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It is necessary to guard against the danger of internal and external destructive elements with the strength of the people while implementing the seven-point roadmap Mass rally held in Chin State to support Prime Minister's clarification on seven-point political roadmap

YANGON, 17 Oct — A mass rally, organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, was held in support of the Prime Minister's clarification on seven policies and programmes of the State (roadmap) in Vamthu Maung Sports Garden in Haka, Chin State yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were Central Executive Committee members of USDA, members of Chin State USDA, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Working Committee for Women's Affairs, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, nurses, departmental staff, students and local people totalling about 11,000.

Before the mass rally, Bo John Bi Column led by Deputy Director of Chin State Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development U Aung Hsan Oo, Bo Taik Chun Column led by Chin State Education Officer (Inspection) U Aung Khaing, Bo Khaing Kan Column led by Acting Director of Chin State Development Affairs Committee U Soe Than and U Vamthu Maung Column led by Chin State Auditor U Thein Han comprising members of USDA, social organizations, departmental personnel, students and local people marched into the sports garden and took their designated places.

Senior Assistant Teacher U Ha Shein Bwe (Retd) of Mindat Township presided over the mass rally together with Chin State Engineer of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise U Din Doe Hlyan, Dr Mu Htan of Thantlang Township, Director of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Htat Mann (Retd) and Falam Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Daw Li Li as members. Executive of Mindat Township USDA Daw Ester Lein Owe acted as master of ceremonies and Mindat Township USDA member Daw Htan Paing acted as co-master of ceremonies.

First, the master of ceremonies announced the mass rally commenced.

Chairman U Ha Shein Bwe, a retired senior assistant teacher of Mindat Township, made a speech saying that the Prime Minister clarified the seven-point policies and programmes (roadmap) in three parts.

In the first part he explained about all-round development of the State from the time of taking over the State duties by the Tatmadaw government to this date with reliable facts and figures.

The Tatmadaw government paid attention to national reconsolidation, regional peace and tranquillity and law enforcement when it took the responsibilities of the State. At the same time various steps of national projects have been laid down and implemented for emergence of economic,



The panel of chairmen preside over the mass rally to support the future policies and programmes of the State. — MNA



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

social and development infrastructures that will lead to modern and developed nation with a strong economy.

In the second part he briefed on political developments. There was deterioration in the State's economy. Development infrastructures such as factories and workshops were destroyed by looters. Moreover, the transportation system all over the country came to a halt and thus functions of the State at that time stopped. The Tatmadaw took the duties of the State.

Therefore, it can be seen vividly that the Tatmadaw had

to take the duties of the State on 18 September 1988 unavoidably. It had striven for the country to return to normal life. From the time of the assumption of duties of the entire country, the historical task of restoring peace and tranquillity to a nation where unrest and instability had spread to the entire nation as well as to transform the future Union of Myanmar into the peaceful modern and developed State was thrust on the Tatmadaw government.

(See page 16)



People from all walks of life chanting slogans at the mass rally in support of the State's future political roadmap. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 18 October, 2003

For emergence of a world free from famine

The Union of Myanmar is an agro-based country where sustenance is assured. The agricultural sector of Myanmar is crucial to provide enough food for its citizens, to promote their socio-economic life and to bring about rural development. Moreover, encouragement is being given to agricultural and livestock breeding sectors to speed up the rural economic development while plans have been laid down and are being implemented earnestly to raise the living standard of rural people.

For ensuring sufficient water supply, which plays a key role in the agricultural sector, and irrigation of cultivable land all year round, 265 river water pumping stations, over 7,400 underground water tapping stations and 152 large and medium dams and diversion weirs were built. Thanks to such systematic measures for sufficient water supply, over five million more acres of cultivable land have been reclaimed, thereby extending the nation's cultivable land reaching up to over 26 million acres.

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

On the occasion, the Prime Minister urged the world nations to work together till the emergence of a world free from famine and to make further positive cooperation for enabling the world nations to fully enjoy the fruitful results of food sufficiency, the basic human right.

The government is placing great emphasis on extended distribution of quality species of fish and prawn, speeding up livestock and fishery tasks, and boosting the livestock breeding in rural areas from small scale to commercial scale. The sea and fresh water fish and prawn production was nearly 700,000 tons only in 1988, and the output increased to over 1.5 million tons in 2002-2003.

The State has achieved an average annual meat and fish production growth rate of over 12 per cent. In the forestry sector, the government has been extracting timber to ensure sustainable yield for conservation of the environment, bio-diversity and bio-ecological system and ensuring temperate weather.

Resulting from such self-reliant efforts in all sectors, Myanmar has enjoyed food sufficiency, and the education, health and social standard of the people has improved to some extent.

We firmly believe that the world nations will work together till the emergence of a world free from famine and to make further positive cooperation for enabling the world nations to fully enjoy the fruitful results of food sufficiency.

Holding of ASEAN meetings coordinated

YANGON, 17 Oct—Officials today discussed in Yangon hosting of four ASEAN meetings, with an address by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu.

Myanmar will host the 20th Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Marketing, the 9th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism

Manpower Development, the 8th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment and the 1st ASEAN-India Tourism Consultation meeting in Bagan. At the meeting, Director-General of Hotels and Tourism U Khin Maung Latt explained plans to host the ASEAN meetings.

MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents the trophy to Yangon Command team. — MNA

C-in-C's Cup Soccer Tournament ends

YANGON, 17 Oct — The final match of the 19th U-21 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) Soccer Tournament for the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Cup took place at the football ground of the Youth Sports Training Camp (Thuwunna) here this evening.

Among the spectators were Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council and Chairman of the Administrative Board for Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Adju-

tant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein; members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence Services and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye; Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command; directors of the Ministry of Defence Services, foreign diplomats in Myanmar, senior military officers, responsible offi-

cials, guests, and football fans.

The Yangon Command team played against the South-West Command team in the match, and the former beat the latter 3-1.

Next, the prize-distribution ceremony ensued. Brig-Gen Thein Myint, commandant of Mingaladon Air Base, presented prizes to individual players of the South-East Command team, which stood third, and those of the South-West Command team, which stood second.

Later, Commander-

in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Soe Thein presented individual prizes to players of the Yangon Command team, which won the championship; and Maj-Gen Myint Swe, to the Yangon Command team, which also won the fair-play award. He also presented best-player awards.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented the championship shield to the Yangon Command team. — MNA

Town roads open in Kengtung

YANGON, 17 Oct — Two town roads were opened in Kengtung on 10 October.

Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and Na-

tional Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, officials and local people were present at the ceremony to open Metta and Nweno-Suntaung streets.

The two gravel roads were built by Kengtung Township Development Affairs Committee. — MNA

STOM, ATM Meeting 20-25 Oct

YANGON, 17 Oct — Officials discussed hosting of 9th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting and 16th Senior Transport Officials Meeting in Yangon from 20 to 25 October.

Chairman of the Information Subcommittee to host the meetings Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Tin Kha

spoke on the occasion.

Secretary of the committee Director (News) of NPE U Hla Tun presented the work programme, followed by a general round of discussions.

The chairman also gave suggestions at the meeting, held at NPE head office here today.

MNA



Managing Director U Tin Kha addresses the meeting for the holding of 9th ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting and 16th Senior Transport Officials Meeting. — MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt attends the opening of newly constructed Metta tarred street in Kengtung Township.

MNA

875 tourists arrive

YANGON, 17 Oct — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, sponsored by the Ministry of Transport and arrangement of the Myanmar Voyages International Tourism Co Ltd and Star Cruises Shipping Agency, the MV Super Star Virgo cruise ship carrying 875 tourists arrived at Myanmar International Terminal

Thilawa in Kyauktan on 14 October morning. Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than and officials welcomed the tourists. Most of the tourists are Singaporeans and Malaysians.

The tourists visited downtown Yangon and Thanlyin in groups and left the terminal in the evening.

MNA



MV Super Star Virgo Cruise Liner arrives at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa on 14-10-2003. — H & T

UN Security Council unanimously call on Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq to return governing authority to Iraqi people "as soon as practicable"



Secretary-General
Kofi Annan

The following are excerpts from the speech delivered by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The common goal was to restore peace and stability to a sovereign, democratic and independent Iraq as quickly as possible.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan commended members of the Council for having reached a significant agreement on what obviously was a particularly important resolution to address the complex situation in Iraq.

The process had been difficult, but the outcome was a clear demonstration of the will of all members of the Council to place the interest of the Iraqi people over all other considerations. The common goal was to restore peace and stability to a sovereign, democratic and independent Iraq as quickly as possible.

It was critical to the Iraqi people that the international community succeed in reaching the goal of an Iraq that was at peace with itself and its neighbours and contributed to the stability in the region.

He would do his utmost to implement the mandate established by the Council, bearing in mind the constraints on building up the required capacity and his obligation to care for the safety and security of the United Nations staff.

He was grateful for the flexibility the resolution had offered him. Although at the moment the United Nations had only a skeleton presence on the ground in Iraq, he was determined to continue to help the Iraqi people as best he could, primarily in providing humanitarian aid. As circumstances permitted, he said he planned to proceed with the other tasks elaborated in the resolution. He had no doubt all looked forward to the earliest possible establishment of an elected government that would return Iraq to full sovereignty.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan

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Need to provide greater role to UN and restore Iraqi sovereignty as soon as possible

Wang Guangya (China) said that he voted for the resolution to help Iraq achieve peace and stability, restore sovereignty and re-commence development. The resulting draft had incorporated improvements submitted by many parties, including China.

It was important to achieve consensus in the Council, he said, but had the resolution incorporated more such improvements, it would have been much more effective.

Much more effort needed to be applied to providing a greater role to the United Nations and restoring Iraqi sovereignty as soon as possible. China was ready to make positive contribution to that end.

Wang Guangya (China)



Wang Guangya
(China)

Importance of returning sovereignty to the Iraqi people stressed

Sergey Lavrov (Russian Federation) emphasized the importance of returning sovereignty to the Iraqi people as quickly as possible and to take other measures that would encourage the stabilization of the region.

He said that the resolution unambiguously affirms the rights of the people of Iraq to control their own future and also gives the Secretary-General a greater role in such areas as the political transition, where the United Nations must be a leader.

