Whatever system the nation is practicing, a firm constitution, that serves the interest of all the national races, is required

Mass rally held in Taunggyi in Shan State (South) in support of Prime Minister’s clarification on seven-point roadmap

YANGON, 30 Sept — A mass rally, organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, was held in support of the Prime Minister’s clarification on seven stages of policies and programmes of the State (roadmap) in the sports ground in Taunggyi, Shan State (South) yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were Central Executive Committee members of USDA, members of Shan State (South) USDA, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Working Committee for Women’s Affairs, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Writers and Journalists Associations, departmental staff, local people of 20 wards in Taunggyi, representatives of peace groups, intellectuals and intelligentsia, industrialists, students and staff of private banks totalling over 8500. Rector of Taunggyi University Prof Dr Maung Kyaw presided over the mass rally together with Shan national entrepreneur U Sai Aung Min, Dana national entrepreneur U Aung Pway, Pa-o national entrepreneur U Khun Thein Pe and Hsihseng Township USDA Secretary U Khun Than Htoo as members. Taunggyi District USDA executive Daw Khin Thanda Oo acted as master of ceremonies and executive Daw Kin Thanda Oo as co-master of ceremonies and executive Daw Kin Thanda Oo. Rector Prof Dr Maung Kyaw made a speech. He said: We, the national races of southern Shan State, are gathering at this place to heartily welcome the seven work programmes of the nation-building tasks stated by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt in his address on 30 August 2003. The Prime Minister divided his speech into three parts in explaining the national affairs. The first part was about the all-round national development; the second part, the political developments; and the third part, the different stages of the future political programme (the roadmap).

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.

YANGON, 1 Oct — On the occasion of the fifty-fourth anniversary of the Founding Day of the People’s Republic of China, which falls on 1 October 2003, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China. — MNA

State Peace and Development Council Chairman sends message of felicitations to Nigeria

YANGON, 1 Oct — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which falls on 1 October 2003, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Prime Minister sends message of felicitations to the PRC

YANGON, 1 Oct — On the occasion of the fifty-forth anniversary of the Founding Day of the People’s Republic of China, which falls on 1 October 2003, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China. — MNA

Third Myanmar-Thailand Border Area Health Exhibition opens

YANGON, 30 Sept — The Third Myanmar-Thailand Border Area Health Exhibition and Health Activities Week were held in Kengtung on 27 September morning. The delegation led by Minister of Public Health of Thailand Mrs Sudarat Keyuraphan arrived at Maesa Bridge at Myanmar-Thailand Border at 9.30 am on 27 September where the delegation led by Minister for Health of Myanmar Dr Kyaw Myint, local authorities and health staff welcomed them.

The two ministers and parties arrived at Kengtung in the afternoon. Minister Dr Kyaw Myint hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting minister and party at Kengtung Hotel. Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw was also present on the occasion.

The commander, the two health ministers and members arrived at the Kengtung City Hall where they were welcomed by state and district level officials, members of NGOs, students and local people.

The commander and the two ministers formally opened the archway of the exhibition. At the City Hall, the two ministers made speeches. The commander, the two ministers and party viewed the booths of the departments under the Ministry of Health of Myanmar, tasks for control of malaria, TB, AIDS and drugs, and indigenous medicines of private entrepreneurs. The commander and the two ministers led Vitamin A pills to the babies and presented bed nets treated with insecticides to local people for prevention of malaria.

The two ministers and members left there for Chiangrai via Tachileik.

In the evening, the Thai Health Minister hosted a dinner in honour of Myanmar delegation at Dusit Island Hotel in Chiangrai. On 28 September morning, the Health Activities Exhibition of Thailand was opened at Sintanee Complex in the town. The two ministers made speeches and formally opened the exhibition.

Afterwards, they looked around the booths of the departments under the Ministry of Health of Thailand, indigenous medicine booths and booths of private entrepreneurs.

At 11 am, the opening of the Third Myanmar-Thailand Border Area Health Seminar was held at Dusit Island Hotel, with the speeches by the two ministers. Respectful officials discussed matters on tasks for prevention and control of malaria, TB and AIDS at the border of the two countries and future tasks for cooperation on food and medicines and traditional medicines.

Resolutions of the seminar were approved yesterday morning. The seminar ended later in the morning and the Myanmar delegation led by Minister Dr Kyaw Myint arrived back here in the evening via Tachileik.

BIMST-EC Energy Sector, Fourth Meeting of Committee of Experts/Officials

YANGON, 30 Sept — The Fourth Meeting of the BIMST-EC Committee of experts/Officials of Energy Sector continued for the second day at the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Ahlanta Pagoda Road in Dagon Township at 11.00 am today. The meeting discussed the further implementation of the identified projects and specific plans and direction for further formulation and implementation of projects.

The meeting came to a close in the afternoon. U Soe Myint, Director General of Energy Planning Department attended the meeting and gave a speech. On behalf of all delegates, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy of Thailand Mr Pramote Lamsiri spoke words of thanks. — MNA

Course on entrepreneurship opened

YANGON, 30 Sept — A course on entrepreneurship development for women in Myanmar was opened at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this morning. It was attended by patrons of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, President U Win Myint, vice-presidents, General Secretary U Sein Win, Hlaing, CEC members and executives, course instructors and trainees. President U Win Myint, Dr B P Dhungana, founder of MWEA Prof Dr Daw Yi Yi Myint (Rtd), First Secretary of Japanese Embassy Mr Yasushi I Wata, Deputy Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Kyi Maung and Project Director of GMS-BG Daw San Yu Yu Ohn made speeches. Altogether 42 trainees are attending the five-day course. The course was jointly organized by UMFCCCI, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum (GMS-BF). — MNA

An official makes an address at Entrepreneurship Development for Women in Myanmar course. — MNA
Credibility of UN suffers tremendously when it was unable to prevent war against Iraq

The following are excerpts from the address of Farouk Al-Shara’, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic delivered at the United Nations General Assembly on 29 September:

The grave situation in Iraq has become a source of grave concern for our peoples. This situation is also a major cause for concern for the international community due to the overlapping of national peace and security.

Mr Farouk Al-Shara’, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic

The credibility of our organization has suffered tremendously when it was unable to prevent the war against Iraq, a war waged outside the context of international legitimacy.

For weeks and months, the Security Council was drawn into a bitter strife due to its inability to prevent war against Iraq.

