Established 1914

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconciliation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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Only after successful holding of the National Convention and measures are being taken step by step, will there be drawing of the enduring State Constitution that is essential for the State Mass rally held in support of Prime Minister’s clarification on seven-point roadmap

Mass rally in support of the seven future policies and programmes of the State in progress at Myoma Sports Ground in Myeik, Taninthayi Division. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Prime Minister visits Fifth International ICT Exhibition 2003

YANGON, 18 Oct — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the Ministry of Transport and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thwin met with the minister, deputy ministers and officials of the Ministry of Transport at the meeting hall of the ministry on Strand Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, enterprises, university and institute under the ministry and officials.

Secretary-1 and Secretary-2 meet officials of the Ministry of Transport

YANGON, 18 Oct — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thwin met with the minister, deputy ministers and officials of the Ministry of Transport at the meeting hall of the ministry on 18 October.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, enterprises, university and institute under the ministry and officials.

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win meets the minister for Transport, deputy ministers and departmental officials. — MNA

PIETY: In memory of his daughter Daw Mya Sanda Tun, and to mark the fifth anniversary of the Myitta Yeikmon Foundation, Dr Daw Cho Lay Mar and Daw Yi Yi Myint accepted the donation. — W

The Prime Minister and party viewed round the Fifth International ICT Exhibition 2003, jointly organized by MCF, MCSA and MCIA. Officials conducted them round the exhibitions. — MNA

First, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe presented a report to the Secretary-1 and the Secretary-2. In his report, the minister said in implementing the tasks of transportation which is the life-blood of the State, the Ministry of Transport is discharging duties on marine and air transport sectors. In doing so, safety, service and image are designated as the objectives of the ministry. There are five departments, five enterprises, Aviation U Win Maung and Director-General of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Dr San Hla Baw reported on tasks of their departments being undertaken and staff welfare.

Next, Rector of Myanmar Marine University U Thein Tun and Principal of Institute of Marine Technology U Win Thein reported on teaching and management affairs of their university and institute.

The Institute of Marine Technology and the Myanmar Maritime University under the ministry. The minister also reported on organizational setups of departments, strengths of staff and their tasks, tasks of the five enterprises carried out from 1993-94 fiscal year to 2002-2003 fiscal year and passengers and freight transport.

Deputy Director-General of the Transport Department U Win Pe, Deputy General of the Marine Administration Department U Soe Win, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems U Soe Myint, Director-General of the Directorate of Civil Communication Technology Development Committee and officials of Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientists Association and Myanmar Computer Industries Association.

Afterwards, Managing Director of Inland Water Transport U Soe Tin, Managing Director of Myanmar FiveStar Line UKhin Maung Kyi, Managing Director of Myanmar Port Authority U Thein Huy, Managing Director of Myanmar Shipyards U Percy Maung Maung and Managing Director of Myanmar Airways U Tin Hlaing Hmu reported on tasks of their departments, income and expenditure and staff welfare.

The Secretary-1 gave instructions on their reports. In his discussions, the Secretary-1 said progress on passenger and freight transport has been made according to the report of the ministry. Such achievements are very commendable. The Ayeayarwady and the Chindwin are natural resources that much contribute towards the development of not only transport sector but also availability of river water and generating of hydro-electric power. Opportunities created by nature must be utilized effectively, he said.

He said experts are to continuously conduct surveys on development of rivers for implementation of the tasks and expenditure for speedily transport of passengers and commodities with safety, utilization of river water for agricultural purposes and hydro-electric power. In air transport, he also spoke of the need to make arrangements for conveniences of the passengers and
Our common objective is to restore peace and stability to a sovereign, democratic and independent Iraq as quickly as possible

Following are the remarks of Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the Security Council following adoption of resolution 1511 on Iraq 16 October:

May I commend the members of the Security Council for having reached this significant agreement on what obviously is a particularly important resolution to address the complex situation in Iraq. The process has been difficult. But the outcome is a clear demonstration of the will of all the members of the Security Council to place the interests of the Iraqi people above all other considerations.

Our common objective is to restore peace and stability to a sovereign, democratic and independent Iraq as quickly as possible. It is critical to the Iraqi people, the region and the entire international community that we succeed in reaching the goal of an Iraq that is at peace with itself and with its neighbours, and is contributing to stability in the region.

As Secretary-General, I shall do my utmost to implement the mandate established by the Council, bearing in mind the constraints on building up the required capacity and my obligation to care for the safety and security of United Nations staff. I am grateful to the Council for the flexibility that the new resolution gives me in this respect.

Although at this moment the United Nations has only a skeleton presence on the ground, we are determined to continue helping the Iraqi people as best as we can, from both inside and outside the country, primarily in providing humanitarian assistance.

As circumstances permit, I plan to proceed with the other tasks indicated in the resolution. I have no doubt that we all look forward to the earliest possible establishment of an elected Government that will return Iraq to full sovereignty.

Chile in favour of gradual transfer of authority to Iraqi people

In that context, he asked the Secretary-General to inform the Council of progress achieved in the transfer of power to the Iraqi people. Consensus achieved was an example of the ability of the Council to come to agreement and understanding.

Syria will continue to work to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people

Fayssal Mekdad (Syria) said it had joined the consensus after consultations with other representatives on the Council and others.

It did not meet all his requirements, but it was a step further along the right road and could accelerate progress toward Iraq self-governance and a greater role for the United Nations.

Syria would continue to work to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Spanish Ambassador to UN Inocencio Arias

Syrian Ambassador to UN Fayssal Mekdad

The resolution would not be the last one on Iraq

Bulgarian Ambassador to UN Stefan Tafrov

Stefan Tafrov (Bulgaria) was gratified with the unanimous adoption of the resolution, as it sends a message to the Iraqi people that the time to regain full sovereignty was at hand.

Throughout consultations, his delegation had insisted on maximum flexibility regarding implementation of the United Nations mandate, depending on the security situation. He thanked the co-sponsors for having accepted that proposal. He said the resolution would not be the last one on Iraq.

Others would follow to foster the emergence of a sovereign and democratic Iraq.

Bulgarian Ambassador to UN Stefan Tafrov

Adoption of the resolution is an important step to improve the lives of the Iraqis

Inocencio Arias (Spain) unreservedly welcomed the adoption of the resolution, which, he said, was an important step to improve the lives of the Iraqis and to activate Iraqi recovery of its own destiny.

Iraq deserved such consensus and unity on the Council, and the entire region would benefit if it helped the country move toward normalcy.

The unanimous adoption of the resolution was good news for the Council, because differences of the past were being reduced.

In addition, the resolution gave momentum to the Donors Conference in Madrid, which would be a milestone in the progress of the Iraqi people.

Spanish Ambassador to UN Inocencio Arias

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

Baghdad, 18 Oct—As of Friday, Oct 17, 336 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence.

The British military has reported 50 deaths; Denmark, one; and Ukraine, one.

On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 198 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,536 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 335.

The latest deaths reported by US Central Command: 3. Three 101st Airborne Division Military Police soldiers were killed Thursday in an attack in Kirkuk.