Regarding the multinational force, he said in the final version its primary role was to provide security until the political transition took place. The resolution did not discuss the problem of weapons of mass destruction and other matters which would have to be dealt with, which was to say that the resulting resolution did not solve all problems. But, it was able to create con-



Sergey Lavrov
(Russian Federation)

sensus, a priority of his country.

He emphasized that the resolution provided the preconditions for returning Iraqi sovereignty, but that it was up to Council members to closely monitor the situation and act in favour of that effort.

Sergey Lavrov (Russian Federation)

Germany welcomes to promote restoration of sovereignty of Iraqi people through a government democratically elected by them

Gunter Pleuger (Germany) said the resolution took up important concerns of post-war order in Iraq. The sponsors had undertaken commendable efforts to accommodate claims that had been made.

He recognized that fact as one of the factors for his country's approval. Another factor was the fact that he and the sponsors shared the same goals in Iraq: to contribute to a swift stabilization of the conditions in Iraq; to support the political and economic reconstruction process; and to promote the restoration of sovereignty of the Iraqi people through a government democratically elected by them. That could only suc-

ceed when the Council appeared as unified as possible.

He said that although the resolution was an important step in the right direction, had the amendments presented by him, with France and the Russian Federation, been fully integrated, a better resolution could have been possible. He missed the clear signal that the transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqis would be accelerated. The role of the Secretary-General could have been strengthened even more. The Council was also incorporated rather sparingly in the development. He also would have wished for clearer guidelines with regard to timing.

Referring to the joint statement of Russian Federation, France and Germany, he said



Gunter Pleuger
(Germany)

his country could not envisage any military commitment. He remained firmly optimistic that an even broader involvement of the United Nations — in particular of the Secretary-General, the Iraqi people and the neighbours in the region — in the reconstruction process in Iraq would succeed.

Gunter Pleuger
(Germany)

France urges mobilization of the international community for Iraq and taking measures to stabilize the country

Jean-Marc De La Sabliere (France) said that, with so much at stake, a more clear-cut text should have been produced. It was particularly important to set timetables for a political transition. Such provisions were necessary to mobilize the international community for Iraq and to take measures to stabilize the country.

On the other hand, France had been able to vote for the text because the authors of the resolution had taken into account a number of amendments that it had submitted. Unity in the Council was a priority. He hoped that today's action would lead to other steps that he felt were indispensable.

Jean-Marc De La Sabliere (France)



Jean-Marc De La Sabliere (France)

The right of the Iraqi people to choose their own government, and permanent control over their resources emphasized



Munir Akram
(Pakistan)

Munir Akram (Pakistan) said before and after the war in Iraq, his country's position had been guided by concern for the welfare of the people of Iraq. Unfortunately, the situation in Iraq had evolved in ways that had aroused international concern, in particular with regard to the security situation. The initiation of the present resolution was an opportunity to address those concerns and devise a structure that could lead to early political independence. Despite the contradictions of the text, the main goals — sovereignty, improvement and economic and social reconstruction — had been maintained.

He said had the resolu-

tion stipulated the principles that should guide the transition — the right of the Iraqi people to choose their own government, and permanent control over their resources — it would have been better. Quick transfer of power and authority to the Iraqi people was an inalienable right and, like other peoples, the Iraqi people were entitled to that right without further delay. He hoped the timetable would be accelerated, with a view to ending occupation, and that the interim authority would be quickly instituted.

The political process towards restoration of full sovereignty would have gained in credibility if it had been conducted under the auspices of the United Nations.

He understood the concerns of the Secretary-General, but trusted that the circumstances that would allow the Secretary-General to play his role would arise as soon as possible.

He was convinced that a United Nations role in overseeing the political transition could be discharged without assuming unacceptable risks

to United Nations personnel. Deployment of military capability in Iraq was essential at present to create a climate of security, he said. However, the forces deployed must be acceptable to the Iraqi people. Otherwise, their presence might intensify insecurity. Therefore, Pakistan had advocated that the multinational force should have a distinct identity from the Coalition forces and should be deployed on the invitation of the Iraqi people. Unfortunately, those considerations had not been reflected in the resolution. Therefore, Pakistan would not contribute troops.

The resolution was not the last word on Iraq, he said. The international community would do well to open a process of broad consultations which would involve the Iraqi people and Arab and Islamic countries in order to evolve consensus on how best to restore sovereignty and territorial integrity, improve security, and promote reconstruction, he said.

Munir Akram
(Pakistan)

Syrians burn US flags in street protest

DAMASCUS, 17 Oct— About 50 Syrian youths burned American flags on Wednesday at the door of a Damascus restaurant where US officials were holding a concert attended by Western and Arab diplomats and Syrian officials.

"They are celebrating their way, we celebrate our way, the way of Syrian national youth," Hamza al-Munther, an activist, told *Reuters*. The demonstrators held Syrian flags and banners condemning the proposed Syria Accountability Act. The US Senate was due later on Wednesday to debate the act to impose further sanctions against Damascus, which Washington accuses of supporting terror groups and developing chemical weapons.

Syria, on a US list of countries sponsoring terrorism, denies the charges and says Washington is furthering Israeli interests in the region. Witnesses said the activists put the US flags down as doormats at the restaurant's entrance before setting them alight. They played the Syrian national anthem during the protest which lasted more than an hour.

The concert was organized by the American Cultural Centre, an arm of the US Embassy which seeks to promote cultural ties. A diplomat attending the event in the heart of the old city said it was not disturbed by the demonstration. "I don't believe that they acquired permission for the demonstration," the diplomat told *Reuters*. In Syria, the law requires demonstrators to obtain permission before any protest.

The protest passed off peacefully and there was a considerable security presence. Guests left from a side exit to avoid the demonstrators. In October 2000, angry Syrians stormed the US Embassy over what they said was US bias towards Israel.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese Vice-Premier meets UNICEF guests

BEIJING, 17 Oct— Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi said here Wednesday that China is ready to discuss the expansion of cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Wu was speaking during a meeting with Carol Bellamy, executive director of UNICEF, and her entourage in Beijing. Wu expressed appreciation for UNICEF's assistance and support for children's undertakings in China in the past years. She said China, as a member of the UNICEF executive board, played an active role in UNICEF.—MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier guards an area near a burning factory in Baghdad Wednesday.
INTERNET

Chinese FM talks over phone with Straw, Powell on Iraq

BEIJING, 17 Oct— Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing had phone conversations with British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jack Straw and US Secretary of State Colin Powell, regarding the UN's draft resolution on Iraq and other key issues here Wednesday evening.

Straw and Powell conveyed congratulations to the Chinese people on the successful launch of the *Shenzhou-5* manned spaceship. On the Iraq issue, Straw said the current UN draft resolution absorbed concerns from all UN Security Council members, including China, and stressed the role of the United Nations. He hoped the resolution could be passed at an early date.

Powell said all sides have had serious consultations on the draft resolution. The US and British sides have made further revisions to the text and hoped it would gain wide support.

Li said the passage of a new resolution by the UN Security Council with balanced contents and taking into consideration concerns from all sides is conducive to the early stability of Iraq and the smooth beginning of the country's reconstruction, thus meeting the interests of the Iraqi people.

China welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the draft resolution and hoped the US and Britain would make continuous efforts to take account of other nations' concerns and strive for consensus.—MNA/Xinhua

Spain seizes 550 African migrants off coast

MADRID, 17 Oct— Spanish authorities detained more than 550 Africans trying to reach the country in 12 flimsy boats on Wednesday and urged Morocco to tighten border controls to block illegal migrants.

Several pregnant women and babies were among those held, the latest of thousands of migrants who set out every year to cross the 12-mile Strait of Gibraltar separating Spain from Africa. Others aim for Spain's Canary Islands.

"There were 472 immigrants intercepted in the area of the Strait (of Gibraltar) and 87 in the Canary Islands," an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

"We reiterate the call to Moroccan authorities over the need to strengthen controls while at the same time comply with repatriation agreements... because this is the only way to efficiently battle illegal immigration," Ignacio Gonzalez, the Spanish Government delegate for immigration, told reporters.

A Moroccan immigrants' group said last year some 4,000 people had died or disappeared while attempting to cross to Spain in recent years.

Most migrants arriving in Spain by sea undertake the journey between May and November when the weather is best, a police source said.—MNA/Reuters

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Syria denies infiltration into Iraq after US military report of clash

DAMASCUS, 17 Oct—A Syrian official spokesman denied assailants had infiltrated Iraq from Syria, following a US military report that several people were killed after having crossed the border and fired at an American helicopter.

The report was "completely fabricated, and this is not the first time that such allegations are spread," said the spokesman accompanying President Bashar al-Assad to an Islamic summit in Malaysia.

"If the information were correct, contacts would have been made through diplomatic channels between the United States and Syria," said the unnamed spokesman, quoted by the official news agency SANA.

Several people were killed by US troops late Tuesday after infiltrating Iraq from Syria and shooting at a US helicopter, forcing it to land but causing no US casualties, coalition officials in Baghdad said earlier.—Internet

Iraqi hospital director assassinated in Basra

BASRA (Iraq), 17 Oct—Unidentified gunmen assassinated the director of a hospital in Iraq's southern city of Basra on Wednesday, his colleagues said.

They said Haider al-Baaj, chief doctor at Basra's teaching hospital, was shot dead with a single bullet to the head as he was leaving his private clinic at sunset. The assailant and his accomplice escaped on foot.

There was no immediate word on the motive for the killing. Baaj was elected as director of the hospital after the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in April.

Iraqi guerrillas have attacked local people seen as linked to the US-led occupation, as well as American troops and other foreign targets in the country.—MNA/Reuters

US helicopter forced down by infiltrators

BAGHDAD, 17 Oct—A US military helicopter was forced to land near the Syrian border in northwestern Iraq after infiltrators fired at it, a coalition spokesman said on Wednesday.

"There were some elements that were seen trying to cross the border without proper documentation. They were observed by the helicopter and coalition ground units," George Krivo told *Xinhua*.

The elements engaged with the ground forces with RPGs and fired small arms fire at the helicopter, he added. The small arms fire "evidently ruptured one of the hydraulic lines" and forced the helicopter to do a safety landing, said the spokesman.

"Coalition responded, and apprehended or killed all of the people that were trying to cross the border," he added.

Krivo did not provide the identity of the infiltrators or the US casualties in the incident, which took place on Tuesday night.