Mr Ahmed Maher El Sayed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt

The situation in Iraq is a cause for grave concern. We reaffirm anew the need for respect for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Iraq. There is also the need to create conditions conducive to the earliest possible withdrawal of the occupying forces and the discharge of the UN of a central role in assisting the Iraqis in the political and economic reconstruction of their state.

Mr Ahmed Maher El Sayed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Mr Natsagin Bagabandi, President of Mongolia

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Mr Ahmed Maher El Sayed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt

HRH Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia

Iraq today is more than ever in need of an effective role for the United Nations, one that would guarantee the preservation of its territorial and national integrity and restoration of its independence and sovereignty.

The main problems that Iraq currently faces are, the lack of clarity in vision of its future and fate, that it does not yet have control over its resources, and that it is endangered by an extremely complicated and sensitive domestic situation that would assure the Iraqis that they are close to restoring their sovereignty and independence through an accelerated political approach linked with specific commitments, whether with regard to consolidating the power of the Transitional Iraqi Government, or drafting a new Iraqi constitution that would pave the way for the formation of a legitimate national Iraqi government whereby citizens enjoy equal rights and duties.

Prince Saud Al-Faisal and geographical location. Therefore, it is of the utmost necessity to set a clear time

Internet
US troops under heavy attack west of Baghdad, as casualties mount

BAGHDAD, 30 Sept—US forces used tanks, helicopters and a fighter jet to battle their way out of a heavy ambush in Iraq as troops and civilian casualties continued to mount in what is becoming a security quagmire.

And while an Iraqi politician narrowly escaped an assassination attempt, the European Union urged a transfer of sovereignty within a “realistic schedule” as Washington prepared to submit a new resolution to the United Nations.

In farmland near the central town of Khaldiya, US soldiers and Iraqi fighters waged pitched battles for more than four hours Monday after a convoy came under rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) and bomb attack.

“Four jeeps and a tank were heading for Ramadi at 9:00 am (0500 GMT) when a bomb exploded under one tank, then two jeeps were hit by rocket-propelled grenades,” said Mohammad Mahmud, an 18-year-old Iraqi student.

Witnesses said the Americans took heavy casualties, and AFP correspondents saw two Black Hawk helicopters land in Khaldiyah, one of which left with four wounded. Two US ambulances rushed to the site while several helicopters and a US warplane roared overhead.

According to villagers, the US air and tank fire left a trail of destruction. Houses, a chicken farm and power lines were damaged, farmers said.

The army said it arrested 14 Iraqis.

In another incident, a US military spokesman confirmed that one soldier died and another was wounded in a bomb attack on a convoy around the nearby town of Habbaniyah, where a large US base is located.

That death brought to 85 the number of American soldiers killed in Iraq since May 1, when Washington declared major combat over. The attacks were the latest in the Sunni Muslim region west of Baghdad where anti-US sentiment runs high, and attacks on American forces have been frequent since Saddam Hussein was removed from power in April.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi civilian death toll continued to rise as US forces west of the northern city of Kirkuk killed a 10-year-old child and wounded a 25-year-old man when they opened fire on hundreds of demonstrators who pelted them with stones, hospital director Abdullah Jiburi said.

The US army did not provide confirmation of the report.

An AFP correspondent on the scene said the casualties occurred when around 500 protesters carrying portraits of Saddam took to the streets of Hawija and began pelting US soldiers with stones.

It came as the US military confirmed that six US soldiers were wounded Sunday in a bomb attack on a convoy in Fallujah, 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of Baghdad.

Frnace says Iraq resolution needs to transfer powers

PARIS, 30 Sept—France said Sunday the United States might be able to get a new resolution on Iraq through the UN Security Council, but stressed that it needs to transfer sovereignty to Iraqis to improve conditions in the country.

Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin told French radio Europe 1 in an interview that France wanted the United States to transfer sovereignty to Iraqis within a short period of between six to nine months.

“If this resolution is just the umpteenth one, which does not change the reality on the ground, it will be passed but it will not improve things,” he said.

What we want to see is a resolution that will enable the international community to rebuild Iraq,” he added.

France, a Security Council permanent member, has ruled out using its veto to kill the resolution, which US Secretary of State Colin Powell is expected to table within two days. Villepin declined to say if France will support the resolution or abstain from voting.

“We shall have to see the draft. We shall have to see if the draft takes into account France’s aspirations, as well as those of a great many countries,” he added.

Powell, in a gesture to critics such as France, on Friday sketched a timeline for returning Iraq to self-rule, saying he would like Iraqis to produce a Constitution within six months. But he did not specify when the countdown would begin and said no final deadline would appear in the UN resolution.

France, which opposed the US-led war on Iraq, wants a deadline for the transfer of power to Iraqis.

“This is the reason for our proposals. And what are these proposals? Firstly, a swift transfer of sovereignty within a very short period of time. As far as we are concerned, the starting point is a sovereign Iraq,” Villepin said.

“I believe that there should in effect be a time limit. If we wish to have credibility among the Iraqis, if we wish to encourage them to run their own affairs, we must rally them, we must give them responsibility.”

The Foreign Minister said the question of France sending troops into Iraq did not arise at the moment as security was first needed to be restored to create the conditions for reconstruction and participation of the international community.

MNA/Reuters

Iran willing to cooperate with IAEA

TEHRAN, 30 Sept—Iran on Sunday expressed its willingness to cooperate with the UN nuclear watchdog, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), reports reaching here from Washington said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi made the pledge in an interview with the ABC Television in the United States amid mounting international pressure over Tehran’s atomic programme.

“We are trying and we are determined to cooperate” with the International Atomic Energy Agency, Kharazi was quoted as saying.

But the “problem is that United States Administration asked us to stop enrichment activities in Iran. While it is legal... and nothing is wrong as long as it is under the auspices of the IAEA and the inspection regime,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Indiana police find five family members shot dead

CHICAGO, 30 Sept—Police on Saturday found five members of a Gary, Indiana family dead of gunshot wounds in a possible murder-suicide.

Detective Corporal William Fazeekas said the mother of the family was dead along with two sons, a daughter and 2-year-old nephew. He did not identify them but said an 82-year-old grandmother, Elizabeth Walton, survived the shooting.

She had been taken to a hospital with bullet wounds.

“It appears that they were shot while they were sleeping,” Fazeekas said.

