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

YANGON, 20 Oct — A mass rally, organized by Union Solidarity and Development Association, was held in support of the Prime Minister’s clarification on the seven-policies and programmes of the State (roadmap) in the Pyidaungsu Sports Ground, Lashio, Shan State (North) this morning.

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

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

Principal of Lashio Degree College U Pe Thaung presided over the mass rally together with Lashio Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Khin Maung Wah, Paunglaung national U Khin Pwint, Shan State MCWA Secretary Dr Nan Kein Phuang Tit and Kachin national Duwa Khaung J as members Executive of the mass rally Principal of Lashio Degree College U Pe Thaung made a speech. He said, Tuesday’s mass rally is to support the seven-point future policies and programmes of the State which was mentioned in the speech of Prime Minister General Kyin Nyunt on 30 August 2003.

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

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

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

When the Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities unavoidably on 18 Sep-tember 1988, there reigned chaos and anarchy due to the political influences behind the violent demonstrations in the country. With the strength of national unity, acts of destructive elements, who had been keeping the ideology, sectarianism and racialism in the fore, to (See page 16)

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

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends Kathina robes offering ceremony of Bangladesh Monastery

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

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party paid obeisance to Nyanbininaingtyawa Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Nandabhosa who was receiving medical treatment at the hospital. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Maha Arinthat Khintha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image on Mandalay-Lashio Road where they paid homage to the Buddha Image and presented cash donation for the image to the chairman of the pagoda board of trustees. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the advanced nyin tarred uphill road before proceeding to No1-1 Defence Services Hospital (700-bed) in PyinOoLwin.
The General Assembly on 17 October concluded its consideration of the annual report of the Security Council, and questions of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of that 15-nation body. Wrapping up the debate, Assembly President Julian R. Hunte (Saint Lucia) said that, over the course of three sessions, 40 speakers had addressed the Council’s annual report.

During the debate, many speakers put forward a number of proposals on Council reform, including the need to ensure equitable geographical representation by increasing the number of permanent members. In addition, delegations suggested that the veto power be limited, and eventually phased out altogether. That view was echoed today by the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who said that any reform should seek to redefine the veto privilege. In fact, the veto should not exist in an organization based on the principles of pluralism and democracy, in which all States were equal.

FE Zulu Kilo-Abi (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that among the Council’s main concerns had been the situation in the Middle East, terrorism and the need for peace in Africa. Regarding terrorism, there must be mobilization on a common front to terrorize the terrorists. His country had set up a committee to coordinate national anti-terrorism efforts.

The maintenance of international peace and security and the development of friendly relations and international cooperation were the founding principles of the United Nations. The attainment of such goals required, among others, recognition of the principle of sovereignty, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of force. However, recent events had frustrated those principles and the present world situation was one in which sophisticated nuclear weapons were being hoarded and small arms and light weapons trafficked.

In addition, the prevalence of anti-personnel landmines, retreat from multilateralism, the division of the world between rich and poor, transnational crime, and blind terrorism posed grave dangers. Faced with that situation, he concluded, there must be a new plan to reform the international system to ensure international peace and security.

The focus should be on collective action and strengthening the Security Council, including through expanding its membership and addressing its decision-making process. The principle of equitable representation should be adhered to, with one non-permanent seat for each of the five continents. The Council’s relationship to the Assembly should also be redressed, while greater cooperation with regional and subregional organizations should be fostered in conflict resolution and preventive diplomacy.

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

The United Nations was created on the basis of sovereign equity of States. Raza Hayat Hiraj (Pakistan) said the objective of the Working Group must be the evolution of a transparent, democratic and effective Security Council that enjoyed the support and confidence of the entire membership of the United Nations. There was obviously a need to make the Council more representative since its creation in 1945, when a few countries decided how the Council should be structured, and how the permanent members should enjoy privileges which eroded the fundamental principle of sovereignty.

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

He stressed that the United Nations was created on the basis of sovereign equity of States, and in the twenty-first century the Assembly could not be expected to bestow special privileges on some, while denying them to the vast majority of nations. There was no “quick fix” for the new aspirants, nor those hanging onto their coat-tails to find a place in the “Exclusion Club”. He did note some positive trends in the Council’s working methods under Cluster II issues.

Raza Hayat Hiraj (Pakistan)
Protests await Bush in Manila

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Iraq’s dumped weapons will take years to clear

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

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

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

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

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

Huge ammunition stocks built up by Saddam Hussein’s forces are a pressing problem for the US-led coalition occupying Iraq. According to Davis, a country like the US has about 1.8 million tons of ammunition stocks, so the volumes in Iraq professional to size are overwhelming.

