

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 189

12th Waning of Thadingyut 1365 ME

Wednesday, 22 October, 2003

**The Union of Myanmar
The State Peace and Development Council
(Order No 13/2003)**

**11th Waning of Thadingyut 1365 ME
(21st October 2003)**

**National Convention Convening
Management Committee reconstituted**

To enable the National Convention Convening Commission to carry out its duties and responsibilities successfully and smoothly, the State Peace and Development Council has reconstituted the National Convention Convening Management Committee with the following personages:

National Convention Convening Management Committee

(1) Maj-Gen Lun Maung Auditor-General	Chairman	(6) Brig-Gen Thein Tun Deputy Minister Ministry of Industry-1	member
(2) Maj-Gen Than Htay Director of Supply and Transport	Vice-Chairman	(7) Dr Mya Oo Deputy Minister Ministry of Health	member
(3) Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu Deputy Minister Ministry of Hotels and Tourism	Vice-Chairman	(8) Brig-Gen Phone Swe Deputy Minister Ministry of Home Affairs	member
(4) Maj-Gen Thein Tun Director of Signals	member	(9) Col Nyan Tun Aung Deputy Minister Ministry of Transport	member
(5) Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun Vice-Quartermaster General	member		

(See page 2)

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

YANGON, 21 Oct — A mass rally was held in support of seven-point future policy and programme of the State at the sports ground at the foot of the Shwezigon Pagoda in the Bagan Archaeology Zone at 6.15 am today. Representatives of the national races from all the states and divisions of the Union of Myanmar approved the two resolutions — the one

tion Lt-Gen Soe Win and coordinator, general secretary and secretaries of the association, central executive committee members, chairmen and members of the Panel of Patrons of the mass rallies held in states and divisions, departmental heads of the Ministry of Education. Moreover, a total of 25,000 representatives from the Myanmar National Commit-

Government gently and smoothly transforming old policy into new one in accord with existing rules and regulations

Mass Rally in support of seven-point future policy and programme held in Bagan Archaeology Zone

calling for all the people to actively and enthusiastically participate with full Union Spirit in any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy and programme of the State; and the other to honour the State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the national races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved. Next, the mass rally announced the Bagan Declaration as the national goal — perpetuation of the Union, unity of the national races, emergence of a peaceful, modern development nation and building a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Present on the occasion were Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Associa-

tee for Women's Affairs, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women Entrepreneurs Association, Minglamay Women Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association, Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Dental Surgeons Association, Myanmar Nurses Association, Myanmar Floriculturists Association, Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association, Myanmar Rice Millers Association, Myanmar Rice Dealers Association, Myanmar Hoteliers Association, Union of Myanmar Travel Association, Construction Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Engineering Association, Myanmar War Veterans Association, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, and other representative from states and divisions.

U Mya Sein of Mandalay Division presided over the mass rally together with Duwa Khun Hsai of Kachin State, U Sayal Hla Pe of Kayah State, U Saw San Phoe Thin of Kayin State, Daw Nokatsai of Chin State, Dr Maung Htoo of Sagaing Division, Dr Daw Aye Aye Thein of Taninthayi Division, U Kyaw Myint Oo of Bago Division, Dr Than Myint of Magway Division, Dr Nyunt Lwin of Mandalay Division, Naing Win Maung of Mon State, U Hla Tha Tun of Rakhine State, Dr Daw Tin Win of Yangon Division, U Sai Aung Min of Shan State and U Nyunt Hlaing of Ayeyawady Division. Daw Theingi Aung of Mandalay Division acted as master of ceremonies together with Daw Thin Thin Oo of Mandalay Division.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 22 October, 2003

Let's strive for development of tourism industry

The Union of Myanmar has many places of interest for tourists. The Bagan region, the most ancient cultural site of the nation, is well-known for its thousands of pagodas, architectural designs and works of art and frescoes depicting the life style, mode of dress, customs and traditions of the Bagan period. Similarly, the City of Mandalay is famous for its ancient monasteries and religious edifices and the Inlay region for its vast natural lake with floating islands.

The coordination meeting on promotion of tourism industry was held at Zeya Thiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta in Yangon on the morning of 19 October and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addressed the meeting. In his address, the Prime Minister said that, as the Union of Myanmar already had a lot of potential for the development of tourism industry, it was only necessary for the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, other related ministries and tour operators to make concerted efforts.

The Prime Minister also noted that some countries did not have as much tourist attractions as ours but because they prepared and renovated the natural conditions in such a way as to attract the interest of tourists. Therefore, the tourist industry of these countries are booming and they are worth emulating, he added.

The tourist industry can promote the economy of the nation remarkably in so short a time. Not only that, it can help increase the income of hoteliers, tour operators and people from all walks of life including taxi drivers and street hawkers.

Therefore, we would like to call upon the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, other related ministries and travel agencies to draw systematic plans for greater development of the tourist industry and work together in implementing them so as to strengthen the national economy and promote the interests of the entire people.

Maha Janakka marionette contest held

YANGON, 21 Oct—The Maha Janakka marionette contest of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyauing Street today.

The contest was attended by Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Committee for holding the competitions Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, members of Panels of Patrons Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Chairman of the Work Committee for holding the competition Commander of No-3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan, Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo, officials of work committees and sub-committees and enthusiasts.

Shwebo Tin Aung, U Min

Kyaw Wai (University of Culture), U Khin Maung Htwe (University of Culture), U Tint Kyaw (University of Culture), U Kyaw Zeya (University of Culture), U Tun Tun Win (Fine Arts Department) and U Yan Lin Aung took part in the contests.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe enjoys the performance of Maha Janakka Drama given by Mandalay Division at the Maha Janakka Marionette Drama Competition. — MNA

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(from page 1)

(10) Col Hla Thein Swe Deputy Minister Ministry of Finance and Revenue	member	(26). U Hla Thauang Myint Director-General Road Transport Administration Department	member
(11) Brig-Gen Than Htay Deputy Minister Ministry of Energy	member	(27). U Nay Soe Naing Managing Director Public Works	member
(12) Brig-Gen Aung Tun Deputy Minister Ministry of Commerce	member	(28). U Maung Maung Tin Managing Director Myanma Posts and Telecommunications	member
(13) Lt-Col Pe Nyein Director-General State Peace and Development Council Office	member	(29). Col Than Aung Director of Medical Services	member
(14) U Soe Tint Director-General Government Office	member	(30). Col Wai Lwin Deputy Commander Yangon Command	member
(15) U Tun Tun Director-General Presidential Office	member	(31). Brig-Gen Myo Myint Commandant Defence Services Records Office	member
(16) Brig-Gen Khin Yi Director-General Myanmar Police Force	member	(32). U Myint Aung Secretary Yangon City Development Committee	member
(17) U Tun Hla Aung Director-General Bureau of Special Investigation	member	(33). Col Myint Aung Kyaw Ministry of Defence	member
(18) U Khin Maung Htay Director-General Myanma Radio and Television	member	(34). Col Khin Soe Ministry of Defence	member
(19) U Than Swe Director-General Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races	member	(35). Col Soe Myint Ministry of Defence	member
(20) U Ko Ko Kyaw Director-General Ministry of Foreign Affairs	member	(36). Col San Pwint Ministry of Defence	member
(21) Daw Thin Thin Director-General Auditor-General's Office	member	(37). Col Than Tun Directorate of Military Engineers	member
(22) Dr San Oo Managing Director Myanma Electric Power Enterprise	member	(38). Lt-Col Bo Lwin Commander of Indaing Station	member
(23) U Htay Aung Managing Director Myanma Hotels and Tourism Service	member	(39). U Khin Win Principal Union Solidarity and Development Training School	member
(24). U Khin Maung Aye Managing Director Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise	member	(40). U Win Myint Director Pyithu Hluttaw Office	member
(25). U Min Swe Managing Director Myanma Railways	member	(41). Maj Than Htay No 1 Motor Transport Battalion	Secretary
		(42). Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein Commanding Officer of No 2 Motor Transport Battalion	Joint-Secretary-1
		(43). Capt Maung Thein Staff Officer No-1 Motor Transport	Joint-Secretary-2

Sd/ Than Shwe
Senior General
Chairman

State Peace and Development Council

ASOD delegates tour Shan State

YANGON, 21 Oct— The 24th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) and ASEAN and China Cooperative operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) Task Force III (Law Enforcement) meeting under the aegis of ASEAN Secretariat and UNODC were held here from 14 to 16 October.

Delegates from ASEAN and UNODC, China, Belgium,

Germany, the Netherlands and ASEAN Secretariat and delegates of Italian, Japanese and US Embassies in Myanmar led by Director of International Relations of CCDAC Police Col Sit Aye studied anti-narcotic drugs measures in Lashio and Muse in northern Shan State from 17 to 19 October.

MNA



Severe conditions of poverty and deprivation provided fertile breeding ground for terrorists

The following are remarks made by representatives to the 7th and 8th meeting of the Sixth Committee of the 58th session of UNGA on 17 October.

Myanmar Ambassador U Wunna Maung Lwin said there was a real need for a comprehensive international convention to fight terrorism, despite the many existing anti-terrorist instruments.

Severe conditions of poverty and deprivation provided fertile breeding ground for terrorists. That link should not be forgotten. The international community must join together to combat it.

He said Myanmar had acceded to a number of major

anti-terrorist conventions, the most recent being the 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, and the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism.

