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Six objectives of National Convention guiding light for emergence of democracy Mass rally held in Shan State (North) to support Prime Minister's clarification on seven-point political roadmap

YANGON, 20 Oct — A mass rally, organized by Union Solidarity and Development Association, was held in support of the Prime Minister's clarification on the seven-policies and programmes of the State (roadmap) in the Pyidaungsu

together with Lashio Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Khin Maung Wah, Palauing national U Khun Pwint, Shan State MCWA Secretary Dr Nan Kein Phaung Tit and Kachin national Duwa Khaung J as members. Executive of

rally Principal of Lashio Degree College U Pe Thaung made a speech. He said: Today's mass rally is to support the seven-point future policies and programmes of the State which was mentioned in the speech of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 30 August 2003.

In his speech, the Prime Minister touched on matters relating to development of the State, political developments and future political programmes.

Here, I would like to present development of the State. It can be seen that when the Tatmadaw government took the State's responsibilities in 1988 to this date there has been development in such sectors as economic, education, technology, health, transport, agriculture, meat and fish, etc. For example, the GDP of the nation, which stood at only over 47000 million kyats in fiscal year 1988-89, reached over 50000 million kyats in 1990-91 financial year. The GDP of the country grew by an average annual rate of (7.5) percent in 1995-96 fiscal year and During the 2002-2003 fiscal year, (11.1) percent GDP growth was achieved.

In the education sector, the number of basic education schools reached over 40,000 and universities, degree colleges and colleges, 154. Moreover, there are now 28 post-graduate Diploma Courses, 26 Masters Courses in medicine, 7 Dr Med Sc Courses and 29 PhD Courses. The number of hospital has increased 757 from 617, and 114 hospitals were upgraded. Transportation plays a vital role in national development. Therefore, in the time of the Tatmadaw government, there emerged about 150 bridges including 7 Ayeyawady River crossing bridges, 2 Chindwin River crossing bridges, 3 Thanlwin River crossing bridges and nearly 2,000 miles of new roads and it can be said that these are the significant progress.

When the Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities unavoidably on 18 September 1988, there reigned chaos and anarchy due to the political influences behind the violent demonstrations in the country. With the strength of national unity, acts of destructive elements, who had been keeping the ideology, sectarianism and racialism in the fore, to

(See page 16)

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



Chairman of the mass rally Principal U Pe Thaung delivers an address. — MNA

Sports Ground, Lashio, Shan State (North) this morning.

Present on the occasion were Central Executive Committee members of USDA, executives and members of state, district and township USDAs, departmental personnel, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Working Committee for Women's Affairs, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, faculties and students of Lashio Degree College, Government Technical College, Government Computer College, trainees of Lashio nursing school, members of Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association, Border Traders Association, Rice Millers Association, Rice Merchants Association and other social organizations and local national people totalling over 15,000.

Before the mass rally, Thanlwin Column led by State USDA Executive U Sai Nyunt Maung, Shweli Column led by Shan State USDA Executive U Kan Myaing and Dokhtawady Column led by Lashio District USDA Dr La Sai marched into the Sports Ground and took their designated places.

Principal of Lashio Degree College U Pe Thaung presided over the mass rally

Kukai Township USDA Daw Nan Myintzu acted as master of ceremonies and Executive of Hsibaw Township USDA Daw Nan Theingi acted as co-master of ceremonies.

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

Chairman of the mass



The mass rally to support the Prime Minister's speech on the State's seven future policies and programmes in progress at Pyidaungsu sports ground in Lashio, Shan State (North). — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 20 October, 2003

Actively participate in efforts for emergence of new democratic nation

Laying down the twelve political, economic and social objectives, the State Peace and Development Council is striving day and night to realize the goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In the economic sector, market-oriented economic system has been practised instead of the previous centralized-economy. While implementing national economic plans in accord with the market-oriented economic system, economic infrastructures have been built. A network of roads and bridges, dams and reservoirs, universities and colleges and hospitals have been built throughout the country for national development.

As the Government has given encouragement to the private sector, there emerged many job opportunities for the people. Consequently, the number of work force at present reached 29 million from 19 million in 1988.

For equitable development of various states and divisions in the country, border areas and national races development project, projects for the 24 development regions and the five rural development tasks are being implemented harmoniously. Border area development projects are being implemented in 68 townships of 18 regions in 14 States and Divisions. It covers over 83,000 square miles.

At such a time the national people will not tolerate the destructive acts that will harm the existing stability and development of the State.

Nowadays, the people long for the emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

At the mass rally held in support of the Prime Minister's clarification on seven policies and programmes of the State (roadmap) in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, on 18 October, Myeik Township Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary U Moe Myint tabled a motion saying that the democratic system to be practised in Myanmar must be the system that represents freedom in accord with rules and regulations within the framework of law; the system that is in harmony with the State's political, economic and social infrastructures; the system that is in conformity with the nation's background history, traditions and culture; the system that guarantees Our Three Main National Causes through Union Spirit; and especially the system that equally benefits all the national races within the bounds of national solidarity.

At a time when efforts are being made for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation, the entire national people are urged to participate in their respective sectors to realize the goal.



Myanmar Badminton Federation President U Maung Maung Swe and Secretary U Robin Tin seen before departure for Indonesia on 17 October. — NLM



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers Kathina robes to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends Kathina robes offering ceremony of Bangladesh Monastery

YANGON, 19 Oct — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the seventh Kathina robes offering ceremony of Bangladesh Monastery in Natchaung Ward, Tarmway Township this morning and presented robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

Present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta

Panñinda Bhivamsa, Secretary Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kumara, Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Panñajota of the monastery, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, the ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, officials of the State Peace and De-

velopment Council Office, departmental heads, wellwishers, members of the board of trustees of the monastery and guests.

First, the Prime Minister and the congregation received the Five Precepts from the vice-chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. Afterwards, members of the Sangha recited *parittas*.

Next, the Prime Minister presented robes and offertories to the secretary

Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee. The commander and ministers presented robes and offertories to the members of the Sangha. Later, the secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon. The Prime Minister and party and wellwishers shared the merits gained, and the ceremony concluded.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party and wellwishers offered 'soon' to the members of the Sangha. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects upgrading of Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road

YANGON, 19 Oct — Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, together with Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Aung Hlaing, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence and officials, left here by air yesterday morning and arrived at Mandalay International Airport in Tada-U Township, Mandalay Division, at 8.45 am.

They were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Nay Win and officials.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party arrived at Maha Gandayon Monastery in Amarapura Township. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Tin Aye paid reverence to Rector Sayadaw of the monastery Agga Maha Pandita Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Kundalabhivamsa and offered robes and offertories to the Sayadaw. They also offered 'soon' to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander in-

spected the repair of Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road and arrived at the Toll Gate being constructed by Asia World Co in Kyaukchaw Village. Project Manager of the company reported on tar-

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party paid obeisance to Nyaungbinaingawya Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Nandobhasa who was receiving medical treat-

vanced nylon tarred downway of Mandalay-PyinOoLwin road and arrived at the mile post No 19 miles 5 furlongs. Project Manager U Myint Zaw of Asia World Co Ltd reported



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects the toll gate on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road. — MNA

ring of the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road, completion of construction of the toll gate and tasks being carried out. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the advanced nylon tarred uphill road before proceeding to No-1 Defence Services Hospital (700-bed) in PyinOoLwin.

ment at the hospital. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Maha Arnthoo Kantha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image on Mandalay-Lashio road where they paid homage to the Buddha Image and presented cash donation for the image to the chairman of the pagoda board of trustees. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the ad-

on the axis of the road to be repaired at the mile post for safety of vehicles. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on quality of road and efforts for safety of travellers and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Dakkhinarama Phayagyi Monastery in Kyunlon (See page 7)

'Widely divergent' views emerge during general assembly's debate on report of Security Council

The General Assembly on 17 October concluded its consideration of the annual report of the Security Council, and questions of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of that 15-nation body.

Wrapping up the debate, Assembly President Julian R. Hunte (Saint Lucia) said that, over the course of three sessions, 40 speakers had addressed the Council's annual report.

During the debate, many speakers put forward a number of proposals on Council reform, including the need to ensure equitable geographical representation by increasing the number of permanent members.

In addition, delegations suggested that the veto power be limited, and eventually phased out altogether. That view was echoed today by the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who said that any reform

should seek to redefine the veto privilege. In fact, the veto should not exist in an organization based on the principles of pluralism and democracy, in which all States were equal.



UNGA President Julian R. Hunte (Saint Lucia)

**Recognition
of the principle
of sovereignty,
the peaceful
settlement of
disputes and
the non-use
of force
emphasized**

FE Zulu Kilo-abi (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that among the Council's main concerns had been the situation in the Middle East, terrorism and the need for peace in Africa.

Regarding terrorism, there must be mobilization on a common front to terrorize the terrorists. His country had set up a committee to coordinate national anti-terrorism efforts.

The maintenance of international peace and security and the development of friendly relations and international cooperation were the founding principles of the United Nations.

The attainment of such goals required, among others, recognition of the principle of sovereignty, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of force.

However, recent events had frustrated those principles and the present world situation was one in which sophisticated nuclear weapons were being hoarded and small arms and light weapons trafficked.

In addition, the prevalence of anti-personnel landmines, retreat from multilateralism, the division of the world between rich and poor, transnational crime, and blind terrorism posed grave dangers.

Faced with that situation, he concluded, there must be a new plan to reform the international system to ensure international peace and security. The focus should be on collective action and strengthening the Security Council, including through expanding its membership and addressing its decision-making process.

The principle of equitable representation should be adhered to, with one non-permanent seat for each of the five continents. The Council's relationship to the Assembly should also be redressed, while greater cooperation with regional and subregional organizations should be fostered in conflict resolution and preventive diplomacy.

FE Zulu Kilo-Abi (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

There must be a parallel strengthening of the Organization and its Security Council.

Lars Faaborg-Amdersem (Deputy Permanent Representative the UN of Denmark) said the issue under discussion was crucial for the future of the United Nations, and agreed that there must be a parallel strengthening of the Organization and its Security Council. He hoped that new inspiration and ideas would be forthcoming from the report of the Secretary-General's high-level panel of eminent personalities. **Desirous that the United Nations continued to be the core of efforts to tackle old and new security challenges, such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, he felt that a comprehensive reform of the Council was needed to ensure greater representation.** Other central questions revolved around the need to improve the efficiency of the Council's decision-making process and to ensure compliance with Council resolutions. A division of labour and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations would also be welcomed, as a means of overcoming divisions and managing problems.