The US military believes that foreign fighters coming across the porous borders have joined the remnants of the ousted Iraqi regime in conducting the fierce attacks on the US-led occupying forces.—MNA/Xinhua



A survey of US troops in Iraq has found that nearly three-quarters of those questioned said unit morale was low or average and that nearly half did not plan to re-enlist.—INTERNET

US war in Iraq sends ripples throughout the Middle East, says IISS

LONDON, 17 Oct—The US war in Iraq has sent ripples throughout the Middle East and North Africa, the International Institute of Strategic Studies said in its annual report.

"Many governments were faced with popular anti-war sentiment, while others had to decide whether or not to support, and in some cases facilitate, US-led military action," the IISS said.

But it turned out that there was broad support for the military campaign from Gulf Cooperation Council states (Qatar and Kuwait) as well as Jordan, it added.

And despite "its lack of active involvement in the war," Saudi Arabia has launched a massive security crackdown on Islamic militants at home, especially after multiple attacks that killed more than 30 people on May 12, it said.

In Iran, "there was widespread concern over the effect a war could have on its internal situation and indeed whether the US would continue its military campaign against" Teheran, it said.

In a speech last year, US President George W. Bush listed Iraq, Iran and North Korea as the "axis of evil."

Syria, meanwhile, came under growing pressure over its support for militant groups, its troops in Lebanon, the possible harboring of Iraqi leaders and its suspected programs of biological and chemical weapons, the IISS said.

However, "Damascus became more compliant with Washington's demands."

In May, Syria loosened ties with Palestinian militant groups by closing many of their Damascus offices while it endorsed the US-backed "roadmap" plan for Palestinian-Israeli peace, the report noted.

However, the Syrian-backed, Lebanon-based Hezbollah group increased its military capabilities in south Lebanon both in the runup to the Iraq war and afterward.

During the winter months, "Hezbollah was estimated to have deployed around 10,000 rockets and missiles of varying types in southern Lebanon," including Katyusha rockets.

"In May, Hezbollah reportedly further augmented its capability on the border by deploying more Katyusha systems, mortars, anti-aircraft guns, and Sagger and TOW anti-tank missiles," it said.

Israel in the meantime has focused on developing air defense systems, such as the Arrow-2.

The three-year Palestinian-Israeli conflict continued unabated in 2003, mainly marked by Palestinian suicide attacks and Israeli assassinations of militant leaders, the report said.

Internet

Iraq war means deadly year for reporters

PARIS, 17 Oct—The number of journalists killed around the world is up sharply over last year, an increase driven by the war in Iraq and conflicts in Colombia and other hotspots, a group that promotes press freedom said Wednesday.

The World Association of Newspapers said 51 journalists have been killed on the job or because of their work so far this year, more than in all of 2002.

The association counted 46 deaths of journalists for all of 2002.

"The figure is appalling and once again underlines that governments and media organizations must do more to protect journalists wherever their duty to inform the public takes them — even to war zones," Timothy Balding, the group's director general, said in a statement.

The Paris-based group, which represents 18,000 newspapers, said that according to its count, nearly one-third of the total — 16 journalists — were killed in the Iraq war and its aftermath.

Internet

Blacks in US Congress united against 87 billion for Iraq, says lawmakers

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct—Some three dozen African-Americans in the US Congress are opposed to the White House request for 87 billion dollars to stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan, saying that the funds are needed in the United States.

"This request has been made at a time when we have yet to rebuild America's schools and other critical infrastructure" said Elijah Cumming, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, at a press conference.

Members of the group said they were troubled that the White House has failed to provide answers to questions submitted by lawmakers on the specifics of the funding request, which further consolidated their opposition to the spending measure.

"We are of one voice on our response to this request for 87 billion," said Representative Maxine Waters a California

Democrat in the group.

"We are leading this Congress and the Democratic Caucus in saying no to the president."

Barbara Lee, another Californian in the Democrat-dominated Black Caucus, said the funding request reflects an abdication by the George W. Bush administration on social spending issues.

"We have not ... developed our own infrastructure in America, we have not provided the resources for our schools, our health care system, 44 million uninsured," she said.

Internet



Drawing by 10 year-old Mohamad Jamal, an Iraqi school child. The paintings were done in June 2003, a month after the US and British invasion of Iraq Handout from the Puffin Foundation.—INTERNET



The Soyuz TMA-3 spacecraft and its booster rocket is raised to its vertical launch position at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, in Kazakhstan, on 16 October, 2003, in preparation for liftoff on 18 October, 2003, to carry Mission Commander and NASA Science Officer Mike Foale, Soyuz Commander Alexander Kaleri and European Space Agency astronaut Pedro Duque of Spain to the International Space Station.

INTERNET

Delhi boy chosen as NASA's "Student Astronaut"

NEW DELHI, 17 Oct—In yet another recognition of India's scientific genius, a 14-year-old Delhi boy has been chosen as a "Student Astronaut" to participate in NASA's ongoing project on Mars exploration.

Saatvik Agarwal, a standard X student at Amity International School in South Delhi, is among the 16 students selected from all over the world through a global contest and would spend about two weeks at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory — NASA's lead centre for robotic exploration of the solar system based at Pasadena, California.

He will work together with NASA scientists and other Student Astronauts as part of the Science Operations Working Group between January-March 2004.

To prepare for his stint at NASA, Saatvik is undergoing intensive web-based training about the US

agency's Mars exploration mission "Red Rover Goes to Mars" besides Mars science, digital image processing and mission operations.

Saatvik, son of an Internet Consultant Rajeev Agarwal, was selected through a global contest organized by the US-based "Planetary Society". A space interest group, in an initiative to involve young minds in NASA's mission to Mars.

The boy had earlier won the "Original Mind" award instituted by Infosys Foundation and an award for his web site on space, given by Kiran Bedi's India Vision Foundation.

MNA/PTI

IISS says Iraq war increases al-Qaeda's recruitment

LONDON, 17 Oct — The US-led war against Iraq has increased al-Qaeda's recruiting power, morale and even its operational capability, a British think tank said in its annual report that was published on Wednesday.

"The immediate effect of the war may have been to isolate further al-Qaeda from any potential state supporters while also swelling its ranks and galvanizing its will," the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London said in *The Military Balance*, an annual IISS assessment of the military capabilities and defence economics of 169 countries worldwide.

"On the minus side, war in Iraq has probably inflamed radical passions among Muslims and thus increased al-Qaeda's recruiting power and morale, at least marginally, its operational capability. Any conclusive failure to find WMD (weapons of mass destruction) in Iraq would only exacerbate these effect," the IISS said in its report.

Washington's assertion

that it had turned the corner in the war on terror was "over-confident," the report said, adding that al-Qaeda "will try to infiltrate these areas and hatch more promising plans for terrorists objectives."

"Transnational terrorists are now clandestinely dispersed among perhaps 100 countries, and present few concentrated targets amenable to military measures," IISS Director John Chipman told reporters at the Press launch of *The Military Balance*.

"The United States remains al-Qaeda's prime enemy," Chipman said. "Although superior American and European counter-terrorism institutions make those places difficult operating environments for al-Qaeda, it is actively trying to penetrate Western countries."

MNA/Xinhua

Explosion damages key pipeline in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 Oct — An explosion damaged part of the main pipeline running from Iraq northern oil fields on Thursday, forcing a reduction in the amount of oil available for export.

In Irbil, 200 miles north of Baghdad, police shot and killed the driver of a car packed with 220 pounds of explosives as he approached the police ministry office, the US military said.

The vehicle did not explode, US officials said. Irbil residents contacted by telephone from Mosul said the driver carried an Iraqi identification card issued in Baghdad and giving his age as 19. Last month a car bombing in Irbil killed three people and injured four American intelligence officers.

It was unclear whether the pipeline explosion near the city of Hadeetha, 125 miles northwest of Baghdad, was caused by saboteurs, a senior Oil Min-

istry official said on condition of anonymity.

He said the explosion ripped open part of the main pipeline linking the northern oil fields to the al-Doura oil refinery and the Mussayab power plant. The oil in the pipeline was earmarked for domestic use.

To maintain domestic supplies, the official said exports from the southern oil fields will be reduced by 80,000 barrels a day to make up for the shortage from the northern oil fields.

There have been many attacks on pipelines in the region, complicating the American rebuilding effort in Iraq, which depends on oil revenue.

L Paul Bremer, the US civilian administrator for Iraq, has said the country is losing \$7 million daily because of the closure of the export pipeline to Turkey. In September, the line reopened for three days for the first time after the war. Three bomb blasts along the line forced its closure.

Iraq is exporting an average of 1 million barrels of oil a day, all of it coming from the southern oil fields.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Security Council adopted a U.S.-backed resolution aimed at attracting more troops and money for his country and speeding up its independence.

Internet

Iraq does not prefer any other foreign peacekeeping forces

PUTRAJAYA (Malaysia), 17 Oct — Iraqi Governing Council (GC) President Ayad Allawi said here Wednesday that his council does not prefer any other foreign forces, even those from Islamic countries, to engage in Iraq's maintaining of security and stability.

Speaking at a Press conference one day before the opening of the 10th summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference (ICO), he said, "We are capable of maintaining peace and security in our own country."

"It is unnecessary to let in any other foreign forces, including the neighbouring ones to be engaged in the affairs," he added.

He stressed that his council only accepted the engagement decisions adopted by the United Nations.

The United States earlier reportedly asked Turkey, Pakistan, India and some other countries to send peacekeeping troops to Iraq. However, Allawi said, "Iraq welcomes

support from all over the world for the reconstruction of Iraq."

It is learnt that an 11-point draft document on Iraq has been worked out during ICO's ministerial preparatory meeting after two days of intense deliberation among foreign ministers from ICO's 57-member countries and is expected to be submitted to the ICO summit for adoption.

On the ICO's draft resolution on Iraq, Allawi said his delegation has decided to propose a delay of the adoption of the resolution at the summit, as the UN Security Council is discussing the Iraq issue.

MNA/Xinhua

French FM calls for quick transfer of power to Iraqi people

PARIS, 17 Oct — Visiting French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin on Wednesday urged the occupying forces in Iraq to ensure a quick return of sovereignty to Iraqis.