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

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

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

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China fully supports Doha Round trade talks

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

How to move forward the Doha Round of talks will be a major topic for the APEC annual meetings, China’s Vice-Minister of Commerce Yu Guangzhou said at Friday’s ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

“Our participation in the WTO ministerial meeting in September in Cancun, Mexico, the Doha Round will continue,” he said.

Yu said that APEC should send “a positive and clear political message” to sup- send “a positive and clear political message” to sup- send “a positive and clear political message” to sup- send “a positive and clear political message” to sup- send “a positive and clear political message” to support the WTO and trade negotiations.

China favours stronger ties with New Zealand

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

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

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

Li noted that China and New Zealand enjoy strong and close economic ties.

China’s first manned space flight

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

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

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

Wen also reviewed the sound development of Sino-Vietnamese relations and the rapid growth of economic and trade cooperation, citing the 60 per cent year-on-year increase in bilateral trade in the first eight months of this year.

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

Nguyen said Vietnam valued unity and coopera- tion with China and would push forward bilateral relations.

More foreign leaders congratulate China on manned space flight

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

Chinese President Hu Jintao has received congratulatory telegrams from President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India, Prime Min- ister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan, Chairman of Myanmar’s State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, King Gyanendra of Nepal, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Emmadali Rahmon of Tajikistan, President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia, President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, President of the Swiss Confederation Pascal Couchepin, President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia, President Maowiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya of Mauritania, President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, President Raulino Ronal Venetiaan of Suriname.

Chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission Jiang Zemin has received congratulatory telegrams from President Izzuddin Ahmed of Bangladesh, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan, Chairman of Myanmar’s State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, King Gyanendra of Nepal, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Emmadali Rahmon of Tajikistan, President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia, President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, President of the Swiss Confederation Pascal Couchepin, President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia, President Maowiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya of Mauritania, President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, President Raulino Ronal Venetiaan of Suriname.

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US FACES INTENSIFIED IRAQI RESISTANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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China calls for quick transfer of Iraqi sovereignty

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

He said that China voted for the resolution to help Iraq achieve peace and stability and to reconcile develop- ment.

“It was important to achieve consensus in the Council,” he said. “In view of the current situation in Iraq and the common aspiration of the international com- munity, the Chinese side has consistently maintained that it is necessary for the Secu- rity Council to adopt a new resolution.”

Wang made the state- ment after the 15-member Council adopted unani- mously the United States- proposed resolution Iraq’s future, which authorizes the deployment of a multina- tional force in the country.

“This resolution will undoubtedly have positive significance for the endeav- our to promote the political process in Iraq, accelerate power transfer by EPA (the Coalition Provisional Au- thority) to the Iraqi people, gradually strengthen the role of the UN and increase trans- parency in Iraqi economic recon- struction,” he said, explaining the Chinese “yes” vote.

Meanwhile, he also ex- pressed his concerns with some of the text within the resolution. “Had this resolu- tion incorporated more of those suggestions, there would undoubtedly be a bet- ter outcome,” he said.

“Therefore, our posi- tive vote does not mean that we are fully satisfied with its contents,” he added.

He concluded by reit- erating that the Chinese Gov- ernment and people are greatly concerned about the current situation in Iraq and attach importance to its po- litical and economic recon- struction.

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

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Islamic nations grumble over UN Iraq vote

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

The UN unanimously adopted a reso- lution on Thursday aimed at getting troops and cash for Iraq, a diplomatic victory for the United States’ efforts to broaden back- ing for its occupation.

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

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

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

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

“It’s very good news for the Iraqi people that the international community and the Secu- rity Council are united behind the need to stabilize Iraq and to create a better future for the Iraqi people,” he told reporters at the sum- mit.

“Iraqis who have come to us and asked for help, we want them to be heard too,” he said.

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

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Spanish judge to probe death of Iraq war cameraman

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

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

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

“It’s the first time that something like this has hap- pened in Spain,” the family’s lawyer Pilar Hermoso told Reuters. “No judge has ever agreed to investigate a war crimes case against soldiers before.”

In Spain, cases are pre- sented to investigating magis- trates who then decide whether they should be taken up or not.

“It is a small victory,” the cameraman’s brother David Couso told Reuters. “These small victories... com- fort us.”

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

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China urges chopper supplies to set up maintenance centre

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

“The management and application of helicopters is a quite complicated system. China won’t import too many types of helicopters, though a large quantity is needed,” said Tao Junsheng, an official with the Ministry of Public Secu- rity (MPS), at a Press confer- ence Friday on China’s Sec- ond International Exhibition on Police Equipment & Techno- logies.