**Lars
Faaborg-
Amdersem
(Deputy
Permanent
Representa-
tive to the
UN of
Denmark)**



He said he was unsatisfied that, after 10 years, the Working Group had been unable to finalize its work. New impetus was needed for results to be achieved. One solution was to address Clusters I and II issues separately. However, **the issues of enlargement of the Council's membership and the question of the veto should be addressed as a package.** Most likely, Cluster I issues would not be solved by the Working Group and would have to be tackled at the political level. Member States, he concluded, had to take credible and efficient action to meet the challenges of the new millennium, for which Council reform was essential.

Lars Faaborg-Amdersem (Denmark)

The veto should not exist in an organization based on the principles of pluralism and democracy, in which all States were equal

Luis Gallegos (Ecuadorian Ambassador to UN) said the Security Council must undergo reform to meet its present challenges, which were diametrically different from those that were taken into consideration during its creation in 1945. The Working Group, created 10 years ago, had not advanced significantly, and it was clear that the world demanded more information on public affairs issues at the worldwide level.

The United Nations could not escape that plea. **Council reform could not happen without the political will of all Members, and it was in that reform that the answer to the demands of the international community would**

be found. Increasing the number of members in the Council was a step in the



Luis Gallegos
(Ecuadorian Ambassador
to UN)

right direction, but it was not sufficient. New mechanisms were necessary to make the Council more efficient in carrying out its objectives.

Regarding the use of the veto, he said that any reform should undertake a new definition with respect to that

privilege. In fact, the veto should not exist in an organization based on the principles of pluralism and democracy, in which all States were equal. The use of the veto had preoccupied all Member States, especially when one of the non-permanent members mentioned its concern with the use of the "silent veto". The majority of Member States asked that reform be carried out with a vision towards statesmanship. The Secretary-General's initiative to convene a panel was interesting, but after a year of work, it may reach the same point in which Member States found themselves today — immobilized because of a lack of agreement.

Luis Gallegos (Ecuador)

The United Nations was created on the basis of sovereign equity of States

Raza Hayat Hiraj (Pakistan) said the objective of the Working Group must be the evolution of a transparent, democratic and effective Security Council that enjoyed the support and confidence of the entire membership of the United Nations.

There was obviously a need to make the Council more representative since the Organization's membership had increased from 111 in 1963, when the Council was last enlarged, to 191 today.

Additionally, its composition must be enlarged, principally to reflect the larger membership of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, who, with few exceptions, did not wish to acquire privileges, merely representation on the Council as non-permanent members.

Having completed 10-years of debate, he believed the reason for the deadlock was the demand of a few countries to acquire the unequal status of permanent membership.

The majority of Member States, he

stressed, would not like to repeat the mistakes of 1945, when a few countries decided how the Council should be structured, and how the permanent members should enjoy privileges which eroded the fundamental principle of sovereign equality.

"There was no consensus on the issue in 1945, there is even less today", he noted. On the question of reform, he said it was unfortunate that a few countries appeared to believe that the only yardstick by which progress could be measured was on the achievement of their ambition to become a permanent member of the Council.

He stressed that the United Nations was created on the basis of sovereign equity of States, and in the twenty-first century the Assembly could not be expected to bestow special privileges on some, while denying them to the vast majority of nations.

There was no "quick fix" for the new aspirants, nor those hanging on to their coat-tails to find a place in the "Exclusive Club". He did note some positive trends in the Council's working methods under Cluster II issues.

Raza Hayat Hiraj (Pakistan)

Protests await Bush in Manila

MANILA, 19 Oct—US President George W Bush sweeps into the Philippines Saturday for an eight-hour visit to talk security and trade, celebrating a century of close ties against a backdrop of protests and potential terror attacks.

Bush, on a six-nation Asian tour built around a regional summit in Thailand, is expected to reiterate pledges of more military aid for Manila and investment in the south to help seal a peace deal with the nation's largest Muslim rebel group.

Warm praise for President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's efforts in fighting homegrown and foreign Islamic militants is assured.

In a speech to a joint session of the Philippine Congress, the first by a US president since Dwight Eisenhower in 1960, Bush will ask: "What can we do to help?"

In Tokyo on Friday, Bush hailed Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi as a "good friend" as the two leaders discussed the

North Korea nuclear crisis, US concerns about fair trade and exchange rates, and Japanese assistance to help stabilize Iraq.

The Philippine Daily *Inquirer* newspaper said on Saturday that, for the Philippines and Indonesia, the tour was designed to give "a vote of confidence for their actions against terrorism".

Demonstrators denouncing the US leader as a bomb-cuddling warmonger and enemy of the poor farmer poured towards the venues of his visit to Manila, where they will face thousands of police in riot gear backed by water cannon and tear gas.

Internet



A young man holds an anti-US placard during a protest in Seoul against a US request for the dispatch of South

Korean combat troops to Iraq.—INTERNET

Wen Jiabao proposes Sino-Vietnamese measures

BELING, 19 Oct—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao proposed new measures for boosting relations between China and Vietnam at a meeting here Friday with Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

Wen said the two countries should deepen mutual political trust and accelerate follow-up negotiations of their fishery agreement and the process of land border demarcation to push forward the continuous, sound and steady development of relations.

He went on to suggest that the two countries expand cooperation, spare no effort to realize agreed projects, further open their markets to each other, and promote two-way investment so as to bring about greater economic cooperation.

Wen also reviewed the sound development of Sino-Vietnamese relations and the

rapid growth of economic and trade cooperation, citing the 60 per cent year-on-year increase in bilateral trade in the first eight months of this year.

He said the Chinese Communist Party and government placed great importance on the development of relations with Vietnam, believing that friendship and cooperation were in the interests of both countries and their peoples and conducive to safeguarding regional stability and development.

Nguyen said Vietnam valued unity and cooperation with China and would push forward bilateral relations.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq's dumped weapons will take years to clear

BAGHDAD, 19 Oct—Iraq is awash with munitions, more are being found every day and it will take years to make safe or destroy the dangerous caches, a senior US officer said on Thursday.

"We think our initial estimate of 600,000 tons is low," Brigadier-General Larry Davis told a news conference.

"Right now we have some of our contractors doing inventories; if their initial estimates are correct we may be talking about more like a million tons," he said.

Davis said a range of weapons and ammunition were found, including landmines and bullets. He added that a small number of surface to air missiles had also been handed in.

But so far the occupiers have found no nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. The United States and Britain both cited Iraq's alleged possession of such weapons as the reason for their invasion.

Huge ammunition stocks built up by Saddam Hussein's forces are a pressing problem for the US-led coalition oc-

cupying Iraq. According to Davis, a country like the United States has about 1.8 million tons of ammunition stocks, so the volumes in Iraq proportional to size are overwhelming.

There are too many to guard, and top US commanders say it is possible some of the stocks are being used in attacks on occupying coalition forces. The ammunition comes from all over the world, including the United States.

"We find new caches every day, we still don't have any firm news on how many are out there," Davis said. "It will be three to five years before we have cleaned up."

"Some of it is from the US, it comes from a multitude of nations, over the last 10 to 20 years, depending on who your allies were at the time. It's a real mix."

MNA/Reuters

More foreign leaders congratulate China on manned space flight

BELING, 19 Oct—More foreign leaders have extended congratulations to their Chinese counterparts on the success of China's first manned space flight, hoping China to make more progress in the field of space technology.

Chinese President Hu Jintao has received congratulatory telegrams from President Iazuddin Ahmed of Bangladesh, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan, Chairman of Myanmar's State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, King Gyanendra of Nepal, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Emomali Rakhmonov of Tajikistan, President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia, President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, President of the Swiss Confederation Pascal Couchepin, President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia, President Maawiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya of Mauritania, President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, President Rinaldo Ronald Venetiaan of Suriname.

Chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission Jiang Zemin has received congratulatory telegrams from Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.—MNA/Xinhua

China fully supports Doha Round trade talks

BANGKOK, 19 Oct—China always supports and participates in the Doha Round of multilateral trade talks, and is willing to contribute to its success together with other World Trade Organization (WTO) members, a senior Chinese official said here on Friday.

How to move forward the Doha Round of talks will be a major topic for the APEC annual meetings, China's Vice-Minister of Commerce Yu Guangzhou said at Friday's ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. "Despite the setback at the WTO ministerial meeting in September in Cancun, Mexico, the Doha Round will continue," he said.

Yu said that APEC should send "a positive and clear political message" to support the multilateral trading system to enable the Doha Round to produce positive results, which take into consideration the interests of all sides.

The developed member economies of the WTO should pay full attention and seek feasible solutions to the issues concerned by the de-

veloping members, so that the Doha Round would become a true "round of development", he said.

Ministers from the 21 APEC members started their two-day meeting Friday morning in a bid to finalize agenda for the upcoming APEC Economic Leaders Meeting, scheduled for October 20-21.

The ministers agreed to intensify efforts to restart negotiations as early as possible under the Doha Round of WTO multilateral trade talks.

They reached consensus that the Shanghai Accord adopted in 2001 should be a major basis for future APEC cooperation, and that member economies should continue to open markets to each other within the framework of the APEC forum.

MNA/Xinhua

China favours stronger ties with New Zealand

BANGKOK, 19 Oct—China values its good relations with New Zealand and is willing to pursue stronger ties with Wellington on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said here on Friday.

During a meeting with his New Zealand counterpart Phil Goff, Li said China would work together with New Zealand to advance the early resumption of multilateral trade talks of the Doha Round within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The meeting between the two foreign ministers took place on the sidelines of the 15th ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Li noted that China and New Zealand, endeavouring to establish full-range cooperative relations characterized by long-term stability, have witnessed frequent exchanges of high-level visits and wide-ranging cooperation in agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, geophysics, environment, meteorology, education and tourism.