"The hand-over of sovereignty must take place as soon as possible. Once that is done, the actual responsibility will have to be transferred gradually to a provisional Iraqi government," de Villepin said in central London when delivered a BBC annual lecture aimed at commemorating the distinguished broadcaster Richard Dimbleby.

De Villepin, who earlier in the day met with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw for talks on the European Union Constitution and other issues, also called on the United States and Britain to recognize the ability of the Iraqi people to take responsibility for their own destiny.

"Let us not underestimate the ability of the Iraqi people to take responsibility for

their own destiny. Reform has to come from within. It must not be dictated from outside. We would be seriously mistaken if we thought democracy could be exported," the French foreign minister said. De Villepin's speech came amid reports that a vote on a new US draft resolution on Iraq's future was still expected to go ahead at the United Nations.

In a fresh attempt to remove discontent of key UN Security Council members in order to make more countries contribute troops and money to rebuild Iraq, the United States offered on Oct 12 further amendments to its draft resolution on Iraq, setting a Dec 15 deadline for fixing a timetable for the return of the Iraqi sovereignty. —Internet



French Ambassador to the United Nations Jean-Marc de La Sabliere (L) and German Ambassador Gunter Pleuger (R) raise their hands as they vote in favor of the Iraq resolution in the Security Council chambers in New York, on 16 October, 2003. The Council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution on postwar Iraq, a victory for the United States which sought approval for its occupation of the country. Until hours before the vote, the support of key council members, Russia, Germany and France was in doubt. All had opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq. —INTERNET

Four Jordanians killed at US checkpoint in Iraq

AMMAN, 17 Oct — Four Jordanians died when US troops opened fire on their car at a checkpoint in Iraq on Thursday after the driver of the vehicle apparently ignored warnings to stop, a Jordanian foreign ministry source said.

The source said the driver and three passengers in the vehicle were killed after their car approached the checkpoint at speed in the dark, in the early hours of the morning.

"The four Jordanians were killed when the driver passed a checkpoint, possibly ignoring warnings to stop in poor visibility, and a US tank close by opened fire at the car which overturned," said the source who requested anonymity.

A team from the Jordanian embassy launched an investigation near the checkpoint on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital.

"The bodies will undergo forensic examination to determine the cause of death," the source said.

Internet

Survey indicates US troop morale problems in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct — The Pentagon top general expressed concern on Thursday over a survey suggesting major morale problems among the 130,000 US troops in Iraq, saying he was sometimes allowed to talk only to "happy" troops.

Air Force Gen Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters he was personally worried that when he and other top officers visited troops, they were only allowed to talk to "all the happy folks." "I want to see the folks that have complaints. And sometimes they won't let them near me," Myers said when pressed about the Stars and

Stripes newspaper survey in which half of 1,939 troops responding said morale in their unit was low or very low and that they did not plan to reenlist in the military.

The newspaper, which receives funding from the Pentagon, also said that a third of the survey respondents complained that their mission lacked clear definition and

characterized the war in Iraq as of little or no value.

"It is useful insight," said Myers. "Morale is really important because it's people who get the job done."

Four in 10 respondents to Stars and Stripes said jobs they were doing had little or nothing to do with their training. Some called their tasks "make work." —Internet



Low troop morale reported in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct — The Pentagon is closely watching for morale problems among troops in Iraq, its two top leaders said Thursday, as a new survey found that half of those questioned there are inclined not to re-enlist when their tours of duty end.

The military newspaper Stars and Stripes said a third of the 2,000 people questioned said their morale was low. Though the paper said that the questionnaire was not scientific, the results raised anew worries that long deployments and the complex and dangerous missions in Iraq will prompt some to leave the military at the first opportunity.

The findings also appeared to contradict previous statements by Bush administration officials and returning congressional delegations, which have portrayed morale as high among occupation forces trying to reduce violent resistance from remnants of Saddam Hussein's fallen regime as well as restart the economy and government. Top Defense Department officials did not dispute the questionnaire results at a Pentagon news conference Thursday, and rather stressed the importance of the issue to them.

"Morale is really important because it's the people who get the job done," said General Richard Myers, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, appearing with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. "We often focus on the high-tech piece of our business, and the equipment and so forth. But in the end, it's the individual soldier, sailor, Marine, Coast Guardsmen that make the difference," Myers said. —Internet

US troops surround a municipal building in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr City to secure an area after a police raid on 16 October, 2003. At least 13 US troops have committed suicide in Iraq, representing more than 10 percent of American noncombat deaths there, and the Army dispatched a suicide-prevention expert to assess the problem, officials said on Thursday. At least 11 US Army soldiers have committed suicide during Iraq operations, most with self-inflicted gunshot wounds, and two Marines have committed suicide using firearms, officials said. —INTERNET

It is necessary to guard...

(from page 16)

momentum on the basis of the agricultural sector.

Emphasis is also put on the extension of sown acreage of paddy, which is the major crop of the State, the use of high-yielding quality strain, the application of modern agricultural technology, and the availability of irrigation water. When the Tatmadaw Government started shouldering the duties of the State, the annual paddy output stood at 654 million baskets. Therefore, encouragement is being given to the cultivation of summer paddy in addition to that of monsoon paddy, and arrangements were made to be able to produce one billion baskets of paddy per year. As a result, the set target has been met since 2001.

To ensure adequate supply of irrigation water in the agricultural sector, irrigation facilities, river water pumping projects and underground water tapping projects are being implemented all over the country. In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, 151 irrigation facilities and 265 river water pumping projects were implemented during the period from 1988 to now, resulting in an increase of over two million acres of farmland. A total of over K 60,000 million were spent on the construction of 151 irrigation facilities. At present, another 38 irrigation facilities are under construction and 84 others under planning stage.

The emergence of transport infrastructure including a network of roads and bridges across the nation is now contributing to the po-

the Thanlwin bridge (Mawlamyein) and the Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon), both of them will be the longest bridges in Myanmar, are under construction and 23 others under planning stage.

As for the education sector, the number of basic education schools increased to over 40,000 in 2003 from 33,000 in 1988. As post-primary schools are being opened, the number of such schools now come to 3,800. As a result, the population of students reached up to 7.5 million now, up from 5.2 million in 1988.

Also in the higher education sector, 24 special development zones were established in 14 states and divisions with the aim of enabling all parts of the Union to have an easy access to higher education and creating human resources regionwise and universities and colleges were being constructed there. Therefore, the number of institutions of higher learning rose to 154 at present from 32 in 1988. And the population of students also increased to over 800,000 in 2003 from over 130,000 in 1988.

As for the development of health infrastructure, the number of hospitals reached 757 in 2003, up from 617 in 1988. Likewise, 84 regional dispensaries and 1,414 rural health care centres were opened. And 140 new hospitals were constructed and 114 hospitals upgraded. There were only four medical universities in 1988, but the number has now reached 14.

Myanmar, home to more

— Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
— Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

The four political objectives explain clearly how the nation will be built. Therefore, the seven-point roadmap of the State is an immediate requirement, which is of vital importance for the entire national people, for building a modern, developed democracy after establishing an enduring constitution.

Absolutely imperative is the emergence of a discipline-flourishing new democratic country suited to the historical course of the Union, racial pride, and nationalistic characteristics. It is also important to keep to the right track and bear in mind patriotism, nationalism and

the State duties, Tatmadaw Government, giving priority to national reconciliation, and stability of the State and rule of law, has been systematically implementing the step-by-step national projects for the development of social and economic infrastructures required for the emergence of a modern and developed nation with economic might.

Plans for development of the communication sector have been implemented speedily, harmoniously connecting with the international communication network with the use of the information and communication technology of the world countries.

Plans are also being carried out to fulfil the increasing electricity consumption resulting from the higher living standards of people.



Mindat Township USDA member Daw Esta Lein Owe acts as master of ceremonies together with Township USDA member Daw Htan Paing. — MNA

Union Spirit for the perpetuation of the Union. The smooth transition to a modern, developed new democratic nation is required. Therefore, the entire people of national races are urged to lend themselves willingly to the task for the successful realization of the seven-point roadmap of the State by doing their bit with the full sense of Union Spirit.

Senior Assistant Teacher Daw Swee Nal Zane of No 1 Basic Education High School, Falam, seconded the motion calling for the active participation of entire national people in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-stage future policy of the State with full sense of Union Spirit.

She said: today is the time when the State Peace and Development Council is striving in all sectors for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation with the aims of enabling the country to keep abreast of the world nations, strengthening the national economic life and raising the living standards of the national people.

Stability of the State, development of national economic life, national unity and perpetuation of the Union are interrelated and interdependent.

From its assumption of

Thanks to the systematic implementation of such projects, use of electricity increased from over 2.2 billion kilowatt-hours in 1988 to over five billion kilowatt-hours now, doubling the use of electricity.

Starting from its assumption of the State duties, the Tatmadaw government have been carrying out tasks not only to normalize the deteriorating conditions of the State but also to shape the country into a peaceful, modern and developed nation. For the emergence of a modern and developed nation, national policies must be laid down and implemented in accord with the democratic practices. In other words, a discipline-flourishing democratic nation that is in harmony with the country and national people must be shaped.

It is true that exercise of democracy in one country and the other is different. There are also differences in historical background, geographical features, culture and national character. Therefore, we cannot imitate or copy the democracy of another country in ours and transform the country at once.

In geographical features, our country has numerous rivers and creeks as well as (See page 8)

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

It is true that exercise of democracy in one country and the other is different. There are also differences in historical background, geographical features, culture and national character. Therefore, we cannot imitate or copy the democracy of another country in ours and transform the country at once.

tential prospect of economic development. Regions like Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division, where rivers and creeks are plenty, and all parts of the Union including border areas have now been linked to each other. There were 461 roads with 13,000 miles in length in 1988. But now, 55 new roads with some 2,000 miles in length were completed. As for bridges, there existed only the Ayeyawady river crossing Sagaing Bridge and the Sittaung river crossing Sittaung Bridge before 1988. However, there have emerged 159 bridges with 180 feet and above in length including seven Ayeyawady river crossing bridges, two Chindwin river crossing bridges, three Thanlwin river crossing bridges. At present, another 35 bridges including

than 100 national races, places great emphasis on unity. Therefore, measures are being taken for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty, regarding them as the national policy of the State.