“It’s an overall trend for China to standardize the types of helicopters in line with their fitness to Chinese police, which will facilitate general arrangements in helicopter management, personnel training and replacement of spare parts,” Tao said.

According to Tao, foreign companies whose heli- copters are used in Chinese police work are expected to build at least one maintenance centre in China which can pro- vide comparatively compre- hensive repair services.

Tao said that the sec- ond international expo on po- lice equipment to be held in Beijing on June 23-26, 2004 will have specific helicopter flight performances and aca- demic exchanges of this as- pect. In the first exhibition held in June last year, helicopters, signalling the immediate re- sponse capacity and the ad- vanced level of a police de- partment, attracted great at- tention. China now has only some 10 helicopters and the number may amount to 30 in three years, Tao said.

During the second half of September, the State Coun- cil and the Central Military Commission formally desig- nated the police helicopter as one of the state-level aircraft and its airspace management was taken over by the Chinese Air Force, which further guar- anteed the development of Chinese police helicopters. —MNA/Xinhua

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Philippine anti-riot policemen block thousands of protesters as they march to the Philippine Congress in Manila, to protest against the visit of US President George W Bush on 18 October, 2003.—Reuters
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) made up of ten countries from the Southeast Asian region held its 9th ASEAN Summit successfully in Bali, Indonesia, from 6 to 8 October. In addition to the 9th ASEAN Summit, meetings of the ASEAN+3 Summit (People’s Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea) were also held. The ASEAN Summit had been held nine times during the period from 1976 to 2003; and the ASEAN+3 Summit, seven times from 1997 to 2003.

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

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

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

General Kyin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, arrived at Bali on 6 October afternoon. That evening, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the working dinner of ASEAN Heads of State/Government. Also present at the dinner were His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muzaffaruddin of Brunei, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Sandeche Hun Sen, Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Buonguang Vorachith, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Thai Prime Minister Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai, Indonesian Defence Minister Mr M. Megawati Soekarnoputri, Indonesian Foreign Minister from the ASEAN countries, economic ministers, deputy ministers, and Secretary-General of ASEAN Mr Ong Keng Yong. At the working dinner, the ASEAN Heads of States/Government enjoyed the dinner and had cordial and frank discussions.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt called on Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao, and thanked him for the warm welcome and the dinner. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt expressed his gratitude to Singapore for its assistance to and support of Myanmar’s transition to democracy and the realization of the seven-stage roadmap, adding that China had played an important role in the realization of the seven-stage roadmap, adding that Singapore understood the challenges threatening Myanmar; and that China held the view that it was necessary to continue to assist Myanmar.

At the meeting with Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong expressed his thanks for being informed of the seven-stage roadmap of Myanmar, adding that Singapore wished the endeavours of Myanmar Government every success; that it understood the challenges threatening Myanmar; and that Myanmar was a promising country. In response, Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt expressed his gratitude to Singapore for its assistance to and support of Myanmar’s transition to democracy and the realization of the seven-stage roadmap, adding that he believed the bilateral relationship between the two countries and bilateral cooperation in all sectors would become stronger and stronger.

People’s Desire
* Oppose those relying on external elements, writing as stooges, holding negative views.
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize the 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 flaunted.
* Do not be softened whenever appealed.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint visits... (from page 2)
Oksaung Ward in Mandalay. There, they paid obeisance to Sayadaw Ashin Janaka Bhivamsa at Mahasangayagyi Monastery in Mandalay on the 15th day of the fifth month of the Myanmar calendar.

Kathina robes offered to monks
The seventh communal Kathina robes offering ceremony of Directorate of Electricity Power Engineers, Ministry of Defence, was held in conjunction with donation ceremony video tapes on the biography and religious activities of Sayadaw Ashin Janaka Bhivamsa at Mahasangayagyi Monastery in Mandalay in Amarapura yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were the Rector Sayad- daw of Mahagandayon Monastery, Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Maj. Gen Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Maj. Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers, wife of the commander of Central Command, military officers and other ranks and officials.

At the ceremony, Kathina robes worth K 480,690 were donated to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. — MNA
Six objectives of National Convention…

(from page 16) However, the Tatmadaw government practising the market-oriented economic system reconstructed the damaged mills, factories, workshops and economic foundations. It also built infrastructures such as roads, river and creek-crossing bridges, dams and reservoirs, universities, colleges and hospitals the length and breadth of the nation.