MNA/Reuters
US UNDER INTENSIFIED IRAQ RESISTANCE

British soldiers are watched by Iraqis as they carry out a building inspection during a patrol in Basra, in southern Iraq on 29 September, 2003. — INTERNET

Members of the US Army’s 720th Military Police Battalion search a house while a boy sleeps, on 29 September, 2003 during an early morning raid in Tikrit. Iraqi security forces, backed up by US military police, carried out their largest-ever joint raid Monday in an effort to arrest those responsible for a spate of deadly attacks against American forces and to break the resistance movement in Saddam Hussein’s turbulent hometown. — INTERNET

A US soldier was killed and another was wounded on 29 September, 2003 when guerrillas attacked a military convoy in a restive area west of Baghdad, a US military spokesman said. — INTERNET

US Army troops maintain a cordon holding back a television cameraman and the husband of a slain woman, following a firefight in the Iraqi town of Khaldiyah on 29 September, 2003. — INTERNET

Demonstrators gather on Hollywood Boulevard in protest against United States’ policy in Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan on 28 September, 2003, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles. Approximately 3,000 people participated in the event. — INTERNET

A man holds a sticker mocking United States President George W Bush during an organized protest in New York on Sunday. The White House has denied that President George W Bush’s top political adviser, Karl Rove, was behind a leak of secret information apparently aimed at discrediting a vocal critic of pre-war intelligence on Iraq. — INTERNET
Gorilla flees zoo, roams Boston suburb

Boston, 30 Sept — A gorilla escaped from Boston’s Franklin Park Zoo on Sunday and injured at least one person before being subdued with tranquilizer darts, police and witnesses said. A Boston police spokesman said a “juvenile” was taken to hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening. It was not clear how the injuries were inflicted.

Local residents said police officers could be seen firing with guns drawn when the gorilla emerged from the zoo and roamed streets in Boston’s Roxbury neighbourhoo

Bush’s Marshall Plan comparison to Iraq questioned

WASHINGTON, 30 Sept — British stateman Winston Churchill called the Marshall Plan — the colossal US aid package that helped Western Europe back to its feet after World War II — “the most unsordid act in history”. Now this “unsordid act” has leapt from the history books to political reality, as President George W Bush, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and others invoke the memory of the Marshall Plan in seeking congressional approval of Bush’s costly reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

But historians questioned the comparison. Some leading congressional Democrats said Bush’s actions run counter to the spirit of the Marshall Plan, named for its architect, Nobel Peace Prize laureate George C. Marshall.

“If they want to give money to Iraq to make them a nice democracy, that’s OK with me. But we ought not to fool ourselves that we’re doing a Marshall Plan,” said Larry Bland, a leading authority on the Marshall Plan and editor of the Marshall Papers at the George C Marshall Foundation in Lexington, Virginia.

“The economic elite isn’t kidded. So it’s political spin rather than reality. We’re not going to do a Marshall Plan for them. We’re going to do a big, expensive influx of money.”

Bland added: “The short answer from my perspective is that it is definitely not a valid comparison,” added Immanuel Wexler, a professor emeritus of economics at the University of Connecticut who wrote The Marshall Plan Revisited, a definitive book on the economic aspects of the plan.

Bland said the Marshall Plan was not intended to rebuild the ruined infrastructure of a country, but rather restore trade and halt inflation. Most Americans viewed it as “an act of generosity”. Bland added, although it did not hurt that nations receiving aid were soon able to buy American products.

The Marshall Plan cost 100 billion US dollars in today’s dollars, when accounting for inflation, Bland said, and even more as a percentage of the overall US economy.

Few UN foreign employees left in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 30 Sept — More than 30 foreign employees of the United Nations left Iraq over the weekend after Secretary-General Kofi Annan sent them home because of security concerns, leaving just 50 non-Iraqi workers behind, a UN spokesman said Monday.

The number of foreign workers will continue to fluctuate, spokesman Fred Eckhard said at a news briefing.

The United Nations had 300 foreign employees in Baghdad and another 300 elsewhere in Iraq before an August 19 car bomb killed 22 people at the UN headquarters in Baghdad. Annan later ordered the number reduced to 42 in Baghdad and 44 in the north.

Annan ordered further cutbacks last week following a second bombing, but did not say how many of the remaining staff would leave.

Eckhard has said the United Nations’ humanitarian work should continue, with limited international supervision, using its 4,231 Iraqi employees.

But Annan has indicated that if security does not improve, he might not allow the world body’s international staff to return in sufficient numbers to do more, adding that the United Nations would be prevented from helping Iraq write and adopt a new constitution and hold elections.

The UN Staff Union, representing 5,000 staff members worldwide, has called for the suspension of UN operations and the withdrawal of all UN staff in Iraq because of the “unacceptable risks.”

Officials running the UN oil-for-food programme say the staff cutbacks have made it difficult for them to get ready for the phasing out of the programme by November 21. Benon Sevan, who runs the programme that gave Iraqs a lifeline when the country was under UN sanctions before Saddam Hussein was ousted, said the United Nations would meet the deadline and hand over any remaining activities to the US-led coalition.

More attacks on US troops in Iraq as furore spreads over intelligence

BAGHDAD, 30 Sept — US soldiers faced more attacks in Iraq amid growing indications that Washington was ill-prepared to manage the occupation of the country in the wake of its military victory over Saddam Hussein.

As the United States and Britain continued to protest that their invasion of Iraq was fully justified, more US troops were called for duty there, despite mounting public concern that US forces continued presence against the security turmoil in the war-ravaged country.

A day after four US soldiers were wounded in homemade bomb attacks, another American convoy was targeted in Fallujah, 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of Baghdad, Iraqi police and US officials said.

Police officer Iyami Ibrahim said the convoy of three or four vehicles was attacked about 10.00 am (0600 GMT) Monday in the town, where anti-US sentiment runs high, and “the Americans opened fire blindly.”

Witnesses said they saw several US soldiers wounded, some seriously, but there was no official confirmation. An AFP journalist at the site saw one Humvee military vehicle damaged.

Though a US soldier at the scene confirmed the attack, without mentioning any wounded, a military spokesman in Baghdad said they had no report of the incident.

Witnesses in Khalidiyah, 80 kilometres (50 miles) west of Baghdad, meanwhile said US troops took heavy casualties in a firefight Monday after their convoy came under attack from bombs and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs).

The witnesses said several US soldiers were killed but there was no official confirmation of any deaths.

On Sunday, the US military said it had found four caches of weapons, including missiles, near Saddam’s hometown of Tikrit, 175 kilometres (110 miles) north of Baghdad.