It had also joined members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in fighting terrorism. He referred to the ASEAN and the European Union Joint Declaration on Cooperation to Combat Terrorism issued at the end of their recent ministerial meeting in Brussels, and reiterated Myanmar's firm commitment to fight terrorism in cooperation with the rest of the international community.

Myanmar Ambassador U Wunna Maung Lwin

တိုက်ရိုက်သုံးစုံ

Serious attention should be paid to the root causes of international terrorism

Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN Choisuren Baatar (Mongolia) said a global strategy, comprehensive approach and solid legal framework, as well as cooperation, were required to deal with the struggle against terrorism.

The United Nations was well placed to play a central role in that struggle.

He hoped all States would display political will, wisdom and flexibility for a compromise to be achieved in the negotiations on the comprehensive convention against terrorism and the convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

He said serious attention should be paid to the root causes of international terrorism, and added that the United Nations should undertake a study on that.

The fight against international terrorism should not become justification for violations of human and civil rights. Without a clear-cut legal definition of terrorism, there was danger that that fight could easily become a terror itself.

Mongolia had consistently condemned all forms of terrorism and had taken a range of measures to deal with the problem. It had also become party to all the global multilateral instruments relating to terrorism.

Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UN Choisuren Baatar (Mongolia)

Terrorism would not succeed, says Morocco

Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations Karim Medrek said that recent events had highlighted, more than ever, the threats posed to international peace and security by terrorism.

Morocco itself had, on 16 May, been a victim. The entire nation had spontaneously joined in condemning the heinous act, and the country's resolve to build a democratic society had not been shaken.

Terrorism would not succeed, and Morocco would remain faithful to its international obligations.

It had acceded to all international instruments related to terrorism, and had presented reports on measures taken by the government to combat terrorism as required under Security Council resolution 1373.

He said Morocco supported the convening of an international conference to consider terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations Karim Medrek

All States must become party to international anti-terrorist instruments

Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea to the UN Hahn Myung-Jae said his country condemned all acts of terrorism as unjustified, wherever they occurred and whoever committed them.

He called for political will and a spirit of compromise by States to deal with the threat they posed.

All States must become party to international anti-terrorist instruments.

His country had this year acceded to eight of the 12 sectoral United Nations conventions and protocols related to terrorism.

It had submitted the remaining two to its parliament for ratification. He stressed the need for international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea to the UN Hahn Myung-Jae

The issue of terrorism should not push development off the international agenda

Counsellor Albert Hoffmann (South Africa) said that, in fighting terrorism, it was important to focus on the root causes and to develop strategies to address them.

Concerted efforts must be made to end perennial conflicts such as the conflict in the Middle East.

South Africa also felt the international campaign against terrorism should include a worldwide joint commitment to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment.

The issue of terrorism should not push development off the international agenda, he said, and the global war against terrorism should not be conducted at the expense of human rights, civil liberties and the rule of law.

The main task of the Sixth Committee was to elaborate a comprehensive international legal framework to combat terrorism.

This framework had been immeasurably strengthened through the adoption of the existing conventions and the almost universal acceptance that some of them had already attained.

It was necessary to resolve the outstanding issues relating to both the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

Counsellor Albert Hoffmann (South Africa)

The United Nations should play the leading role in the fight against terrorism

Mr Geraldo Saranga, Associate Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique said terrorism continued to pose a threat to international peace and security, and was a major impediment to development, freedom and democracy.

The fight against it should be global, and should never be understood as a conflict between nations, religions or civilizations.

Mozambique was fully committed to combat the scourge. It believed the United Nations was the most appropriate and effective forum to address the problem

and should play the leading role in the fight against it.

Last February, Mozambique deposited with the Secretary-General another set of four sectoral instruments against terrorism covering the punishment of crimes against internationally protected persons, the taking of hostages, terrorist bombings and financing of terrorism.

He urged cooperation from all States on outstanding issues in the negotiations for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Mr Geraldo Saranga, Associate Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique

Attempt to tackle terrorism must include an identification of the root causes

Allieu I Kanu (Sierra Leone), who is also a Vice-Chairman of the Sixth Committee, reiterated his delegation's view that a successful attempt to tackle terrorism must include an identification of the root causes, and a genuine and concerted effort to address them.

A unilateral, selective or one-dimensional approach to the problem might yield temporary results. A permanent solution was required. He said Sierra Leone supported all United Nations measures to deal with the scourge of terrorism.

He listed the measures his government had taken in response to Security Council anti-terrorism resolution 1373. Sierra Leone had signed, ratified and acceded to all the major sectoral conventions on international terrorism, he said, and domestic legislation mandated, among other provisions, protection of the State against threats of espionage, sabotage, terrorism, hijacking, drug trafficking, money-laundering and other serious crimes.

Despite all the measures already taken by the international community to combat terrorism, Sierra Leone believed there was an urgent need for work on the two anti-terrorist conventions before the Ad Hoc Committee to be completed — the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

Allieu I Kanu (Sierra Leone), Vice-Chairman of the Sixth Committee

Paper says US Army unit targeted civilians in Vietnam

TOLEDO (Ohio), 21 Oct—A US Army unit known as Tiger Force committed numerous war crimes during the Vietnam War, including killing scores of unarmed civilians, but an investigation was closed with no charges being brought, *The Blade* newspaper reported on Sunday.

The Blade said it found the Army had investigated the unit for 4-1/2 years, and found 18 soldiers had committed war crimes. But the Army filed no charges, and allowed soldiers who were under suspicion of committing war crimes to resign.

The newspaper said the accusations against the unit included killing women and children, torturing prisoners and severing ears and scalps for souvenirs.

The paper said the Army's investigation of Tiger Force found 27 soldiers who said the severing of ears from dead Vietnamese was an accepted practice. One soldier told the newspaper that troops would wear necklaces of ears to scare Vietnamese civilians.

A Pentagon spokesman, reading from a prepared statement, told *Reuters* on Sunday: "Absent new and compelling evidence there are no plans to

reopen the case. The case is more than 30 years old."

"The CID (Criminal Investigation Department) findings were submitted to proper authorities, the suspect's commanders.

Those commanders considered the CID findings and acted within their authority in deciding there was insufficient evidence of alleged crimes to successfully prosecute in a court-martial trial."

The unit of 45 paratroopers was assigned to spy on enemy forces in Vietnam's Quang Ngai and Quang Nam provinces between May and November 1967, the newspaper said. Unit members told the newspaper that they faced frequent sniper fire and guerilla attacks, with dozens of soldiers wounded and some killed.

In some areas, so-called "free fire

zones" were declared by the US Army, allowing soldiers to attack enemy forces without direct orders from commanders.

"We were living day to day. We didn't expect to live. Nobody out there with any brains expected to live," unit member William Doyle told *The Blade* in an interview. "So you did any goddamn thing you felt like doing — especially to stay alive. The way to live is to kill because you don't have to worry about anybody who's dead."

According to *The Blade*, two soldiers who tried to stop the atrocities were warned by their commanders to remain quiet before transferring to other units.

The Blade said it based its stories on interviews with more than 100 Tiger Force members and Vietnamese civilians, as well as thousands of government documents, some still classified.

MNA/Reuters

ဝက်သ္မန်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Activists protest in Bangkok as Bush meets Thaksin

BANGKOK, 21 Oct—Several hundred activists chanted anti-US slogans and waved banners against the war in Iraq on the streets of Bangkok on Sunday as President George W Bush held talks with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Police made no move to block the demonstrators, who were dressed in red T-shirt and marched out of Chulalongkorn University to a city shopping centre some one mile from Bush's hotel.

"Bush get out of Asia," said artist Vasan Sitthiket, one of the protesters.

Others held banners reading: "America, Axis of Evil" and "George W Bush Wanted Dead or Alive."

Thailand's teeming capital has been under tight security for Bush's visit and the summit.

Thaksin, a former policeman, ordered the removal of the homeless from Bangkok's streets and the city's notorious girlie bars were told to tone down their acts. Police say the will not allow protesters to come near any to the visit leaders.—MNA/Reuters

Britain cancels royal procession for Bush amid protest fears

LONDON, 21 Oct—Plans for US President George W Bush to make a triumphant procession during his state visit to Britain next month have been abandoned by the British Government for fear of anti-war protests, the *British Sunday Telegraph* newspaper reported on Sunday.

The decision, taken by Downing Street after consultations with Buckingham Palace, the White House and Scotland Yard, has disappointed Bush and his senior aides, the paper said.

"We are liaising with the White House and they have made no attempt to hide their disappointment. They saw it, obviously, as a great photo opportunity," an unnamed senior Buckingham Palace official was quoted as saying. Although detailed plans had been made for the royal parade which is traditionally the public high point of a state visit, "Downing Street, anxious about possible anti-war protests from the start, has now decided to pull the plug on it", the official said.

According to the paper, Bush would instead travel by helicopter to avoid protesters who line road routes and would not address the British Parliament for fear of a boycott by some British lawmakers.

The report comes after British anti-war campaigners this week voiced determination to make a protest during the first full state visit of an American President since the British Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne 52 years ago. Stop the War Coalition, one of various groups planning protests during Bush's visit from November 19 to November 21, said that "wherever he is, from the moment he arrives to the moment he goes, there will be protests of one sort or another."—MNA/Xinhua



A protest slogan is stuck on the forehead of a young protester during a demonstration in Bangkok on 19 October, 2003. Several hundred activists chanted anti-US slogans and waved banners against the war in Iraq as President George W Bush attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the Thai capital.—INTERNET

Chinese, Russian Presidents discuss Iraq, Korean nuclear issue

BANGKOK, 21 Oct—Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian President Vladimir Putin met here Sunday over Iraq, the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and bilateral ties.