He expressed confidence that the upcoming state visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to New Zealand would achieve positive results with the efforts from both sides.—MNA/Xinhua



Seagulls settle during storms and high winds on a beach of Castelldefels, northeastern Spain, on 17 October, 2003. Low pressure has spread bad weather throughout the region, and local rainfall is expected to exceed 1.5 inches (38mm).—INTERNET

US FACES INTENSIFIED IRAQI RESISTANCE



A sizeable portion of US forces serving in Iraq describe troop morale as low, and say they have no intention of re-enlisting, damaging the campaign by the US government to brighten up the image of the postwar occupation (Getty Images). —INTERNET



An Iraqi fighter takes position with a rocket propelled grenade launcher as civilians walk to safety during a brief break in a gun battle with US led forces in the streets of Karbala, 110 kilometres (70 miles) south of Baghdad on 17 October, 2003. A midnight clash with Shiite militants in the same location left three Americans and ten Iraqis dead. —INTERNET



US-led coalition forces try to resuscitate a soldier, left, as another has a head wound treated, right, after an attack on a Humvee on the main road about 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Baghdad, on 17 October, 2003. It was unclear how seriously the soldiers were wounded. —INTERNET



Unidentified coalition troops block a road leading into the holy city of Karbala, 110 kilometres south of Baghdad on 14 October, 2003. US and other troops from the Polish-led contingent set up road blocks around the city Tuesday after rival Shiite Muslim factions clashed in the city Monday night, leaving several people dead. —INTERNET



An Iraqi gunman stands beside a blood-stained doorway at the site of an overnight battle that left three US military policemen and ten Iraqis dead, in a street in Karbala Friday. —INTERNET



The US-led coalition was unprepared for the scale of problems it has encountered in postwar Iraq, and is "struggling" to find the right strategy to fight Saddam Hussein's loyalists, a leading think-tank said on Wednesday.

INTERNET

China calls for quick transfer of Iraqi sovereignty

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Oct—Chinese UN Ambassador Wang Guangya said here Thursday that with a unanimously passed Security Council resolution, much more efforts are needed to provide a greater role to the United Nations and restore Iraqi sovereignty as soon as possible.

He said that China voted for the resolution to help Iraq achieve peace and stability, restore sovereignty and recommence development.

"It was important to achieve consensus in the Council," he said. "In view of the current situation in Iraq and the common aspiration of the international community, the Chinese side has consistently maintained that it is necessary for the Security Council to adopt a new resolution."

Wang made the statement after the 15-member Council adopted unanimously the United States-proposed resolution on Iraq's future, which authorizes the

deployment of a multinational force in the country.

"This resolution will undoubtedly have positive significance for the endeavour to promote the political process in Iraq, accelerate power transfer by CPA (the Coalition Provisional Authority) to the Iraqi people, gradually strengthen the role of the UN and increase transparency in Iraqi economic reconstruction," he said, explaining the Chinese "yes" vote.

Meanwhile, he also expressed his concerns with some of the text within the resolution. "Had this resolution incorporated more of those suggestions, there would undoubtedly be a bet-

ter outcome," he said.

"Therefore, our positive vote does not mean that we are fully satisfied with its contents," he added.

He concluded by reiterating that the Chinese Government and people are greatly concerned about the current situation in Iraq and attach importance to its political and economic reconstruction.

"We hope that with the strong support of the international community and the active assistance of the United Nations, the hardship-inflicted and war-ridden Iraq will see an early restoration of sovereignty and embark on the road of peace," he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Halliburton defends Iraq fuel prices

HOUSTON, 19 Oct—Halliburton Co on Friday called US lawmakers' allegations that it had gouged the US Government on prices for fuels delivered to Iraq as "inaccurate, misleading and unwarranted."

In a statement issued by the Houston-based oil-field services and construction company once run by US Vice President Dick Cheney, Halliburton said its Kellogg, Brown & Root subsidiary takes into account the cost of the fuels themselves and the difficulty of delivering them in Iraq.

Procuring, transporting and storing the fuels it provides to the US government in post-invasion Iraq costs about 1.59 US dollars per gallon, Halliburton said. That includes a 2-per-cent fee to the company. "This is less than the cost of a gallon of gas, in either Washington, DC, or California," the company said.

MNA/Reuters

Spanish judge to probe death of Iraq war cameraman

MADRID, 19 Oct—A Spanish High Court judge will investigate the death of a Spanish cameraman killed in a US tank attack on a Baghdad hotel during the war in Iraq, judicial sources said on Friday.

Relatives of Telecinco cameraman Jose Couso asked the court in May to investigate his death and put three US soldiers on trial. Their lawyer said the attack was a war crime and Spanish law allowed for suspected war criminals to be tried in Spain wherever the alleged crime had been committed. The 37-year-old cameraman was killed on April 8 when a US tank fired at a hotel serving as the main Baghdad base for international journalists covering the war.

A Pentagon report has absolved the US soldiers, who said they thought a spotter was directing enemy fire from the building.

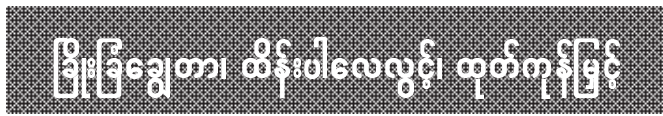
"It's the first time that something like this has happened in Spain," the family's

lawyer Pilar Hermoso told Reuters. "No judge has ever agreed to investigate a war crimes case against soldiers before."

In Spain, cases are presented to investigating magistrates who then decide whether they should be taken up or not.

"It is a small victory," the cameraman's brother David Couso told Reuters. "These small victories... comfort us."

Reuters cameraman Taras Protsyuk, 35, was killed in the same attack and Reuters conducted its own investigation into the incident. High Court Judge Guillermo Ruiz Polanco has called three journalists to testify as witnesses on October 23, the judicial sources said.—MNA/Reuters



Holding anti-Bush and anti-free trade placards, a group of Thai activists march in a downtown Bangkok street on 19 October, 2003. Leaders from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, the world's largest trade cooperation group, are in the capital of Thailand for its annual summit talks.—INTERNET

Islamic nations grumble over UN Iraq vote

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Oct—Muslim leaders winding up a summit on Friday grumbled over a United Nations resolution on Iraq while criticizing a US vote to impose trade sanctions on Baghdad's neighbour Syria.

The UN unanimously adopted a resolution on Thursday aimed at getting troops and cash for Iraq, a diplomatic victory for the United States' efforts to broaden backing for its occupation.

In a late shift, a band of reluctant Security Council members backed the text, though France, Russia and Germany said it conceded too little on their demands for a greater UN role in Iraq for them to commit further troops or cash.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Maher told reporters it was for the United States to pick up the pieces in Iraq.

"It's not our job to raise money. The main responsibility is the responsibility of the occupying power," he said on the way into the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) meeting.

But Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, appointed by the US-backed Governing Council, welcomed the vote.

"It's very good news for the Iraqi people

that the international community and the Security Council are united behind the need to stabilize Iraq and to create a better future for the Iraqi people," he told reporters at the summit. Iyad Allawi, who heads the Iraqi council, criticized France, Germany and Russia for ignoring the new administration's views.

"As if we are pupils in a primary school, they want us to report to the Security Council. Unfortunately, they have not consulted with us," he said.

In preparatory meetings for the Putrajaya summit, the Iraqi council defied ICO ministers' efforts to push a resolution setting a timetable for US forces to quit the country, saying the UN text was paramount to improving the security situation.

Pakistan, a Security Council member, was one of the Muslim countries the United States hoped would send troops if a UN mandate was obtained. Its foreign minister said on Friday that Islamabad would do so if Parliament approved.—MNA/Reuters

China urges chopper supplies to set up maintenance centre

BEIJING, 19 Oct—Chinese police, who are increasingly valuing the function of helicopters in maintaining public security, are calling for improved maintenance services from their foreign helicopter suppliers.

"Since the management and application of helicopters is a quite complicated system, China won't import too many types of helicopters, though a large quantity is needed," said Tao Junsheng, an official with the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), at a Press conference Friday on China's Second International Exhibition on Police Equipment & Technologies.

"It's an overall trend for China to standardize the types of helicopters in line with their fitness to Chinese police, which will facilitate general arrangements in helicopter management, personnel train-

ing, maintenance and replacement of spare parts," Tao said.

According to Tao, foreign companies whose helicopters are used in Chinese police work are expected to build at least one maintenance centre in China which can provide comparatively comprehensive repair services.

Tao revealed that the second international expo on police equipment to be held in Beijing on June 23-26, 2004 will have special helicopter flight performances and academic exchanges of this aspect.

In the first exhibition held in June last year, helicopters,

signalling the immediate response capacity and the advanced level of a police department, attracted great attention. China now has only some 10 helicopters and the number may amount to 30 in three years, Tao said.

During the second half of September, the State Council and the Central Military Commission formally designated the police helicopter as one of the state-level aircraft and its airspace management was taken over by the Chinese Air Force, which further guaranteed the development of Chinese police helicopters.

MNA/Xinhua



Philippine anti-riot policemen block thousands of protesters as they march to the Philippine Congress in Manila, to protest against the visit of US President George W Bush on 18 October, 2003.—INTERNET

Not only the people of Myanmar but also ASEAN and international community support the seven-point roadmap of Myanmar

Tekkatho Myat Thu

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) made up of ten countries from the Southeast Asian region held its 9th ASEAN Summit successfully in Bali, Indonesia, from 6 to 8 October. In addition to the 9th ASEAN Summit, meetings of the ASEAN+3 Summit (People's Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea) were also held. The ASEAN Summit had been held nine times during the period from 1976 to 2003; and the ASEAN+3 Summit, seven times from 1997 to 2003.

Both the ASEAN Summit and the ASEAN+3 Summit focussed on regional security, tranquillity, economic and socio-cultural cooperation, and the enhancement of investment. The ASEAN Summit and the ASEAN+3 Summit held this year were regular meetings. Since many weeks prior to those summits, a band of western media had been perpetrating acts of provocation, instigation, sowing discord and speculations. Being a journalist all my life, I had to keep my ears and eyes open wider than necessary. Those western media fully entertain ill will towards the ASEAN and would like to see it break up. They tried to set ASEAN members against Myanmar to make the political gains and manipulated the ASEAN to put pressure especially on Myanmar.

I had known it in my sixth sense that the western media would be irritated after the summits because of the correct policy adopted by the ASEAN in no uncertain terms for over 30 years that it will not interfere in the internal affairs of other member countries.