The largest, found on the outskirts of Tikrit, included 23 Russian-made surface-to-air missiles, C-4 explosives, RPGs, hand grenades, smoke pots, blasting caps and rocket motors.

The rocket grenades are often stripped down by forces still loyal to Saddam and used to make homemade bombs, as those that wounded four US soldiers earlier in the day in two separate attacks, north and south of the capital. — Internet

Powell says India will not send troops to Iraq

WASHINGTON, 30 Sept — The United States, struggling to get more countries to send troops to help to stabilize Iraq, said on Sunday it had given up hope that India might provide troops.

Sinha said: “It would be against the interest of international or-
YANGON, 30 Sept — The Bwetgyi Dam constructed by the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Aunglan Township, Thayet District, Magway Division was inaugurated near the dam this morning, with an address by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, officials, local authorities, departmental heads, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and others totalling over 11,000.

In his address, the Secretary-2 said that the government has been constructing river water pumping stations, diversion weirs and dams one after another so that there is a network of irrigation facilities in Magway Division. The emergence of the Bwetgyi Dam will help improve the agricultural sector as well as raise the socio-economy of local people in Aunglan Township.

With the extended construction of irrigation facilities, Magway Division, which mainly relies on the agricultural sector, has made remarkable changes in agriculture and manufacturing processes and the greening of the region.

Since 1988, the Government has built 26 irrigation facilities including the dam in the division. The nine dams including Bwetgyi Dam in the eastern part of Magway Division benefit around 86,000 acres of cultivable land in Taungdwingyi, Natmauk, Myothit and Aunglan townships. Of them, Myothit and Taungdwingyi townships can be called the rice bowl of the eastern part of the division.

On completion of all the dam construction projects, four townships including Natmauk and Aunglan townships will develop and will boost agricultural production. Likewise, dams and diversion weirs are being constructed by damming Mone, Salin and Ayaw creeks in the western part of the division.

Pwintbyu plains in the west bank of Ayeyawady River have made success in the agricultural sector as well. Thanks to emergence of dams, 44 water pumping stations and over 900 small dams and lakes, over 500,000 acres of cultivable land have been irrigated in the division.

As a result, Magway Division now can extend its monsoon and summer paddy cultivation reaching up to over 600,000 acres in 2002, 2003, compared with around 360,000 acres in 1988.

It is known to all that the division has also enjoyed better transport due to the construction of river-crossing and creek-crossing bridges, new railway lines and Magway Airport.

With the emergence of the textile and garment factories, personal goods factories and industrial zones, Magway Division’s industrial sector is moving into top gear. Besides, the construction of new universities, colleges and specialists hospitals and regional development have helped polish and elevate the prestige and integrity of the division.

With the government’s nation-building projects, Magway Division has been able to stand shoulder to shoulder with the other States and Divisions. And, the emergence of the Bwetgyi Dam will help the division speed up the development momentum.

Upholding the guidance on the four agricultural methods given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, Secretary-2 said that the Government has been constructing river water pumping stations, diversion weirs and dams one after another so that there is a network of irrigation facilities.

The ten major crops of the State include paddy, cotton, sugarcane, pigeon pea, black gram, sesame, sunflower and maize.

The ten major crops thrive in the division that mainly produces beans and pulses and edible crops. The division also makes success in cultivating kitchen crops, thereby making significant contribution towards the State’s agricultural sector.

So, Magway Division is the one on which the nation can rely in the economic sector. Local people are to strive for national and regional development and to respond to the pump jack with working hard in unity.

During his tour of Magway Division, the Head of State gave guidance on boosting per acre yield of paddy for local rice sufficiency, extending cultivation of oil crops for fulfilling the edible oil demand of the nation, extension of livestock breeding, placing emphasis on planting trees, and extending growing of tamarind, doddy palms and neem trees in addition to shadi trees in the region. The guidance is to be translated into reality for it serves as guidelines for the development of the division.

Recently the State’s political roadmap has been declared for the emergence of democracy suitable for the nation and the people.

The future policies and programmes, which are harmoniously combined with the real political situations, will be well aware of destructive acts, he pointed out.

In conclusion, the Secretary-2 called for maintenance of the existing irrigation facilities, the greening of the region and boosting agricultural production.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin made a speech.

He said that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was pleased to fulfill water supply programmes, the prerequisite for agro-economic undertakings of the farmers, thereby contributing much to development of rural economy. He expressed thanks to staff of the Irrigation Department and local authorities who have made strenuous efforts with the assistance of the government in building the Bwetgyi Dam. He urged the local people and local authorities to safeguard the dam which was built for economic development of rural regions for its...
Whatever system the nation is practicing...

(transform from page 16)

transforming the nation from the old system to a new one in accord with the existing laws in a gentle way.

The work programmes to fulfill the requirements in building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation are wide and sophisticated. Democracy cannot be materialized through the demands and demonstrations.

We will have to overcome many difficulties and restrictions in marching to a discipline-flourishing democracy. The nation was left behind in development for certain reasons; there was weakness in the national unity resulting from the armed insurgency under various ideologies; the transport in some areas was poor; and the political parties lack experience. To build a democratic nation in whatever system the nation is practicing between the different regions.

The Government has built mutual trust and understanding with the national races armed groups. At the same time it is giving priority to development of the rural areas. It is laying down plans to set up development zones for progress of all the regions of the nation and bringing out fit and healthy academics.

Taunggyi and Panglong regions in southern Shan State have become development zones. Development facilities including airports and railroads are emerging significantly in the nation.

A constitution that is in accord with the objective conditions in the nation and the people is the main requirement to lay the basic foundation for a democratic nation.

The entire people will have to cooperate with the Government in setting up a new peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation — the national goal — following the correct road.

In this regard, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying, “Whatever system the nation is practising, a firm constitution, that serves the interest of all the national races, is required.”

Some big nations wishing to export their types of democracy to others are putting pressure, disturbing and interfering in others’ affairs, and at the same time some political elements, who are unable to differentiate between political cause and personal cause; personal cause and democracy cause, are inclined to import dictatorship. Our democratic process was delayed due to their negative attitudes and acts.

The Government has to cooperate with the Government in setting up a new peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation — the national goal — following the correct road.

The different stages of the political programme laid down by the State are the practicable programmes for emergence of a durable constitution to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the constitution. As the programmes are in accord with the nation’s objective conditions and the reconvening of the National Convention, we, the entire national races, heartily welcome them. As the different stages of the political programme of the State are the right path to building a democratic nation, I urge the entire national races to unanimously support them.