The two leaders agreed that in seeking to resolve the Iraq problem, consideration should be given to the long-term interests of the Iraqi people and to lasting peace and stability in the Middle East and the Gulf region.

They also shared the view that the political will of the Iraqi people and their independent choices should be respected.

The task of top priority now is the early return of stability and social order to Iraq, the early realization of "Iraqis governing Iraq", and the maintenance of Iraq's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The two presidents, who are here to attend the 11th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, agreed that the new resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council on Iraq is conducive to resolving the Iraq issue within the UN framework.

They pledged to continue their close contacts and strengthen their coordination so as to push for a greater role for the United Nations on addressing regional and global issues.—MNA/Xinhua

WFP delivers two million tons of food to Iraq

GENEVA, 21 Oct — The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) announced Monday that a staggering two million tons of food have now been delivered to Iraq since its emergency operation started on April 1.

"This is the largest amount of food assistance ever delivered in a single emergency operation over such a brief period," said WFP Executive Director James Morris.

"The task of providing such volumes

of food aid to the entire population of Iraq, 27 million people, over seven months is an incredible achievement carried out under very difficult circumstances," he added.

MNA/Xinhua



US Army soldiers secure the area after assailants ambushed a US Army foot patrol outside Fallujah on 21 October, 2003.—INTERNET

Philippine trade deficit on rise

MANILA, 21 Oct—Philippine trade deficit in the first eight months this year rose to about 1.91 billion US dollars this year, compared to 513 million US dollars last year, the Philippines' National Statistics Office said Monday.

Merchandise imports for the first eight months this year are up 6.1 per cent from a year earlier to about 24.91 billion US dollars, while exports are 0.2 per cent higher to about 23 billion US dollars, the office said in a statement.

For August alone, imports fell 8.5 per cent from a year earlier to about 3.11 billion US dollars, continuing a mixed trend for the year, it added.—MNA/Xinhua

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



Two American soldiers were killed and one was wounded in an ambush in the guerrilla zone north of Baghdad, the US military reported Sunday. The attack with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire occurred at 10.45 pm Saturday outside the northern city of Kirkuk, 160 miles north of Baghdad, said Maj. Josslyn Aberle, spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division.—INTERNET



American-led forces surrounded the headquarters of a militant Shiite leader near one of Islam's most revered shrines Karbala yesterday and set up road-blocks to prevent more of his supporters from entering the town centre a day after three US soldiers were killed in a firefight with his bodyguards.

INTERNET



A US Army soldier guards the remains of a burned out military ammunition truck after it was attacked in Fallujah, Iraq, Sunday, on 19 October, 2003, 35 miles (60 kms) west of Baghdad.

INTERNET



US Marines with the Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division out of Camp Pendleton, Cal. search a tanker ship at Khor Zubair, southern Iraq, while conducting oil smuggling control operations with British forces on 18 October, 2003.—Internet



A vehicle believed to be a US ammunition truck explodes, in this image made from television, after it was attacked in Fallujah, Iraq, Sunday morning on 19 October, 2003, 35 miles (60 kms) west of Baghdad. There were no reports of casualties.—INTERNET



Iraqi's celebrate with a burned out rocket while cheering and dancing atop a burned out US Army military ammunition truck after it was attacked in Fallujah, Iraq, Sunday, on 19 October, 2003, 35 miles (60 kms) west of Baghdad. — INTERNET

Government gently...

(from page 16)

The government could take measures for the return of the 17 national race armed groups to the legal fold and accomplished the border areas development projects.

Braving the destructive acts and sanctions imposed by internal and external destructive elements, the government enlisting the united strength of the national races thoroughly and steadfastly has implemented the objectives in building up a democratic nation appropriate for the nation and the people.

Today's government taking up the State's duties is military Government in form, but it is in essence the government that is gently and smoothly transforming from old system into new one in accord with the existing rules and regulations.

In the third part, the Prime Minister made clarifications on the State's seven-point roadmap necessary for implementing the nation's goal — building up a discipline-flourishing modern and developed nation.

Among the seven points, the first one — Reconvening of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996 — is the most impor-

tory and giving priority to the interests of the nation and the people based on basic good foundations and opportune time.

He said that he would like to hold the respective representatives responsible for handing down good heritages to new generations to become good citizens of a discipline-flourishing modern developed nation through the bitter experiences encountered by the people.

He spoke of the need of the people to collectively take measures for creation of tranquil and peaceful environs while the National Convention is being held.

All the national races are to be on the correct path to constantly accomplish national goal — building up a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation — in cooperation with the Tatmadaw Government.

He quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in the message of the 52nd Union Day, as saying that **whatever system the nation practises, it needs a State Constitution which guarantees perpetual interest of the entire people.**

In the fourth step, it is necessary to vote for the constitution (draft) wisely at the

The seven-point roadmap is the correct national path leading to a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

tant stage. An enduring State Constitution will emerge only after the basic principles, which serve the interests of the nation and the people, are drafted to the full satisfaction of all the representatives.

He expressed his belief that respective representatives without subjectivity and sectarianism will carry out tasks in loyalty taking lessons from the nation's his-

tory of national referendum for approval for future posterity.

In the fifth step, it is necessary for the people to elect Hluttaw representatives with goodwill and good qualifications needed for the future State without subjectivity and sectarianism when holding free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution.

The presiding chairman and members seen at the mass rally. — MNA



Members of the USDA seen marching to the mass rally. — MNA

In the seventh step, in building a modern developed democratic nation with the Head of State elected by the Hluttaw, government and organs of power formed by the Hluttaw all are urged to actively and unitedly participate in the respective roles under the leadership of the elected leaders.

He expressed his belief that the mass rally in Bagan would pass important resolu-

tions for success of the seven-point plan preserving and safeguarding the already-achieved national development and stability and peace.

In conclusion, the seven-point roadmap is the correct national path leading to a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation, and so he called on the entire people to actively participate in the tasks with full Union spirit

in their respective role while preserving and safeguarding the progress achieved and endeavours for building up a peaceful, modern developed democratic nation.

Daw Bauk Ja of Kachin State tabled a motion, calling for all the people of the national races to participate actively and enthusiastically with full Union spirit in any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State. First, she said that she was very proud of having a chance to table a motion at Bagan Archaeological Zone which possesses a great historical tradition.

With the aim of developing the Union of Myanmar to be on a par with nations of the world, strengthening national economic life and raising the living standard of the entire citizens, the State Peace and Development

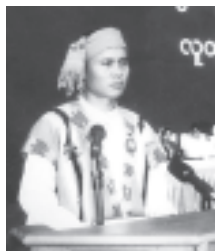
Council is striving for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In doing so, national unity and non-disintegration of the Union plays a vital role. That is why the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — has been laid down.

When it assumed the State duties in 1988, the State Law and Order Restoration Council gave priority to peace and tranquillity in the country, law enforcement and national reconsolidation. With the existing peace, the rule of law and national unity, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt clarified the seven-point policy and programme of the State on 30 August 2003.

These seven-point policy and programme are—
(See page 7)



Daw Bauk Ja of Kachin State tabled a motion at the mass rally. — MNA



U Sa Shwe Zin Lat of Kayin State seconds the motion at the mass rally. — MNA



Nan Khin Hmwe of Shan State (North) tables a motion at the mass rally. — MNA



U Han Maung of Magway Division seconds the motion at the mass rally. — MNA



The mass rally in progress at the Sports Grounds in Bagan Archaeological Zone. — MNA



National races seen attending the mass rally. — MNA

Government gently...

(from page 6)

- (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 constitution in accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.
- (4) Adoption of the constitution through national referendum.
- (5) Holding of free and fair 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 successful implementation of the seven-point policy programme of the State and perpetuation of the Union is essential for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. To realize this goal, all will have to possess Union Spirit.

If we look back at the history of Myanmar we can find that the nation was strong and great when there was unity among national people.

In Bagan period, the First Myanmar Empire founded by King Anawrahta and centered in Bagan royal city was strong in terms of economy, social affairs, defence and culture. In the time of King Anawrahta, all the national people of Bagan city had striven for perpetuation of the nation and strengthening of the nation. Under the leadership of King Anawrahta, Buddha Sasana, culture and arts had flourished in the country in addition to defence, unity and economy.

King Anawrahta encouraged economic development

tasks effectively. In the time of King Anawrahta, dams were built for the development of agriculture.

As regards national defence, towns with a strength of one hundred thousand, ten thousand, one thousand and one hundred were established throughout the country. Moreover 43 garrison towns were founded. Due to such endeavours for national defence, the foundation of the First Myanmar Empire was very strong.

I would like to present

The successful implementation of the seven-point policy programme and perpetuation of the Union is essential for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

endeavours of King Kyansittha of Bagan period. In the time of King Kyansittha, the nation was guarded by military might. Moreover, politically, he made effort for further consolidation of national unity. During his reign, the people

southeast Asia and her cultural standard was high.

The Second Myanmar Empire was founded in Toungoo period under King Bayintnaung. Military power under the reign of King Bayintnaung was the greatest in southeast Asia.