Now is the time to be marching towards the national goal with the four political objectives, the four economic objectives and the four social objectives laid down for the emergence of a modern and developed nation in accord with the national policy.

The vital four political objectives are:

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation





Local women attending the mass rally to support the State's political roadmap. — MNA



Bo John Bi column marching to the mass rally. — MNA

It is necessary to guard...

(from page 7)

steep mountains and forest. Therefore, transport between one place and another was difficult in the past. Various national races reside in the Union of Myanmar. They live in all the regions of the country and their dialects are slightly different. Some of the regions lagged behind others because of poor transport.

Border areas and far-flung areas lagged behind in all sectors such as education, health, and social and economic conditions. Therefore, the Tatmadaw government have given priority to the development of border areas and national races since its assumption of the State duties.

After successfully strengthening the national solidarity, efforts for the regional development, development of economic infrastructures and promotion of living standards of national people amount to laying the foundation for democracy.

The Tatmadaw Government, after laying down projects, speedily implemented development tasks for national races and strived for the national reconciliation. At the same time, the Government, based on mutual understanding, was able to hold negotiations with national race armed groups

for their return to the legal fold. Thanks to these efforts, 17 national race armed groups returned to the legal fold. It was a difficult process of transformation.

Success must be attributed to the efforts based on mutual respect, understanding, confidence and honesty. I am very much pleased to witness that the national race leaders are cooperating with the Government for the development of the nation.

As a country where over one hundred national races resided for thousands of years in unity, our country, the Union of Myanmar, has placed great emphasis on national unity. Therefore, the national policy—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the Union, and perpetuation of sovereignty—has been laid down.

In accord with the national policy, the State, laying down four political objectives, four economic objectives and four social objectives, is now marching towards its national goal.

In striving for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed new democratic nation, it is essential to adopt a discipline-flourishing democracy system that cannot affect the historical tradition of the Union that has existed in unity for

thousands of years, national prestige, nationalistic fervour, and national character.

Therefore, the motion calling for their active participation the people in any sector for the successful implementation of the seven-stage future policy of the State with full sense of Union Spirit is of vital importance for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

The Prime Minister presented in his speech the fruitful results of development efforts in economic, social and political sector of the whole country. I would like to cite the all-round development of Chin State.

In the education sector, the number of basic education primary schools increased from 798 previously to 1,167 now, that of middle schools from 76 previously to 83 now and that of high schools from 17 previously to 25 now. A total of 194 post-primary schools have also been opened in Chin State.

Kale university, technological college and computer college are under construction in Kale region, southern entrance to Chin State whereas Pakokku university, technological college, computer college and education college are being constructed in Pakokku region, northern entrance to Chin State, providing more

convenience for Chin national youths to pursue higher education. Regarding the health sector of Chin State, one 100-bed hospital, four station hospitals, four rural health care centres and 13 branches of rural health care services and more specialists have been installed in these facilities.

Concerning the transport sector, there were tarred roads stretching 53 miles, gravel roads 86 miles and earth roads 607 miles and now there are 119 miles of tarred roads, 315 miles of gravel roads and 856 miles of earth roads in Chin State. Now Chin State has enjoyed fruitful results of smooth transport. In the past, one had to spend two or three days to make a 115-mile Kale-Haka journey by car, compared with nine hours now. And one can get to Haka, Capital of Chin State, from Yangon by air. Besides, previously the travel from Gangaw in Magway Division to Haka took the passengers a day, but now one can get there within five hours.

Although NyaungU-Pakokku-Mindat road, the entrance road to southern Chin State, is only 111 miles long, one had to spend the whole night to make the trip by car. Now, the trip takes only around eight hours and Pakokku-Mindat air transport has been launched. One can get to Mindat within five hours through NyaungU-Seikphyu-Saw road. So, one can make Yangon-Mindat or Yangon-Haka trips in a day.

Being endowed with hills, creeks and streams, Chin State had poor transport especially between northern and southern parts. So in the past, one had to spend two or three days to travel from Haka in the northern part of Chin State to Mindat in the southern part having to make a detour round the hills through Gangaw-Pakokku-Kyaukhtu road. Now, thanks

to the goodwill of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, Haka-Matupi-Mindat road is being upgraded to a fine facility, and local people are very delighted to know that they can make that trip in a day.

As regards the communication sector, the government has built five microwave stations and two satellite stations, and installed 688 telephones, one auto exchange, nine exchanges and nine rural telephones in Chin State. There were ten post offices, ten telegraph offices and eight manual exchanges, and there are now 43 post offices, 17 telegraph offices and 21 manual exchanges. Local people had difficulty in dealing with each other. Now they can make overseas calls and so they expressed thanks to the government.

Thanks to the assistance of the government, Chin State is running over 3,280 acres of tea upholding the motto "Chin State must be a region where tea is grown most in the nation". With a

the entire people to be fully equipped with Union Spirit to take part in the tasks for successful implementation of the State's seven future policies and programmes by doing their bit.

Chin State In Charge of Myanmar Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise U Ban Htaung of Thantlang Township seconded the motion calling for active participation of the entire national people in realization of the seven-point political roadmap of the State by doing their bit with full Union Spirit.

He said that we the people in Chin State felt pleased with the prospects of the emergence of a new modern and developed nation in future for information about improvement of socio-economic life of the people, development in railway transport, waterways, airways, communications, education, electronic, health sectors with accurate figures and tables in the speech of the Prime Minister.

In striving for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed new democratic nation, it is essential to adopt a discipline-flourishing democracy system that cannot effect the historical tradition of the Union that has existed in unity for thousands of years, national prestige, nationalistic fervour, and national character.

view to ensuring food sufficiency, highland reclamation projects are being implemented in Chin State and now there have been reclaimed 568 acres and over 23,000 acres of terrace cultivation.

With regard to electric power sector, the number of hydropower stations has increased from six to 14, diesel-fired power stations from 13 to 26. Thus providing power supply to the people has increased from 2598 to 4,516 kilowatts.

Due to the poor transport, Chin State had difficulty in the administrative sector. Chin State borders the Republic of India in the west. The government has been taking measures to ease administrative tasks and to speed up endeavours for rural development, winning pleasantness and satisfaction of Chin nationals as the border trade will develop soon.

The elected representatives, representatives from States and Divisions, national race leaders who had returned to the legal fold, intellectuals and intelligentsia, departmental heads and people from all walks of life participated in the National Convention.

She said that the entire people are looking forward to drafting of a new constitution in accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

In conclusion, she seconded the motion, calling on

As regards development in Chin State, strenuous efforts were made in five years in accord with the guidance of the Head of State calling for Chin State must be the tea state for development of social-economic life of the region. As a result, 3280 more acres of tea have been grown to date. Arrangements are being made to cultivate tea up to 10000 acres in 2006. With the emergence of tea plantations, more job opportunities could be created, thereby contributing to further development of socio-economic life of the local people.

For economic development of the local people, the government has been giving priority to raising of mithun in Chin State, spending K 100 million. At the same time, to ensure better transport, the four main roads project has been laid down and is being implemented. Before 1988, other 17 roads were built and renovated with the funds of K 2.1 million in Chin State. At present, the government has spent over K 180 million on the four main roads projects and other 17 lanes. The four main roads are:

The Kalay-Falam-Haka road
The Haka-Gangaw road
Haka-Yezwa-Matupi road
Matupi-Mindat road

The four main roads have now been serviceable in all seasons.

(See page 9)



Local women attend the mass rally held in support of the State's future programmes. — MNA

It is necessary to guard...

(from page 8)

In addition, Manipura suspension bridge near Falam was upgraded into a Bailey one. Three Manipura river crossing bridges have now emerged. Likewise, the runway of Kalay airport was 4400 feet long in the past. The runway was upgraded into 6000-foot one in 1997. A runway capable of handling the jets in Kyaukhtu region which is the gateway to Chin State (South) is being constructed and Mindat-Kanpetlet region will be accessible in a short time in the very near future.

In the education sector, there are 13 high schools complete with multimedia classrooms and four high schools facilitated with learning centres out of 25 high schools in Chin State. As a result, the students could pursue education of high standard. Altogether 97 per cent of school-age children have been enrolled under the enrolment of all school-age children project. A total of 194 post-primary schools were opened in Chin State to enable the local youths to pursue education up to mid-

of transport, health, education, agriculture and livestock, energy and housing sectors.

The second part of the Prime Minister's speech includes those to be taken as lessons. It also includes relentless efforts for national unity and the noble objectives.

Making efforts for regional development and improvement of the national economy after forging national unity is the prerequisite for the future democracy.

At the same time, the successful holding of the National Convention and the emergence of the constitution is of paramount importance for the nation. Only when the National Convention is held successfully will the State constitution be drafted, using the basic principles laid down by the National Convention. The entire national people will surely support the State constitution laid down in accord with the six objectives by the National Convention in which the people from all walks of life participate.

The successful holding of the National Convention and the emergence of the constitution is of paramount importance for the nation.

dle school level in the region.

In the health sector, Haka People's Hospital was upgraded into the specialist hospital with the aim of taking full health care services of the people. Specialists were added to the hospital. Under border areas development project, unprecedented progress has been made in Chin State. The government has been making all-out efforts for development of Chin State that lagged behind in development in the past.

The government has spent a huge sum of funds on development of border areas and national races beginning 1989. That is why all sectors in border areas are now meeting with success. The government has spent over K 300 million on development

Therefore, the reconvening of the National Convention is the most important duty for Myanmar nationals.

He quoted Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe in his message to the 52nd Anniversary Union Day as saying that the entire national people have been living in the same land, and partaking water from the same source keeping eggs and nest intact in the course of history. In accord with the saying "blood is thicker than water" the national people drove out every danger to the Union and this is a significant fact of Myanmar. Union Spirit has been flourishing in Myanmar through the tap-roots of patriotism and nationalism.

cal roadmap of the State is the top-priority national tasks for Myanmar. They are also the work programmes to be implemented phase by phase.

The Union of Myanmar is home to over 100 national races. The supremacy of constitution is indeed required for various national races to be able to live in the Union with peace of mind. It is incumbent upon the entire national races to strive for the emergence of the State constitution and to safeguard the constitution. As there were weakness in the constitutions of the past the entire national races are required to strive with patience for the emergence of an enduring State constitution that could withstand various kinds of challenges.