2. 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), based in Fort Campbell, Ky.

1. Army Staff Sgt Joseph P Bellavia, 28, Wakefield, Mass; killed Thursday by hostile fire in Kirkuk; assigned to the 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), based in Fort Campbell, Ky.

1. Army Lt Col Kim S Orlando, 43, San Bernardino, Calif.; killed Thursday by hostile fire in Kirkuk; commanding officer of the 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), based in Fort Campbell, Ky.

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A supporter of firebrand cleric Moqtada Sadr shouts slogans during the Friday noon prayers in the Sadr City district of Baghdad. Sadr wants to install an Islamic-style government in Iraq. —INTERNET

Singapore Deputy PM to visit New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 18 Oct—Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong is to visit New Zealand in November, it was announced here Thursday.

Lee will give a keynote address to open the Serious Asia Forum, Deputy Prime Minister Michael Cullen said in an announcement.

“Two people have their status and insights into developments in Asia and New Zealand’s role in the region is a real bonus,” Cullen said.

“His visit offers scope to explore possibilities for collaboration between New Zealand and Singapore in creative industries and biotechnology,” he said.

Lee will visit New Zealand from November 23 to 27. MNA/Xinhua

China supports UN resolution to stabilize Iraqi situation

BEIJING, 18 Oct—China has always supported passing a new United Nations Security Council resolution for the early realization of stability in Iraq, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue here Thursday.

Zhang made a public announcement after the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 1511 on the Iraqi issue.

China supported the resolution as it gives full play to the role of the United Nations in realizing the early stability in Iraq and the goal of “Iraqi people governing Iraq,” Zhang said in the announcement.

China has consistently adopted a constructive attitude in this regard, actively participating in the consultation during the drafting period of the resolution and proposing suggestions for revision, she said.

After rounds of consultation and revision, the spokeswoman said, the resolution absorbed many rational suggestions from China and other parties, in particular in its content on advancing the political process in Iraq, gradually enhancing the role of UN and increasing transparancy in the Iraqi reconstruction progress.

After expressing that “there is still room for improvement,” Zhang said, China voted in favour of the resolution in line with the realistic requirements and long-term interests of the Iraqi people.

China hopes the UN Security Council will maintain solidarity and cooperation, pay close attention to the Iraqi situation, pay high heed and fully consider the universal needs of the international community for the early resumption of sovereignty in Iraq, she said.

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China hopes the UN Security Council will maintain solidarity and cooperation, pay close attention to the Iraqi situation, pay high heed and fully consider the universal needs of the international community for the early resumption of sovereignty in Iraq, she said.

China also called to give full play to the role of the United Nations in helping Iraq back to the track of peace, stability and development.

China is willing to make unremitting efforts to that end, she said.

MNA/Xinhua

Australia’s former PM blasts US foreign policy

CANBERRA, 18 Oct—Former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating on Wednesday criticized US foreign policy of preemptive strikes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The US policy gives other countries the signal to walk away from multilateral agreements and international treaties, he told the 2003 CPA Australia’s congress in Melbourne, Victoria.

The Australian Associated Press quoted him as saying that countries like Australia have vested interests in a rule-based system around multilateral agreements.

Keating, who was Australia’s prime minister in 1991-96, pointed out that Australia’s moving towards a sole reliance on the United States for security and trade is not a “smart policy.”

“The real issue is that the American policy will lead us into a Mad Max world, while the US seeks to cocoon itself behind a screen of national missile defence,” he said.

While the US alliance remains important to Australia, “looking wistfully for US protection is leaving us vulnerable in our own region,” he said.

Australia’s former PM blasted US foreign policy.

Keating expressed his belief that Australia should embrace its own identity and find security within Asia.

“While the 20th Century was the century of the Americans, the chances are the 21st Century will be the century of Asia,” he said.

CPA Australia is the country’s premier organization for finance, accounting and business professionals.

MNA/Xinhua

Survey indicates US troop morale problems in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct—The Pentagon’s top general expressed concern on Thursday over a survey suggesting major morale problems among the 130,000 US troops in Iraq, saying he was sometimes allowed to talk only to “happy” troops.

Air Force General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters he was personally worried that when he and other top officers visited troops, they were only allowed to talk to “the happy folks.”

“I want to see the folks that have complaints. And sometimes they won’t let them near me,” Myers said when pressed about the Stars and Stripes newspaper survey in which half of 1,939 troops responding said morale in their unit was low or very low and that they did not plan to reenlist in the military.

The newspaper, which receives funding from the Pentagon, also said that a third of the survey respondents complained that their mission lacked clear definition and characterized the war in Iraq as of little or no value.

“It is useful insight,” said Myers. “Morale is really important because it’s people who get the job done.” Four in 10 respondents to Stars and Stripes said jobs they were doing had little or nothing to do with their training.

The findings conflicted with statements by US commanders in Iraq and Bush Administration officials that portrayed the forces there as gung-ho and well-prepared.

The survey also suggested that difficult conditions in Iraq and prolonged tours of duty have left the US military so stressed that it could cause a major exodus from the Armed Forces.

Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told the Pentagon briefing that military recruitment and enlistment figures did not appear to reflect the complaints from Reserve and National Guard troops and their families about year-long tours of duty in Iraq.

Rumsfeld and Myers said there might be a problem in the part-time Army Reserve but they did not specify what it was. Both vowed to improve the reenlistment in troop deployment.

MNA/Reuters

Internet

Donate blood

 Philippine protesters burn images of US President George W Bush outside the US Embassy in Manila on 16 October, 2003. Bush is to meet with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo one of America’s staunchest allies, as well as address the Philippine Congress, ahead of a summit of Asia-Pacific leaders in Thailand this weekend. —Reuters

MNA/Xinhua
US FACES INTENSIFIED IRAQI RESISTANCE

Four US troops killed in Iraq clashes

Baghdad (Iraq), 18 Oct — A US military-police soldier has been killed near Baghdad hours after a fierce gunbattle in Karbala that left three US soldiers and two Iraqi police officers dead, coalition officials say.

The latest deaths bring the number of US troops killed in hostile fire since President Bush declared an end to major combat to 101.

An improvised explosive device went at 7:50 am (12:50 am EDT) Friday, during an attack, killing a soldier from the US Army’s 220th Military Police Brigade, US Central Command said.

In the central city of Karbala, fighting raged for almost 12 hours, after a joint unit of Iraqi police and American military police from the 101st Airborne Division were attacked during a routine patrol near the Imam Abbas mosque, the Coalition Press Information Center said.

Three US military police and two Iraqi police were killed by assailants firing rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47s.

Coalition officials said that the violence began late Thursday when the joint patrol tried to disarm an unknown, armed faction that established itself near the mosque in Karbala, a holy city about 88 kilometers south of the Iraqi capital.

Tensions have been high in the city, where a power struggle is under way among rival Shiite factions.

On Friday, Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr accused the United States of stirring up trouble in Karbala.