Foreigners recorded the magnificence of Kanbawzathadi Palace, prosperity of the country and strong military power of the country as many merchants entered the country on board cargo ships from Taninthayi coast and northern and western parts of Malay peninsular. Na-

tional unity played a vital role in founding the Second Myanmar Empire in Toungoo period. In Konboun period, Alaungmintaya organized the whole country and founded the Third Myanmar Empire.

After organizing the whole country, King

who cherish independence, fought against the imperialists through various means, without yielding to the subjugation of the imperialists. All the national races, hand in hand with one another, fought for the independence. It was only through loss of lives, blood and sweat for many years that the country regained her independence.

In 1962, Tatmadaw had to safeguard the Union from the danger of disintegration.

Considering the experience of post-independence period, it became clear that the parliamentary democracy based on the 1947 constitution was not able to build national solidarity.

Due to the economic crisis of the country, disturbances of 1988 occurred under the incitement of the left-wing and right-wing destructive elements within and without the country. The Tatmadaw, forming the State Law and Order Restoration Council, again had to assume the State power on 18 September 1988 as the Un-



National races seen marching to the mass rally. — MNA

could live with peace of mind because there was national unity and peace all over the country. An order issued by King Kyansittha stated that he would provide food for the people with his right hand and clothes and equipment with his left hand. It indicated the attitude of the King towards the people.

The foundation of the First Myanmar Empire in the period of King Anawrahta and his successors was the result of national unity.

In terms of culture, progress in Myanmar literature and unity, Myanmar in Bagan dynasty was strong in

Alaungmintaya defeated British who tried to take a foothold in Haigyi Island.

A study of history shows that in the periods of Bagan, Toungoo and Konboun, the area of the nation was very vast and when the nation had unity among all the national brethren and she won the respects of the neighbouring countries. Therefore, Union Spirit and unity are invaluable.

At a time when national unity was weak, Myanmar was encroached by the British and she had gone under the servitude of the others.

Myanmars, being people

ion was on the brink of disintegration and anarchy.

From the very of its assumption of State duties, the Tatmadaw Government was able to restore the rule of law, and tranquillity and stability, and build socio-economic infrastructures essential for a modern and developed nation with sound economic might. It started to shape the multiparty system. It has undertaken the political changes that paved the way for transforming the country into genuine multiparty democracy phase by phase.

(See page 8)

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

အစုလိုက်ဝက်သက်ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုးနှံခြင်း
၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ အောက်တိုဘာလ (၁၉) ရက်မှ (၂၆) ရက်အထိ
(ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း၊ ဧရာဝတီတိုင်း၊ ချင်းပြည်နယ်နှင့်
ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်အတွင်းရှိ မြို့နယ်များအားလုံးတွင်
တစ်ချိန်တည်း တစ်ဖြိုင်တည်း ထိုးနှံပေးပါမည်။)
အသက် (၉)လမှ (၅)နှစ်အတွင်းရှိ
ကလေးငယ်များအားလုံး
နီးစပ်ရာ ကာကွယ်ဆေးထိုး စုရပ်များသို့
မမျက်မကွက် 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။

Government gently...

(from page 7)

The 1974 constitution became null and void when the country stopped practising socialist economic system and single party system, and introduced the market-oriented economic system and multiparty system.

The Tatmadaw Government believes that undertaking the tasks for regional development, emergence of economic infrastructures, and raising the living standard of the people after strengthening the national solidarity amounts to laying the foundation for democracy. In accordance with this conviction, border area and national races development projects were implemented for the national reconsolidation. At the same time, the Tatmadaw government was able to make arrangements for the return of national race armed groups to the legal fold through mutual understanding. Thanks to these efforts, 17 national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold. Now, leaders of the national race armed groups are contributing towards the regional development projects and building the development infrastructure of the entire nation.

Now the Union of Myanmar is on the right track for development thanks to the efforts of the government based on the strength of national forces and unity of the entire nation. There

Myanmar.

The seven-point future policy, in essence, is in accord with the four political objectives laid down by the State. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance that **stability of the State is essential for establishing a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. It is also required to strengthen the economy of the State and the citizenry. At the same time, intellectual level of the entire nation must always be high if democracy is to be kept alive and dynamic.** In conclusion, I resolutely support the motion calling on all the people of national races to participate actively and enthusiastically with full Union spirit in any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State.

Afterwards, U Sa Shwe Zin Latt seconded the motion calling on all the people of national races to participate actively and enthusiastically with full Union spirit on any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State. He said the Prime Minister clarified the very important policy for the Union on 30 August 2003, in which the seven-point future policy of the State is included. It is evident that drafting of a new constitution, adoption of the consti-

At present, a new constitution, that will guarantee the national brethren to live in peace through thick and thin in the Union, is needed.

have emerged various favourable conditions and results such as sound foundations for national solidarity, development infrastructure for national economic life, social infrastructure and technological development infrastructure all over the country. At such a time, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt clarified the seven-point policy for the emergence of a modern and developed democratic nation. The seven-point policy outlined by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt is the roadmap for advancing along the democratic path in agreement with the geography, culture and history of

tution through national referendum and holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) included in the seven-point future policy are correct political steps to be taken. The Tatmadaw government had unavoidably to take over the State's responsibilities when the Union was on the verge of disintegration. The government has not only restored the stability in the country but made efforts for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed one.

Here, I'd like to present the fact that democracy is to be shaped based on the historical background and ob-



Representatives of the entire mass of national people chant slogans at the mass rally. — MNA

jective conditions of the country concerned. It will not be possible to copy the democracy of another country. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe once pointed out that **the norms of human rights and democracy of western countries will not be the same as those of Asian countries. So, it is needed to choose the norms and democracy path that suit the traditions and customs our country and our people.**

I would like to thank the government for its far-sightedness in shaping the democracy system suitable to the historical background of our country and national character. On behalf of the people, I support the move.

At present, a new constitution, that will guarantee the national brethren to live in peace through thick and thin in the Union, is needed. The constitutions of the past were null and void because they had many weaknesses and did not serve the interests of the public. Taking lessons from these, the new constitution is needed to be the one that will last over thousands of years and brave and overcome the challenges of the future. So, I'd like to urge **all national people to patiently participate in the tasks for emergence of a firm new constitution with might and main in the interest of the State.**

The seven-point future policy of the State has emerged out of our own stand and is related to the political reform of the State. The policy is pragmatic and the correct political programme. **So, national peo-**



Representatives of the entire mass of national people seen marching to the mass rally. — MNA



Representatives of the entire mass of national people seen marching to the mass rally. — MNA

ple honour and welcome it. I strongly second the motion calling on the people of national races to participate actively and enthusiastically with full Union Spirit in any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State.

Next, Nan Khin Hmwe of Shan State (North) tabled the motion to honour the State

Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the Union races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved. She said today, the State Peace and Development Council is endeavoring in all aspects for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed State with the

aim of transforming our nation into one where the level of development is on a par with those in the international community; where our national economy will be strong; and where the people will enjoy a high standard of living.

Since the time of the assumption of responsibilities of the State by the Tatmadaw (See page 9)



The mass rally in progress at the Sports Ground in Bagan Archaeological Zone. — MNA



The presiding chairman of the mass rally announces the approval of the mass of the people at the rally. — MNA

Government gently...

(from page 8)

Government, it has been systematically striving for national reconsolidation, peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order as first priority. It is also implementing national projects that can strengthen national economic life and pave the way for a modern and developed State.

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 the participation of the entire people, the Union of Myanmar is on the right path of development and it is found that much better results such as national solidarity, development of national economic life have been achieved.

During the time of the Tatmadaw government, we have been able to build up unity among our national races; and to restore peace and stability in the border areas. As a result, we are now able to implement, in a systematic manner, projects for the development of border areas and national races.

Although, in the initial stage, border area development programmes were carried out only in areas where peace had been restored, they have now been extended to cover all the areas in the country that have lagged behind in development and they cover 8,341 square miles of all border regions. The population in these areas is over 5.3 million. The sectors in which development activities are being carried out for border area development in-

clude roads and bridges, education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding, electricity, communication, mineral exploration etc. and therefore are of great benefit to the people. The State spent K 46 billion and over US \$ 506 million from 1989 to 2003.

The government in cooperation with local national people is carrying out the tasks for eradication of narcotic drugs. Over 150,000 acres of poppy plantations and 21 opium refineries were destroyed and the New Des-

independent and active foreign policy. Myanmar is a geographically strategic nation in Southeast Asia, East Asia and Asia and the Pacific.

The State laid down non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national policy and is implementing it.

At the start of the assumption of State responsibilities, the economy had been in recession. Moreover, communication and transportation system in the entire country had broken down and all ac-

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 the participation of the entire people, the Union of Myanmar is on the right path of development and it is found that much better results such as national solidarity, development of national economic life have been achieved.

tiny Project was implemented in 2002. According to the project, there are over 24,000 acres of opium substitute crops were cultivated. The government has been launching anti-narcotic drugs campaign in cooperation with local people, neighbouring countries and UN agencies. In the past, only anti-narcotic drugs activities were carried out. Drugs will gradually be eradicated as cultivation of opium substitute crops and regional development are being undertaken.

