration to combat international terrorism and agreed on comprehensive economic cooperation to step up their current trade turnover of 12 billion US dollars.

India's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) was signed by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and heads of state or government of the ASEAN countries at the second India-ASEAN Summit here.

Significantly, China, which like India is a dialogue partner of the grouping, also joined the 1976 treaty, under which members pledge respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, non-interference in the internal affairs of one another and peaceful settlement of intra-regional disputes.

The treaty was amended in 1998 to allow countries outside ASEAN to accede to it with the consent of all the 10 member nations — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Joint Declaration on Terrorism initiated by Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha and ASEAN Foreign Ministers envisages exchange of information, cooperation in legal matters, free cooperation in enforcement matters, institutional capacity building and training to combat the scourge.

The declaration, which is on the lines that the grouping has with the US, lays down the "seriousness" of the ASEAN to deal with the menace of terrorism and related crimes like money laundering and drug trafficking, Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal told reporters here. — MNA/PTI

ASEAN, China forge strategic partnership for peace, prosperity

BALI (Indonesia), 10 Oct— The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China agreed on Wednesday to establish "a strategic partnership for peace and prosperity," in a bid to further strengthen their cooperation in the 21st Century.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and leaders of the ten-member ASEAN signed a joint declaration after their meeting.

"In today's world that is undergoing complex and profound changes, the enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and China, as two important partners in the Asia-Pacific Region, will serve the immediate and long term interests of

both sides and is conducive to peace and prosperity in the region," the declaration said.

"To this end, we agree that ASEAN and China establish 'a strategic partnership for peace and prosperity.'" The purpose of the establishment of a strategic partnership for peace and prosperity is "to foster friendly relations, mutually beneficial cooperation and good neighbourliness" between ASEAN

and China by deepening and expanding ASEAN-China cooperative relations in a comprehensive manner in the 21st Century, it declared. The strategic partnership is a comprehensive and forward-looking cooperation focusing on politics, economy, social affairs, security and international and regional affairs. To achieve this end, both sides will strengthen high-level exchanges and con-

tacts, consolidate and deepen understanding and friendship among the peoples of ASEAN and China and give fuller and more effective play to the role of dialogue and consultation mechanism at different levels.

They also agree to continue consultation on China's intention to accede to the Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. —MNA/Xinhua



A boy looks at a Chinese-made space suit on display at the Science Museum in Beijing on 8 October, 2003. China's first manned space voyage is provisionally planned for on 15 October and will be seen live on national television and by paying tourists at the desert launch site, state television and travel sources said. — INTERNET

WEF to open 12th East Asia Economic Summit in Singapore

GENEVA, 10 Oct— The World Economic Forum (WEF) on Wednesday announced the programme for its 12th East Asia Economic Summit in Singapore. Some 800 business persons, senior government officials, and media experts on trade and economy from 32 countries are expected to participate in the summit to be held from October 12 to 14.

Key government leaders participating include Singapore's Prime Minister Goh Chok-Tong and Senior Minister Lee Kuan-Yew; King Abdullah II of Jordan; President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka; and Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia. —MNA/Xinhua

US to issue new \$20 note

WASHINGTON, 10 Oct — The US Government is scheduled to release the newly redesigned 20-dollar bill into circulation Thursday.

On Thursday, the US Federal Reserve will begin distributing the new notes to the public through the nation's commercial banks, according to a statement of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing of the US Treasury Department.

The new note with background colours and improved security features will be "the most secure note the US Government has ever produced," US Federal Reserve Board Governor Mark W. Olson said.

The new note, which was unveiled in May, will co-circulate with older-design notes and both of the US notes will continue to be legal tender, said the statement.

MNA/Xinhua



Micro books from Russia are among the smallest books at the Book Fair in Frankfurt, central Germany, on 8 October, 2003. The Book Fair lasts from October 8-13. 6,611 exhibitors from 104 nations show their books. — INTERNET

Annan calls for disaster reduction

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Oct— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Wednesday that the international community "can and must" reduce the number and impact of disasters by building sustainable communities.

Marking the International Day for Disaster Reduction, Annan said, "Better decision-making, improved planning, effective risk management, innovation in development and environmental protection activities - these are the human activities that can reduce the vulnerability of communities." The theme of the 14th International Day for Disaster Reduction is "turning the tide on disasters towards sustainable development", and the year of 2003 is the International Year of Freshwater set by the world body.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Revamped World Match Play ready to come of age

LONDON, 10 Oct—The World Match Play Championship will celebrate its 40th anniversary next week in robust style, a little like a teenage prodigy finally coming of age after wasting rich promise with a few years in the wilderness.

World number one Tiger Woods is not in the 12-man Wentworth field but an event criticized in recent years for not living up to its 'world' billing now has to be taken very seriously.