Since the Iraq war began in March, 336 US troops have been killed, including 216 in hostile fire. Since Bush’s declaration of the end of major combat in May, 197 US troops have died — 101 in hostile fire.
Annan will not send UN staff to an insecure Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Oct — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan believes the security situation in Iraq is still too risky to send UN staff back, despite calls for the United Nations to play a political role, his spokesman said on Friday.

The 15-member UN Security Council unanimously adopted a key resolution on Thursday that gives the United Nations scope to play a political role in ushering Iraq toward full sovereignty. The document also appeals for more troops and cash to help support the beleaguered US occupation.

“The security situation does not permit us to send any additional staff into Iraq,” UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said.

Annan, he said, would carry out his duties under the resolution, “bearing in mind his special responsibility for the security of his staff.”

As late as Tuesday, Annan criticized the resolution for not providing a timetable for troop withdrawal. But he was grateful that the revised document did not order him to send staff back immediately.

Asked if Annan still held those views, Eckhard said, “The debate is over. The resolution has passed and the secretary-general said he will do his best to implement it.”

ElBaradei says poor Iraqi security opens WMD risk

VIENNA, 18 Oct — The UN nuclear watchdog head said it was vital for his inspectors to return to Iraq because the country’s chaotic security situation could make it harder to detect any attempts to develop weapons of mass destruction.

“I’d like to see us going back and doing monitoring for a few years in Iraq, because the situation in Iraq is an absolute mess right now,” International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei told Reuters. He said there were still people in Iraq with a lot of knowledge about making chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

“They have the know-how and the capabilities” to make weapons of mass destruction, ElBaradei said on Wednesday. “So from a non-proliferation perspective it’s very important for us to complete the job.”

After the US-led invasion that ousted president Saddam Hussein, Washington took over the hunt for banned weapons and refused to allow UN arms inspectors back into Iraq.

Inspectors from the IAEA and Hans Blix’s UNMOVIC agency had returned to Baghdad in November 2002 for four months after a four-year hiatus to resume the hunt for Saddam’s suspected banned weapons.

They found no evidence Saddam had been secretly developing weapons of mass destruction as the United States and Britain alleged in the run-up to the war but they never gave the country a clean bill of health.

“If they do have weapons, (we should) make sure that we neutralize any programme. If they don’t, we should continue the monitoring for a few years until we go back to a normal verification regime,” ElBaradei said.

Since launching the war in March 2003, the US military’s 1,500-person weapons inspection team called the Iraq Survey Group, has also found non-proliferation evidence Saddam had reaped his WMD programmes, although it has said there was evidence Saddam nuclear ambitions.

India calls for UNSC expansion to make it more representative

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Oct — Attributing the failure to reach an agreement on military action against Iraq to the lack of balanced representation in the Security Council, India has called for its expansion to make it more representative and deal effectively with issues of war and peace.

We can only attribute the inability of the Council to arrive at a collective and unified decision on the major issues placed before it to its lack of balanced representation in its current composition,” India’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations A. Gopinathan said.

India is among the member states who have a strong claim for a permanent seat in the expanded Council which at present has 15 members including five permanent members—the United States, Britain, Russia, France and China. If the Council is to represent “genuine multilateralism in its decisions and actions, he said, it must reflect current world realties.

“Within UN, there is ample recognition of the need of organization and its architecture for maintenance of international peace and security to adapt to the needs and realities of the times,” he told the 191-member United Nations General Assembly. MNA/PTI/PH

United Nations resolutions and Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development to the board but left its duties vague.

US officials have said they were eager for the board to be set up and begin work but they wanted its role confined essentially to bookkeeping, while the international agencies demanded a say in how the money would be spent. There was no immediate word on the role set out for the board in the terms accepted by oral agreement this week. — MNA/Reuters

Agreement reached on Iraqi oil money watchdog

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Oct — Iraq’s US Administration has reached agreement with international agencies on the powers of an independent watchdog to monitor how Iraq’s oil money is spent, US and UN officials said on Thursday.

But the terms of the accord have not yet been put in writing, US officials acknowledged, pledging this would be done before next week’s donors conference in Madrid, where rich nations will be asked to help pay for Iraq’s reconstruction.

A May 22 Security Council resolution ordered the creation of an International Advisory and Monitoring Board, to watch over how oil money and other Iraqi funds are used by the US Administration in the absence of an international committee.

But five months later, this has not yet occurred, prompting criticism of the US civil administration from some Security Council diplomats who fear a lack of transparency in the money’s use could undermine international confidence in the rebuilding process.

The monitoring board’s formation has been clearly delayed for too long, for reasons which we do not understand,” Russian UN Ambassador Sergei Lavrov said on Thursday. A resolution adopted unanimously by the Security Council on Thursday called for the board to be set up “as a priority and insisted the Iraqi funds be used in a transparent manner.”

Diplomats said privately the dispute reflected a US desire to keep Iraq reconstruction exclusively in American hands. This, they said, would discourage other governments from picking up the slack and making a bigger share of the reconstruction costs.

The May 22 resolution called for Iraqi oil revenues and other reconstruction funds — including money left over from the UN Oil-for-Food programme after it is shut down on 21 November — to be deposited in a Development Fund for Iraq and held by the Iraqi Central Bank.

The resolution named the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations and Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development to the board but left its duties vague.

ElBaradei says poor Iraqi security opens WMD risk

US Commerce Secretary Evans bade a farewell to journalists in a bus at Baghdad airport, on 15 October, 2003. He told journalists, that his own presence showed that Iraq is safe. But just moments before, US soldiers delivered the bad news: They had found a roadside bomb on the route. The bus would be diverted. — INTERNET

Tourists watch Perito Moreno Glacier in Santa Cruz province, Patagonian southern Argentina, some 3,200 kilometers, (2,000 miles) south of Buenos Aires, on 16 October, 2003. A study suggests, that melting of glaciers in the Patagonian ice fields of southern Argentina and Chile has doubled in recent years, caused by higher temperatures, lower snowfall and a more rapid breaking of icebergs. — INTERNET
Prime Minister inspects tasks for greening 30-mile radius of Yangon

YANGON, 18 Oct — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, together with member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, left here by helicopter this morning and arrived at Shwehlay Sluice Gate construction site in Kawa Township, Bago Division.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Bago Division Brig-Gen Ko Ko and officials.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin and Director-General U Kyaw San Win of the Irrigation Department reported to the Prime Minister on facts about the project and measures being taken to build the sluice gate.

Commanders Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Brig-Gen Ko Ko reported on matters relating to increasing sown acreage in Yangon and Bago Divisions out of the 35,000 acres on completion of the sluice gate.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with members of Township Peace and Development Council, townsenders and farmers and asked about the conditions of education, health, economy and agriculture and livestock breeding in the region.

The local people reported to the Prime Minister on benefits that will be achieved by the sluice gate. The Prime Minister spoke of the needs of officials to take measures with goodwill for regional development and raising the living standard of farmers.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected the construction tasks of Shwehlay Sluice Gate.

With 40 valves each with the width of 6x16 feet, and a gate with the width of 22 feet, the sluice gate is located at the confluence of Hsema Creek and Bago River in Kawa Township, Bago Division.