Since the time of our independence, Myanmar has never participated in or sided with any world grouping, regional grouping or military pact. It has maintained relations with neighbouring countries in accord with its

activities in the country had grounded to a halt. After the assumption of responsibilities, the market oriented economic system that encouraged the private sector was introduced. At the same time, even while the factories, workshops and the economic infrastructure that had been destroyed or damaged were being repaired and reconstructed, development infrastructures such as roads, river-crossing bridges, dams and reservoirs, universities and colleges as well as hospitals were built throughout the nation. Due to the day and night efforts of the government, the GDP of the nation recovered from its decline. At the end of the Short Term Four Year Plan which started in 1992-93, the GDP



Daw Thin Thin Oo of Mandalay Division and outstanding youths read out Bagan Declaration. — MNA

of the country grew by an average annual rate of 7.5 percent. At the end of the Second Five Year Plan that started in 1996-97, the GDP grew by an average annual growth rate of 8.5 percent. During this Five Year Plan that started in 2001-2002, the planned target was to realize an average yearly GDP growth of 10.7 percent. During the 2002-2003 fiscal year i.e. the second year of the Plan, 11.1 percent GDP growth was achieved. Moreover, at the end of the 2002-2003 fiscal year, per capita GDP had increased to 105,940 kyats.

Our Government created employment opportunities. Consequently, we were able to find employment for nearly 10 million workers and the work force increased from 19 million in 1988 to the present 29 million.

In trying to achieve growth and development with momentum in national economic life, the government pays special attention to all round development of the country based on an economic policy which calls for development of agriculture as the base and development of other economic sectors as well. In the initial stage, taking paddy which is the main crop in the country as the basis, the government focused its attention on measures to increase sown acreage, to utilize modern agricultural techniques and high yield strains as well as to use various methods to ensure the availability of adequate water for agricultural purposes. The original target of 1,000 million baskets had been realized since the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

Since 1988, during the

time of our government, 152 dams and reservoirs as well as 265 river water pumping projects in areas where water is scarce had been constructed. Due to the projects undertaken for obtaining water, cultivable land increased by more than 2 million acres. The government spent over K 80,000 million on construction of 152 dams. Forty irrigation projects are in the process of being built and there are plans to construct 84 more.

The area of forest constitutes 52.28 per cent of the whole area of the country, with over 35 million acres of reserved forest and over 3 million acres had been developed. The acre of forest plantations, including special teak plantations, has now reached nearly 1.1 million. In the central part of the country, the nine-district greening project had been implemented. At the same time, greening projects are also being implemented in 13 districts. The government is implementing these projects after the adoption of a national policy.

For the private industrial sector, 18 industrial zones were established everywhere in the time of the present Government. And 257 factories of various sizes were also constructed, resulting in the emergence of over 24,000 private-owned factories. The number of State-owned and private-owned factories increased from over 27,000 in 1988 to over 50,000 at present. These measures are being taken to enhance the industrial sector.

Moreover, progress has been made in building a network of roads and bridges as infrastructure all over the

Tatmadaw Government. Such railroads as the Shwenyaung-Yatsauk railroad, the Aungban-Pinlaung-Loikaw railroad and the Namhsan-Monai railroad in Shan State, and the tunnel-crossing Chaung-Oo-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kale railroad, and the Yoma circular railroad were also constructed in all strategic places. The length of railroads in the nation increased from 1,976 miles in 1988 to approximately 3,000 miles — an increase of over 1,012.

The Government has been making arrangements to ensure parallel development of international aviation and marine transport sector as well as that of domestic aviation and marine transport sector. The number of airports stood at 21 in 1988, but it reached 27. Furthermore, the number of air fields where jet planes can land also increased from 6 to 18.

With the application of emerging and advancing information technology in international community, a network of communication system has been linked internationally. Moreover, data communication, e-mail, Internet and Intranet have now been in use for the development of information technology.

To generate electricity, the number of hydel power stations, steam-powered factories, natural gas-powered stations and diesel-powered stations were also extended. The amount of electricity generated rose from 2 billion units in 1988 to over 5 billion units at present — an increase of 2.27 times.

(See page 15)



11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 21 Oct—The eighth day of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition continued at the respective venues today. The song-contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay road, the marionette contest at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyang Street, the song composing contest at Pantra School on Kaba Aye Pagoda road, the piano contest at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyang Street, the guitar contest at Kanbawza Theatre on Kaba Aye Pagoda road and the Saing contest at Padonma Theatre on Bagaya road here.

The competitions were attended by members of the Panel of Patrons Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Vice-Chairman of the Lead-

ing Committee for holding the competitions Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Brig-Gen Than Tun of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of the Work Committee for holding the competitions Commander of No-3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan, officials of work committees and sub-committees, enthusiasts and tourists.

Chairman of Panel of Judges Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Mya of MRTV, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khine and work committee members made judgements on the performance the contestants at the song contest.

At the professional level Maha Gita song contest (male), a total of six contestants competed with Bon Mya Mya Min song composed by Hanthawady U Waing. At

the basic education level Maha Gita song contest (aged 15-20, girls), a total of 11 contestants competed with Myan Thabyay Nya (Yodaya) song composed by U Min Aung.

The professional level classic/modern song contest

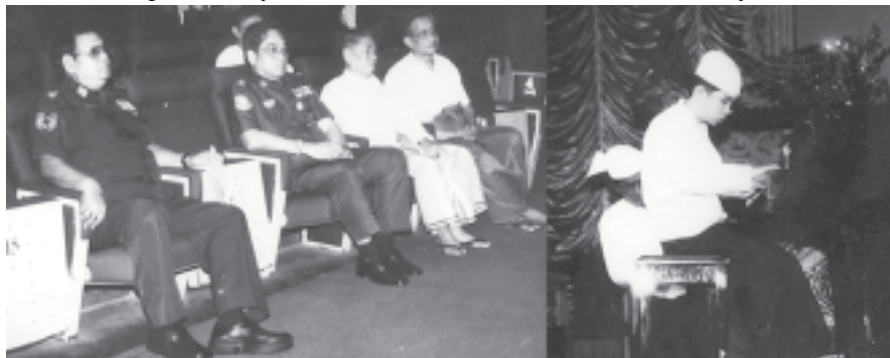
A total of five contestants participated in the higher education level piano contest (male) with Shin Thiwalli song. Chairman of Judges for piano contest Sandaya Chit Swe and members made judgements on the performance. A total of

piano contest (aged 10-15, boys, girls) in the afternoon tomorrow at the same venue. At the professional level guitar contest (male) (female), four contestants took part in the contest with Aung Mingala (Yodaya) song.

At the basic education

At the basic education level guitar contest (aged 15-20, girls), one contestant took part in the contest with Sone Taw Myaing song.

Member of Panel of Judges Gita Kyi Aye and members made judgements on the performance.



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe enjoys the performance at the performing arts competitions.—MNA



A contestant taking part in the Myanmar Traditional Orchestra Contest.—MNA

(female), and basic education level religious song contest (aged 10-15, boys) will be held at the National Theatre tomorrow.

The rehearsal of songs composed by the contestants were held at the Pantra School on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. Songs entitled Myanmar Ahla Myanmar Bawa composed by contestants of professional level song-composing contest on 15 October were rehearsed with music accompaniment.

four contestants participated in the higher education level piano contest (female) with Gandaya Tawchay (Yodaya) song.

A total of 10 contestants participated in the basic education level piano contest (aged 10-15, boys) with Gandaya Tawchay (Yodaya) song. The amateur level piano contest (male) (female) will be held in the morning and the basic education level

level guitar contest (aged 10-15, boys), one contestant took part in the contest with Zeya Aung Cha (Kyo) song.

At the basic education level guitar contest (aged 10-15, girls), two contestants took part in the contest with Zeya Aung Cha (Kyo) song.

At the basic education level guitar contest (aged 15-20, boys), two contestants took part in the contest with Sone Taw Myaing song.

A total of 12 contestants participated in the basic education level Saing contest (aged 10-15, boys, single) with Zeya Aung Cha (Kyo) song. A total of nine contestants participated in the basic education level Saing contest (aged 15-10, boys, single) with Thaya (Kyo) song. Member of Panel of Judges U Sein Hla Myaing and members made judgements on the performance.—MNA

Deputy Minister inspects sale of lots of gems

YANGON, 21 Oct — Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein this morning viewed the lots of gems which were being sold through the com-

petitive bidding at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.

From 20 October up to this morning a total of 44 lots of gems worth over 8.2 million euros were sold under the tender system and competitive bidding system.

The deputy minister presented a gift and a certificate of honour to U Win Gyi of Blue Eagle Co, who purchased the gems lots most.

Lots of gems will be sold tomorrow for the last day. —MNA



Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein presents a gift to a gems merchant at Mid-year Gems Emporium.—MNA



The final day of the 16th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting in progress at Sedona Hotel.—MNA



The photo shows a thriving poppy-substitute rubber plantation in the surrounding areas of Namit in Wa Special Region 2, Shan State (North)

MNA

STOM concludes

YANGON, 21 Oct — The second day and the last day sessions of the 16th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting hosted by Myanmar were held at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were senior officials and delegation members of the ASEAN countries, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, officials of the ASEAN Secretariat and representatives of host Myanmar and officials. —MNA

Wellwishers honoured

YANGON, 21 Oct — Wellwishers who donated medical equipment to the Thandwe District Hospital were honoured at the People's Hospital in Thandwe on 28 September.

Wellwishers U Oliver Soe Thet of the Myanmar Development Association (For derverein Myanmar e.v) and Daw Khet Khet donated medical equipment worth US\$ 55,000, one set of computer; and U Tin Maung Aye of May Barani Co, one oxygen machine; and German Inter Plus, one unit of Autoclave 50 LTR to the hospital.