One of the four economic objectives is ‘development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. The annual paddy output was only 654 million baskets in 1988. Realizing that water resource plays the main role in agricultural sector, the government constructed dams, reservoirs, sluice gates, river water pumping stations and underground water tapping stations one after another for ensuring sufficient water supply for agricultural purposes. Consequently, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy could be extended and the annual paddy output increased to 1,000 million baskets in 2000-2001.

The government has spent over K 63,000 million on construction of 151 dams and reservoirs. All the national brethren have enjoyed the fruitful results of development. In a bid to ensure regional rice sufficiency, the highland reclamation project has been launched.

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

The nation is gaining development in all spheres and there have also been political development. He quoted the Prime Minister in his address, saying that it is because of the historical necessity that we were compelled to assume State responsibilities on 18 September 1988. It may be recalled that at that time there reigned chaos and anarchy due to the political influence behind the violent demonstrations in the country. It is because of this situation that we unavoidably assumed responsibilities of the State.

Taking up the State’s duties, the Tatmadaw government strove for restoration of stability and peace. And now, it is implementing the programmes for building up a peaceful, tranquil and developed nation in accord with the democratic system. Resulting from good conditions of stability and peace restored across the nation, the National Convention could be launched in 1993.

At the National Convention, respective representatives held open and cordial discussions group-wise for emergence of an enduring State Constitution, and the Tatmadaw building up a modern developed nation in accord with the democratic system. So, it can be found that the government adopted a clear and sharp policy to construct a new nation.

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

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

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

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

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

He said: the State Peace and Development Council is now striving in all sectors for the emergence of the Union of Myanmar as a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In the agriculture sector, paddy output of the country, that stood at 654 million baskets in 1988, reached over one billion baskets in 2000-2001. Thanks to the efforts exerted through various means, Shan State (North) will become a region producing sufficient rice for its own consumption in 2003-2004. Success must be attributed to the cultivation of high yield paddy strains and extended cultivation carried out starting from 2002-2003.

Cultivation of such major crops as paddy, corn, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, pigeon pea, and soybean, and opium substitute crops have been actively carried out through the distribution and use of quality strains, systematic cultivation methods, highland reclamation method and natural and chemical fertilizers.

With the encouragement of the government, people are being made for the development of fish and livestock breeding tasks in the region. The increased use of electricity, Nanhaw Hydel Power Plant, Nan Saung Ngaung Hydel Power Plant and Panhsan Hydel Power Plant have been constructed in the region. As the 400-megawatt Shweby Hydel Power Plant is being constructed with the aims of supplying electricity not only in the region but also to the national grid, the entire state of ours will be able to consume sufficient power supply through the distribution and use of electricities.

Local people from all walks of life attend the mass rally held at Pyidaungsu sports ground in Laizhou, Shan State (North). — MNA
Six objectives of National Convention…

(state increased from 347,878 in 1988 to 626,298 now. There are a total of 239,625 students in Shan State (North) now. In the higher education sector of the State, there were 32 universities and colleges and over 130,000 students and over 5,600 teaching staff in 1988. Now, the number of institutions of higher learning reached 154, and that of students and teaching staff reached over 890,000 and 16,000 respectively. The institutions that conducted up to master’s degree courses in 1988, are now able to conduct 150 kinds of courses including eighteen Master of Research courses, forty master’s degree courses, 29 doctorate courses and graduate and diploma courses. There emerge Lashio Degree College, Government Technological College and Government Computer College installed with modern equipment in the higher education sector of Shan State (North). E-learning centres have also been opened in the high schools. In the health sector, the entire Shan State has witnessed an increase of 79 new hospitals totalling 117, up from 38 in 1988. There are 47 hospitals in Shan State (North). The number of health personnel including doctors in the entire Shan State, which stood 1740 in 1988, has now increased to 2,772. In the transport sector, total length of roads in the entire state was 4,077 miles in 1988. Now it has reached 4,445.9 miles including 1,831.4 miles in Shan State (North). As has already been mentioned, Shan State (North) has witnessed conspicuous development in the agriculture, livestock breeding, electric power, education, health and transport sectors. At the same time, success achieved in narcotic drug elimination and cultivation of opium substitute crops is also encouraging.

These accomplishments must be attributed to peace and tranquility, and stability in the region restored with the unity of national brethren. It also reflects the success of “Our Three Main National Causes” and twelve political, economic, social and political objectives laid down by the state. For the continued existence of tranquility and development, I would like to urge the entire national people to unite and energetically strive for the successful implementation of the seven-stage future policy of the State enshrined in the speech of the Prime Minister. We will have to strive for the successful implementation of the seven-stage future policy of the State required for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy that will further enhance the national prestige and nationalistic fervour of the people and the nation. Therefore, I enthusiastically support the motion calling on the entire national people to actively participate in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-stage future policy of the State with full sense of Union Spirit tabled by U Sai Naw Kham Oo.