Executive U Kyaw Soe Hlaing of Shan State (South) USDA tabled the motion calling on the entire people to take part in their respective sectors actively with full Union Spirit for success of the seven future political programmes.

As previous governments could not solve the problem of evil legacy of the history and conditions that lagged behind in development, the Tatmadaw government led by Senior General Than Shwe repays the debt of evil legacy of the history.

National people severely suffered divide-and-rule policy under the British

(See page 9)
Whatever system the nation is practicing…

Imperialists. After regaining independence, there were no political stability and security due to the insurgency of different armed groups and above-ground political parties and the country had to suffer many hardships. In other words, our parents and the people suffered from weaknesses of the then parliamentary democracy.

Although there was the drive for economic development in the socialist period, there was no economic incentive. Economic situation of the country became bad due to lack of implementation of the effective market. Moreover there was no authority to repair the weaknesses of the one-party system. As a result, unity among the national political forces became weak. Economic and political frustrations over the existing government rose. We have witnessed that the disturbances, the 1988 democracy revolution as they called it, emerged as an evil event leading to the near disintegration of the country. At that time the country reached the situation of losing sovereignty and lives and properties of the people. That was why the Tatmadaw had to take up the State duties.

After taking up the State duties, the Tatmadaw carried out measures for restoration of stability and peace and ensuring smooth and secure transport and implemented national development tasks.

Moreover, the Tatmadaw opened up economic dynamics for the people. The Tatmadaw is building the economy of the country after laying down projects for development of national economic life.

In transport sector in Shan State (South) Aungban-Pinlaung-Lokkaw railroad, Shwenyaung-Yaksauk railroad, Shwenyaung-Taunggyi railroad and Taunggyi-Banyin-Saikhuang railroad and Namhsan-Mongnai railroad, the sections of Taunggyi-Namhsan railroad were built. The Loilem-Panketu-Hsipaw road linking Shan State (South) and (North), Yaksauk-Kyaing-Sawng-hkio road, Hamnyintmo-Myogyi-Wyangan Road linking Mandalay Division and Pinlaung-Pyinmanna Road were also built.

Heho Airport was extended and a new Namhsan Airport was built. Unlike in the past, transport facilities have improved and people can travel easily.

We all witnessed that hotels and tourism services have improved in Nyangshwe Inlay, Taunggyi, Kalaw and Pindaya as there are more local travellers and tourists.

The constitution is the main law that prescribes separation of the State power, building of the nation, duties and responsibilities and privileges and relations between the people and the State. It is the national duty to draft the constitution with unity.

As the telephone communication service became wider, eight telephone exchanges and 28 rural telephone communication stations were built.

We thank the government for implementation of transport, communication, economic, education and health sectors nationwide including Shan State (South) with correct leadership and better policy.

With the improvement of socio-economic life of the people and other conditions, the National Convention was convened in 1993 to formulate the fundamental principles for drafting the State constitution essential for emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation. Only when the National Convention consisting of all strata of life can coordinate and formulate necessary principles for the State constitution, will it be natural and perpetual.

The constitution is the main law that prescribes division of the State power, building of the nation, duties and responsibilities and privileges and relations between the people and the State. It is the national duty to draft the constitution in unity.

In November 1995, based on an attitude of an individual, NLD participated in formulating the principles for the constitution in the National Convention, walked out of the National Convention of high level according to their own decision, ignoring political cooperation.

After that, NLD launched a political attack based on the convening of the Hluttaw and holding a dialogue and democracy and always tried to find ways to bring down the government that brings the Union of Myanmar economically and control it financially.

They undermine socio-economic life of the people. He said he would like to ask questions—which is important, interest of an individual or that of the people? Is an individual important for democracy? Why do they forcibly put pressure on the country making the people poor and unemployed laying emphasis on democracy.

(See page 10)
Whatever system...

(from page 9)

The answers to these questions are clear. They make such attempts not because they love and want us to be prosperous but because they create those who will be under their influence.

As such pressures continue, the golden land with discipline-flourishing democracy that all people hope for will remain in the distance.

No matter how much they put pressure on us with any aim, we are to build a nation with discipline-flourishing democracy on the correct path in conformity with the tradition and culture of its nation and people. All national people must be aware of the fact that a democratic nation should not be built with the help of some big nations. A democratic nation is to be built with consideration, maturity of thought, knowledge, preservation of the worldly values and unity in accord with the correct national political path.

We have our own national concept and form national political way. We must be loyal to the State and patriotic. Our Three National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty—are to be safeguarded. These are the national duties of every citizen. Seven-point political programmes clarified by the Prime Minister are in conformity with the political development of the country and are the firm path for building a nation with discipline-flourishing democracy nation. He tabled the motion calling on the entire people to take part in their respective sectors actively with full Union Spirit for success of the seven future political programmes.

Afterwards Anaesthetists Dr Daw Win Nu Nu Thant of Shan State (South) Women and Children’s Hospital seconded the motion calling on the entire mass of people to take part in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-point future policy of the State with true sense of Union Spirit. Anaesthetists Dr Daw Win Nu Nu Thant said it can be vividly seen the development of the State under the correct leadership of the government and reasonable policies and the united participation of the national people with might and mass and the stability and tranquility of the State. Shan State was difficult of assessment, and the stability and tranquility of the nation in line with the policies, nation politics development procedures are to be chosen by its own citizens freely.

She then quoted Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt as saying the seven-point future policy of the State stems from the political stand of the State for emergence of a firm constitution and to build a modern, developed democracy nation in line with the constitution.

In conclusion, she said as these are related procedures to the political reforms and are true and practical ones, the entire mass of people warmly welcomed them and pledged to cooperate hand in hand with the government for building a true discipline-flourishing democracy country on the right political path.

Associate Professor U Win Myint Hsan of Zoology Department of Taunggyi University seconded the motion tabled by U Kyaw Soe Hlaing “calling for active participation of the entire national people in realization of the political roadmap of the State by doing their bit with Union Spirit”. He said that Myanmar is the Union where various national races reside through thick and thin. Likewise, Shan State is a large area where over 40 national races such as Shan, Bamar, PaO, Palaung, Kachin, Intha, Dhanu, Kokang, Wa, Lahu, Akha, Kayan, Lisu and gus reside. The national brethren have been residing in the Union in unity since time immemorial based on mutual understanding and friendship for years countable by the thousand. That is why the Union has been able to stand tall in dignity among the nations of the world. Although there were times during which dissension arose between the national races due to various reasons, unity of the national races who are residing in the same land and partaking water from the same source could be restored based on forgiveness and understanding.