On the occasion, Chairman of Thandwe District Peace and Development Council Col Khin Maung Than presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers. —MNA

C-in-C (Air) Trophy volleyball tournament ends

YANGON, 21 Oct — The final match of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) Trophy volleyball tournament took place at the gymnasium in Meiktila yesterday morning.

Commandant of the Flying Training Base Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin, Commandant of the Ground Training Base Col Thura Khin Maung Win, senior officers of Meiktila Station and others. In the match, the Flying Training Base team played against the No 1 Provost Unit team, and the latter beat the former 3-0.

Next, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) presented the championship trophy to the winning team. —MNA



Lt-Col Khin Maung Than presents certificate of honour to a wellwisher.—MNA

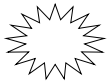
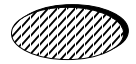
Bagan, the pride of Union of Myanmar



The scenic view of the Land of Bagan reflects the national prestige and integrity and national character of Myanmar.

PHOTO: MYANMA

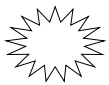
ALIN



At the Bagan Archeological Museum, collections of cultural heritage of Myanmar are displayed.

PHOTO: MYANMA

ALIN



The Lawkananda river water pumping project in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division is designed to irrigate 11,000 acres of land in the western part of NyaungU Township.

PHOTO: MNA



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MNA/Reuters

MNA/Xinhua

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Indian minister urges "IT" industry to look towards China

NEW DELHI, 21 Oct— With targeted 10-billion-US-dollar Indo-Chinese bilateral trade well within reach by 2004, Indian IT industry should look for a bigger market share in China, Commerce Minister Arun Jaitley said on Sunday. The minister believed that the target of 10-billion-dollar fixed by the prime ministers of the two countries during the recent visit of Atal Bihari Vajpayee to China appeared well within the reach going by the performance in the first eight months of the year.

The bilateral trade was three billion dollars in 2001, 4.9 billion dollars in 2002 and in the first eight months of 2003 it has almost reached five billion dollars, Jaitley told reporters upon his return from China where he inaugurated "Made in India" Show.

"Major part of Indian exports to China were steel, cotton yarn, pharmaceuticals and auto parts. But we should expand this further to the IT sector," he said.

Jaitley, during his visit, met Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi and both explored various possibilities to further strengthen the trade ties between the two countries and ways and means to remove non-trade barriers.

"We agreed on mutual exchange of information on all issues and hold dialogues at all levels for the removal of non-trade barriers which is coming in the way of the growth of bilateral trade between two of the world's biggest countries," he said.

The Commerce Minister said that India also showed its interest in the huge agriculture market of China.

"With the storage facilities overflowing with food grains in India, we would definitely like to get a foothold in the Chinese grain market and supply good quality grains at a much cheaper rate," Jaitley said.

MNA/Xinhua

"Vitamin A" saves lives of 30,000 Nepali children annually

KATHMANDU, 21 Oct— The Vitamin A programme launched in Nepal has saved the lives of more than 30,000 Nepali children every year, *The Rising Nepal* newspaper reported Monday.

A two-day immunization programme began on Sunday in all the 75 districts of the country to administer Vitamin A capsules to 3.3 million children aged six months to five years, the state-run English daily said.

Altogether 46,000 women community health workers have been mobilized in all the villages and municipalities around the country to administer the capsules.

The Vitamin A pro-

gramme was launched 10 years ago by the Nepali Ministry of Health to control infant mortality, night-blindness and diseases caused by Vitamin A deficiency. However, it was only last year that the programme could be extended to all of the country's 75 districts.

About 200,000 people in Nepal are suffering from blindness, mostly caused by Vitamin A deficiency, and 92 per cent of these patients are living in the country's rural areas. —MNA/Xinhua

Nepali Govt to take measures to promote tourism

KATHMANDU, 21 Oct— The Nepali Government is in process of forming a high-level conflict management committee in an attempt to minimize threats faced by the country's tourist industry, a high-ranking government official said.

"The formation of a Crisis Management Cell to deal with tourism-related issues is in the final stages and will be made public within the next couple of days," state-run English daily *The Rising Nepal* on Monday quoted Sarbendra Nath Shukla, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, as saying.

The cell, which will comprise representatives from ministries of Home Affairs, Transport, Tourism and Civil Aviation, will function on two tiers: one under the chairmanship of Tourism Minister and the other under the chief executive officer of the Nepal Tourism Board, Shukla said.

The Nepal Tourism Board is going to implement some concrete programmes for the development of regional tourism, trekking tourism and mountaineering in Nepal, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



A Boeing 777-300ER plane sits on the tarmac of Singapore's international airport. The new 365-passenger B777-300ER is capable of flying 13,740 kilometres non-stop or 14 hours in the air.—INTERNET

Chinese, Romanian defence ministers hold talks

BEIJING, 21 Oct— Holding talks with Romanian Defence Minister Ioan Mircea Pascu here Monday, Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan said he hoped the friendly and cooperative relations between the two Armed Forces would be strengthened.

Cao, also vice-chairman of the China's Central Military Commission and a state councillor, said that since China and Romania established diplomatic relations 50 years ago, the two nations had withstood the tests of international and domestic changes, and bilateral relations had developed smoothly. Cao also talked

about views on international affairs, China's national defence policy and military affairs. He thanked Pascu for Romania's adherence to one-China policy.

Pascu said the two nations and Armed Forces enjoyed a traditional friendship, and no matter what happened, the peoples of the two countries always used their

wisdom to strengthen and develop bilateral relations.

He also voiced his congratulations on the successful launch of China's first manned spaceship.

MNA/Xinhua

China contributes to third world sci-tech cooperation

BEIJING, 21 Oct— China announced here Sunday that it would provide 50 fellowships in scientific research every year to scientists from other developing countries.

Guo Huadong, vice secretary general of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said many developing countries were showing greater interest in scientific cooperation and Chinese scientists were willing to exchange with their counterparts in developing countries.

The 14th general meeting of the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), from October 16 to 19, has released a declaration calling for further international scientific openness and cooperation.

The declaration encourages developing countries with certain scientific expertise to provide opportunities for research to scientists from scientifically less-developed nations.

In response to the proposal, China had decided to help other developing countries, said Guo, who was a coordinator for the TWAS meeting.

Guo, a technologist specializing in remote sensing imaging, trained a fellow from Cameroon.

He described the TWAS as a platform not only for developing countries, but also for cooperation between the developing and developed worlds.

"Technologies on environmental protection and control of epidemics definitely need cooperation between scientists from developed and developing countries," he said.

China would show more openness to the outside world, he said. "Only by knowing world scientific trends, can decision-makers plan scientific research wisely," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

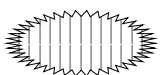
International symposium on SARS held in Vietnam

HANOI, 21 Oct— Like many other countries, Vietnam continues to take concrete measures to deal with the possibility of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) return this winter, although it was the first country in the world to contain the disease.

Vietnamese Minister of Health Tran Thi Trung Chien made the announcements at the two-day international symposium on SARS prevention which started in Hanoi on Monday. According to Chien, six lessons learned from Vietnam's SARS control and prevention are strong political commitment and direct guidance of the government, well-functioning national preventive medicine system, effective surveillance and isolation, close co-

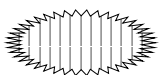
operation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and foreign countries, widespread and rapid dissemination of SARS-related information, and smooth coordination between state agencies and foreign partners.

"On March 17 (a week after receiving the first report on SARS outbreak), the Vietnamese Government decided to set up the National Steering Committee for SARS control and prevention.—MNA/Xinhua



In China, the Fifth Shanghai International Arts Festival is wooing theatrical agents from across the world.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Blackburn lose fourth straight home league match

LONDON, 21 Oct — Blackburn Rovers suffered their fourth home Premier League defeat in a row when they lost 1-0 to Charlton Athletic at Ewood Park on Monday.

Iceland's Hermann Hreidarsson struck with a diving header from eight metres on 33 minutes as he reached a Paolo di Canio corner before Garry Flitcroft and powered the ball past keeper Brad Friedel and through the legs of David Thompson on the line.

Charlton's third straight league victory takes them up three places to seventh in the table, while Blackburn remain 15th after their latest setback at home following defeats to Manchester City, Liverpool and Fulham since

late August.

"We've got quite a few injuries at the moment so I think that was a fantastic achievement from the players tonight," Charlton manager Alan Curbishley told Sky Sports as he praised his team's spirit and singled out di Canio's efforts.

"We'd just like to push on now and hopefully we can stay in that top half of the league, but it's a tough Premiership this year and we won't be taking anything for granted," he added with one eye on the visit of Arsenal to

The Valley on Saturday.

Blackburn had more of the first-half possession but could not beat impressive keeper Dean Kiely, with Andy Cole — looking for his 250th goal in all competitions — failing on three occasions and Steven Reid seeing a long-range effort saved.

Blackburn manager Graeme Souness brought on striker Matt Jansen for midfielder Flitcroft at halftime in a bid to help Cole up front, but the game remained evenly balanced as both sides created chances without finding the net.

Charlton substitute Radostin Kishishev saw his right-foot shot fly wide, while Blackburn's Turkey midfielder Tugay had his effort blocked on the hour before the visitors' Scott Parker fired a shot from 12 metres that was saved by Friedel. Kiely was called on to make a magnificent save from a looping Thompson header on 65 minutes before Blackburn's Italian substitute Dino Baggio almost snatched an equalizer five minutes from time only to see his right-foot volley flash wide — MNA/Reuters

CSKA move closer to title with 0-0 draw in Moscow derby

Moscow, 21 Oct — CSKA Moscow eked out a 0-0 draw against city rivals Spartak in a tense Russian Premier League derby on Monday to take another step toward the long-awaited title.