Foreign ministers from ASEAN member countries held a meeting before the arrival of leaders from ASEAN member countries at Bali. U Win Aung, Foreign Minister of Myanmar, elaborated in advance on the true situation of Myanmar and the transition to democracy.

General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, arrived at Bali on 6 October afternoon. That evening, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the working dinner of ASEAN Heads of State/Government. Also present at the dinner were His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Sandech Hun Sen, Indonesian President Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Buongnang Vorachith, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai, Myanmar Foreign Minister U Win Aung, foreign ministers from the ASEAN countries, economic ministers, deputy ministers, and Secretary-General of ASEAN Mr Ong Keng Yong. At the working dinner, the ASEAN Heads of State/Government enjoyed the dinner and had cordial and frank discussions.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt called on Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad and Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong separately the same day. At the calls, the Prime Minister was accompanied by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Foreign Minister U Win Aung and officials.

Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao expressed his de-

light at hearing of Myanmar undergoing stability, tranquillity and economic affluence under the leadership of Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council; adding that China had steadfastly practised the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in international relations; that China held the view that every nation had its own right to resolve its internal affairs; that China was desirous of seeing Myanmar united, stable and developed, and also wanted to promote bilateral relations and economic cooperation with Myanmar; and that China would cooperate with Myanmar in tapping Myanmar's enormous natural resources and building infrastructure for such spheres as agriculture, forestry, human resource and electricity.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt also responded that the friendly ties between Myanmar and China were encouraging and the economic cooperation between the two countries was also fruitful; that Myanmar was grateful to China for taking a firm stand on Myanmar issues in all aspects; and that Myanmar would be in constant support of the one China policy. He also briefed the Chinese Premier on implementation of the future programmes of Myanmar.

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad, in his meeting with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, also said that Malaysia was a country that firmly stood by Myanmar; that the internal affairs of Myanmar should be solved by Myanmar people themselves; that Malaysia, as a true and good friend of Myanmar, would do its utmost to help Myanmar; and that he believed Myanmar could become ASEAN's reliable member country.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt also replied that Myanmar was indebted to Malaysia for its assistance as well as its support for Myanmar; and that the friendship between the two countries and bilateral cooperation in all sectors would become stronger and stronger. He later explained matters related to the seven-stage roadmap of Myanmar.

At the meeting with Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong expressed his thanks for being informed of the seven-point roadmap of Myanmar, adding that Singapore wished the endeavours of Myanmar Government every success; that it understood the challenges threatening Myanmar; and that Myanmar was a promising country.

In response, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt expressed his gratitude to Singapore for its assistance and support of Myanmar's transition to democracy and the realization of the seven-stage roadmap, adding that he believed the bilateral relations between the two countries and the economic cooperation would develop.

(to be continued)
(Translation: KTY)
Kyemon; 17-10-2003

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects...

(from page 2)

Okhsaung Ward in Mandalay. There, they paid obeisance to State Ovadacariya Nayakyaung Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Mediya Bhivamsa. They then asked after the health of the Sayadaw and presented offertories to the Sayadaw.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Mani Yadanarama Myataung Monastery in Mahaaungmyay Township. They paid reverence to Mandalay Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Myataungtaik Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sasanabhivamsa and offered provisions to the Sayadaw.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party paid obeisance to Masoeieinkyaung Maha Nayaka Winayanayupadetha Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Panhasamibhivamsa at Masoeiein Monastery in the township. They also asked after the health of the Sayadaw and donated provisions to the Sayadaw. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party stopped for the night in Mandalay. — MNA

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

အစုလိုက်ဝက်သက်ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးနှံခြင်း
၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ အောက်တိုဘာလ (၁၉) ရက်မှ (၂၆) ရက်အထိ
(ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း၊ ဧရာဝတီတိုင်း၊ ချင်းပြည်နယ်နှင့်
ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်အတွင်းရှိ မြို့နယ်များအားလုံးတွင်
တစ်ချိန်တည်း တစ်ပြိုင်တည်း ထိုးနှံပေးပါမည်။)
အသက် (၉)လမှ (၅)နှစ်အတွင်းရှိ

ကလေးငယ်များအားလုံး

နီးစပ်ရာ ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုး စုရပ်များသို့

မပျက်မကွက် အရောက်လာကြပါ

ကလေးတစ်ဦးလျှင် တစ်ခါသုံး ဆေးထိုးအပ်ဆေးထိုးဖြန့်
တစ်စုံစီဖြင့် ကာကွယ်ဆေး အခမဲ့ထိုးနှံပေးပါမည်။

အဓိကသတင်းအချက်အလက်များ

- ◆ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါသည် ကူးစက်မြန်ရောဂါဖြစ်ပြီး ကလေး
မြောက်မြားစွာ သေဆုံးနိုင်ပါသည်။
- ◆ ဝက်သက်ရောဂါမဖြစ်ပွားအောင် ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးပေးခြင်း
ဖြင့် ကာကွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။
- ◆ အသက် (၉)လမှ (၅)နှစ်အတွင်း ကလေးများအားလုံး
ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးပြီးသည့်ဖြစ်စေ၊ မထိုးနှံရသေးသည့်ဖြစ်စေ
ဝက်သက်ကာကွယ်ဆေး လာရောက်ထိုးနှံရမည်။
- ◆ ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးခြင်းဖြင့် ကလေးများအား မည်သည့်
အန္တရာယ်မျှ မရှိပါ။

Kathina robes offered to monks

YANGON, 19 Oct — The seventh communal Kathina robes offering ceremony of Directorate of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the Ministry of Defence, was held in conjunction with donation ceremony of master video tapes on the biography and religious activities of Sayadaw Ashin Janaka Bhivamsa at Maha Gandhayon Monastery in Amarapura yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were the Rector Sayadaw

of Maha Gandhayon Monastery, Sayadaws and members of the Sangha, Maj-Gen Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers, the wife of the commander of Central Command, military officers and other ranks and officials.

At the ceremony, Kathina robes worth K 480,649 were donated to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. — MNA



Young women of national races attend the mass rally. — MNA



National races at the mass rally in support of the State's seven-point political roadmap. — MNA

Six objectives of National Convention...

(from page 16)

However, the Tatmadaw government practising the market-oriented economic system reconstructed the damaged mills, factories, workshops and economic foundations. It also built infrastructures such as roads, river and creek-crossing bridges, dams and reservoirs, universities, colleges and hospitals the length and breadth of the nation.

One of the four economic objectives is "development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. The annual paddy output was only 654 million baskets in 1988. Realizing that water resource plays the main role in agricultural sector, the government constructed dams, reservoirs, sluice gates, river water pumping

stations and underground water tapping stations one after another for ensuring sufficient water supply for agricultural purposes. Consequently, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy could be extended and the annual paddy output increased to 1,000 million baskets in 2000-2001. The government has spent over K 63,000 million on construction of 151 dams and reservoirs. All the national brethren have enjoyed the fruitful results of development.

A total of 437 dams and reservoirs have been constructed in Shan State (North), benefiting over 100,000 acres of cultivable land.

Designating 2003-2004 as the year for boosting paddy production, local farmers in Shan State (North) have put

102,000 acres under paddy in this monsoon paddy cultivation season. So, all the paddy fields in Shan State (North) are now thriving. Local farmers have enjoyed the fruits of their efforts.

In a bid to ensure regional rice sufficiency, the highland reclamation project has been launched.

Regarding the all-round development sector, the border areas development sector is in full swing. A new ministry on border areas was established to speed up the tasks for development of national races and to raise their living standard. As a result, in Shan State (North) that lagged behind in development in the past, such border towns as Laukkai, Namtit, Panghsan and Mongla have significantly developed with modern buildings, hotels and together

supermarkets. This helps strengthen the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit.

The nation is gaining development in all spheres and there have also been political development.

He quoted the Prime Minister in his address, as saying that **it is because of the historical necessity that we were compelled to assume State responsibilities on 18 September 1988. It may be recalled at that time there reigned chaos and anarchy due to the political influences behind the violent demonstrations in the country. It is because of this situation that we unavoidably assumed responsibilities of the State.**

After taking up the State's duties, the Tatmadaw government strove for restoration of stability and peace. And now, it is implementing the political programmes for building up a peaceful, tranquil and developed nation in accord with the democratic system.

Resulting from good conditions of stability and peace restored across the nation, the National Convention could be launched in 1993.

At the National Convention, respective representatives held open and cordial discussions group-wise for emergence of an enduring State Constitution through the spirit of kinship and Union Spirit. Therefore, basic principles could be laid down to draw the State Constitution. However, in 1995, the NLD party decided to ignore the future of the country and placed the attitude and wishes of an individual and the interests of its own party. Consequently, the National Convention has been adjourned since 1996.

He highlighted the third part of the Prime Minister's speech. In the third part, the Prime Minister clarified various parts of the political programmes which will be implemented in the future. The Union of Myanmar is home to over 100 national races who have been living together in unison. At a time when the national brethren have been making strenuous endeavours in building

up a peaceful, modern, developed and disciplined, flourishing democratic nation, emergence of an enduring State Constitution is of paramount importance. Thus, the government has been implementing the plans upholding Our Three Main National Causes — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty — as the national policy.

The government has been taking systematic measures for building up a modern developed nation after adopting the twelve objectives. Among them, the four political objectives are (1) Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order, (2) National reconsolidation, (3) Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution, and (4) Building up a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution. So, it can be found that the government adopted a clear and sharp policy to construct a new nation.

Thus, emergence of a new enduring State Constitution plays a key role in building up a new country.

That is why the Prime Minister announced the seven future programmes of the State.

He expressed his belief that the seven policies and programmes are the roadmap for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In conclusion, he proposed the motion, calling for active participation of the entire people for successful implementation of the State's seven future policies and programmes with Union Spirit by doing their bit.

Kutkai Township Law Officer U Ti Khun Myat seconded the motion calling on the entire national people to actively participate in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-stage future policy of the State with full sense of Union Spirit.

He said: the State Peace and Development Council is now striving in all sectors for the emergence of the Union of Myanmar as a

peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In the agriculture sector, paddy output of the country, that stood at 654 million baskets in 1988, reached over one billion baskets in 2000-2001. Thanks to the efforts exerted through various means, Shan State (North) will become a region producing sufficient rice for its own consumption in 2003-2004. Success must be attributed to the cultivation of high yield paddy strains and extended cultivation carried out starting from 2002-2003. Cultivation of such major crops as paddy, corn, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, pigeon pea, and Soya bean, and opium substitute crops has been actively carried out through the distribution and use of quality strains, systematic cultivation methods, highland reclamation method and natural and chemical fertilizers.