At present, altogether 17 national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold and they, in cooperation with the government, are now actively participating in regional and national development projects. As the Union on the course of development, Shan State is enjoying the fruitful results of peace and security.

With prevalence of peace and tranquility in the region, tasks for development of economic and social sectors could be carried out effectively. Significant progress has been made in livestock breeding, industrial, trade, education, health and transport sectors in parallel with economic sector.

That is why development has been achieved in all parts of Shan State based on development of Taunggyi region, Panglong region, Lashio region and Kengtung region. The government has spent over K 7,850 million on development of Shan State from 1989 to this day.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, in his clarification on State’s goodwill towards the national races, said that all the national brethren residing in 14 states and divisions serve the interests of one another. The government, like a parent, is making all-out efforts in the interests of the national races, its children. As all the national races are Myanmar nationals who live in the Union, the government extends its goodwill equally to them without favour to anyone.

The government is rebuilding the nation with goodwill. As a result progress has (See page 15)
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of Shan State (South)

In a bid to satisfy the growing demand of electricity, the Ministry of Electric Power is implementing the coal-fired power station project (Tikyit), which will generate 120 Megawatts of electricity. Coal-fired power station project (Tikyit) in Tikyit region, Pinlaung Township, Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

The government is striving for development of education in accord with the motto — To build a modern developed nation through education. Higher education learning centres have been opened across the country. The photo shows the Panglong University. PHOTO: MNA

The Loilem District Hospital has been upgraded to a 200-bed facility which possesses all the characteristics of a general hospital. PHOTO: MNA
Mahathir makes “final” decision to step down on October 31

KOALA LUMPUR, 30 Sept — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Saturday he would step down on October 31, 2003.

Speaking to the Malaysian Press corps accompanying him during his current visit to Monaco, Mahathir said his decision was final, according to a report of Malaysia national news agency Bernama.

Mahathir, 77, who has been at the helm of the nation for over two decades, announced his resignation from the ruling party and government posts at the final day of the 56th General Assembly of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) in June last year, but later agreed to continue to lead the government and the party to ensure a smooth and orderly transition of power.

On the doubts expressed by certain groups over his intended retirement, Mahathir said, “Some people think . . . he will not step down with so much power at his disposal, holding such a high position and enjoying life at the top.”

“This is because they think that if they were in the place they will not give it up,” he said.

“Rumours . . . we cannot avoid particularly from the opposition . . . PAS (Pan Malaysian Islamic Party) has been saying that he will not resign . . . how many times their predictions did not come true,” he added. — MNA/Xinhua

China becomes important world purchasing base

HANGZHOU, 30 Sept — Although Carrefour has already become a household name in China, the Europe’s biggest and world’s second largest retail giant still working hard to create an attractive exhibition booth in hopes of drawing more attention at the ongoing Second China International Consumer Goods Fair.

The booth of Carrefour, internationally famous retail giants, such as Auchan and Metro.

In the last two years, the product purchasing volume of Carrefour, Auchan and Metro in China all increased by more than 20 per cent annually.

The France-based retail group Auchan, a global top retailer, invested 10 million euros to set up a purchasing centre in China last year in a bid to simplify the product circulating procedures and further localize its product purchasing business.

Nowadays, about 47 per cent of Auchan’s goods are purchased in China and the retail giant expects to annually purchase Chinese products worth 300 million euros in 2006.

Yan Haiyun, public relations manager of the Auchan Group purchasing centre, said that the marketing strategy of Auchan has now shifted from Europe to Asia, especially China.

Also last year, Carrefour set up its global purchasing Carrefour Global Purchasing Centre (China) said Chinese products are welcomed all over the world, because they are of high quality and at a reasonable price.

He added that half of the world’s consumers buy China-made TVs and shoes. In Carrefour’s stores, about 60 to 70 per cent of goods are made in China.

China is not only an important purchasing base for Carrefour, but also for other Western retail chains,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan seizes 1,200 kilos of hashish, arrests two

KARACHI, 30 Sept — Pakistani authorities seized 1,200 kilos of hashish on Saturday and arrested two men who were bringing it to the port city of Karachi in a truck, police said.

The hashish was brought to Karachi from the northern city of Peshawar near Pakistan’s border with Afghanistan, Superintendent of Police Shari Rind told Reuters.

The hashish was found during a routine check of the vehicle, he said. — MNA/Reuters

Nepal, India to hold extradition talks soon

KATHMANDU, 30 Sept — Nepal and India have agreed to hold the second round of talks to revive the five-decade-old Indo-Nepal extradition treaty on October 7-9 in New Delhi, according to a spokesman of the Nepali Foreign Ministry.

Treaty talks, which enjoy an open border, will try to address new and emerging crimes under a new extradition agreement, “state-run English daily The Rising Nepal on Monday quoted spokesman Madan Kumar Bhattarai as saying.

Bhattarai, who is also joint secretary of the Nepali Foreign Ministry, is expected to lead the Nepali delegation which includes officials of the ministries of home and law as well as the Attorney-General’s office. — MNA/Xinhua
Secretary-2 addresses …

* Do not be softened whenever appeased
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Use the least possible amount 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
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements in the common enemy

Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin explains matters related to irrigation.

Col Zaw Min — MNA.

Myanmar delegation leaves

YANGON, 30 Sept — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office U Than Shwe, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein and officials.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office U Than Shwe, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein and officials.

Labour Minister U Tin Winn leaves to attend the 58th United Nations General Assembly. — MNA.

Newly opened Bwatgyi Dam in Magway Division. — MNA.

Foreign Affairs Minister sends message of felicitations to the PRC

YANGON, 1 Oct — On the occasion of the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Founding Day of the People’s Republic of China, which falls on 1 October 2003, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Li Zhaoxiong, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China.

People’s Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Eriksson again urges England fans not to travel to Turkey

LONDON, 30 Sept—Coach Sven Goran Eriksson has again urged England fans to stay away from Turkey when his team play their decisive Euro 2004 qualifier there on October 11.

“I am appealing to every England fan not to travel to Turkey,” Eriksson said in a statement specially prepared for publication in British Sunday newspapers.