In the rainy season, the region has faced floods every year. Shwehlay Sluice Gate will prevent floods in the rainy season and it will also prevent brine and salt carried by Bago River. Moreover, it will supply water to 35,000 acres of summer paddy.

The Prime Minister and party, on board the helicopter, viewed digging of canals for proper flow of water into the wetlands of Twantay, Kawkhu and Kungyangon Townships, the chosen site for construction of a bridge, fish breeding ponds and cultivation in wetlands in Shwemayin region in Twantay Township, cultivation in Bawlekyun wetlands in Hantabi Township and the fish breeding ponds.

On arrival at the briefing hall of Land Reclamation Project in Bawlekyun Wetland in Kyaman Village, Hantabi Township, Yangon Division, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by local authorities and officials.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Mahuya (Ngamoeyevik) Dam Construction Project in Hlega Township. — MNA

The Shwehlay Sluice Gate Construction Project site in Kawa Township, Bago Division. — MNA

People’s Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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
The democratic system to be practised in Myanmar must be the system that represents freedom in accord with rules and regulations within the framework of law; the system that is in harmony with the State’s political, economic and social infrastructures; the system that guarantees Our Three Main National Causes through Union Spirit; and especially the system that equally benefits all the national races within the bounds of national solidarity.

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The division is able to export surplus fish every year. Successful pearl culture and production of six local species have been developed by the division. The industrial crop, total acreage of oil-palm has been extended plans for sea prawn breeding. Sea prawn and fish breeding, which was not carried out previously in the division, also met with success now. Companies such as Aquafarm, Ngwepinle, Vintage, Asaungkong and Yurzana are arranging the extended plans for sea prawn breeding. Coastal and off-shore fish production of the division gradually increased yearly and now it reached over 500,000 tons, exceeding the local consumption.

The meat and fish sector, total length of roads and bridges in the division increased from 397 miles to 664 miles, showing an increase of 267 miles of length. Four bridges with the length of 180 feet and above including Winwa bridge, Palauk bridge, Palaw bridge and Taninthai bridge have been built in the division, while completed Longa-Mandalay bridge and 3612-feet long Kyeku-Kyuakphyu bridge are not opened. On completion of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyne), the Union Highway connecting the southernmost part of the country, Kawthoung, to the northernmost part, Putao, will be serviceable. As the railroad has been constructed in the division, local people can travel along Yaw-Dawei railroad now. Pleasant Mongomagan beach complete with white sandy coast is the distinct feature of the division. There are other interesting beaches and islands in the division. Lampi island and Dome island, and diving skill of Salon nationals are also fascinating and suitable destinations for adventure tours. Salon festival to be held on Lampi island in February 2004 is attracting the attention of foreign tourists. On Salon island near Kawthoung, the breeding and training of dolphins is also successful. With such favourable conditions for tourism, the industry of the division will develop soon.

In the health sector, a total of 23 hospitals in the division are providing healthcare services for the people instead of 17 hospitals in the past, while number of health personnel increased from 470 to 817 now. Border areas all over the country have developed in all sectors like those of Taninthayi Division. I would like to earnestly support the point that the ad-journed National Convention is to be reconvened or the first phase of the political programme included in the speech of the Prime Minister is to be implemented. In accord with the six due deliberation and patience at the National Convention then. These basic principles are as important as the soul of the Union of Myanmar. Therefore, efforts must be exerted for the emergence of the enduring State Constitution free from weakness and loopholes and perpetually reliable.

Emergence of the new enduring state constitution is indispensable necessity for the State and the entire people. It is also required to be based on state constitution that perpetually contributes towards the interests of the entire national people. Many legal scholars and political scientists at home and abroad have defined the essence of a constitution from various aspects. Political scientist Woosey wrote that a constitution is a combined set of basic principles concerning the authority and power of the government, rights of the citizen, and relations between the government and the people.

The division is able to export surplus fish every year. Successful pearl culture and production of six local and foreign companies in the division rises up to 72,000 momme from 7,300 momme in the past. A total of 683 livestock farmers in the division have raised over 986,000 layers. In the industrial sector, industrial zones in the division are now manufacturing motor vehicles.

In the road and bridge sector, total length of roads in the division increased from 397 miles to 664 miles, showing an increase of 267 miles of length. Four bridges with the length of 180 feet and above including Winwa bridge, Palauk bridge, Palaw bridge and Taninthai bridge have been built in the division, while completed Longa-Mandalay bridge and 3612-feet long Kyeku-Kyuakphyu bridge are not opened. On completion of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyne), the Union Highway connecting the southernmost part of the country, Kawthoung, to the northernmost part, Putao, will be serviceable. As the railroad has been constructed in the division, local people can travel along Yaw-Dawei railroad now. Pleasant Mongomagan beach complete with white sandy coast is the distinct feature of the division. There are other interesting beaches and islands in the division. Lampi island and Dome island, and diving skill of Salon nationals are also fascinating and suitable destinations for adventure tours. Salad festival to be held on Lampi island in February 2004 is attracting the attention of foreign tourists. On Salon island near Kawthoung, the breeding and training of dolphins is also successful. With such favourable conditions for tourism, the industry of the division will develop soon.

In the education sector, number of schools in the division has increased from 862 to 1,109, showing an increase of 147 schools, while that of teachers reached 5,018, which stood at 3,451 in the past. Number of students increased by 93,196, up from 147,070 in the past to 240,266 now. A total of 14 multimedia class rooms have been opened in the division. Arrangements are also under way to open multimedia class rooms in the division. To be in accord with the Myanmar education objectives, a total of over 700 representatives of the eight categories of representatives of the National Convention, starting from 9-1-93, had held discussions at the National Convention. Basic principles required for drawing the state constitution could be laid down with

I am confident that despite the obstacles and hindrances, the future programme of drafting the state constitution in accord with the basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention presented by the Prime Minister, will meet with success thanks to the active participation of the entire national people.

In conclusion, earnestly support the motion calling on the entire national people to actively participate in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-stage future policy of the State.

Headmaster U Tin Maung Swe supported the motion calling on active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for the successful implementation of the seven policies and programmes. He said: we are very much delighted to know that the

The Bayintnaung column marching to the mass rally. — MNA

Associate Professor Daw San Yi seconds the motion. — MNA

Prime Minister described in his address the development of the socio-economic life of Myanmar including the sectors of agriculture, meat and fish, forestry, industry, roads and bridges, transport.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the opening of the National Poison Control Centre. — MNA

Government has been taking constant steps to protect the people from unusual diseases that widely occur in the world

Prime Minister attends opening of National Poison Control Centre

YANGON, 18 Oct—The National Poison Control Centre in the compound of Medical Research Depart-ment (Lower Myanmar) on Ziwaka Road here was opened this morning with an address by Chairman of the National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the oc-casion were Vice-Chairmen of NHC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the NHC members, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, members of the National Poison Control Central Committee, the Work Committee and the Sub-Committees, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, rectors of the institutes of medicine and the Defence Services Institutes of Medicine, the President, Chairmen and vice-chairmen of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Na-tional Commission for Environ-mental Affairs, Myanmar Red Cross Society (Central), Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Academy of Medical Science, Myanmar Dental Surgeons Association, and Myanmar Nurses Associa-tion, the medical superin-tendents of the hospitals in Yangon, officials of WHO and UNICEF, departmental officials, guests and others.