The Army side, who lead second-placed Zenit St. Petersburg by four points with just two matches remaining, can clinch their first league crown since 1991 on Saturday when they host lowly Rotor Volgograd.

A largely uneventful game was played amid heavy security as thousands of regular Army guards and riot police kept a close watch on a volatile crowd of some 30,000, which included Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov — both known as die-hard CSKA supporters.

The security was beefed up after hundreds of CSKA and Spartak fans, considered the most violent in Russian soccer, clashed in the city on Sunday afternoon following a reserve match between the two clubs.

There was no serious crowd trouble on Monday, apart from an occasional fire-cracker being thrown on to the artificial pitch at the Luzhniki Olympic Stadium.

Both coaches seemed happy with the draw.

"It was a tense match, we had more ball possession, but I think the result was justified," said CSKA boss Valery Gazzayev.

His Spartak counterpart, Vladimir Fedotov, added: "I think there was more fighting for the ball than playing with it, but it's always the case when we play CSKA."

Zenit's title hopes faded on Saturday when they lost two points after being held to a 1-1 draw at Rostov.

Zenit, who won their only championship in 1984 when they were known as Zenit Leningrad, host last year's champions Lokomotiv Moscow on Saturday in a match which is likely to decide second place.

Lokomotiv, who face Italy's Inter Milan in a Champions League Group B match on Tuesday, are in third place, a further four points back.

MNA/Reuters

Wenger enjoys slice of luck as Arsenal go back top

LONDON, 21 Oct — Arsene Wenger accepted his Arsenal team needed a lucky break to beat Chelsea 2-1 in the Premier League on Saturday, but said they deserved their Highbury victory for a superb second-half display.

The win, achieved after Chelsea goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini gifted Arsenal's Thierry Henry a 75th-minute winner, took Arsenal back to the top of the table after Chelsea dislodged them in midweek.



Arsene Wenger

"I think at halftime we were a little unfortunate to be drawing 1-1, but we played much better in the second half, although we were also lucky that Carlo Cudicini, their goalkeeper who is normally so reliable, made that mistake," Wenger told reporters.

"He had made a great save from Thierry Henry just before that, but in the last 20 minutes we put them under a lot of pressure,

we caused them a lot of danger."

Wenger was also delighted that Arsenal had taken 10 points from their last four matches against Manchester United (0-0), Newcastle United (3-2), Liverpool (2-1) and now Chelsea to go back on top of the table. We really wanted the three points today and I had the feeling that Chelsea were happy with just the one point and I think that made a difference.

"We have had four very close games and I must say every time we have found the resources to get something out of those games. To get 10 points out of those four games has been very good for us. They have been very tight games."

Claudio Ranieri, Chelsea's head coach, stressed that although his team lost he was pleased with their performance, but added: "I keep saying we are not a team yet like Manchester United or Arsenal."

"At Arsenal when Ashley Cole has the ball, Robert Pires or Sylvain Wiltord or Thierry Henry knows what he is going to do with it. For us, if Damien Duff has the ball, Adrian Mutu, or Hernan Crespo, do not know yet. "I don't know when it will come, it will take time. Arsenal's French players have known each other a long time, since they were young boys at Clairefontaine (the French national training centre).

MNA/Reuters

Boca move closer to Argentine Apertura title

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Oct — Boca Juniors moved closer to clinching Argentina's Apertura title with a convincing 2-0 win at Nueva Chicago on Sunday.

San Lorenzo kept their championship hopes alive with a 2-1 win at River Plate.

Central defender Nicolas Burdisso scored the first Boca goal after 32 minutes and Franco Cangele sealed an easy win with the second on the hour.

Boca are the only team to boast an unbeaten record in the Apertura, with 10 games played.

The five-times Liber-

adores Cup winners are four points clear of nearest rivals San Lorenzo, who have 20 points. Defending champions River are 12 points adrift in 13th place.

With Nueva Chicago unable to offer meaningful resistance, the main talking point was the refusal of Boca coach Carlos Bianchi to hold a news conference after the game.

The verdict among Argentine soccer pundits was that Bianchi was anxious to avoid questions about his appearance at a court hearing last week into the club's alleged links with organized networks of its hard-core fans.

Argentine clubs' organized groups, known as barras bravas, have been at the centre of a long-running problem of fan violence in the country.

Last month, the championship was suspended for two weeks after a judge launched an investigation into crowd violence and banned police from policing professional football matches in Buenos Aires.

The decision came after

rioting supporters forced a Boca Juniors-Chacarita Juniors match to be abandoned in the 66th minute in August.

San Lorenzo's win at River Plate was achieved with goals by veteran striker Alberto Acosta and Walter Montillo.

An own goal by Saints midfielder Diego Capria was a late consolation for River but coach Manuel Pellegrini had to run a gauntlet of angry fans due to his team's poor run of results.

Rosario Central could only draw 1-1 with Newell's Old Boys in the Rosario "classic" (derby) and dropped to third place.

Fourth-placed Banfield kept their distant championship hopes alive with a 2-1 win over local rivals Lanus in a southern Buenos Aires derby.

Quilmes's 2-0 win over Colon was marred by angry scenes when referee Angel Sanchez sent off Colon's Colombian forward Jair Benitez and Esteban Fuentes, formerly of Derby County and RC Lens.

MNA/Reuters

Japan favourite to host 2005 Club World Championship

DOHA (Qatar), 21 Oct — The next edition of the controversial FIFA Club World Championship is likely to be held in Japan in 2005, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said on Sunday.

Speaking at a news conference after FIFA's Extraordinary Congress, Blatter also confirmed he had deposited the idea of holding the World Cup finals every two years, instead of four, in a safe — and mislaid the combination to re-open it.

However, he went on to say that FIFA was considering an idea to hold the World Cup every three years, though he added: "This idea will face a lot of difficulties because of the four-year nature of our calendar in this sport."

Asked about the Club World Championship, he said the first meeting of the new organizing committee for the championship would be held at the end of the month and he believed the next competition would be held "out of Europe" in 2005.

He said it would most likely be in the United States or Asia but because the tournament dates must respect the harmonized international calendar, Japan was the early favourite.

He said this was because the tournament needs to take place between June 15 and the end of July during the northern hemisphere summer months.

Blatter added he was confident of attracting high quality clubs for the competition because, in a clear reference to Manchester United and Real Madrid, "some of the most important clubs went this year into those regions in this period of time".

He said that "with the right prize money and the right organization we can attract the best teams to play".

Asked about the World Cup finals, he said that since the new FIFA statutes passed on Sunday had approved the rotation of the hosting of the tournament, he anticipated frustration from some confederations at having to wait 24 years for their turn. He did not mention Europe, but was clearly referring to European governing body UEFA because the World Cup has always rotated from Europe to another continent and back again. — MNA/Reuters

Government gently ...

(From page 9)

In the time of the present Government, 28 hydel power projects and six natural gas-powered station projects were also constructed. Altogether 11 hydel power projects, including the Paunglaung hydel power project, which will generate 280 megawatts of electricity, and the Yeywa hydel power project, which will generate 780 megawatts of electricity, are under construction. On completion, they will produce more than 1,960 megawatts of electricity.

To create human resources in every sphere is the national concern in the education sector. Basic education high schools, universities, degree colleges and colleges were also extended to ensure the spread of educational opportunities all over the nation.

Likewise, universities and colleges were opened in all the States and Divisions for the technological sector.

The number of basic education schools increased from 33,747 in 1988 to 40,099 in 2003. As post-primary schools were opened, the number of them now stands at 3,800.

As for the higher education sector, universities and colleges were built in 24 special development zones in all the 14 States and Divisions. As a result, the number of these institutions rose from 32 in 1988 to 154 at present. Similarly, the population of university and college students rose from over 130,000 in 1988 to over 890,000 at present.

The number of courses, including masters degree, doctorate degree and diploma courses, being conducted at universities and degree colleges under the Ministry of Education, have now been extended up to 150.

Ninety kinds of masters degrees and doctorate degrees are now available in medical universities, and 73 kinds of masters degrees and doctorate degrees in technological and computer universities.

In the technological sector, there emerged four technological universities, two computer universities, one Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, one Maritime University, 26 government technological colleges, 24 government computer colleges and nine government technical institutes.

As for the health sector, emphasis is placed on the fitness of the citizens. A glance at the development infrastructure of this sector will reveal an increase in the

number of hospitals from 617 in 1988 to 757 in 2003. A total of 84 regional dispensaries and 1,414 rural health care centres were also opened across the nation. A total of 140 new hospitals were constructed and 114,25-bed hospitals were upgraded to 300-bed ones. There were only four medical universities under the Ministry of Health in 1988. But now, the number totalled 14.

The Government is making efforts to ensure symmetrical development in all sectors by establishing 24 development zones. More than 70 percent of the population of the country being farmers residing in rural areas, efforts were under way to implement the rural development activities so that all parts of the country can prosper. At the same time, the Government is also rendering assistance to the drive for availability of water, smooth transport, health, education, agriculture and livestock breeding, trade, mining work and supply of energy for the enhancement of socio-economic life.

To sum up, in spite of hardships and limitations, each and every sector is now undergoing development in the soil of Myanmar thanks to the assiduous and systematic efforts exerted by the Government on the self-reliant basis. The entire mass of the national races are to maintain these achievements in accord with the Four People's Desires.