The British Government and police have already asked fans not to travel to the match in Istanbul for security reasons.

The English Football Association (FA) have turned down their ticket allocation and fans suspected of trying to go to the match will be turned away at the airport. There is a recent history of violent confrontations between fans of the two countries and England will go to Istanbul needing a win to qualify for the finals in Portugal. The runs-up go into November's playoffs.

“Undoubtedly, this is our biggest game since we played Brazil in the quarterfinal of last summer's World Cup when we had the support of ten thousands of fans,” Eriksson said.

Brazil, who went on to win the world title, beat England 2-1 when they met in the Japa-

nese city of Shirakawa in June, but the atmosphere in Istanbul is expected to be threat-
ening in marked contrast to that match.

European governing body UEFA fined England heavily and threatened to expel them from Euro 2004 after the previous qualifier against Turkey, a 2-0 win for Eriksson's side in Sunderland in April, over racist abuse and a pitch invasion.

“The FA received serious warnings from UEFA about the behaviour of England fans following the home match with Turkey in April,” Eriksson said in Sunday's statement. “I am concerned about whether or not he played the same role for England.—

Bowler tries to avoid trouble

NEWCASTLE (England), 30 Sept—Newcastle United midfielder Lee Bowyer is struggling to rediscover his best form because he is trying to avoid trouble, says manager Bobby Robson.

“In trying to present a clean image of himself, Lee’s not been as effective,” Robson was quoted as saying in the Newcastle-based Sunday Sun newspaper.

“Because of his reputation, he’s trying to be perfect. He’s not getting involved and he’s not putting his foot in.”

Bowyer, who joined Newcastle from West Ham on a free transfer in July, is serving a six-match European ban for stamping on a Malaga player last December when he was at Leeds. In 2001, Bowyer was cleared of all charges after being involved in a protracted court case over an assault on a student in Leeds in 2000.

Meanwhile, Robson, whose side are sec-
ond-bottom of the Premier League, says he is stingy by the criticism he (Robson) has received about the club’s slump.

“It’s the way things are these days, but I did not expect it at Newcastle,” said the manager.— MNA/Reuters

Beckham unsure about Turkey game after injury

MANCHESTER, 30 Sept—England captain David Beckham suffered a painful ankle injury in Real Madrid’s 2-0 defeat by Valencia on Saturday and does not know if he will be fit in time for the decisive Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey next month.

Beckham played the full 90 minutes of the Primera Liga game but the injury kept him out of training on Sunday and he was visibly hobbling when he made his way into a news conference at the club’s Las Rozas training facility.

“I really don’t know,” Beckham told reporters when asked if he would be fit for the Group Seven clash on October 11.

“It’s hard to tell. It’s the first day after the game and it’s hurting a lot at the moment. I just have to wait and see if it goes over the next day or two. Hopefully it’ll be okay, but I’m not sure yet. I’m not sure if I’ll be fit for Wednesday (when Real travel to Porto for a Champions League match).”

“It will be up to the doctors, the physios and me to decide.”

Steaua Bucharest stretch lead in Romanian league

BUCURESTI, 30 Sept—Steaua Bucharest moved three points clear at the top of the Romanian First Division on Sunday after a 2-0 home win over 10-man Ceahlia Piatra Neamt.

Steaua, the only team still unbeaten after seven matches, moved on to 15 points — Brasov, Otelul Galati and Apulum Bistrita.

Meanwhile, Robson, whose side are second-bottom of the Premier League, says he is stingy by the criticism he (Robson) has received about the club’s slump.

“It’s the way things are these days, but I did not expect it at Newcastle,” said the manager.— MNA/Reuters

Atletico held to 0-0 draw by nine-man Barcelona

MAIDOS, 30 Sept—Atletico Madrid were held to a 0-0 draw by nine-man Barcelona in a frantic Primera Liga encounter at the Vicente Calderon on Sunday.

Despite the scoreline the game was not short of inci-

dent as Barca midfielders Philip Cocu and Thiago Motta were dismissed in the second half for picking up their second bookings and both sides failed to cash in on good scoring opportuni-
ties.

Unbeaten Villarreal continued their impressive start to the season with a 2-0 win away to Racing Santander, goals coming from former Barcelona players Sonny Anderson and Juan Roman Riquelme.

Rafa Benitez’ Valencia are the new leaders thanks to their crucial victory over a 2-0 win over a disappointing Real Madrid at the Mestalla on Saturday.

An early goal from Mista and a second-half strike from Brazilian forward Ricardo Oliveira gave Rafa Benitez’ side a thoroughly deserved triumph over last season’s champions.

At the other end of the table Albacete claimed their first points since returning to the top flight with a 2-0 win over Real Mallorca, while Malaga gained their debut win of the season with a 2-1 victory away to Espanyol.— MNA/Reuters

Beckham unsure about Turkey game after injury

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“It will be up to the doctors, the physios and me to decide.”

Martín Tudor, who replaced Steana's in-
jured Belarussian goalkeeper Vassil Hamutovski, made two fine saves from for-
wards Senis Feizula and Florin Pancovici 15 minutes from time.

Ceahlia were reduced to 10 men on 75 minutes as midfielder Florin Nahoroi was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Champions Rapid Bucharest failed to beat Farul Constanta for the fourth game in a row despite taking an early lead. Moroccan midfielder Zinedine Ziyas scored his first league goal for the club but striker Vasilica Cristocea grabbed an equalizer.

matches in midfield.

They won the game in Turkey and then, due to

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Milan wants to keep Rivaldo

MILAN, 30 Sept— AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani says the club has had a change of heart and wants to keep Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo.

Milan announced on Friday that they had agreed to the player’s request to be released from his contract and Rivaldo said he was considering offers from English clubs.

The former Barcelona striker said he wanted to leave Milan as he could no longer cope with being left out of the side by coach Carlo Ancelotti.

But after the Brazilian said farewell to his teammates before the 3-0 win over Lecce on Sunday, Galliani said he would make an attempt to keep Rivaldo.

“The documents relating to the cancellation of Rivaldo’s contract are still in the office drawer. I will do everything in the coming hours to keep Riva,” Galliani told the club’s television station Milan Channel.

“It is my desire and that of the team and Carlo Ancelotti would be very glad to have him back,” added Galliani.— MNA/Reuters

Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani says the club has had a change of heart and wants to keep Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo.
Whatever system…

(from page 10)

been made in economic, education, health and transport sectors in the Union including Shan State. At the same time, intellectuals, intelligentsia, economists and skilled workers capable of building and safeguarding of news modern and developed nation have emerged.