Secretary of Shan State (North) Women Sports Development Committee Daw Sao T’Myo seconded the motion calling for active participation of the entire national people in realisation of the seven-point political roadmap of the State by doing their bit with full Union Spirit. The second part of the Prime Minister’s speech is absolutely important. It stated the efforts for the national reconciliation by the government with the noble objectives. Making efforts for improvement of the living standards of the local people, regional development and the emergence of economic infrastructures after forging the national unity are the prerequisite for democracy.

The government has laid down projects for development of border areas and national races and is implementing them to ensure the national reconciliation while striving for the national race armed groups to be able to return to the legal fold based on mutual trust and understanding. As a result, altogether 17 national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold. They, in cooperation with the government, are now making efforts for regional development. It was the fruitful results of the government’s efforts in forging the national unity based on mutual trust and understanding, and genuine goodwill. In Shan State (North), five national race armed groups returned to the legal fold, and the national unity could be built. The regional political leadership of the national brethren—Kokang, Wa, Shan and Kachin—who have returned to the legal fold have been designated as the special regions. They are now striving for regional and national development.

With regard to border areas development sector, peace and tranquillity prevail in border areas as the Tatmadaw government has been able to forge the national unity. With prevalence of peace and tranquillity in the region, projects for development of border areas and national races could be laid down and implemented systematically. To be able to implement the tasks for development of border areas and national races effectively, the new ministry related to border areas was formed. The ministry has been able to carry out tasks for improvement of the living standard of local people and development of border areas and national races with added momentum.

The special regions have been designated in Shan State (North) and tasks for development of border areas and national races have been carried out since 1989-90. The regions are Kokang Special Region-1, Wa Special Region-2, Shan Special Region-3, Kachin (North) Special Region-3, Kachin (North) East Special Region-5 and Paungpaw Special Region-7. The Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races built new roads and upgraded old ones to ensure improvement of the living standard of local people and smooth commodity flow in Shan State (North). Altogether 113 miles of tarred road, 695 miles and four furlongs of laterite road and 892 miles of earth roads have emerged in special regions of Shan State (North). Likewise, 1,340 miles and seven furlongs of old roads were upgraded. In addition, eight bridges with over 40 feet in length, 75 small bridges and one suspension bridge were built.

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

The government after its as-

In Shan State (North). Takaw-et bridge, Nament bridge, Nyaung bridge and Dawji bridge contribute much to better transport in Shan State (North). Arrangements are being made to build a new Thawliwin river crossing bridge to link Muse District and Lawkaki District in the open season. The government has spent K 143.5 million on development of Shan State (North) from 1989-90 to 2003-04. To ensure smooth and convenient communications in the five special regions of Shan State (North), 12 post offices, 40 telephone exchanges and ten telegraph offices as well as one satellite station in Laukka region were opened. There remained poppy cultivation and drug abuse, the evil legacy of colonialists, in Myanmar. The government after its as-
Prime Minister addresses Tourism Industry Promotion Coordination Meeting

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

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

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made an opening address on the occasion. He said the meeting was held to promote momentum for development of tourism industry.

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

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

The industry is the one that can promote the State’s economy remarkably in a short period. There are tourists of all walks of life from different countries. The industry will help hoteliers and travel agencies as well as people of all strata of life including taxi drivers and street hawkers earn more money. So, related agencies and organizations including the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism are to systematically lay plans and cooperate for development of the industry that will benefit the development of the State’s economy as well as the entire public including people of ordinary class, he said.

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

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

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

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

Medical equipment donated to Orthopaedic Hospital

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

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

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

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

Cash donated to SPSU (Yangon)

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

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

The minister and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Pro-Rect Pro-Rect Pro-Rect Pro-Rect Pro-Rect Pro-Rect Pro-Rect Pro-Rect Pro-Rect Pro-Rector Saydaw Maha Gan-thavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Utama. The minister offered provisions to the Sayadaw.

The minister presented K180,000 for ‘soon’ offering to Director of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Khin Aung who presented certificate of honour.

The Pro-Rector Saydaw delivered a sermon. — MNA

Saddan Hsinmin Drama competition continues

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

Mannyo Thien Than Win Drama Troupe of Mandalay today participated in the competition.

Among the audience were family members of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and members, chairman and members of the work committee and subcommittees, artists and enthusiasts.