Aware that the tournament was losing prestige with its previous invitational format, organizers have ensured that this year's edition has attracted the best possible field.

Gone is the old format, which was too often European in bias and favoured players managed by tournament promoters IMG (International Marketing Group).

In its place is a revamped qualification process focusing on performances in the season's majors in a bid to guarantee that most of the game's leading players will appear at Wentworth.

The field should now comprises the defending champion, the world number one and the 10 leading players from the four major championships, presuming they are all available.—MNA/Reuters



Members of the Brazil soccer squad take part in a training session at the Champneys Hotel in Ashby de la Zouche near Leicester in central England, on 9 October, 2003. Brazil are due to play Jamaica in an international friendly match at Leicester City's ground on Sunday.—INTERNET

"Devastated" Ferdinand denies drug use

LONDON, 10 Oct—Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand, who was dropped by England on Tuesday after missing a dope test, has denied ever using drugs.

"I am absolutely devastated by this situation and I want to take this opportunity to categorically state that I have never used drugs or condoned the use of drugs in sport or in society," Ferdinand said in a statement to the United website.

"I have been routinely tested like all players throughout my career and the results have always been the same: negative, like the most recent test."

Ferdinand was not included in England's squad to face Turkey in Saturday's decisive Euro 2004 qualifier in Istanbul after failing to provide a sample during random drug tests at the United training ground last month.

He provided a sample 36 hours later which proved negative.

The Football Association's decision to drop the 24-year-old was promptly criticized by both United and the players' union, the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA).

"The biggest disappointment is not being picked for England for a game which is so important not only to myself, but also the team and the England fans," Ferdinand said.

"I have worked hard from a young age to get where I am and to be left out of the squad at this crucial stage is devastating."

"I would like to express my gratitude for all the support I am getting from my family and friends, (United manager) Sir Alex (Ferguson) and everyone else at Manchester United and the PFA."

England need a draw to qualify automatically for next year's championship in Portugal and send Turkey into next month's playoffs.

MNA/Reuters

Suspect over fan's death goes to authorities

MADRID, 10 Oct—A man police suspect of launching an attack that caused the death of a Spanish football fan earlier this week gave himself up voluntarily to authorities in the northwestern city of Santiago on Thursday.

"A man, accompanied by his lawyer, presented himself before the judge who is investigating the case in Santiago," a police spokesperson told Reuters on Thursday.

"We are in the process of confirming that he is the suspect we are looking for. We believe it is him."

Police had appealed earlier in the day for a man they were seeking to come forward.

Deportivo Coruna supporter Manuel Rios Suarez, 31, died after he was attacked by a member of the club's radical group,

known as the Riazor Blues. He had been watching his side beat Galician rivals Santiago Compostela 1-0 in a King's Cup first round match on Tuesday.

The group said on Thursday they had decided to disband in response to criticism levelled at them since the death.

"The group has got out of control in recent years," spokesman Arturo Revelle told Spanish radio station Onda Cero. "Maybe we should have taken this measure some time ago because football should be an excuse to enjoy yourself with your mates."

"The group has now come to an end and anyone who wants to behave violently can no longer hide among us."

MNA/Reuters

Embattled England squad arrives in Turkey

ISTANBUL, 10 Oct—England's embattled footballers arrived in Turkey on Thursday for Saturday's decisive Euro 2004 qualifier against the World Cup semifinalists.

The England squad, including captain David Beckham, flew in to Istanbul airport, leaving behind a storm of criticism over their threat to boycott the fixture.

British newspapers were vociferous in their condemnation of the players, who had voted to go on strike after defender Rio Ferdinand was omitted from the squad after he failed to attend a drug test last month.

They reversed their decision on Wednesday after a day of tense talks at their training base.

On arrival in Istanbul, a group of around 100 Turkish fans chanted: "This is Turkey. There is no way out," as the players emerged from the airport while police linked hands to prevent any confrontations.

The tightest security was reserved for Beckham, whose arrival was greeted with a mixture of cheering and booing.

His bodyguards blocked a young girl seeking an autograph from approaching the midfielder but Beckham later relented and she was brought over to the England team coach to meet him.

Student Mehmet Sen, 21, brought a bouquet of red and white flowers to give to the England squad.

"I have brought these flowers to show

the English they have nothing to fear and that the game should be played in a gentlemanly fashion," he said.

Security concerns have raised the stakes after a history of trouble between fans from the two countries. England have warned their supporters to stay away for fear that more crowd trouble could lead to a UEFA ban.

Turkish passport officials earlier turned back two England fans who were apparently hoping to see the game. It was not clear whether they were on a list of more than 1,000 known troublemakers provided to local authorities by British police.