With the encouragement of the government, efforts are being made for the development of fish and livestock breeding tasks in the region. For the increased use of electricity, Nannhaw Hydel Power Plant, Nan Saung Ngaung Hydel Power Plant and Panhsan Hydel Power Plant have been constructed in the region. As the 400-megawatt Shweli Hydel Power Plant is being constructed with the aims of supplying electricity not only in the region but also to the national grid, **the entire state of ours will be able to consume sufficient power supply, and all the national brethren in the state will be able to enjoy the high living standard soon.**

In the basic education sector, there were a total of 3,492 basic education schools in the entire Shan State in 1988. As there are now 4,580 schools, 1,088 new schools have been added in the state; the number of schools in Shan State (North) now stands at 1,636. The number of teachers in the entire Shan State was 11,399 in 1988. Now, the number increased to 16,645 including 6,042 teachers in Shan State (North), showing an increase of 5,246 teachers. Number of students in the

(See page 9)



Local people from all walks of life attend the mass rally held at Pyidaungsu sports ground in Lashio, Shan State (North). — MNA

Six objectives of National Convention...

(from page 8)

state increased from 347,878 in 1988 to 626,298 now. There are a total of 239,625 students in Shan State (North) now.

In the higher education sector of the State, there were only 32 universities and colleges for over 130,000 students and over 5,600 teaching staff in 1988. Now, the number of institutions of higher learning reached 154, and that of students and teaching staff reached over 890,000 and 16,000 respectively. The institutions that conducted up to master's degree courses in 1988, are now able to conduct 150 kinds of

Shan State (North).

As has already been mentioned, Shan State (North) has witnessed conspicuous development in the agriculture, livestock breeding, electric power, education, health and transport sectors. At the same time, success achieved in narcotic drug elimination and cultivation of opium substitute crops is also encouraging.

These accomplishments must be attributed to peace and tranquillity, and stability in the region restored with the unity of national brethren. It also reflects the success of "Our Three Main National Causes" and twelve political, economic

Secretary of Shan State (North) Women Sports Committee Daw Sao Tin Mya seconded the motion calling for active participation of the entire national people in realisation of the seven-point political roadmap of the State by doing their bit with full Union Spirit. The second part of the Prime Minister's speech is absolutely important. It stated the efforts for the national reconciliation by the government with the noble objectives. Making efforts for improvement of the living standard of the local people, regional development and the emergence of economic infrastructures after forging the national unity are the prerequisite for democracy.

The government has laid down projects for development of border areas and national races and is implementing them to ensure the national reconciliation while striving for the national race armed groups to be able to return to the legal fold based on mutual trust and understanding. As a result, altogether 17 national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold. They, in cooperation with the government, are now making efforts for regional development. It was the fruitful results of the government's efforts in forging the national unity based on mutual trust and understanding, and genuine goodwill.

In Shan State (North), five national race armed groups returned to the legal fold, and the national unity could be built. The regions of the national brethren—Kokang, Wa, Shan and Kachin—who have returned to the legal fold have been designated as the special regions. They are now striving for regional and national development in the respective regions.

Under the leadership of the government, the people from Shan State (North) are taking part in the efforts for enabling the nation to stand tall with dignity among the world nations.

Nowadays, the border towns of Myanmar have de-



The chairman and members at the mass rally to support the State's political roadmap. — MNA

veloped with modern buildings, international level hotels and department stores. This contributes to further strengthening of Union Spirit and the spirit of national unity.

With regard to border areas development sector, peace and tranquillity prevails in border areas as the Tatmadaw government has been able to forge the national unity. With prevalence of peace and tranquillity in the region, projects for development of border areas and national races could be laid down and implemented systematically.

To be able to implement the tasks for development of border areas and national races effectively, the new ministry related to border areas was formed. The ministry has been able to carry out tasks for improvement of the living standard of local people and development of border areas and national races with added momentum.

The special regions have been designated in Shan State (North) and tasks for development of border areas and national races have been carried out since 1989-90. The regions are Kokang Special Region-1, Wa Special Region-2, Shan Special Region-3, Kachin (North/East) Special Region-5 and Palaung Special Region-7.

The Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races built new roads and upgraded old ones to ensure

improvement of the living standard of local people and smooth commodity flow in Shan State (North).

Altogether 113 miles of tarred road, 695 miles and four furlongs of laterite road and 892 miles of earth roads have emerged in special regions of Shan State (North). Likewise, 1,540 miles and seven furlongs of old roads were upgraded.

In addition, eight bridges with over 40 feet in length, 75 small bridges and one suspension bridge were built

development of Shan State (North) from 1989-90 to 2003-2004. To ensure smooth and convenient communications in the five special regions of Shan State (North), 12 post offices, 40 telephone exchanges and ten telegraph offices as well as one satellite station in Laukkai region were opened.

There remained poppy cultivation and drug abuse, the evil legacy of colonialists, in Myanmar. The government after its as-



Kutkai Township USDA Executive Daw Nan Myinzu acts as master of ceremonies together with Hsipaw Township USDA Executive Daw Nan Theingi. — MNA

in Shan State (North). Takaw-et bridge, Namtein bridge, Nyinaung bridge and Shweli bridge contribute much to better transport in Shan State (North).

Arrangements are being made to build a new Thanlwin river crossing bridge to link Muse District and Laukkai District in the open season.

The government has spent K 143.5 million on

sumption of the State duties has been striving for eradication of narcotic drugs that pose a threat to the national races as well as the global people. With or without assistance, the drive for eradication of the drug is being launched as a national task.

The government, applying various means and ways, is making efforts for effective eradication of the drugs. (See page 13)



Shan State (North) WSF Secretary Daw Sao Tin Mya seconds the motion. — MNA

courses including eighteen Master of Research courses, forty master's degree courses, 29 doctorate courses and graduate and diploma courses. There emerge Lashio Degree College, Government Technological College and Government Computer College installed with modern equipment in the higher education sector of Shan State (North). E-learning centres have also been opened in the high schools.

In the health sector, the entire Shan State has witnessed an increase of 79 new hospitals totalling 117, up from 38 in 1988. There are 47 hospitals in Shan State (North). The number of health personnel including doctors in the entire Shan State, which stood 1740 in 1988, has now increased to 2,772. In the transport sector, total length of roads in the entire state was 4,077 miles in 1988. Now it has reached 4,445.9 miles including 1,831.4 miles in

and social objectives laid down by the state.

For the continued existence of tranquillity and development, I would like to urge the entire national people to unitedly and energetically strive for the successful implementation of the seven-stage future policy of the State enshrined in the speech of the Prime Minister. We will have to strive for the successful implementation of the seven-stage future policy of the State required for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy that will further enhance the national prestige and nationalistic fervour of the people and the nation.

Therefore, I enthusiastically support the motion calling on the entire national people to actively participate in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-stage future policy of the State with full sense of Union Spirit tabled by U Sai Naw Kham Oo.



Prime Minister addresses Tourism Industry Promotion Coordination Meeting



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the coordination meeting on promotion of tourism industry. — MNA

YANGON, 19 Oct — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the coordination meeting on promotion of tourism industry, held at Zeya Thiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthar, here, at 11 am today.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, officials from the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made an opening

address on the occasion. He said the meeting was held to promote momentum for development of tourism industry.

As efforts have been made for development of the industry, success has been achieved to some extent. But it fell short of expectations. Myanmar has many places of interest and for observation. However, there are some countries with no natural resources for tourist attention as much as Myanmar have booming tourism industry because they make efforts for promoting the industry. Some countries with poor natural conditions have achieved success in the industry because they prepared and renovated the natural resources at hand to suit the tastes of the tourists. It is worth emulating, he said.

There are thousands of ancient religious edifices in Bagan. It is a valuable ancient cultural region because there can be seen architectural works, arts and mural paintings that depict social system, traditions and culture of Bagan period at one place. Similarly, there are places of interest such as Mandalay City where ancient monasteries and religious edifices exist and world-famous Inlay region which is a rare natural pond on a mountain and has floating islands, he pointed out. As Myanmar has favourable conditions and opportunities for development of the industry, related ministries including the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and travel agencies are to unitedly cooperate for development of the industry with greater momentum.

The industry is the one that can promote the State's economy remarkably in a short period. There are tourists of all walks of life from different countries. The industry

will help hoteliers and travel agencies as well as people of all strata of life including taxi drivers and street hawkers earn more money. So, related agencies and organizations including the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism are to systematically lay plans and cooperate for development of the industry that will benefit the development of the State's economy as well as the entire public including people of ordinary class, he said.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu briefed on the entry of tourists including those from the border gates, cooperative tasks with ASEAN member nations and arrangements for promoting the industry.

Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Khin Maung Latt reported on arrangements for holding of the 20th meeting of the ASEAN Travel Industry Market Joint-Promoting Work Committee to be held on 29 and 30 October in Bagan, the ninth meeting of Travel Industry Human Resources Development Work Committee and the eighth meeting of ASEAN Travel Industry Investment Work Committee.

Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun reported on arrangements for promotion of travel industry in Myanmar of respective ministries.

The Prime Minister made concluding remarks and the meeting came to a close in the afternoon. —MNA



Dignitaries attend the coordination meeting on promotion of tourism industry. — MNA

Medical equipment donated to Orthopaedic Hospital

YANGON, 19 Oct — Association Medicate Franco Asiatic (AMFA) of France donated medical equipment to the Orthopaedic Hospital on Hanthawady Street in Kyimyindine Township this morning.

The donation ceremony was attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, directors-general of the departments under the ministry, deputy directors-general, directors, medical superintendents, professors and guests, officials of the French Embassy, AMFA Chairman Professor Alian Patel and members.

Professor Alian Patel presented documents related to orthopaedic equipment worth US\$ 155,000 to the minister, who presented a certificate of honour to him.

Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Kyaw San Win spoke words of thanks and the minister and officials viewed round the equipment.

MNA

Cash donated to SPSU (Yangon)

YANGON, 19 Oct — The staff families of the Ministry of Information donated cash for 'soon' offering of monks of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at Mogoke refectory of the university this morning, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present were Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general, managing directors, deputy directors-general, directors and deputy directors of departments and enterprises

under the ministry and officials. The minister and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Pro-Rector Sayadaw Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Uttama. The minister offered provisions to the Sayadaw.