Leader of the panel of judges U Chit Oo Nyo and members judged the competition.

Pantra Tin Moe Win of Yangon Division will take part in the competition tomorrow. — MNA

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

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and family enjoy performance of Mannyo Thien Than Win troupe of Mandalay Division at Saddan Hsinmin Drama Competition. — MNA
Tangible results of Development in Shan State (North)

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

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

The government is paying specially attention to providing effective health care services to the entire national people. Therefore, hospitals are being built across the nation. The photo shows a maternity ward of Lashio People’s Hospital. PHOTO:MNA
Chinese President meets Thai King on bilateral ties

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

Hu and his wife Liu Yongjing arrived in Bangkok Friday afternoon on a state visit. Shortly after their arrival, Hu and his wife met with Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit. Both sides expressed their satisfaction over the development of bilateral relations.

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

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

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

To develop friendly relations is not only a set policy of our two governments, but also a common wish of the people of our two countries,” Hu said. “The new generation of Chinese leadership will follow the principle of treating neighbours as friends and partners, and work with the Thai side so that our bilateral relations can grow to higher levels.”

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

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

A UNDP official said on Friday that Uganda has made a significant progress in the last few years with the number of people living in abject poverty declining from 36 per cent in 1991/1992 to 35 per cent in 1999/2000, a report from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has said.

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

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

UNDP says Uganda makes progress in poverty reduction

KAMPALA, 19 Oct—Uganda has made a significant progress in the last few years with the number of people living in abject poverty declining from 36 per cent in 1991/1992 to 35 per cent in 1999/2000, a report from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has said.

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

The lack of a reasonable income is, nevertheless, one of the key indicators of poverty,” it said. It estimated that nearly three billion people or half the world’s population live on less than two US dollars a day and the number of people living on less than one dollar is 1.2 billion. —MNA/Xinhua

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

MNA/Reuters

South Africa bill to crack down harder on smokers

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

“We have a responsibility to ensure that children don’t start smoking, to protect non-smokers from passive smoking and to help smokers quit,” Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang said in a statement. The bill, which is subject to public comment for 30 days, aims to ban descriptions of tobacco products such as “low tar” and “light,” raises the minimum age for cigarette sales from 16 to 18 years and prohibits the presence of children in designated smoking areas. It also proposes larger health messages on cigarette packets, including picture warnings, and imposes higher fines on pubs and restaurants flouting smoking laws.

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

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

MNA/Reuters

Asteroid named after Chinese scientist

BRUSSELS, 19 Oct — Asteroid Number 25240, which was observed on October 16, 1998 by the National Astronomical Observatories of China, has been named after Chinese nuclear physicist Qian Sanqiang (1913-1992).

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

The naming was approved by the International Astronomers Naming Committee under the International Astronomical Union. —MNA/Xinhua

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Phone: 372416
Dated: 20th October, 2003

MNA/Xinhua

Seven illegal migrants die in Italy sea crossing

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

Italy’s Coast Guard central command said one person drowned and a further 18 migrants were rescued after a ship capsized in rough seas off the southern Italian island of Lampedusa when it was approached by a rescue ship.

“Presumably all the people rushed to one side of the boat when the rescue ship drew up,” Coast Guard Capt. Carlo Celerino told Reuters.

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

MNA/Xinhua
WHO launches guidelines on reducing drownings

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

Beaches and bodies of water failed to meet safety standards, which became a worse problem over the past year, with a health problem that made people ill, cause disability and death, said the WHO.

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

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

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

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

NMA/Xinhua

Iran says it has no plans to build nuclear arms

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

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

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

“From our point of view, we can only agree to everything” within the legal framework of the agency,” Khatami said on the last day of the two-day summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

MNA/Reuters

Six objectives of National Convention...

(From page 9)

To be able to deter the poppy cultivation, effec- 

tively, poppy seeds handed over by the poppy growers were destroyed three times. The poppy seeds destroyed were 62,047 pty. So, cul-

tivation of potential 82,700 acres of poppy was prevented.

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

Poppy substitute crops cultivation was introduced in the interest of former poppy growers. In the pro-

cess, altogether 66,461 acres of land in Shan State (North) were put under poppy substitute crops. In addition, a total of 1.76 million perennial saplings have been grown in 12 townships of Shan State (North).

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

ficking in Myanmar are totally untrue.

Unprecedented peace and tranquility has pre-

vailed in the border areas where the majority of na-

tional races reside. An en-

during State constitution is required for further de-

everopment and for safe-

guarding the newly re-

stored peace and tranquil-

ity.