First Vice-Chairmen of NHC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein formally opened the centre.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the Chemical Toxicology Research Division, the Poison Information Laboratory, the Analytical Toxicology Labo-ratory, the Pharmaceutical Toxicology Research Divi-sion, the Sample Preparation Poison Screening Laboratory, the Biological Toxicology Research Division and the Radiation Toxicology Research Division on the first floor of the centre.

Next, the opening cer-eemony was held at the meet-ing hall of the MRD. Chair-man of NHC Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech. He said that the opening of the NPCP of interna-tional level amounts to estab-lishment of a basic founda-tion by the government to protect the people from the danger of poison, a health problem that has widely oc-curred in the world but not yet in Myanmar. It was thanks to the goodwill of the govern-ment that has been making efforts for improvement of the public health care serv-ices, he added.

The government, relying on its own national force, is striv-ing for enabling the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with the nations of the world. At such a time, it is fulfilling all necessary requirements public-ly, health care services for ena-bling the entire national people to be fit and healthy and partici-pate in nation-building endeav-ours, and to enjoy the fruitful results of national development with peace of mind.

Keeping pace with the ad-\vancement of science and tech-nology, measures are being taken to provide the effective medical care to the public, us-ing advanced health education, modern diagnostics and treat-ment and sophisticated hos-pital equipment.

In addition, the government has been taking constant steps to O\v protect the people from unusual diseases that widely occur in the world. Thus, the government has been constantly reviewing the pub-lic health care services to be in conformity with the current situation to be able to face the health challenges and health hazards. In the process, the National Poison Control Cen-\tre has been opened.

Nowadays, medicines, foods, agricultural and indus-trial raw materials, and per-sonal goods are widely pro-\uced with the use of chemi-cals and organic matters, gas and rays. These could touch the poisoning due to chemi-cals and organic matters, gas and rays. These could touch off poisoning. At the same time, various items produced with the use of chemicals and organic matters are being used widely in developing nations.

The fertilizer, pesticide, fruits and foods preserved with chemical and biological technology, and medicines produced with the use of chemicals and organic mat-\\ters tend to pose a threat to man and environment. Fur-\thermore, terrorism resorting to chemical and biological matters occurs in some coun-
tries of the world. Therefore, the government is maki\ng all-out efforts for the emergence of a modern and de\veloped nation. With ag-
ri-cultural and industrial de-
velopment, more industrial \\chemicals and pesticides are being applied. Thus, it is re-
quired to make safe and sys-
tematic use of them.

Likewise, preventive measures are to be taken to guard against dangers directly posed to the people due to waste chemicals and waste personal goods or en-
\vironmental pollution.

With the emergence of the international level Na\tional Poison Control Cen-
tre, the prevention of poi-
soning will be carried out widely. At the same time, arrangements are being made to form mobile teams to give effective treatment to victims of poisoning.

Public participation plays a leading role in effective pre-
vention of the poisoning al-
though all-round arrange-
ments have been made.

Health education and knowledge is to be widely imparted to the people as well as to the health staff and members of social organiza-
\tions to enable them to guard against dangers and to in-
form the health personnel of the danger.

Educative measures need to be taken systemati-
\cally and widely in culti-
\\vating eating habit and healthy living among the people; similarly extensive measures are to be taken in connection with emergency treatment for poisoning, danger of chemical poisoning result-

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt opens the National Poison Control Centre. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

The government has established the National Poison Control Centre together with the basic infrastructures and organizations for poison control. Therefore, strenuous efforts are to be made for the effective control of the poi-
soning with use of those ba-
\\sic infrastructures.

In conclusion, he called on the officials concerned to strive for enabling the entire national people to be fit and healthy, using the National Poison Con-
trol Centre which has emerged as the goodwill of the gov-
ernment.

(See page 13)
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

The government is trying to upgrade the health sector quantitatively and qualitatively. New hospitals have been opened across the country. The photo shows the 200-bed hospital in Myeik, Taninthayi Division.

PHOTO: MNA

With the conviction that transportation plays a vital role in regional development, the government is building a network of roads and bridges across the country. The 1,360 feet long Taninthayi Bridge spanning Taninthayi River was opened on 12-11-2000 in Taninthayi Division.—PHOTO: MNA

The Government has been striving for enabling the nation to keep abreast with the world’s nations in terms of development. In the process, it has laid down national development projects and region-wise development plans and work is well under way for bringing about harmonious development in economic, health and education sectors across the nation and narrowing the development gap among all parts of the nation. The photo shows Dawei University in Dawei which was opened on 22-2-2002.

PHOTO: MNA
ASEAN agrees to boost construction of trans-Asia railways

HONG KONG, 18 Oct—Railway officials, who attended the three-day meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)'s Railway General Directors ended here on Wednesday, agreed to accelerate the construction of a trans-Asia railway route.

The project aims to facilitate the transport of containers from Singapore to other regional countries, and help develop tourism, according to a report from the Vietnam News Agency on Thursday.

The 8,135-kilometre route has two major lines with the first running from Singapore-Bangkok-Phnom Penh-Loi Ninh-Ho Chi Minh City-Ha Noi-Lao Cai-Hekou-Kunming, and the second, from Bangkok, Thailand to Yangon, Myanmar.

Malaysia and Thailand have agreed in principle to help Cambodia restore a 48-kilometre section along the Cambodia-Thailand border. The 2.5-billion-US-dollar project will include the upgrade of the current railway network and construction of some new sections.

A major problem is the source for financing the project, which will top the agenda of a Singapore-Kunming project special taskforce conference scheduled for December.

Feasibility studies on the building of the Singapore-Kunming route were conducted in 2000 by Malaysia and officially transferred to Vietnam in 2002.

The project has so far won support from Thailand and the Asian Development Bank. China is considering technical assistance to Cambodia in preparation for new section construction.

Vietnam has signed a memorandum of understanding with Cambodia, providing equipment and security facilities such as an electric alarming bell network for Phnom Penh, and construction of a bridge for locomotives to turn around, at a combined cost of 129,000 US dollars.

China welcomes imports from Thailand, ASEAN

BANGKOK, 18 Oct—China's imports in the next three years would amount to one trillion US dollars and it welcomes Thailand and other member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to enter into competitions in the Chinese market, a top Chinese trade official said here Thursday.

Yu Guangzhou, Vice-Minister of Commerce of China, in a meeting with Thai Commerce Minister Adisai Bhoharamik, noted that the recently set target of 100 billion US dollars in annual trade between China and ASEAN by 2005 would further boost trading between China and Thailand and other ASEAN members.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Chinese official arrived here early Thursday to attend the 15th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting. He also attended the opening of the 2003 APEC Investment Matt in the Thai capital, Adisai, for his part, said that China is an important partner to both Thailand and ASEAN and that Bangkok expects strengthened cooperation in APEC and other areas with China, Thailand’s third largest trading partner.