In addition, the National Convention representing the entire national force for the emergence of the new constitution, the prerequisite in building the discipline-flourishing democracy was held in 1993. The National Convention was the meeting in which the representatives of political parties, the elected representatives, the representatives of service personnel, the national race representatives and the representatives of people from various strata meet and discuss the future of the entire national races and State.

The national races and their colleague national political forces will march towards the goal with firm determination whatever the difficulties and obstacles are.

The seven-point political roadmap clarified by the Prime Minister is the right path for the national forces. The programmes such as convening the National Convention, drafting of a new constitution in accord with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention, adoption of the constitution through national referendum and holding of fair and free elections for Pyithu Hluttaw (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution are the political roadmap for those holding positive view. That is why I enthusiastically seconded the motion, tabled by U Kyaw Soe Hlaing “calling for active participation of all the national races in realization of the political roadmap of the State by doing their bit with Union Spirit.”

Afterwards, the chairman said that Dr Daw Win Win Nu Thant and U Win Myint Hsarn, on behalf of the public, seconded the motion tabled by Shan State (South) USDA executive U Kyaw Soe Hlaing. The motions was sought and approved by the public.

Next, the master of ceremonies announced the resolution of the mass rally for active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for successful implementation of the seven policies and programmes. The mass rally concluded with chanting of the skeds.

MNA

POEM

Myanmar where genders have equal rights

* Myanmar women, Myanmar man
No difference of mind, equal rights
From ancient times till now
They firmly exist
As all observant will know.
* Our culture, our strong bastion
Will not stand destruction, with nationalism
As traitorous acts, we won’t commit
Repulse we will, sacrificing life
Brave women, Myanmar women
In our land, they’ve existed
As all observant will know.
* Even if you look, in this period
Myanmar women, going abroad
Take part in, sports competitions
Come out victorious, win prizes
Myanmar’s pride, for our Union
Shines bright, we can see.

* In ancient times, today as well
Myanmar women, firebrand
Brave, they appear
Main reason, Myanmar citizen
Regardless of gender, enjoy equal rights
Tradition unspoilt, we’ve existed
Main reason, remains unchanged
Can be clearly seen.

* Myanmar tradition, safeguarded
Myanmar man, woman, together
Myanmar’s golden Era, New Myanmar
To appear
Let’s make the endeavour.

Byan Hwiar (Trs)

Dentists hold talks

YANGON, 30 Sept — Under the programme of the Myanmar Dental Surgeon Association, talks of the MDSA was held at Trader Hotel this morning. Chairman of Myanmar Dental Surgeon Association Prof Dr Ba Myint made a speech on the occasion and Prof Dr Pwint Phu and Dr Henery Thein of Hong Kong extended greetings.

Dr Henery Thein explained about salient points on Xeno 111 medicines manufactured by Astatic Dentistry Endodontic Dentistry. Over 200 dentists attended the talks.

MNA

TV retransmission launched in Shan State (South)

YANGON, 30 Sept — Myanmar TV programmes are now being retransmitted by the newly completed retransmission station in Wanhai in Shan State (South) as of 12 September evening.

Under the extension of TV transmission programme, the station was built in the region using the border areas development fund and completed on 11 September.

MNA

The mass rally to support the seven-point roadmap of the State in progress in Taunggyi. — MNA

8:45 am
9. Learning English The Easy and Happy Way for Children
10. Msaungo Li Bej Li (Caline Dion)

8:50 am
1. Martial song
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
3. Musical programme
4. …

8:55 pm
1. Classical song
2. …

5:45 pm
1. 8:00 pm
2. 8:15 am
3. 8:30 am
4. 8:45 am
5. 9:00 am
6. 9:15 am
7. 9:30 am
8. 9:45 am
9. 10:00 am
10. 10:15 am

View today:
Wednesday, 1 October
7:00 am
1. Morning news
2. 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
3. 7:30 am
3. Morning news
4. 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
5. 7:55 am
5. …
6. 8:15 am
6. …
7. 8:30 am
7. …

1:30 pm
1. Discover
2. 6:15 pm
2. …
3. 6:30 pm
3. …
4. 6:45 pm
4. …

9:00 pm
1. Variations on a tune
2. From a distance -Buffy Mider -Cliff Richard
3. 9:15 pm
3. Article/Music
4. 9:25 pm
4. Music at your request
5. -I’m gonna getcha good (Shania Twain)
6. Through the rain (Mariah Carey)

9:35 pm
1. News
2. 10:00 pm
2. …
The mass rally in support of the State’s seven-point political roadmap in progress in Taunggyi. — MNA

**State Peace and Development Council Chairman**

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Cyprus

YANGON, 1 Oct — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Cyprus, which falls on 1 October 2003, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Tassos Papadopoulos, President of the Republic of Cyprus. — MNA

**Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of felicitations to the PRC**

YANGON, 1 Oct — On the occasion of the fifty-fourth anniversary of the Founding Day of the People’s Republic of China, which falls on 1 October 2003, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Zeng Qinghong, Vice-President of the People’s Republic of China. — MNA

**State Peace and Development Council Vice-Chairman sends message of felicitations to Nigeria**

YANGON, 1 Oct — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which falls on 1 October 2003, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Alhaji Atiku Abubaker, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. — MNA

Whatever system the nation …

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(4) - Adoption of the constitution through national referendum.

(5) - Holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaws (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution.

Chairman Rector Dr Maung Kyaw makes a speech at the mass rally. — MNA

**Four political objectives**

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order.
- National reconsolidation.
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution.
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution.

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

Foreign farms and businessmen have invested over 6.2 billion dollars in 539 businesses. Myanmar citizens have also invested about 108,000 million in 539 business firms. These are the results of the economic system that gives priority to the private sector. In this regard there emerge entrepreneurs in all economic sectors including construction, trade and hotels and tourism fields.

The democratic system can be firmly established and maintained in the nation only if there exists a large number of national race entrepreneurs and intellectuals. Thus, the nation is making efforts to increase their numbers.

Thus, the present Government represents the system that will help the nation reach the goals desired by the people. It does not represent the old system.

The Government is the one that annulled the single party system. It has been making political changes to transform from single party system to multi-party democratic system and paving the democratic way. Thus, although it is a military government in form, in essence it is a government that is...