In conclusion, I enthusiastically seconded the motion tabled by Daw Doh Hlay Par which calls for active participation of the entire national people in realization of the seven-point political roadmap of the State by doing their bit with Union Spirit.

Afterwards, on behalf of the people at the mass rally, Falam Township BEHS No 1 SAT Daw Swee Nel Zane and Htantalan Township Myanma Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise Chin State In Charge U Van Htaung seconded the motion tabled by Daw Doh Hlay

Par of Chin State Public Works calling for the active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for the successful implementation of the seven future policies and programmes. Next, 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, and all of the mass rally supported it unanimously. Later, the mass rally concluded by chanting the slogans. —MNA

Goodwill of Myanmar

- * **With production of food**
Our Myanmar nature shall be prosperous.
- * **Food to all parts of the world**
Will be sent from our land
And distributed
For all human abodes to be sufficient.
We shall be able to supplement.
- * **With goodwill for others**
Filled brimful, those who consume
Myanmar food
Shall feel physically and morally well
Let all be happy about it.
- * **Because of goodwill, ten fold**
Shall food be produced
For Myanmar, for the world
Disturbance and blockades be banished
Let all be brilliant as the moon shining
Let there be prosperity and peace.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)

(In honour of World Food Day)



Braving the cold weather Chin nationals march to the mass rally to support the political plan of the State. — MNA



Those from different organizations marching to the mass rally to support the State's political roadmap. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein view a booth at the fifth International ICT Exhibition 2003. — MNA

Secretary-1 and Secretary-2 attend opening of International ICT Exhibition 2003

YANGON, 17 Oct — The opening ceremony of the Fifth International ICT Exhibition 2003, jointly organized by Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientists Association and Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association, was held at the Tatmadaw Hall on U Wisara Road here this morning, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-

Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

It was also attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, members of Myanmar Computer Development Council, e-National Task Force, members of the board

of directors of Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation, officials of Myanmar ICT Parks in Yangon and Mandalay, presidents, executives and members of MCF, MCSA, MCIA and Myanmar Computer Enthusiasts Association, ICT entrepreneurs and guests.

MCIA Executive Daw Chaw Khin Khin acted

as master of ceremonies. MCF President U Thein Oo explained the purpose of holding the exhibition.

MCSA President U Thauang Tin and MCIA President U Aung Zaw Myint formally opened the exhibition.

After the opening ceremony, National ICT Award presentation ceremony followed. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented e-Government Application Cat-

egory National ICT Award to Ko Pyi Sone of gMIS, Business Application Category National ICT Award to Ko Nay Lin Tun of Infocom CRM, Entertainment Category National ICT Award to Ko Thein Zaw Latt of Karaoke Titling, Tertiary Student Projects Category National ICT Award to Ma Ya Min Thawda of Arts and Image and Tertiary Student Projects Category National

ICT Merit Award to Ko Htoo Myint Naung (BEHS-2, Bahan) of Cyber VOX.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and Secretary-2 and guests viewed round the exhibition. A total of 158 booths of 80 local and foreign ICT companies are being displayed at the exhibition which will be kept open free of charge from 9.30 am to 5 pm daily till 19 October.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attend the opening of International ICT Exhibition and U Thauang Tin and U Aung Zaw Myint formally open the exhibition. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspects Myanmar Economic Bank Branch 3. — F & R

Banking services inspected

YANGON, 17 Oct — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspected functions at No 3 Branch of Myanmar Economic Bank here today.

At the MEB Head Office, the minister met with officials, and gave suggestions on smooth running of

the banking services.

Together with Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, the minister inspected the functions of the Customs officials at Asia World Wharf in Ahlon Township. Officials conducted him around the wharf.

MNA

11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 17 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the fourth day at the designated places today.

The song contest of the competitions continued



A young woman participating in higher education level women's dance competition. — MNA

at the National Museum on Pyay road, the dance contest at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, the song-composing contest at Pantra School on Kaba Aye Pagoda road, the harp contest at Padonma Theater on Bagaya road, and the xylophone contest at Kanbawza Theatre on Kaba-Aye Pagoda road.

The competitions were attended by Members

of the Panel of Patrons of the Committee for Holding the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for holding the competitions Deputy Min-

ister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director of Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Welfare Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, senior military officers, Chairman of the Work Committee for holding the competitions Commander of No-3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan, officials of work committees and sub-committees and enthusiasts.

(See page 13)



Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa attend amateur level men's religious song competition. — MNA

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



Kattel suspension bridge across Manipur river in Tiddim Township, Chin State. It is 480 feet long and 10 feet 9 inches wide. The bridge is located on Tiddim-Kattel-Rei Lake motor road. The clearance under the bridge is 350 feet wide and 20 feet high. It can bear 10 tons of loads. The Kattel bridge was opened on 25-4-2002. — MNA

The Var bridge was built on Kale-Haka road in Falam, Chin State in March 1998.

The bridge is 150 feet long.— PHOTO: SHWEINNTHA KHIN MAUNG WIN (KYEMON)



Chin State located in the far corners of the nation is now witnessing progress in all sectors including the health, communication, livestock breeding and social sectors. The photo shows the Micro-wave Station in Falam, Chin State.— PHOTO:

MNA

China to expand on space success

BEIJING, 17 Oct — China says it will launch Shenzhou VI in the next one or two years and will eventually establish a space lab and then a space station in the future. A senior space official delivered this message at a press conference in Beijing sponsored by the Information Office of the State Council, hours after the successful return of China's first manned capsule from orbit.

It is the most explicit official declaration yet of China's plans for a long-term manned space presence in space.

Xie Mingbao, director of China Manned Space Engineering Office, said, "Firstly, we will master space walking. Next, we'll develop technologies for the rendezvous and the docking of the spacecraft. And thirdly, we plan to establish a space station."

Xie Mingbao said these three steps will help China strengthen its ability in the peaceful exploration of

space.

But prior to that, the director of the China Manned Space Engineering Office said the country is currently planning the Shenzhou 6 manned spacecraft to be launched in one or two years.

"I think that on the basis of the successful launch of the Shenzhou-5 manned spacecraft, China will send its next Shenzhou craft off in one or two years," Xie said.

Asked why there was no live broadcast of the liftoff or landing of the Shenzhou-

V, Xie Mingbao said safety of the astronaut and the spacecraft was the most important thing. Live coverage was not.

He said the completed mission of the Shenzhou V was the crowning achievement of an 11-year manned space program and a symbol of national prestige. He attributed the success to the continuous efforts by thousands of Chinese space scientists and engineers.

He said China is willing to cooperate with other countries in space exploration.

Internet

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ



China's first astronaut Yang Liwei, left, is greeted with a bunch of flower by a girl on his arrival in Beijing on 16 October, 2003. —INTERNET

NASA chief hails China's historic space flight

WASHINGTON, 17 Oct — The head of the US space agency on Tuesday hailed China's first manned space flight as an important achievement in space exploration.

"This launch is an important achievement in the history of human exploration. China, after Russia and the United States, is only the third nation to successfully launch humans into space," NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said in a statement. —MNA/Reuters



Staff members hoist the re-entry capsule Shenzhou-V, China's first manned spacecraft, in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 16 October, 2003. —INTERNET

Jiang Zemin hails "Shenzhou-V" success

BEIJING, 17 Oct — Jiang Zemin, chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), has hailed success of China's first manned space flight as "one more proof to the will and capability of the Chinese people to surmount the peak of world science and technology".

This came Thursday in a telephone call to Li Jinai, the most senior official in charge of the country's piloted space flight programme.

Jiang said, "I am very

happy and excited to hear that our country's first manned space flight has turned out to be a complete success."

The CMC chairman congratulated all those — scientists and technicians, cadres and workers, and Army officers and soldiers — involved in the flight of Shenzhou-V, which returned early Thursday morning after orbiting the Earth 14 times in 21 hours.

MNA/Xinhua

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Chinese food for Chinese astronauts

HIUQUAN (Gansu), 17 Oct — While flying China's first spacecraft, the astronaut will enjoy himself over a rich variety of Chinese food, Xinhua has learned.

The recipes for the astronaut include rice cooked with nuts, dates and other delicacies, spicy and sour shredded meat and diced chicken meat. The astronaut will also serve himself with a drink of medicinal herbs and tonics after a meal, according to a top space official. —MNA/Xinhua

China's 1st manned space mission successful

BEIJING, 17 Oct — China announced the success of its first manned spaceflight and the safe return of astronaut Yang Liwei Thursday morning.

Premier Wen Jiabao sent a message, on behalf of the central leadership, congratulating the success of the flight.

Jiang Zemin, chairman of the Central Military Commission, made a phone call to congratulate the success.

Shenzhou-V landed at the preset primary landing area in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 06:23 (Beijing Time), and China's first astronaut in orbit Yang Liwei walked out of the cabin himself. Yang has been confirmed to be in good health after a 21-hour space

travel.

The spacecraft carrying the 38-year old lieutenant-colonel lifted off at 09:00 Wednesday. Yang spent 21 hours in space travelling more than 600,000 kilometres, as the 241st human being to visit outer space.

At 05:35, Shenzhou-V began its return, ordered by the Beijing Aerospace Command and Control Centre.

At 05:36, the re-entry module separated from the orbital module.

At 05:38, the retros were ignited to slowdown the re-entry.

At 05:59, the re-entry module jettisoned the propulsion module.

At 06:00, the re-entry module entered the territo-

rial space of China.

At 06:04, the module was in the "black-out" zone, when it entered the atmosphere.

Yang reported he was in good conditions several times during the re-entry, while Premier Wen Jiabao called him to wish him a safe return.

At 06:07, rescue helicopters received signals from the re-entry module to identify the landing point.

At 06:23, the re-entry module landed at the preset site.

At 06:28, a team of rescuers reported they found the re-entry module 7.5 kilometres away.

At 06:36, the rescuers got to the module. Yang walked out himself and waved to the crowds. —MNA/Xinhua

China sets up three-step space programme

JIUQUAN (Gansu), 17 Oct — Now that China's first manned space turned out to be a brilliant success, China will proceed to set up a space lab and then a space station, a senior officer told Xinhua Thursday.

Circling the Earth 14 times in 21 hours, the manned spacecraft, Shenzhou-V, landed on the planned area

in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

"The successful mission of Shenzhou-V is the first step of China's space programme," said Zhang Qingwei, the second most senior officer in charge of the country's space programme.