The minister presented K 180,000 for 'soon' offering to Director of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Khaing Aung who presented certificate of honour.

The Pro-Rector Sayadaw delivered a sermon. — MNA

Saddan Hsinmin Drama competition continues

YANGON, 19 Oct — Saddan Hsinmin Drama competition of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this evening. Manmyo Thein Than Win Drama Troupe of Mandalay today participated in the competition.

Among the audience were family members of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander of

Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and family, Member of Panel of Patrons of the Performing Arts Competitions Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Chairman of the Leading Committee for organizing the competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of

Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chairman of the leading committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and members, chairmen and members of the work committee and subcommittees, artists and enthusiasts.

Leader of the panel of judges U Chit Oo Nyo and members judged the competition. Pantra Tin Moe Win of Yangon Division will take part in the competition tomorrow.

MNA

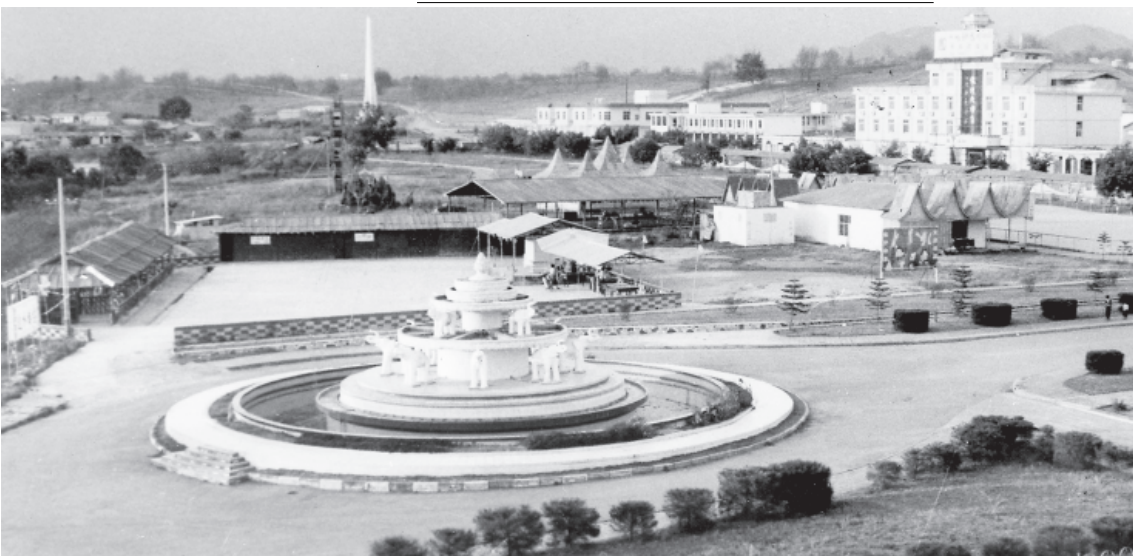


Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and family enjoy performance of Manmyo Thein Than Win troupe of Mandalay Division at Saddan Hsinmin Drama Competition. — MNA

Tangible results of Development in Shan State (North)



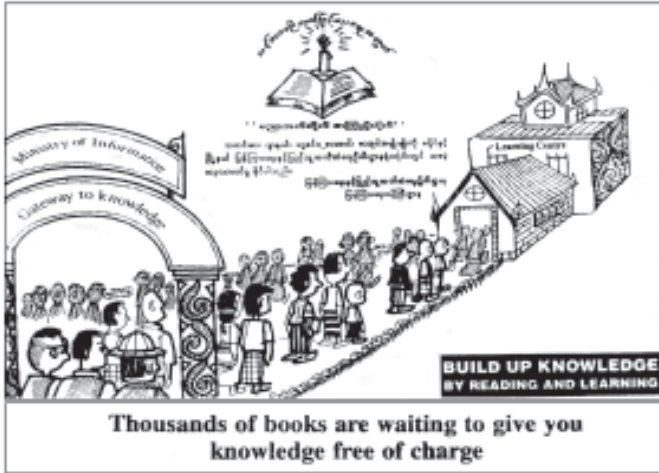
The main aim of border area development programme is development of national races in border areas, and is to enable them to earn a proper living after eradicating poppy cultivation. The photo shows Laukkai Drug Elimination Museum, a symbol of efforts to fight against narcotic drugs.— PHOTO:MNA



People living in Laukkai are now witnessing many development infrastructures. The photo shows the view of developing Laukkai in Shan State (North).
PHOTO:MNA

The government is paying specially attention to providing effective health care services to the entire national people. Therefore, hospitals are being built across the nation. The photo shows a maternity ward of Lashio People's Hospital.
PHOTO:MNA





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Phone: 372416
Dated: 20th October, 2003

Asteroid named after Chinese scientist

BEIJING, 19 Oct — As-
teroid Number 25240,
which was observed on Oc-
tober 16, 1998 by the Na-
tional Astronomical Ob-
servatories of China, has
been named after Chinese
nuclear physicist Qian
Sanqiang (1913-1992).

The naming ceremony
was held here Friday at the
90th anniversary of Qian's
birth. Qian, having discov-
ered tripartition and quater-
nary fission of uranium, par-
ticipated in the design and
making of China's first at-
omic bomb and hydrogen
bomb in the 1960s and early
1970s.

The naming was ap-
proved by the International
Asteroids Naming Commit-
tee under the International
Astronomical Union.

MNA/Xinhua

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UNDP says Uganda makes progress in poverty reduction

KAMPALA, 19 Oct — Uganda has made a significant
progress in the last few years with the number of people
living in abject poverty declining from 56 per cent in 1991/
1992 to 35 per cent in 1999/2000, a report from the United
Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has said.

The report issued before this year's "International Day
for Eradication of Poverty," which falls on October 17,
2003, said that "the annual growth rate in Uganda has
averaged about 6 per cent per annum."

The UNDP defines poverty as a state of being deprived
of the opportunities and choices that are essential to the
enjoyment of a long, health and fulfilling life. Poverty goes
beyond the lack of money in one's wallet.

"If you are illiterate, have no access to safe water, have
a low life expectancy, have no freedom and dignity, then
you know you are encompassed in a cloud of abject poverty.
The lack of a reasonable income is, nevertheless, one of the
key indicators of poverty," it said. It estimated that nearly
three billion people or half the world's population live on
less than two US dollars a day and the number of people
living on less than one dollar is 1.2 billion. — MNA/Xinhua

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ခင်သက်ဆွေ ဟု ခေါ်ပါရန်။
ခင်သက်ဆွေ

Seven illegal migrants die in Italy sea crossing

ROME, 19 Oct — Rescue
ships have recovered one
body of an immigrant and
survivors said another six
people died on a ship bring-
ing dozens of illegal migrants
to Italy, officials said on
Friday.

Italy's Coast Guard
central command said one
person drowned and a
further 18 migrants were
rescued after a ship capsized
in rough seas off the south-
ern Italian island of
Lampedusa when it was ap-
proached by a rescue ship.
"Presumably all the people
rushed to one side of the
boat when the rescue ship
drew up," Coast Guard Cap-
tain Carlo Celerino told
Reuters.

Survivors said another six
people, including three ba-
bies, had died during the
voyage and their bodies were
flung overboard, Coast
Guard officials said.

MNA/Reuters

မြန်မာ့ပြန်လည်အောင်မြင်ရေး

Chinese President meets Thai King on bilateral ties

BANGKOK, 19 Oct — Chinese President Hu Jintao said here on Friday that the new generation of the Chinese leadership will work closely with Thailand to push their full-range cooperative relationship to a new high.

Hu and his wife Liu Yongqing arrived in Bangkok Friday afternoon on a state visit.

Shortly after their arrival, Hu and his wife met with Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit. Both sides expressed their satisfaction over the development of bilateral relations.

China and Thailand are close neighbours and trustworthy friends, and have established brotherly relations in the past on the basis of mutual respect and mutual trust, Hu said.

He noted that the brotherly relations have endured the test of time and changes in international situation, and have become even deeper, stronger and more vigorous.

The Chinese President spoke highly of the contributions that the King and other royal family members have made to promote the Sino-Thai friendship and the mutual understanding between the two peoples.

"To develop friendly relations is not only a set policy of our two governments, but also a common wish of the people of our

two countries," Hu said. "The new generation of Chinese leadership will follow the principle of treating neighbours as friends and partners, and work with the Thai side so that our bilateral relations can grow to higher levels."

On his part, King Bhumibol Adulyadej said that Thailand and China have valued friendship since ancient times, and that the two nations and the two peoples are enjoying even closer and more sincere ties than any time in the past.

The King said he believed that Hu's visit will further consolidate friendship and cooperation between the two states.

Following the meeting, Hu and his wife attended a welcome banquet hosted by the King and Queen.

Also on Friday, Hu met with President of the Thai National Assembly Uthai Pimchaichon. Hu said he hoped that exchanges between the legislatures of China and Thailand will be intensified.

MNA/Xinhua

South Africa bill to crack down harder on smokers

CAPE TOWN, 19 Oct — South Africa moved on Friday to tighten already tough laws on smoking, proposing new legislation raising anti-smoking fines and requiring picture warnings on cigarette boxes.

"We have a responsibility to ensure that children don't start smoking, to protect non-smokers from passive smoking and to help smokers quit," Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang said in a statement.

Peter Ucko, director for the South African National Council Against Smoking, told Reuters recent statistics showed 25,000 people die a year from tobacco and smoking-related illnesses in the country.

The proposed laws would put South Africa "near the top of the legal requirements" for smoking internationally, he added.

The World Health Organization (WHO) welcomed the bill. "I am very proud of the country's strong tobacco efforts, and this bill raises the bar in terms of tobacco control legislation globally. The country is an example to others in terms of political commitment for the tobacco epidemic," WHO country representative Dr Welile Shasha said in

a statement. The bill, which is subject to public comment for 30 days, aims to ban descriptions of tobacco products such as "low-tar" and "light", raises the minimum age for cigarette sales from 16 to 18 years and prohibits the presence of children in designated smoking areas. It also proposes larger health messages on cigarette packets, including picture warnings, and imposes higher fines on pubs and restaurants flouting smoking laws.