Therefore, I, in conclu-

sion, enthusiastically sec-

onded the motion calling for active participation of the entire national people in realization of the seven-

point political roadmap of the State by doing their bit with the sense of Union Spirit.

Afterwards, on behalf of those in attendance at the mass rally, KyiKai Township Law Officer U Ti Kyin Myat and Shan State (North) Women Sports Association Secre-

tary Daw Sao Tin Mya seconded the motion tabled by Kyaukme Township USDA Secretary Sai Naw Khan Oo calling for active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for the successful implementation of the seven future policies and programmes.

Next, the chairman sought the approval of the mass rally concerning the motion tabled by Sai Naw Khan Oo.

The master of ceremo-

nies announced the res-

olutions of the mass rally for active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for the successful implementa-

tion of the seven policies and programmes.

The mass rally con-

cluded by shouting the slo-

gans.

MNA

Vietnam seeks ways to boost rice export

HANOI, 19 Oct — Officials and experts at the Conference on World Rice Commerce 2003 have offered proposals for boost-

ing Vietnam’s rice export.

Measures should be taken to seek new export markets for Vietnam’s rice while attaching importance to tradi-

tional ones such as Iraq, Iran, the Philippines and Indonesia.

President of the Vietnam Food Association Truong Thanh Phong told Xinhua on the sidelines of the conference on Friday.

Local-enterprises were urged to build up their trademark, intensify marketing activities and enhance cooperation in tech-

nology and market accession methods with major rice exporters in the world.

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

NMA/Xinhua

Beijing ready for World Tourism Organization meeting

BEIJING, 19 Oct — The World Tourism Organization (WTO) will open its biennial session this weekend in Beijing on 17 October, 2003, China’s Press published.

"It is not in our de-

sire to develop a nuclear bomb," he said, adding: "Iran is a defender of the Middle East as a nuclear-free zone."

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

"We continue to co-

operate with the agency," he said, referring to the In-

ternational Atomic Energy Agency.

"It is not in our de-

sire to develop a nuclear tour-

ism, especially the industry in China and other SARS-

affected regions in Asia.

The 15th session of the WTO General Assembly scheduled meeting marked the organization’s support for China and other Asian countries’ travel industries, which suffered severe set-

backs earlier this year due to the SARS outbreak.

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

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

China’s week-long Na-

tional Day holiday from Oc-

tober 1 this year proved the strong momentum. From

October 1 to 7, China re-

ceived nearly 900 million domestic and foreign tour-

ists, up 11.5 per cent from the same period of last year, bringing a record of 34.6 bil-

lion yuan (4.2 billion US dollars), up 13.1 per cent.

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

Lu Changcheng, police chief of Beijing Capital Air-

port, described the holiday season as the busiest period for the airport for recent years.

A total of 5,622 aircraft took off and landed at the airport, serving 69,000 pas-

sengers in all, Lu said. "On the peak day, altogether 875 aircraft flew in and out, more than one flight each minute,” Lu added.

MNA/Xinhua

THE SIXTEENTH ASIAN SENIOR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM)

THE SECOND ASIAN-JAPAN TRANSPORT OFFICIALS MEETING (STOM+JAPAN)

ATM RETREAT

THE NINTH ASIAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM)

THE SECOND ASIAN-JAPAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING (ATM+JAPAN)

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

20-25 OCTOBER 2003

YANGON, MYANMAR

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**SPORTS**

**Monaco go two points clear after salvaging draw**

Paris, 19 Oct—A right-foot rocket from midfielder Ludovic Giuly earned Ligue 1 leaders Monaco a 1-0 home draw against AJ Auxerre on Saturday and increased their lead at the top to two points.

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

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

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

**Ferguson happy to let Barthez leave**

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

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

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

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

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

"Fabien understood that, but it’s not easy, and that’s why I’m happy for him to get his opportunity at Marseille and hopefully he will do very well."

Ferguson signed Barthez, 32, from Monaco for a world record fee of 7.8 million pounds in 2000. He twice helped United win the Premier League title but lost his place this season following the 2.3 million-pound signing of United States international Howard from New York MetroStars.

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

Manchester United face a trip to Leeds United on Saturday.

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

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

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

**Ferguson says he understands for Reina**

LEEDS, 19 Oct—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson says he understands the pressure had on Liverpool goalkeeper Pepe Reina.

"His (Reina’s) position is different to mine because he has been with Liverpool for six years and the position coming in to

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**Deportivo go top after 2-0 win away to Barcelona**

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

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

Earlier in the evening well taken goals in each half from Brazilian duo Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos earned Real Madrid a comfortable win against Christian Vieri to come back for a 2-2 draw at Brescia.