Therefore, I emphatically would like to table a motion to honour the State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the national races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved.

U Han Maung of Magway Division seconded the motion to honour the Government for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the national races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved. He said that the entire national people supported the seven-point political roadmap of the State clarified by the Prime Minister and made resolution to call on all the people of the national races to participate actively and enthusiastically with full Union Spirit in any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State.

A mass rally hailing the 21st Century was held on 1 January 2000 at the historic Bagan Archaeological Zone

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where the first Myanmar Empire was formed, we now have arrived. The meeting laid down the six resolutions. Strenuous efforts have been made for implementation of the political, economic and social objectives in accord with the resolutions.

In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, peace and tranquillity prevails in all parts of the Union. At the same time, the government has been able to forge the national reconciliation as there was mutual trust and understanding among the national brethren.

The Tatmadaw government has been making relentless efforts day in, day out for national and regional development. Therefore, it has been able to address the backwardness, the evil legacy of colonialists, in all sectors.

Under British occupation, our forefathers were subjected to exploitation by the colonialists who applied the divide-and-rule policy among the national brethren. After regaining the independence, the people had to suffer various hardships and troubles in the absence of peace and tranquillity in the nation as multicolour armed insurgencies reigned. In other words, the people had to suffer due to weakness of the Parliamentary democracy.

There were differences over economic recession in the aftermath of Socialist Era. The country was on the verge of disintegration due to the 1988-unrest.

At such a time, the Tatmadaw had to assume the State's duties unavoidably as things came to such a chaos that the sovereignty and the life and property of the people could be lost.

The Tatmadaw, after its assumption of the State's duties, has laid down the political and economic objectives and is striving for all-round development of the State. As a result, progress has been made by a significant amount in the economic sector of the State. In addition, efforts had been made to ensure better



Those present at the mass rally. — MNA

transport. A network of roads has emerged from Maykha and Malikha basin, the northernmost of Myanmar, to Kawthoung in Taninthayi Division, the southernmost of Myanmar. Likewise, the Union Highways linking Kayah State, Shan State, the eastern part of Myanmar and Rakhine State, Chin State, the western part of Myanmar and those linking Kale and Tamu regions were built. The Mandalay-Shwebo Myitkyina motor road, the Monywa-Khamti motor road, the Yangon-An-Sittway motor road, the Mandalay-Bhamo motor road, the Myitkyina-Putao motor road, the Tounggyi Y w a n g a n - M y o g y i - Hanmyitmo motor road, the Pinyinmana-Pinlaung motor road, the Pinyinmana Taungdwingyi motor road and the Yangon-Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Dawei-Mawla-myne road are the ones that enable the national brethren to make contacts with one another easily. New railroads were constructed in the states and divisions where there were no railroads in the past. In addition to the motor roads and railroads, the Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittoung river crossing bridges have emerged, thereby contributing to improvement of the socio-economic life of the national people.

The entire national races have now enjoyed the fruitful results of development practically and become one-

ness although they reside in different parts of the Union.

As a result, friendship among the national brethren have been further strengthened.

To bring about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation, the government has laid down projects for development of border areas and national races, the 24 development zones and the five rural development tasks and is implementing them. Progress made in the nation stems from own strength and ability. The Government has been making earnest efforts in a difficult position for the national development during the period of 15 years. It had to overcome much of hindrances and obstacles and sanctions to ensure the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation.

I, on behalf of the mass, honour the achievements of the Tatmadaw in striving with genuine goodwill for the emergence of a modern developed democratic nation.

It is incumbent upon the entire national people to guard against any dangers to the already achieved national development and to safeguard the already achieved momentum of development.

Therefore, I actively and enthusiastically second the motion to honour the State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the national races to continue to preserve

and safeguard the progress achieved.

After that, Chairman of the mass rally Advocate U Mya Sein sought the approval of the first motion calling on all the people of the national races to participate actively and enthusiastically with full sense of Union Spirit in any role for the success of the seven-point roadmap of the State; and the second motion to honour the State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the national races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved.

As the entire mass of the people of the mass rally unanimously supported the motions, the chairman approved the motions. Next, the master of ceremonies announced the two resolutions of Bagan mass rally:

(1) to call on all the people of the national races to participate actively and enthusiastically with full sense of Union Spirit in any role for the success of the seven-point roadmap of the State; (2) to honour the State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the national races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved.

Later, the mass rally concluded with chanting slogans.—MNA

The goals of the people

- * The perpetuation of the Union
- * The unity of the national races
- * The emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation
- * The building of a new modern nation with discipline-flourishing democracy

Government gently and smoothly ...

(from page 1)

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

Afterwards, the chairman made a speech. He said the representatives unanimously passed the resolution of active and enthusiastic participation of the entire people being fully equipped with Union in the tasks for accomplishment of the seven future policies and programmes of the State at the mass rallies held in the respective regions.

He said that they all got together in Bagan region, Myanmar's archaeological area, in order to make decisive and firm determination to successfully implement the State's seven future poli-

cies and programmes on a national scale.

The six resolutions, which are crucially important for the State, were successfully passed at Bagan mass meeting ushering in the 21st century held on a grand scale on 1 January 2000 in the auspicious ground, Bagan archaeological region. He said they met together in the auspicious ground so as to hold talks about accomplishments of the State's seven policies and programmes, he noted.

He added that the Prime Minister's speech on the State's seven-point roadmap consists of three parts—construction of social and economic infrastructures during the 15-year period in the time of the government, political development and the State's future policies and programmes.

The first part touches upon peace and tranquillity restored and progress made in every region and sector across the country thanks to the strenuous efforts of the Tatmadaw government in building social and economic infrastruc-

tures.

He quoted Head of the State Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in his guidance given at the Annual General Meeting (2002) of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, as saying that **the nation-building task is the one that is to be constantly handed down from one generation to another. It is also the task to be constantly carried out for brighter future of the nation**, he pointed out.

The entire people have witnessed as well as enjoyed the fruitful results of the development of the State. Announcing their regional development, those in attendance at the respective mass rallies held in States and Divisions have unanimously and proudly supported the State's future policies and programmes.

So, on behalf of the entire people, the mass rally honoured and put record on the fruitful results achieved thanks to the State's leaders based on patriotism, genuine goodwill, perseverance and steadfastness during the 15-year period.

The second part deals with endeavours for building a discipline-flourishing modern and developed nation phase by phase from the time when the independence had been regained to date, he said.

Tasks for regional development, construction of economic foundations and raising the living standard of the entire people after firmly consolidating the national unity are indeed basic foundations for flourishing of democracy, he remarked.

(See page 6)

The Bagan Declaration

1. On the morning of the 11th waxing of Thadingyut, 1365 Myanmar Era, Tuesday 21 October 2003, invited representatives of the national races from all the states and divisions of the Union of Myanmar, representatives of social organizations in the country, representatives of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and the local populace gathered at the sports ground at the foot of the Shwezigon Pagoda in the Bagan Archeological Zone to hold a mass rally.
2. The motion calling on all the people of the national races to participate actively and enthusiastically with full Union spirit in any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State, and the motion to honour the State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability for the development of the Union of Myanmar and for the Union races to continue to preserve and safeguard the progress achieved were tabled at the Bagan mass rally. Both the motions were approved unanimously by the people attending the Bagan mass rally.
3. The Bagan mass rally pays tribute to the State Peace and Development Council for striving to the best of its ability, at an accelerated pace, not only for the emergence of peace, prosperity, and development in the country, but also for the propagation of the spirit of national unity and Union spirit that constitute the main pillars for the perpetuation of the Union, by laying down clearly defined aid enduring political, economic and social objectives in advancing towards the national goal of building a peaceful modern developed nation.
4. As a result of the efforts of the State Peace and Development Council through reliance on the national strength existing within the country and with the participation of the entire people, the Union of Myanmar is today on the right path to development. The Bagan mass rally honours the positive results stemming from the materialization of the endeavours for the emergence of such sound foundations and fruitful results for national unity as the infrastructures for national economic progress, social development and technological development within the State.
5. Since the Bagan mass rally has given unanimous endorsement to the motion calling for all the people of the national races to participate actively and enthusiastically with full Union spirit in any role entrusted for the success of the seven-point future policy programme of the State, the Bagan mass rally expresses the belief that the seven-point policy programme presented by the Prime Minister at the Pyithu Hlutaw building in Yangon on 30 August, 2003 is the policy programme of all the national races of the Union of Myanmar.
6. According to the presentations made at the Bagan mass rally, the principal responsibilities of building a new modern nation with discipline-flourishing democracy are prevalence of peace in the nation, strengthening the economy of the nation and the national races and uplift of the standard of national education, and consequently, the Bagan mass rally would like to urge the whole nation to strive for the emergence of conditions conducive to these factors based on concepts that do not contradict the Union spirit.
7. The participants of the mass rally held at the historic Bagan Archeological Zone where the first Myanmar Empire was founded and had flourished, as a demonstration of their resolute will and the Union spirit, declare that the goals of the people are:
 - * the perpetuation of the Union
 - * the unity of the national races
 - * the emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation, and
 - * the building of a new modern nation with discipline-flourishing democracy.

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24,308



U Mya Sein, Chairman of the mass rally delivers an address. — MNA



Dignitaries and representatives of the people attend the mass rally held for the success of the seven-point roadmap of the State. — MNA