The task to be performed immediately after Shenzhou-

V is to develop technologies ensuring precise docking between spaceship and orbit module, which are key to the planned setting up of China's space labs, Zhang said.

After that, he said, Chinese experts will focus on developing more efficient and reliable vehicles able to launch a space stations.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Pantra Mya Kyi troupe in Saddam Hsinmin Drama Competition

YANGON, 17 Oct — The Saddam Hsinmin Drama Competition of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition went on for the third day at the National Theater on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this evening.

Pantra Mya Kyi drama troupe of Sagaing Division performed in the competition.

Brig-Gen Than Tun of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, Chairman of the leading committee for holding

the competitions Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan, Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo, members of work committee and subcommittees, doyen artists and enthusiasts enjoyed the competition. U Chit Oo Nyo, leader

of the panel of judges, and members made the assessment of the performance given by Pantra Mya Kyi drama troupe.

Saddan Hsinmin Drama troupe of Magway Division will stage Saddam Hsinmin drama at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA



Shwesaryan Open Golf Championship continues

YANGON, 17 Oct — The Shwesaryan Open Golf Championship continued for the second day as the second leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2003 at Shwesaryan Golf Court in Mandalay this morning.

After the second day 18-hole event, Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) led the tour with 143 strokes in the professional golfers division, followed by Myint Shwe (Wilson) with 145 and Zaw Paing Oo (Pan-West) with 146.

In the second day event, Zaw Paing Oo (Pan-West) scored hole-in-one from a distance of 177 yards at Hole No 8, hitting the Callaway

HX 2 Piece No 1 Golf Ball by Proseries No 5 Iron while playing together with Htein Win (K M) and Kyaw Swar Linn (Ping).

Kyaw Thiha scored first with 152 strokes, Aung Aung Kyaw second with 157 and Zaw Zin Win and Aye Ko third with 158.

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

The championship continue at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA



Zaw Paing Oo (Pan-West) in action at the golf tournament. — MGF

Pantra Mya Kyi troupe of Sagaing Division taking part in Saddam Hsinmin Drama Competition. — MNA



11th Myanmar Traditional...

(from page 10)

The song contest continued at 9 am today. Chairperson of Panel of Judges Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Mya of MRTV, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members made judgments on the performance at the song contest at the National Museum.

At the amateur level Dhammapuza song contest (man), sixteen contestants competed with Waythandara of Khin Maung Yin. A total of 16 contestants participated in basic education level classic/modern song contest for girls (aged 5-10).

The amateur level Maha Gita song contest (woman),

and basic education level Maha Gita song contest for boys (aged 10-15) will be held tomorrow.

At the dance contest, Chairman of Panel of Judges Wunna Kyaw Htin U Sein Aung Min, Secretary Daw Mu Mu Khin and members made judgments on the performance. A total of 10 contestants participated in the professional level dance contest (man), and 14 contestants in the higher education level dance contest (woman).

The rehearsal of songs composed by the contestants was held at the Pantra School on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. Songs composed by contestants of basic education level song composing contest (aged 5-10) and higher education level song composing contest were rehearsed together with the musicians.

The harp contest was held at the Padonma Theatre in Sangyoung Township this morning. A total of six contestants participated in the professional level harp contest (man) and two contestants in the professional level harp contest (woman). Members led by U Thein Han Gyi

Little girl Ma Shwe Yi Su Hlaing (Chin State) participating in basic education level girl's classic/modern song competition (aged 5-10).

MNA



judged the performance of the contest.

One contestant participated in the basic education level harp contest for girls (aged 15-20). A total of five contestants participated in the basic education level harp contest for boys (aged 10-15). Members led by U Thet Wai judged the performance of the contests.

The xylophone contests were held at the Kanbawza Theatre this morning. A total of 13 contestants participated in the amateur level xylophone contest for men,

and five contestants in the basic education level xylophone contest for girls (aged 15-20).

Members led by U Yi Nwe acted as judges of the contests.

The professional level Donmin contest (man), the professional level Donmin contest (woman), basic education level Donmin contest for man (aged-10-15), basic education level Donmin contest for girls (aged-10-15) will be held at the Kanbawza Theatre tomorrow.

MNA



First ASEAN - INDIA Tourism Consultation

Bagan, Union of Myanmar

October 31, 2003



SPORTS

Ferguson gets FA disciplinary hearing for touchline row

LONDON, 17 Oct— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson will face a Football Association (FA) disciplinary hearing next Monday on misconduct charges levelled at him following a touchline spat in August.

The FA, who announced the hearing date on Thursday, had charged Ferguson with "the alleged use of abusive and/or insulting language to a match official" during his team's 2-1 win at Newcastle United on August 23.

The Scot appeared to swear at fourth official Jeff Winter after the champions were denied a penalty in the first half and was banished from the touchline by referee Uriah Rennie.

Ferguson watched the remainder of the match from Newcastle manager Bobby Robson's office.

He subsequently said: "I am aware that the fourth official has been given stricter guidelines this season. I suppose I will have to curb my behaviour in the future."—MNA/Reuters



Lugo, of the Peru's Cienciano, left, and William, of the Brasil's Santos, fight for the ball, during a match for the 2003 South American Cup, in Santos, Brazil, on 16 October, 2003.—INTERNET

Marseille's Runje not afraid of competition from Barthez

PARIS, 17 Oct— Olympique Marseille goalkeeper Vedran Runje said he is not worried about losing his place if Fabien Barthez comes to the Ligue 1 club.

"He will have to show he is better than me," the Croatian keeper told reporters on Thursday. "I didn't come to Marseille to sit on the bench. I am not going to be frightened even if I respect him a lot."

Marseille are considering bringing France goalkeeper Barthez from Manchester United, probably on a loan, following a serious injury to their number two keeper Cedric Carasso last week.

Barthez has lost his first team place and is only number three at Old Trafford. United manager Alex Ferguson has said he wants a transfer not a loan for Barthez.

La Provence newspaper reported on Thursday that negotiations had begun be-

tween United and Marseille and a transfer worth six million euros (seven million US dollars) was under discussion.

"The club have told me nothing," said Runje. "All I know is what I read in the newspapers and I never take that seriously."

"That said, football is competition. I am not going to tell my president 'don't take that one'."

Runje, 27, has been with Marseille since 2001 when he joined from Belgian club Standard Liege.

Marseille coach Alain Perrin said he expected a decision on his club's goalkeeping plans within two or three days.

MNA/Reuters

United compensate Sunderland for loss of striker Bellion

LONDON, 17 Oct— Sunderland will receive at least two-million-pound (3.34-million-US-dollar) compensation from Manchester United after losing French striker David Bellion to the Premier League club.

If the 20-year-old is called up for his country, United will also have to pay up to a further million pounds in a caveat which will also take into account first team appearances. A spokesman for Sunderland, relegated to Division One last season, said on Thursday that the compensation was in line with Premier League and football league rules regarding young players signed on free contracts.

The rule states that clubs who lose out-of-

contract players under the age of 24 are entitled to compensation, as long as the player involved had received an offer of a new contract in writing.

Sunderland had offered Bellion an improved contract in accordance with these requirements, the club said on Thursday, but this was rejected.

Sunderland chairman Bob Murray said the club was happy with the deal for the player they signed from French club Cannes in 2001, but that the player would be missed.

"We are happy with the package and feel that it is entirely deserved as we lost an exciting and talented young player," he said in a statement. —MNA/Reuters

Blatter says future is in Asian growth and success

DOHA (Qatar), 17 Oct— The future prosperity of world soccer lies in the development of the game and introduction of more professionalism in Asia, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said on Thursday.

Speaking at the world launch of "Vision Asia", the Asian confederation's blueprint for the future, Blatter said he recognized that the biggest single continental land mass with the most young people in the world,

had the "highest economic potential in the world".

He concluded his address, on the eve of this weekend's meetings of the FIFA Executive Committee and a two-day extraordinary congress, by saying:

"The future of football is Asia."

Blatter also praised the work of the president of the Asian confederation Mohamed bin Hammam for helping create the plan for the future of Asian football, described by another speaker Peter Velappan, the project director, as "the exploitation of a goldmine".

"This word 'vision' encompasses not only the ability to imagine and to conceive the path forward, but also the ability to take those dreams and to make them a reality," said Blatter.

"It also refers to sight and Asia can set its sights higher than ever following the overwhelming success of the 2002 World Cup finals in Korea and Japan."

Velappan pointed out that Asia was the biggest continental land mass on earth, represented 45 different nations, 3.7 billion people, a wide array of cultures and languages and said that 65 per cent of the

population were under 21 years old.

"For all these people, football is the common language and it brings unity and solidarity," he said.

"It is a goldmine. It is a golden product. More than 32 billion people watched the Japan-Korea World Cup finals and that is just to show that we are only touching the tip of the iceberg of potential."

He spoke after Hammam and outlined the strategy for implementing the comprehensive plan to help each Asian national association to develop itself within the framework of the "vision" plan.

"We must help everything from the grassroots level and upwards," said Hammam. "This development will see improved club structures and improved national teams. We want to have more Asian teams reaching World Cup standards."

MNA/Reuters

Man Utd, Marseille agree Barthez loan move

PARIS, 17 Oct— French international goalkeeper Fabien Barthez is to join Olympique Marseille on a loan deal from Manchester United, the French Ligue 1 club said on Thursday. Marseille president Christophe Bouchet told the club's website contracts would be signed before the end of the week.

Barthez, who has been sidelined at Manchester United since the start of the season, returns to the club with

whom he won the European Cup in 1993 until the end of the season. "It was in everybody's interest," said Bouchet.

"It was in Marseille's interest because it is necessary to rely on two great goalkeepers when you're ambitious."

"It was in Fabien's interest because he will be able to prepare for Euro 2004 and play. It was in Manchester's interest because he was no longer playing," Bouchet added.—MNA/Reuters

FIFA to finance works in Afghanistan, Iraq

DOHA (Qatar), 17 Oct— FIFA will build new soccer headquarters and technical centres for Afghanistan and Iraq as part of a 10-million-US-dollars worldwide scheme approved at a meeting of the Goal bureau this week.