Fearing any UEFA sanction itself, Turkey's Football Federation has warned fans that bad behaviour at the match will be punished.

The federation said police would confiscate any objects that could be used as projectiles, ranging from mobile phones and cigarette lighters to bottles and umbrellas.

England, who top Group Seven with 19 points, must avoid defeat in Istanbul to qualify automatically for next year's finals in Portugal.

Turkey must win if they are to avoid having to qualify through next month's playoffs.

MNA/Reuters

Injured Owen misses Turkey clash

LONDON, 10 Oct—England striker Michael Owen has been ruled out of Saturday's Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey after failing to recover from a shin injury, the Football Association (FA) said on Thursday.

Owen, who sustained the injury after falling awkwardly in Liverpool's 2-1 Premier League defeat by Arsenal last Saturday, will not fly out to Istanbul with the rest of the squad.

"Michael has withdrawn from the squad this morning and will not travel to Turkey," FA spokesman Adrian Bevington said.

"He has been receiving treatment for the last three days from the England medical team, as well as having daily consultations with the Liverpool medical staff."

"While Michael has made excellent

progress, unfortunately he is not fit to play in the game."

Owen's absence is a major blow to England who must avoid defeat in Istanbul to qualify automatically for next year's European Championship finals in Portugal.

Coach Sven-Goran Eriksson's preparations for the decisive Group Seven game have already been hit by the Rio Ferdinand controversy, which plunged the FA into one of the biggest crises in its 140-year history.

England players backed down on Wednesday from an unprecedented threat to boycott the game after the FA dropped Manchester United defender Ferdinand for failing to take a drugs test.

MNA/Reuters

Panucci doubtful for Italy's Euro 2004 qualifier

ROME, 10 Oct—AS Roma defender Christian Panucci is doubtful for Italy's final Euro 2004 qualifier against Azerbaijan on Saturday after limping off during training at the Azzurri's camp at Coverciano, near Florence on Wednesday.

The Italian international left-back fell while playing a practice match against the under-17 squad. He will undergo further tests later on Wednesday to see the exact nature of his injury.

Though Italy must win Saturday's match to guarantee automatic qualification to next year's finals in Portugal, Panucci's absence would not represent a major blow for coach Giovanni Trapattoni. The AS Roma player has been in poor form recently and was less than impressive in the nervy 1-1 draw against Serbia and Montenegro in Italy's last qualifier a month ago.

MNA/Xinhua



German forward Maren Meinert kicks the ball during a training session for the FIFA 2003 Women's World Cup soccer final, in Carson, California, on 9 October, 2003. Germany faces Sweden in the final on Sunday in Carson.—INTERNET



The signing of Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) in progress. — MNA



Indonesian President Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri presents the documentary photo of the 9th ASEAN Summit to Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad. — MNA

Out of seven-point political...

(from page 9)

interests of the State and the entire national people. They will lead to stability, development and unity. So the entire national people are urged to actively participate in the seven-point future policies and programmes of the State for turning the country into a modern, developed

discipline-flourishing democratic one.

Sittway Township Law Officer U Thein Shwe seconded the motion calling on the entire national people to actively participate in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-stage roadmap of the State with the essence of the

Union Spirit tabled by U Tun Win.

It can clearly be seen in the speech based true events of history delivered by the Prime Minister that the nation will soon emerge as a peaceful, modern and developed one in the near future thanks to the all-round development achieved in all aspect of the country including the social and economic

sectors and in the entire country including border areas.

The Prime Minister presented the social and economic development of the country, citing facts and figures of the production sectors such as the agriculture, industrial, meat and fish, and forestry, services sector such as transportation, communications, and energy and edu-

cation, health, and human resources development, and explained the future programs for the nation building tasks.

It is encouraging to see distinct all-round development of border regions achieved thanks to the border areas development projects launched in 1989. The State has spent K 45,762.87 million and over US\$ 506 million on the projects.

These accomplishments are the nation building tasks that contribute towards the interests of the entire national people. In other words, these are the success gained with the united strength of the people and the Tatmadaw. Various nation-building endeavours of the government are not dreams but reality.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister declared that the reconvening of the national convention would be implemented as the first phase of the nation-building programs.

The national convention that started in 1993 was an effort to set up basic principles for drawing the State constitution in accord with the six objectives.

But the NLD party, decided to ignore the future of the country and placed the attitude and wishes of an individual and the interests of its own party above the national cause, and carried out a plan aimed at destroying the National Convention. Consequently, efforts for political development have now faltered at half way point. I would like to say seriously that democracy, which was almost at hand, has become distant again.