Also on Thursday, Yu met separately with Australian Minister for Trade Mark Vaile and US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick. They discussed bilateral trade and cooperation in APEC and multilateral trade talks.

APEC economies take measures to reduce business cost

BANGKOK, 18 Oct—Members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum have taken measures to accelerate progress on goals of reducing business transaction costs by 5 per cent by 2006, the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) announced Thursday.

The reduction is expected to stimulate an additional 280 billion US dollars in annual trade, said CTI Chair Ng Kim Neo at a Press conference held on the sidelines of the APEC annual meetings.

“All APEC member economies have selected the actions and measures that they will use to facilitate trade in the region and reduce costs to business,” said Ng, adding that some economies have provided detailed information on their intended reforms, including prospective cost reductions to business. —MNA/Xinhua
Government has been...

(From page 10)

The National Poison Control Centre was opened with the aim of imparting knowledge on poison control to the public. It was inaugurated by the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Tun Myo Myint, in the presence of the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Dr. Myint Myint Win, and the Union Minister for Finance, Gen. Khin Nyunt.

The National Poison Control Centre is the emergency centre for the Union. It is situated on the premises of the Department of Social Welfare, in the capital city. The centre is equipped with the latest technology and has a team of experienced professionals who are trained to deal with poisoning cases.

The centre is open 24 hours a day, and provides free consultations and advice to the public on poisoning prevention and treatment. The centre also offers education and training programmes to raise awareness about poisoning risks.

The centre is located at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and 11th Street, and is easily accessible by public transport. It is open to the public on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. To contact the centre, call their hotline number: 01-666-6666.

On a matter of success...

(From page 9)

communications, electric power, education, technology and health with accurate facts and figures. There is another thing to present that the significant development of border areas, which lagged behind in development in the past, thanks to the strenuous efforts of the Tatmadaw govern- ment. Although border area development tasks were carried out first in the regions where peace had prev- iously prevailed, the tasks also could be implemented in all the border areas across the country.

Now, the government is carrying out the border area development tasks day in, day out in 18 regions con- sisting of 18 major border areas cover- ing 38000 square miles area where over 5.3 million national people reside.

As the tasks include road and bridge construction, educa- tion, health, agriculture, livestock breeding, electric power, communications and mining, the people of border areas are enjoying the fruitful results of these development tasks.

The State has spent over K 4500 million plus US $56 million for the border area development tasks from 1989 to 2003. So, there has emerged significant develop- ment of all sectors in the border areas.

He said the second part of the Prime Minister’s speech dealt with the efforts of the State for national reconsolidation. He explained that making efforts for re- gional development, emergence of infra- structure, raising the standard living standard will be forever only after the national unity has been built in the country.

While making efforts for the border area develop- ment, the State also could endeavour for national armed groups to return to the legal fold. As a result, 17 national race armed groups returned to the legal fold. The tasks for development of border areas, which could not be carried out by the previous government, can now be implemented in the time of the State Peace and Development Council, he added.

It is heartening to see that national leaders are partici- pating not only in the development of their region but also in the nation-build- ing task. Arrangements were made for convening of the National Convention in 1992 due to the prevalence of peace and national unity in the country.

The National Convention is the forum in which the basic principles are to be discussed and for the people to draw a constitution in shapping the democratic nation. National Convention was attended by political parties, representatives-elect, na- tional race representatives of states and divisions, intel- lectuals and intellectuals, emer- gency personnel and representatives form all walks of life. But only those parties and politicians were per- mission to officially make discus- sions and to indicate their wishes at the conven- tion. The convention also envisaged the participation of political forces. The aim of convening the National Con- vention is the emergence of a future discipline-flourish- ing democratic state.

It is important for our country to successfully con- vene the National Conven- tion and to bring out a new enduring constitution of the State. Only when the Na- tional Convention is con- vened successfully, can the constitution of the State be drafted based on the basic principles resulting the con- vention. All the national pop- ulation are looking forward to the success of the State’s consti- tution, which will be drafted by the National Con- vention comprising multi- ple, the people of all strata and national representatives, in accord with the six objec- tives. That is why reconven- ing of the National Conven- tion is the national duty of all citizens.

The seven-point politi- cal roadmap of the State with strong Union Spirit tabled by U Moe Myint calling for active par- ticipation of the entire na- tional unity has been built in the country.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win enjoys performance of a contestant of dance contest (age 5-10). — MNA

11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 18 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the fifth day at the design of Yangon’s Sentinel. The song contest of the competitions which can serve the interests of the State and the people. He quoted Head of State's speech at general Than Shwe in his guidance, as saying that the entire national pop- ulation are looking forward to the same land and drinking wa- ter from the same source and keeping eggs and nest intact in the course of history. In accord with the saying 'blood is thicker than water' the national people drove out every danger to the Union. And it’s a significant fact of Myanmar. Union Spirit must be flourishing in Myanmar through the tap- roots of patriotism and na- tionalism.

For the emergence of the constitution in accordance with the guidance, emphasis- ing the seven roots of patriotism and na- tionalism, is to be placed on crushing every danger and destruc- tive act, he said.

In conclusion, he said he emphatically seconded the motion tabled by U Moe Myint calling for active par- ticipation of the entire na- tional people by doing their bit for the successful imple- mentation of the seven poli- cies and programmes of the State.

Afterwards, the chairman sought the approval of the mass rally concerning the seven-stage future policy and programme of the State with strong Un- ion Spirit tabled by U Moe Myint, Chairman of the Work Committee of No.3 Military Region Col Tin Tint Hsan, officials of work committees and sub-commit- tees, enthusiasts and tourists.

The song contest continued as at the first day. The song contest (troupe) was held at the Pathein’s Theatre in Pathein. The competitions were opened by the Union Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Mayor of Yangon and the National Conven- tion. The competition was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Develop- ment Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Members of the Panel of Judges, the Show Management Committee for Holding the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cul- tural Performing Arts Competitions for Information Brgt-Gen Kyaw Htin, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Culture Maj- Gen Kyi Aung, Mayor of Yangon Brgt-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chairmen of the Work Committee of No-3 Military Region Col Tin Tint Hsan, officials of work committees and sub-commit- tees, enthusiasts and tourists.

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**Sports**

**Top-seeded Indonesians advance in Asian badminton c’ship**

**JAVAARTA, 18 Oct**— Indonesian men’s single players Sonny Dwi Kuncoro and Taufik Hidayat entered the quarterfinals in the 150,000 US dollars JVC Asian badminton championship here on Thursday.

Sonny stopped Lias Sheng Shun of Taibei 15-8, 15-4 to face South Korean Jung Young Soo, while Taufik also easily halted Yusuke Shinkai of Japan 15-6, 15-4 to challenge South Korean Park Sung Hwan.

However, Indonesian Simon Santosa and Ronny Agustinus failed on their campaigns. Simon lost 7-15, 15-7, 15-12 to Malaysian Lee Tsuen Seng and Ronny lost 15-12, 5-15, 15-5 to a Hong Kong player.

Two Indonesian women’s doubles pairs Greysia Polii/Rani Mundiasihati and Jo Nosta/Lita Nurlita also entered the quarter-finals.