The bill raises the fine for allowing persons to smoke in non-smoking areas from the current 200 to 20,000 rand (2,800 US dollars) for a first offence and 100,000 rand (14,000 US dollars) thereafter.

Currently smoking is prohibited in most public places, such as airports and malls, and smoking is only allowed in segregated sections of pubs and restaurants, provided this does not exceed 25 per cent of the establishment. — MNA/Reuters



Ajun, one of two black panther cubs that were born at the Wuppertal, western Germany, Zoo, on 30 August is pictured on the arm of zookeeper Tatjana Peters on 17 October, 2003. — INTERNET

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Six objectives of National Convention...

(from page 9)

To be able to deter the poppy cultivation effectively, poppy seeds handed over by the poppy growers were destroyed three times. The poppy seeds destroyed were 62,047 pyis. So, cultivation of potential 82,700 acres of poppy has been prevented.

Drug traffickers and drug abusers were exposed and arrested and effective action is being taken. The seized narcotic drugs were destroyed in this Pyidaungshu Sports Ground in the presence of diplomats and journalists.

Poppy substitute crops cultivation was introduced in the interest of former poppy growers. In the process, altogether 66,461 acres

of land in Shan State (North) were put under poppy substitute crops. In addition, a total of 1.76 million perennial saplings have been grown in 12 townships of Shan State (North).

At the same time, the New Destiny Project was introduced to be able to take measures for drug eradication effectively. In the fourth year of the first 5-year plan, progress has been made by a significant amount in cultivation of monsoon and cold season crops. This shows that the accusations concerning drug production and trafficking in Myanmar are totally untrue.

Unprecedented peace and tranquillity has pre-

vailed in the border areas where the majority of national races reside. An enduring State constitution is required for further development and for safeguarding the already restored peace and tranquillity.

Therefore, I, in conclusion, enthusiastically 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 the sense of Union Spirit.

Afterwards, on behalf of those in attendance at the mass rally, Kutkai Township Law Officer U Ti Khun Myat and Shan State (North) Women

Sports Association Secretary Daw Sao Tin Mya seconded the motion tabled by Kyaukse Township USDA Secretary Sai Naw Khan Oo calling for 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 tabled by Sai Naw Khan Oo.

The master of ceremonies announced the resolutions of the mass rally

for active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for the successful implementation of the seven policies and programmes.

The mass rally concluded by chanting the slogans.

MNA



THE SIXTEENTH ASEAN SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM)

THE SECOND ASEAN+CHINA SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM+CHINA)

THE SECOND ASEAN+JAPAN SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM+JAPAN)

ATM RETREAT

THE NINTH ASEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM)

THE SECOND ASEAN+CHINA TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM+CHINA)

THE FIRST ASEAN+JAPAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM+JAPAN)

20-25 OCTOBER 2003

YANGON, MYANMAR

WHO launches guidelines on reducing drownings

GENEVA, 19 Oct — Hundreds of thousands of drownings could be prevented each year through simple preventive tools, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday, launching guidelines for safe recreational water environment.

Beaches and bodies of water failed to meet safety standards, which became a worldwide public health problem that made people ill, cause disability and death, said the WHO.

The guidelines cover drowning and injury, exposure to cold, heat and sunlight, water quality, contamination of beach sand and exposure to algae, chemical and physical agents, and dangerous aquatic organisms.

The WHO said using of the guidelines could make swimming, fishing, walking, wading, birdwatching, sunbathing and picnicking safer.

"About 400,000 people die each year by drowning worldwide, yet, the vast majority of drowning incidents, along with many other aquatic injuries, are preventable," said B Chris Brewster, vice-president of International Life Saving Federation.

"The adoption of these uniform guidelines for management of recreational waters for safety can be expected to significantly reduce untimely loss of life and suffering globally," he added.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese man looks at a gold-plated model of Shenzhou V spacecraft which is for sale at RMB 1000 yuan (\$120) in Beijing on 17 October, 2003. China's Press gushed with pride on Friday after the country became the third to send a man into space and back, pronouncing the feat as a step towards technological supremacy — but not towards becoming a military powerhouse. — INTERNET

Iran says it has no plans to build nuclear arms

PUTRAJAYA (Malaysia), 19 Oct — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said on Friday his country had no plans to build nuclear weapons and predicted that it would reach an agreement on its nuclear programme with the UN atomic watchdog.

Khatami, speaking on the sidelines of an Islamic summit in Malaysia, said Iran did not rule out signing the Additional Protocol of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on snap inspections but insisted on respect for his country's rights.

"We have no intention to build nuclear weapons," Khatami told reporters, adding that while Iran was cooperating with the UN nuclear inspectors, it was on its guard against any threat from the outside.

"We continue to cooperate with the agency," he said, referring to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"It is not in our defence strategy to develop a nuclear bomb," he said, adding: "Iran is a defender of making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone."

The UN nuclear watchdog chief said on Thursday Iran had vowed to answer outstanding concerns about its nuclear programme and was willing to accept tougher inspections of sites, where Washington says bombs could be made.

"We are going to do everything within the legal framework of the agency," Khatami said on the last day of the two-day summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing ready for World Tourism Organization meeting

BEIJING, 19 Oct — The World Tourism Organization (WTO) will open its biennial session this weekend in the Chinese capital to discuss how to boost global tourism, especially the industry in China and other SARS-affected regions in Asia.

The 15th session of the WTO General Assembly scheduled meeting marked the organization's support for China and other Asian countries' travel industries, which suffered severe setbacks earlier this year due to the SARS outbreak, Francesco Frangialli, secretary-general of the WTO, said in summer when the organization agreed to meet in China.

Most of the 70 tourism ministers and nearly 1,000 representatives from 130 countries planning to partici-

pate in the meeting had arrived in Beijing by Friday, said a source from the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA).

The Chinese Government treated the assembly as an important opportunity to revive China's tourism after SARS, said Sun Gang, deputy director of the CNTA.

Frangialli said China was expected to replace France as the most popular destination for international tourists, despite the influence of SARS.

He also predicted that Asia's tourism would have strong momentum for development in the second half of this year.

China's week-long National Day holiday from October 1 this year proved the strong momentum. From

October 1 to 7, China received nearly 900 million domestic and foreign tourists, up 11.5 per cent from the same period of last year, bringing a record of 34.6 billion yuan (4.2 billion US dollars), up 13.1 per cent.

Beijing, the area most severely affected by SARS, attracted 38,300 tourists in first seven days in October.

Lu Changcheng, police chief of Beijing Capital Airport, described the holiday week as the busiest period for the airport in recent years.

A total of 5,622 aircraft took off and landed at the airport, serving 69,000 passengers in all, Lu said. "On the peak day, altogether 875 aircraft flew in and out, more than one flight each minute," Lu added.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam seeks ways to boost rice export

HANOI, 19 Oct — Officials and experts at the Conference on World Rice Commerce 2003 have offered proposals for boosting Vietnam's rice export.

Measures should be taken to seek new export markets for Vietnamese rice while attaching importance to the big traditional ones such as Iraq, Iran, the Philippines and Indonesia, President of the Vietnam Food Association Truong Thanh Phong told Xinhua on the sidelines of the conference on Friday.

Besides, the government should provide money for building more bonded warehouses and implementing export promotion activities to potential markets such as Brazil and Chile, Phong said.

Officials at the two-day conference, which concluded Friday, said that the country should also call for foreign investment in the fields of processing and exporting rice.

Local enterprises were urged to build their trademark, intensify marketing activities and enhance cooperation in technology and market accession methods with major rice exporters in the world.

Vietnam is expected to produce 34.2 million tons of rice in 2004, and export 3.8-4 million tons.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Monaco go two points clear after salvaging draw

PARIS, 19 Oct—A right-foot rocket from midfielder Ludovic Giuly earned Ligue 1 leaders Monaco a 1-1 home draw against AJ Auxerre on Saturday and increased their lead at the top to two points.

Second-placed Olympique Marseille were thrashed 4-1 at Racing Strasbourg on Friday. Marseille are two points clear of Paris St. Germain whose 5-1 defeat of bottom side Le Mans included two goals from Portugal striker Pauleta and two from strike partner Fabrice Florese. Nantes are equal with PSG on 19 points after a 3-1 win at Metz but champions Olympique Lyon could only draw 1-1 at home to Sochaux and are one point further back.

Auxerre were the better side in the first half against a Monaco side robbed of several players by injury and suspension including defenders Dayo Oshadogan, Gael Givet and Patrice Evra.

Bonaventure Kalou scored for Auxerre in the sixth minute with a fine solo goal but Giuly earned Monaco a deserved point 13 minutes from time. Le Mans opened the scoring at the Parc des Princes with only their second goal of the season, and their first for more than 610 minutes. But they were then swept away by PSG and have three points and no victories after 10 games.

MNA/Reuters



Brescia soccer star Roberto Baggio, left, competes for the ball with Inter Milan defender Ivan Cordoba of Colombia during their Italian first division soccer match at the Brescia Mario Rigamonti stadium, Italy, on 18 October, 2003.—INTERNET

Deportivo go top after 2-0 win away to Barcelona

MADRID, 19 Oct—Goals from Albert Luque and Sergio gave Deportivo Coruna a 2-0 win at Barcelona that sent them top of the Primera Liga on Saturday, while champions Real Madrid stayed in touch thanks to a 2-0 away to Celta Vigo.

Depor's two Barcelona-born players scored in each half to secure victory at the Nou Camp for the second season in a row.

Earlier in the evening well taken goals in each half from Brazilian duo Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos earned Real Madrid a comfortable win over goal shy Celta at a rain-soaked Balaidos.

Saturday's results mean Deportivo lead the table with 18 points from seven

matches, two ahead of Real and Valencia, who led the standings before the weekend's matches and can reclaim top spot if they win at home to bottom club Espanyol on Sunday.

Barca started strongly against Depor but, despite some sparkling individual play from Ronaldinho, they were unable to find a way past their opponents' well-drilled defence.