Therefore, the program mentioned in the speech of the Prime Minister, the emergence of a new enduring state constitution based on the Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy, is the most fundamental for the emergence of genuine democracy. It is also required to draw out lessons from the constitutions of the past in

order to draw a new constitution free from weaknesses and loopholes. It must also be a constitution that can overcome the challenges of the future and in accordance with the conditions of Myanmar. Not only political parties and national race leaders but also scholars, technicians, representatives of people from all strata, and representatives of civil services are to participate in the drawing of the constitution.

The seven-stage program mentioned in the speech of the Prime Minister is full of essence and in accord with mental attitude of the people and conditions of the country. It is also very important to advance along the national path without deviation by firmly embracing patriotism, national spirit, spirit of national unity and Union spirit for the perpetuation of the Union in its march towards the national goal of a new peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic state for the long term interest of the state and all the people.

In conclusion, **he enthusiastically supported the motion calling on the entire national people to actively participate in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-stage roadmap of the State with the essence of the Union Spirit tabled by U Tun Win.**

Afterwards, the chairman sought the approval of the mass rally concerning the motion for active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for the successful implementation of the seven future policies and programmes tabled by U Tun Win. The master of ceremonies announced the resolutions of the mass rally Calling for active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for the successful implementation of the seven policies and programmes. The mass rally concluded by chanting of the slogans.

MNA

Development of Rakhine State

Sector	1988	2003
Agriculture and Irrigation		
Sown acreage	861,000 acres	1,080,674 acres
Meat and fish		
area of fish and prawn breeding pond	about 60,000 acres	155,533 acres
Roads and bridges		
Yangon-Sittway road		628 miles
Thandwe-Taungup-Yangon road		323 miles
Thandwe-Gwa-Ngathaingchaung-Yangon road		235 miles
Kyaukpyu-Yangon road		548 miles
bridges		(under construction) 1174 (including twenty-five 180 feet and above bridges) 7-under construction
Upgraded roads		
Gwa-Thandwe road		83 miles
Ann-Padegaw-Ma-ei road		44 miles
Taungup-Kyaukpyu-Ma-ei road		82 miles
Yangon-Sittway road		202 miles
Communication		Telephone exchange station have been built in all Townships in Rakhine State
Education		
Basic education school	2,391	2,820
Number of teachers	9,310	11,882
		Sittway University Sittway Technological Collage Kyaukpyu Education Collage Sittway Computer College
Students pursuing higher education		17,237
Faculty members		225
Health		
Hospital	6	30
Traditional medicine hospital		1
Traditional medicine dispensary		2

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends 9th ASEAN Summit, Summits

YANGON, 10 Oct — The 9th ASEAN Summit was held at Bali International Convention Centre in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia, on 7 October morning.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations arrived at the convention centre at 8.15 am. They were welcomed by Indonesian President Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri.

Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations posed for a documentary photo.

The 9th ASEAN Summit commenced at the Nusantara Hall-1 of the Bali International Convention Centre at 8.30 am.

Present on the occasion were His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Sandech Hun Sen, President of the Republic of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Buongnang Vorachith, Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, President of the Republic of Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr



Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations pose for a documentary photo at Nusantara Hall-1 on 7-10-2003. — MNA

Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai.

Observers Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, and ministers, deputy ministers and officials of ASEAN nations were at Nusantara Hall-2 while the Summit was taking place.

Prime Minister General

Khin Nyunt attended the Seminar of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations and ASEAN Business and Advisory Council representatives at Nusantara Hall No 1 at 11.30 am.

The Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) was signed at the Auditorium of Bali International Convention Centre. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Heads of

ASEAN nations signed the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II.

It was also attended by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, ministers, deputy ministers and high ranking officials of ASEAN nations.

The farewell party for Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad who is going to retire took place at the Auditorium.

The Indonesian President

delivered a speech and presented a documentary photo of the 9th ASEAN Summit to the Malaysian Prime Minister.

The Malaysian Prime Minister expressed words of thanks.

Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations, the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea attended the working lunch at the Nusantara Hall No 3.

After the working lunch, those present posed for a documentary photo at Nusantara Hall No 1. Next, the ASEAN+3 Summit followed.

Present on the occasion were heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations, Chinese Prime Minister Mr Wen Jiabao, Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi and Korean President Mr Roh Moo-hyun.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends the 9th ASEAN Summit at Bali International Convention Centre on 7-10-2003. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends dinner hosted by President of Republic of Indonesia and consort

YANGON, 10 Oct — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended the dinner hosted in honour of the ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Indonesia by President of the Republic of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri and consort Mr Taufiq Kiemas in Tampak Siring Palace in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia, on 7 October evening.

First, President of the Republic of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri and consort Mr Taufiq Kiemas greeted the ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Indonesia.

It was attended by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Sandech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Buongnang Vorachith, Prime Minister

of Malaysia Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad and wife, President of the Republic of Philippines Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin

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