The Goal programme, created to support national associations that struggle financially, is one of the special interests of FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who helped it gain support at the 1999 Extraordinary Congress held in Los Angeles. Seven of the 26 projects approved by the bureau at their meeting on Wednesday are in Asia and seven in Africa.

FIFA said in a statement that the decision to finance fully the works in Afghanistan and Iraq showed that world soccer's ruling body was "taking a hands on role in the reconstruction of society in both of these countries."

"We can be satisfied with the work we have done so far, but we can still do better," said Mohamed bin Hammam, the bureau chairman. "We will therefore propose a number of measures to the Congress in order to improve development possibilities for the national associations." —MNA/Reuters



Slovenia's Tina Pisnik returns a ball to Japan's Ai Sugiyama during the Swisscom Challenge Tennis Tournament in Kloten, Switzerland, on 16 October, 2003. —INTERNET

Donate blood

ကောသလအကြိမ်(၁၀ ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆင့်၊ အက၊ အစချ၊ အတီး၊ ခြံဉ်း

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



Earthquake report

(Issued at 22.00 hours
MST on Tuesday)
An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (640) miles north-east of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (19) hrs (02) min (34) sec MST on 16th October 2003.

Development of Chin State

Sector	1988	2003
Education		
Basic Education Primary School	798	1167
BEMS	76	83
BEHS	17	25
Post Primary School		194
Students	over 77,000	over 110,000
		Kalay University, Technological College and Computer College
Health		
100-bed hospital		1
Station hospital		4
Rural Health Centre		4
Rural Health Centre (Branch)		13
Roads		
Tarred road	53 miles	119 miles
Gravelled road	86 miles	315 miles
Earthen road	607 miles	856 miles
Communication		
Microwave station	-	5
Satellite station	-	2
Auto Telephone	-	688
Auto Telephone Exchange	-	1
Telephone Exchange station	-	9
Rural Telephone	-	9
Post Office	10	43
Telegraph Office	10	17
Telephone exchange	8	21
Agriculture		
Tea Plantation		over 3,280 acres
Highland cultivation		568 acres
Terrace farming		23,000 acres
Electric power		
Hydroelectric power station	6	14
Diesel engine	13	26
Electricity	2,598 Kilowatt	4,516 Kilowatt

အစုလိုက်ဝက်သက်ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးနှံခြင်း

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ကလေးငယ်များအားလုံး

နီးစပ်ရာ ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုး ရရပ်များသို့

မပျက်မကွက် အရောက်လာကြပါ

ကလေးတစ်ဦးလျှင် တစ်ခါသုံး ဆေးထိုးအပ်/ဆေးထိုးဖြန့်တစ်ခါစီဖြင့်

ကာကွယ်ဆေး အဆင့်ထိုးနှံပေးပါမည်။

အဓိကအားဖြင့် အရက်အလက်များ

♦ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါသည် ကူးစက်မြန်ရောဂါဖြစ်ပြီး ကလေးမြောက်မြားစွာ

သေဆုံးနိုင်ပါသည်။

♦ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါမဖြစ်ပွားအောင် ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးပေးခြင်းဖြင့်

ကာကွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

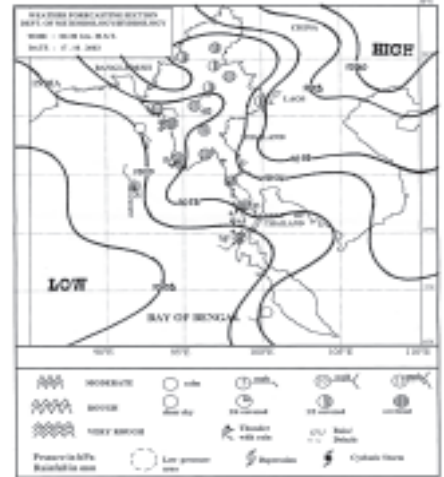
♦ အသက် (၉)လမှ (၅)နှစ်အတွင်း ကလေးများအားလုံးကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးပြီးပါ

ဖြစ်စေ၊ မထိုးနှံရသေးသည့်ဖြစ်စေ ဝက်သက်ကာကွယ်ဆေး

လာရောက်ထိုးနှံရမည်။

♦ ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးခြင်းဖြင့် ကလေးများအား မည်သည့်အန္တရာယ်မျှ မရှိပါ။

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 17 October, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayah, and Sagaing Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan State, Mandalay, Magway, Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Meiktila (1.77) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-10-2003 was 34.5°C (94°F).

Minimum temperature on 17-10-2003 was 21.6°C (71°F).

Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-10-2003 was 71%.

Total sunshine hours on 16-10-2003 was (9.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-10-2003 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 2193 mm

(86.34 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2287 mm (90.05 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2347 mm (92.40 inches) at central Yangon.

Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southeast at (13:30) hours MST on 16-10-2003.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the North Bay, South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-10-2003: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be widespread in Mon State, Taninthayi Division, scattered in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

Degree of certainty is (60%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain are likely in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-10-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-10-2003: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Weather outlook for fourth weekend of October 2003: During the coming weekend, likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

CONDOLENCES

Dr Hla Htut Lwin Age 52 years
National AIDS Programme Manager
Department of Health

It is a great sadness to learn Dr Hla Htut Lwin passing away at Yangon General Hospital on 5 October 2003.

We have deepest sympathy for his family and heartfelt regret at the loss of our colleague. Dr Hla Htut Lwin

has inspired his colleagues in UNAIDS Geneva, the South East Asia Inter Country Team Bangkok and

UNAIDS Myanmar by his humility combined with solid commitment and integrity.

May his soul rest peace.

Dr. Kathleen Cravero, Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS Geneva

Mr. Eamonn F. Murphy, Country Coordinator, UNAIDS Myanmar



U Har Shein Bwe delivers a speech at the mass rally.
MNA

It is necessary to guard...

(from page 1)

The Tatmadaw government believed that in keeping with the changing political and economic conditions in the world, it should systematically lay down and implement national policy and programmes in keeping with democratic practices so that the Union of Myanmar will become a peaceful, modern, and developed State. In other words, it had taken measures with the conviction that it must give shape for the emergence of a democratic State that corresponds with the country and the people.

In the third part, the Prime Minister spoke about the

tional Convention that has been adjourned since 1996.

- (2) After the successful holding of the National Convention, step by step implementation of the process necessary for the emergence of a genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system.
- (3) Drafting of a new constitution in accordance 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

organs formed by the Hluttaw.

These seven-point programmes are the own ones that have been laid down by the State Peace and Development Council in the interests of the State and its people.

These programmes and the four political objectives out of the twelve objectives that have been presented to the people constantly are in essence, the same.

Out of the seven-point programmes, the successful holding of the National Convention and emergence of an enduring State Constitution is of vital importance.

Coordination meetings were held with the political parties and the elected representatives for three times in 1992 for the convening of the National Convention. It was aimed at obtaining good advice with positive attitude.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, on one occasion, said that whatever system a nation pricities, it needs to be based on an enduring State Constitution that must serve the interests of the entire citizens.

On 10 July 1992, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence

tem; Further flourishing of worldly values—justice, liberty and equality in the nation; Participation of the Tatmadaw in the national political leading role of the future State.

At a time when efforts were made for laying down principles for the State Constitution, the representatives of National League for Democracy walked out of the National Convention on 29 November 1995.

They ignored 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 walked out of the National Convention, efforts for political development have faltered at half way point.

The entire national people are very glad to know that the seven-point programmes stated in the speech of the Prime Minister on 30 August 2003 will be implemented. They also are looking forward to the success of the seven-point programmes. As positive and negative attitudes go together, it is necessary to guard against the danger of internal and external destructive elements with the strength of the people while implementing the seven-point programmes.

Finally, the chairman urged the people living in Chin State to actively participate in efforts for building new democratic nation with Union Spirit and patriotism.

Tabling a motion of the active participation of the entire mass of national races with the full sense of Union Spirit by playing their every role in the successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State, Daw Doth Hlay Purr of Public Works of Haka, Chin State said that it was made clear in the Prime Minister's speech the remarkable progress of the State in every sphere and sector.

At such a time like this, the State Peace and Development Council is making all-out efforts to enable the Union of Myanmar to keep abreast with world nations

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

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Daw Doth Hlay Purr tables a motion. — MNA

seven-point political programmes which will be implemented for the emergence of a modern, developed and democratic State that corresponds to the political, economic and social conditions of the country and is based on Myanmar's historical background and experiences as well as the culture and civilization of the people.

Specific steps for nation-building tasks are as follows:

- (1) Reconvening of the Na-



SAT Daw Swee Ne Zein seconds the motion. — MNA

elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution.

- (6) Convening of Hluttaws attended by Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution.
- (7) Building a modern, developed and democratic nation by the state leaders elected by the Hluttaw; and the government and other central



U Ban Htaung seconds the motion. — MNA

Services Senior General Than Shwe cordially greeted the elected representatives at the meeting room of the Presidential Residence on Ahlon Road.

The National Convention commenced in 1993 with the six objectives— Non-disintegration of the Union; Non-disintegration of the national solidarity; Perpetuation of the national sovereignty; Flourishing of a genuine multi-party democratic sys-

tem; Further flourishing of worldly values—justice, liberty and equality in the nation; Participation of the Tatmadaw in the national political leading role of the future State.

At a time when efforts were made for laying down principles for the State Constitution, the representatives of National League for Democracy walked out of the National Convention on 29 November 1995. They ignored 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 walked out of the National Convention, efforts for political development have faltered at half way point.

The entire national people are very glad to know that the seven-point programmes stated in the speech of the Prime Minister on 30 August 2003 will be implemented. They also are looking forward to the success of the seven-point programmes.

oriented economic system so as to encourage the private sector. At the same time, the Government got repaired looted factories and reinforced the economic infrastructure. Moreover, roads and bridges, irrigation facilities, universities and colleges, and hospitals, all of which are of vital importance for national development, are being built across the nation.

Endeavours made round the clock have resulted in the resurgence of the growth in GDP, which rose to over K 100,000 million in 2003 from over K 47,000 million in 1988.

In the agricultural sector, the Government places special emphasis on revitalization of the national economic life as well as on development of the industrial sector and other economic sectors with added

(See page 7)



People in attendance at the mass rally to support the Prime Minister's speech on seven future policies and programmes of the State. — MNA