It was former Barcelona

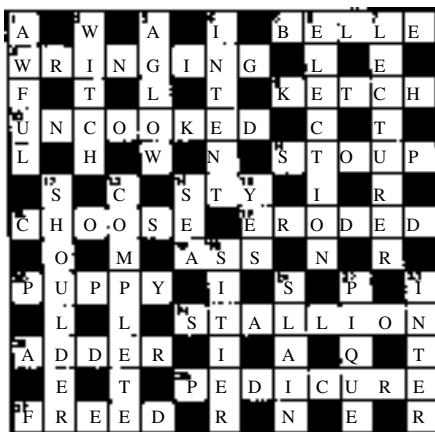
ball-boy Luque who opened the way to Depor's victory when he got his foot to a fine curling pass from defender Joan Capdevila four minutes before the break.

Sergio made sure of the win when he drilled in from the edge of the area after playmaker Juan Carlos Valeron had carved open the Barca defence and cut back a perfect pass into his path.

A second successive defeat means that Barca, who have yet to win a league match at their own stadium this season are now nine points adrift of the leaders.

The game at Vigo began in cagey fashion as the teams sized each other up in midfield in the first 10 minutes, but with Zinedine Zidane at the helm it did not take long for Real to get into their stride.

The Frenchman combined well with Ronaldo before firing a shot across the face of the goal following a David Beckham free kick on 11 minutes and Raul was denied an opener when Cavallero blocked a sharp effort soon after.—MNA/Reuters

Answer for yesterday's Cross Puzzle**Ferguson happy to let Barthez leave**

MANCHESTER (England), 19 Oct—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson will allow France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez to return to Olympique Marseille to prevent his career from coming to a standstill.

Ferguson has sanctioned a loan deal, which is set to go ahead subject to ratification from FIFA, after installing Tim Howard as his first-choice goalkeeper at Old Trafford.

"The reason that I was happy to let the move go through, bearing in mind it leaves me with just the two experienced goalkeepers, is that in fairness to Fabien, the longer he's going to be at Manchester without getting a game is going to be a problem for him," Ferguson told a news conference on Friday.

"He's got to speak to Marseille. We've progressed a situation which they approached us (about) a couple of days ago. There are just one or two things to be ironed out.

"(He (Barthez) is a terrific goalkeeper, one of the best in the world, but just by opportunity Tim Howard has taken the number one. Roy Carroll has done nothing wrong so therefore I am being fair all round to everyone.

"Fabien understood that, but it's not easy, and that's why I'm happy for him to get his opportunity at Marseilles and hopefully he

will do very well."

Ferguson signed Barthez, 32, from Monaco for a world record fee of 7.8 million pounds in 2000.

He twice helped United win the Premier League title but lost his place this season following the 2.3 million-pound signing of United States international Howard from New York MetroStars.

"When we signed Tim we did think he was going to challenge for the position, we didn't think he was going to be as good. He has been absolutely outstanding since he came to the club," Ferguson added.

Manchester United face a trip to Leeds United on Saturday.

Leeds have endured a difficult start to the season but Ferguson believes manager Peter Reid, who was almost sacked earlier this month, is handling the situation well.

"I don't think anyone could do that job better than Peter Reid," Ferguson said. "He's done a fantastic job there. His experience and determination has shown on the pitch.

"It's never easy but our record there is quite good and we go there in good form."

MNA/Reuters

Miccoli double keeps Juventus on top

MILAN, 19 Oct—Two goals from Fabrizio Miccoli helped champions Juventus to a 3-2 win at Ancona on Saturday while Inter Milan needed an 87th-minute penalty from Christian Vieri to come back for a 2-2 draw at Brescia.

Leaders Juventus move three points clear of AC Milan who host Lazio on Sunday.

Inter, now without a win in four games in Serie A, are in sixth place.

Italy international Miccoli, given the nod ahead of David Trezeguet in attack, put Juve on their way in the 29th minute with a shot that Vincenzo Sommese tried in vain to stop with his hand on the line.

Gianluca Zambrotta made it 2-0 a minute before the break with a fine shot from the edge of the area after a smartly-worked corner.

The game looked over five minutes into the second

half when Miccoli stooped to head home a Zambrotta cross for Juve's third but then Marcello Lippi's side took their foot off the gas and let Serie A's bottom club back into the game.

Substitute Maurizio Ganz' corner was headed home by William Viali in the 57th minute and then former Milan and Inter forward Ganz struck the post.

Ancona's veteran forward Dario Hubner had a goal disallowed for offside and Ganz felt he should have had a penalty as the home side enjoyed plenty of pressure.

But it was injury time when Ganz pulled another back with a cool finish and

that left little time to really scare Juventus who now have five wins from the opening six matches of the season.

Inter had to fight back from two goals down at Brescia in full knowledge that a defeat would have piled the pressure on their much criticized coach Hector Cuper.

Former European Player of the Year Roberto Baggio opened the scoring for Brescia, against his old club, in the 21st minute by tapping into an empty net after Inter keeper Francesco Toldo had made a hash of a header back from defender Jeremie Brechet.

MNA/Reuters

Upset Barthez hopes move sealed early next week

PARIS, 19 Oct—France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez hopes his nine-month loan to Olympique Marseille from Manchester United will be signed early next week.

Barthez, who arrived in Marseille on Friday, issued a statement on Saturday saying he was "a bit disappointed" that Marseille had published an interview with him on their website before the deal had been settled.

"There are still some things to sort out and not just minor ones, like getting FIFA's authorization," he said in a statement on his web site. "The moment to talk has not yet arrived."

But he added: "I hope that at the beginning of next week it will all be sorted."

MNA/Reuters



Celta de Vigo's Juan Francisco Garcia 'Juanfran', background, tries to kick the ball from Real Madrid's English player David Beckham in a Spanish first division soccer match in Vigo, Spain, on 18 October, 2003.—INTERNET

Six objectives of National Convention...

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disintegrate the State were prevented. Various armed groups with different ideology and racialism who had been fighting against each other due to evil legacy of colonialism returned to the legal fold after realizing the goodwill of the Tatmadaw government.

They are now taking part in regional development tasks and as a result peace prevails in the border areas. Based on strong unity, nation-building forces have been organized. These are the significant achievements of the Tatmadaw government in Myanma history.

On behalf of the people, I would like to show my support of measures taken with goodwill by the State Peace and Development Council to pave the way for democracy for the State.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance saying that whatever system a country practises there needs a State Constitution, which must perpetually serve the interest of the entire people.

As the future policies and programmes of the Prime Minister and guidance given by the Head of State are indivisible, I would like to present again that it is a

tution 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 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 organs formed by the Hluttaw.

The National Convention which is vital for the State commenced in 1993. The Convention was composed of representatives-elect, representatives from the national races, national races leaders who had returned to the legal fold, intellectuals and intelligentsia, service personnel and people from various strata in the country. However, in 1995, the National League for Democracy, decided to ignore the future of the country and placed the attitude and wishes of an individual and the interests of its own party above the national cause, walked out of the convention. Therefore, reconvening of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996 is a must for building a democratic nation in Myanmar.

In the past, democracy was practised in Myanmar. We must learn weak points and strong points of that democracy. We must shape the future of the nation according to our country's historical background and objective conditions.

The Constitution is of vital importance for the State. The constitution drawn in 1947 lasted for 14 years and the one drawn in 1974 for only 14 years. It can be said that it was due to their weaknesses.

Therefore, attention must



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

be paid to the emergence of an enduring State Constitution.

The Union of Myanmar is home to over one hundred national races who have been living in the union in unity and weal or woe since years countable by the thousand. Therefore, Union Spirit is very important for national unity.

As regards Union Spirit, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance, saying, "Union Spirit is the patriotism of the national races, who are the descendants of a single stock, and living in the same land and partaking water from the same source, since time immemorial, to live in amity and unity through thick and thin and weal or woe."

Therefore, based on Union Spirit and patriotism, measures are to be taken for reconvening of the National Convention and drafting of a constitution with the aim of establishment of discipline-flourishing democracy.

It can be vividly seen that the six objectives of the National Convention which commenced in 1993—Non-disintegration of the Union; Non-disintegration of the national solidarity; Perpetuation of national sovereignty; Flourishing of a genuine multi-party democratic system; 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—are the guiding lights for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation.

I would like to present here that the National Convention represents the whole national people as well as it is a forum in which deliberations are to be made in the interests of the entire people.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all the national people to actively participate with full sense of Union Spirit and patriotism in the successful implementation of the seven-point policy and programme.

Kyaukse Township USDA Secretary Saing Naw Kham Oo tabled a motion, calling for active participation of the entire people with Union Spirit in the tasks for accomplishment of the State's seven future policies and programmes by doing their bit.

He said that the Prime Minister on 30 August delivered an address, which is crucially important for the Union, home to the national people.

The address consists of three parts. The first part deals with all-round development of the nation, the second part with the State's political developments and the third part with the seven future policies and programmes for building up a modern developed democratic nation.

When the Tatmadaw as-

sumed the State's duties, it gave first priority to national reconsolidation, community peace and tranquillity, and prevalence of law and order. Simultaneously, it took systematic measures for construction of economic, social and development infrastructures which assure emergence of a modern developed nation with strong national economic strength after laying down plans phase by phase.

In the speech, the Prime Minister made clarifications on all-round development of the State, saying that it can be seen that today, due to the efforts of the government based on the strength and capabilities of its own national resources and active participation of the entire people, the Union of Myanmar is on the right path for development. Moreover, sound foundations and fruitful results are being attained in respect of the fundamentals for national unity, basic infrastructures for national economic progress, for national development, for social development, as well as in technology.

He made further clarifications on the Prime Minister's speech, saying that beginning from 1986, the State's economy had declined annually and in the 1988-89 financial year, the nation's GDP was only over K47,000 million, which was at the lowest point.

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Kyaukse Township USDA Secretary Saing Naw Kham Oo tables a motion. MNA



Kutkai Township Law Officer U Ti Khun Myat seconds the motion. MNA

In building a genuine democratic State,

- (1) Human Resource
- (2) Natural Resource
- (3) Capital
- (4) Technology
- (5) Stable Work Environment

are the main requirements. Today, thanks to the concerted efforts of the leaders of the State, the above-mentioned facts have been realized. Therefore, the Prime Minister laid down the future policies and programmes.

proper arrangement.

Steps mentioned in the Prime Minister's speech are as follows:

- (1) Reconvening of the National 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 consti-



People in attendance chanting slogans at the mass rally in support of the address of the Prime Minister on the State's seven-point roadmap. — MNA