Three Indonesian men’s doubles pairs Eng Han/Fandy Limpele, Lulk Hadiyanto/Alven Yulianto and Markis Kido/Hendra Setiawan also entered the quarterfinal.

**Musairelle, second in Ligue 1, beaten 4-1 at Strasbourg**

**PARIS, 18 Oct**— Olymique Marseille wanted a chance to go top of Ligue 1 when they were thrashed 4-1 by Racing Strasbourg on Friday. Marseille, one point behind leaders Monaco, never recovered from conceding two goals shortly before halftime to a spirited Strasbourg side who finished the game with 10 men.

The visitors, in the process of trying to sign French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez from Manchester United, had conceded just five goals in nine games and this defeat could not have come at a worse time for first choice keeper Vedran Runje.

A thrilling goal threatened to get out of hand in the 70th minute when Strasbourg, 3-1 ahead, were awarded a penalty.

Scuffles broke out in the Marseille penalty area and Strasbourg midfielder Christian Bassilla was sent off for hitting Sebastien Perez. Danijel Ljubojca, the man of the match, missed the spot kick after a one-handed save by Runje.

Strasbourg went on the attack from the opening whistle against the best defence in Ligue 1 and midfielder Corentin Martins put them ahead in the 21st minute with a powerful header at the far post. Steve Marlet equalized 13 minutes later after hesitation in the home defence but Marseille were rocked by two more goals before halftime. Striker Mamadou Niang swooped from close range for his sixth goal of the season, after Runje had saved well from Ljubojca, before striker Ljubojca scored with a superb free kick in injury time at the break.

Runje, likely to miss out if Barthez receives permission from FIFA to leave before the transfer window reopens on January 1, raged at his defensive wall but he was embarrassed at his near post. As Marseille fought forward in the dying minutes, midfielder Fabricce Ehret finished off a Strasbourg breakaway with the fourth goal. Strasbourg moved up to fourth on 17 points, five points behind Monaco, before the remaining nine games on Saturday.

**Dynamo Kiew warm up for Arsenal by beating Maripul 2-0**

**Kiev, 18 Oct**— Dynamo Kiev warmed up for next week’s Champions League clash with Arsenal by eking out an unconvincing 2-0 home win over Liechevt Maripul in a Ukrainian premier division match on Friday.

Croatian midfielder Jerko Leko scored midway through the second half when he perfectly timed his run and latched on to a Valentin Belkevich cross from the left wing to open the score from close range.

Until then it was mostly an uneventful game as the Ukrainian champions tested their form ahead of next Tuesday’s Champions League, Group B match against the London club in Kiev.

Ukraine international Oleg Husev sealed the victory in the last minute with a timely header following another Belkevich cross, this time from the right.

The win gave Dynamo 29 points from 12 matches, moving them to within two points of league leaders Shakhtar Donetsk, who host Kryvbas Kryvyi Rih on Saturday.

**Shwe-Saryan Open Golf Championship**

**YANGON, 18 Oct**— The Shwe-Saryan Open Golf Championship of Myanmar Golf Tour 2003 continued at Shwe-Saryan Golf Course in Mandalay this morning.

Astonishingly, Myan Min Aung (Srixon) and Zaw Paing Oo (Pan-West) led the tour with 217 strokes each in the professional golfers division, followed by Myint Shwe(Wilson) and Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-west) with 219 each and Nanda Kyaw (Srixon) participating in the Shwe-Saryan Open Golf Championship—Golf and Travel division.

The golf tour is organized by Han Events Management. The championship continues at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA/Reuters

**Crosswords puzzle**

| El Aynaoui outlasts Grosjean in Madrid quarterfinals |

**MADRID, 18 Oct**— Youssef El Aynaoui of Morocco recovered from a nervous start to beat French fifth seed Sebastien Grosjean 3-6, 7-6, 6-2 and reach the semifinals of the Madrid Masters on Friday.

Grosjean hardly put a foot wrong over the first two sets, serving to devastating effect and dominating the points with his accurate ground-strokes. The Frenchman set up two break-points in game six of the second but the Frenchman had to convert and that save from El Aynaoui signalled a shift in momentum.

El Aynaoui went on to force a tiebreak and moved confidently into a 6-3 lead. Grosjean saved those three set-points but, serving at 6-7, he missed a fourth as El Aynaoui stepped round to clatter a forehand winner.

The win gave Dynamo 29 points from 12 matches, moving them to within two points of league leaders Shakhtar Donetsk, who host Kryvbas Kryviy Rih on Saturday.

**Shwe-Saryan Open Golf Championship**

**YANGON, 18 Oct**— The Shwe-Saryan Open Golf Championship of Myanmar Golf Tour 2003 continued at Shwe-Saryan Golf Course in Mandalay this morning.

After the third day 18th hole event, Min Naing (Srixon) and Zaw Paing Oo (Pan-West) led the tour with 217 strokes each in the professional golfers division, followed by Myint Shwe(Wilson) and Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-west) with 219 each and Nanda Kyaw (Srixon) participating in the Shwe-Saryan Open Golf Championship—Golf and Travel division.

The golf tour is organized by Han Events Management. The championship continues at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA/Reuters

**Van der Vaart double helps Ajax to 5-1 win**

**AMSTERDAM, 18 Oct**— Two first-half goals from Rafael van der Vaart helped First Division leaders Ajax Amsterdam to a 5-1 win over Volendam on Friday.

Ajax have 21 points at the top of the table, five ahead of PSV Eindhoven and AZ Alkmaar, who play at the weekend.

Belgian international Wesley Sonck opened the scoring for Ajax after five minutes when he headed home a cross from compatriot Tom Soetaers.

A blunder by French defender Julien Escude gave Dion Esaays the opportunity to equalize in the 13th minute, but then van der Vaart scored twice in six minutes to establish a 3-1 halftime lead.

**YANGON, 18 Oct**— The Shwe-Saryan Open Golf Championship of Myanmar Golf Tour 2003 continued at Shwe-Saryan Golf Course in Mandalay this morning.

After the third day 18th hole event, Min Naing (Srixon) and Zaw Paing Oo (Pan-West) led the tour with 217 strokes each in the professional golfers division, followed by Myint Shwe(Wilson) and Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-west) with 219 each and Nanda Kyaw (Srixon) participating in the Shwe-Saryan Open Golf Championship—Golf and Travel division.