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**Upset Barthez hopes move sealed early next week**

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

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

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

But he added: “I hope that at the beginning of next week, it will all be sorted.”
ASEAN senior officials arrive

YANGON, 19 Oct — Senior officials of the ASEAN Secretariat and member countries such as Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam arrived here by air today to attend the 16th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting to be hosted by Myanmar from 20 to 22 October.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of the sub-committee for hosting the meeting. — MNA

Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts

Competitions continue

YANGON, 19 Oct — The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the sixth day at the respective venues today.

The song contest was held at the National Museum on Pyay road, the marionette contest of dance contest at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyang Street, the song-composing contest at Pantha School on Kaba Aye Pagoda road, the Saing contest (single) at Padona Theatre on Bagaya road, and the violin contest at Kanbawzathiri Theatre on Kaba Aye Pagoda road on a grand scale.

The competitions were attended by Member of the Panel of Patrons of the Committee for Holding the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, members of Panels of Patrons Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the competitions Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Brig-Gen Than of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, senior military officers, Chairman of the Work Committee for Holding the competitions Commander of No-3 Military Region Col Tin Htoo, officials of the 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 performances of the contestants at the song contest. At the amateur level religious song contest (female), a total of 16 contestants competed with Thatta Htaina composed by Dagon Saya Tin. At the higher education level classic/modern contest (male), a total of 12 contestants competed with Mooyatay Aha Nayon Lai composed by Yan Naing Swe.

The professional level religious song contest (female), and basic education level classic/modern song contest (boys aged 15-20) will be held tomorrow.

A total of eight couples participated in the amateur level marionette contest of the dance contest. Chairman of Judges for Marionette U Ye Dwe and members made judgements on the performance.

The rehearsal of songs composed by the contestants were held at the Pantha School on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. Songs composed by contestants of amateur level song composing contest on 14 October were rehearsed to the accompaniment of music.

At the amateur level Saing women’s contest (single), eight contestants took part in the contest. Member of Panel of Judges (central) U Sein Hla Lay and members made judgements on the performance.

At the higher education level Saing women’s contest (single), three contestants took part in the contest.

At the basic education level Saing contest (aged 10-15, single, girls), six contestants took part in the contest. Member of Panel of Judges (U Toe) and members made judgements on the performance. At the higher education level violin contest (male), five contestants participated with Kyun Kyun Paing Tha (Kyo) song, and at the higher education level violin contest (female), five contestants participated with Zabi Taung Nya (Pat Pyo) song.

At the basic education level violin contest (aged 10-15, boys), three contestants competed with Za Ti Nwe (classical/modern) song, at the basic education level violin contest (aged 15-20, girls), four contestants competed with Wai Zayanda Haene Cha (Kyo) song.

At the amateur level violin contest (male/female), nine contestants competed with Phone Mo1e Thun Laung song. Member of Panel of Judges Tayaw U Tin Yee and members made judgements on the performance at the contests. The professional level xylophone contest (female) and basic education level xylophone contest (aged 10-15) will be held tomorrow. — MNA
Six objectives of National Convention...

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

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance saying that whatever system a country practises there needs a State Constitution, which must perpetually serve the interest of the entire people. As future policies and programmes of the Prime Minister and guidance given by the Head of State are indivisible, I would like to present again that it is a tuition in accordance with basic principles and delineated 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.

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

In the past, democracy was practised in Myanmar. We must learn weak points and strong points of that democracy. We must shape the future of the nation according to our country’s historical background and objective conditions. The Constitution is of vital importance for the State. The constitution drawn in 1947 lasted for 14 years and the one drawn in 1974 for only 14 years. It can be said that it was due to their weaknesses. Therefore, attention must be paid to the emergence of an enduring State Constitution.

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

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

Therefore, based on Union Spirit and patriotism, measures are to be taken for reconvening of the National Convention and drafting of a constitution with the aim of establishment of discipline-flourishing democracy. It can be vividly seen that the six objectives of the National Convention which commenced in 1993 — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the national solidarity, Perpetuation of national sovereignty, Flourishing of a genuine multi-party democratic system, Further flourishing of worldly values — justice, liberty and equality — in the nation; Participation of the Tatmadaw in the national political leading role of the future State — are the guiding lights for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation.

I would like to present here that the National Convention represents the whole national people as well as it is a forum in which deliberations are to be made in the interests of the entire people. In conclusion, I would like to urge all the people to actively participate with full sense of Union Spirit and patriotism in the successful implementation of the seven-point policy and programme.

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