The golf tour is organized by Han Events Management. The championship continues at the same venue tomorrow. — MNA/Reuters

**Crosswords puzzle**

5 Beautiful girl
8 Squeezing out water
9 Sailing vessel
10 Raw
11 Holy-water vessel
14 Pig pen
16 Select
17 Worn away
18 Beast of burden
20 Young dog
21 Snake
22 Foot care
27 Liberated

1 Terrible
2 Evil woman
3 Tingling
4 Purpose
5 Affirmative answer
15 Artist’s model
19 Artist’s model
21 Killed
22 Resentment
23 Bury

**MNA/Reuters**
Prime Minister inspects...  
(from page 7)  
Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented a supplementary report on increase in sown acreage in the rainy season for greening the environs and cultivation of paddy and other crops in the 30-mile radius of Yangon, arrangements being made for supply of water to townships located in the 30-mile radius area for growing summer paddy, present conditions for extended cultivation of summer paddy by dredging the existing canals and creeks, plans for growing other crops on the land where paddy cannot be grown and digging of fish breeding ponds.  
The Prime Minister and party inspected the water pumping station which supplies water to paddy fields from Bowale River. Next, the Prime Minister met with headmistress of Kyamyan Village Basic Education Primary School and gave instructions to officials on renovation of the school.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to the site of Mahuya (Ngamoeyik) Supporting Dam project in Hlegu Township in Yangon Division. Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported to the Prime Minister on inflow of water and water storage capacity of Ngamoeyik Dam, its contribution to agriculture, arrangements being made to supply water from the dam not only for agricultural purpose but also for household use in Yangon, measures being taken to generate electricity from Ngamoeyik Dam and arrangements being made to supply water to Nga- moeyik Dam by building Mahuya dam and Paunglin Dam for ensuring the Ngamoeyik Dam to be able to conduct its work in full capacity.

Director-General U Kyaw San Win reported on facts about Mahuya (Ngamoeyik) Supporting Dam and work done. The Prime Minister gave instructions saying that as Ngamoeyik Dam was built with the aim of supplying water to Yangon, measures are to be taken for keeping the natural resources of Ngamoeyik region intact. He also gave instructions on conservation of the water- shed areas of the region.

From the observation tower, the Prime Minister and party inspected the construction of Mahuya (Ngamoeyik) Supporting Dam. They arrived back here in the afternoon.

Secretary-1 and Secretary-2 meet...  
(from page 2)  
He said records and files are stored with the use of modern electronic equipment and computers at the universities, universities and departments under the min- 

istry.

gave instructions on the use of effective website for software pro-
grammes and preparations for establishment of cable network and e-government in the future.

Next, the Secretary-2 gave instructions. In his dis-
cussions, the Secretary-2 said some big nations making use of technological superiority and wealth are attempting to enable small nations to think highly of them, to rely on them and to act under their influence through media. So we are to take care of this fact, he said.

He said political, economic and defence strengths of the small nations must be strong in order to prevent above-mentioned dangers. Among the strengths, economic strength which contributes towards political and defence strengths is the most important. This is why the government is implementing the projects for national eco-

nomic development. The Ministry of Transport is one of the ministries that make efforts for economic development, he added.

He said the ministry is to implement the tasks for achieving success. He called for a balance of income and expenditure, making arrangements for safety and convenience of the passen-
gers, minimizing loss and wastage, supervision for in-
crease of income, making field trips to grassroots lev-
els and fulfilling requirements. He also placed em-
phasis on thirty.

The meeting came to a close at 11.30 am. — MNA

Myanmar Judo team wins one gold, one silver and one bronze

YANGON, 18 Oct — Selected Myanmar Judo team led by U Aung Win, executive of Myanmar Judo Federation, won one gold, one silver and one bronze in the Tha International Junior (Under-19) Invitational Judo Contest being held in Thailand from 15 to 20 October.

Aye Aye Aung won the first in 57 kilo division, Nwe Nwe Than the second in 45 kilo division and Thando Won the third in 48 kilo division. Altogether 14 teams of 11 countries par- 
ticipated in the contest. Myanmar team will arrive back here tomorrow by air.

MNA

Development of Taninthayi Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sown acreage</td>
<td>over 468,000 acres per year</td>
<td>over 670,000 acres per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice production</td>
<td>16.7 million baskets</td>
<td>110,000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plam oil</td>
<td></td>
<td>114,000 tons per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meat and fish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td></td>
<td>over 500,000 tons per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl</td>
<td></td>
<td>over 72,000 tons per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry farming</td>
<td>7,300 moni</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads and Bridges</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads (180-feet and above)</td>
<td>397 miles</td>
<td>664 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges</td>
<td>Winra Bridge, Palauk Bridge, Palau Bridge, Taung-Biru Bridge, Laynya, Mandaing Bridge, Kyaw-Wa-Kyuakya Bridge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rail Transportation</td>
<td>Ye - Dawei railroad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Only after successful holding of the National Convention…

(from page 1)

In the second part, he touched on political developments of the State.

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

Steps for nation-building tasks are as follows:

1. Reconvening of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996.

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

3. Drafting of a new 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 Hluttaw (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.

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

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

In the seven-point programmes, there include two essential needs—the successful holding of the National Convention and emergence of an enduring State Constitution.

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

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

At the plenary meeting held in 1992, matters relating to sending out invitations to the representatives to the National Convention were discussed. After holding several meetings in all parts of the country, the invitations were sent.

On 10 July 1992, Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe cordially greeted the elected representatives from the political parties who attended the coordination meeting for holding the National Convention at the meeting room of the Presidential Residence on Ahlon Road. The National Convention commenced held in 1993.

At a time when efforts were made for drawing the State Constitution, the National Convention, 86 representatives of National League for Democracy walked out of the National Convention on 29 November 1995. As a result, the National Convention was adjourned temporarily.

But now, the entire citizens are glad to know that there will be the resuming of the National Convention which was adjourned temporarily.

Only after successful holding of the National Convention, step by step will there be: drawing of the enduring State Constitution that is essential for the State.

Chairman Pro-rector U Khin Maung Cho of Myeik University delivers a speech at the mass rally. — MNA

After the emergence of the enduring State Constitution and efforts are being made step by step for nation-building task, the ultimate objective—emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation—will be achieved.

Democracy that Myanmar will accept and practice are as follow:

1. Democracy that practises freedom under disciplines within the framework of the law.

2. Democracy that is in conformity with political, economic and social structures of the State.

3. Democracy that is in line with the historical traditions of the State and culture and custom of the people.

4. Democracy that guarantees Union Spirit and Our Three Main National Causes.

5. Democracy that creates equal results for all national races within the framework of national solidarity.

In summing up, all the national people are glad to know that the seven-point programmes stated in the Prime Minister’s speech will be implemented soon and they also are looking forward to the success of the seven-point programmes.

At a time when the seven-point programmes are being implemented, it is very important to guard with the strength of the people against various dangers posed by destructive elements who do not want to see peace, unity and development of the State.

Chairman and members chanting slogans at the mass rally. — MNA

such a time like this efforts are being made to build new democratic nation, I would like to urge all the national people to actively participate with full sense of Union Spirit in the successful implementation of the programmes.

Tabling a motion calling for the active participation of the entire people by doing their bit in implementing the seven-stage future policy and programme of the State with strong Union Spirit, U Moe Myint, Secretary of Myeik Township USDA, said that the Prime Minister on 30 August delivered a speech that is crucially important for the State’s future. Making clarifications on all-round progress of the State, the Prime Minister divided his address into three parts. The government changed its economic system from the centralized economic system into the market-oriented economic system, which is in conformity with the national economic plans. Simultaneously, it has been constructing basic economic foundations as well as roads, rivers and creek-crossing bridges.