**Government implementing economic and development infrastructural projects to effect equitable development in states and divisions**

**Prime Minister inspects Kengtwang Hydro-electric power project, Darseik river water pumping project in Loilem**

YANGON, 1 Oct—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Aung Htaw, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council office, heads of departments and officials, left here by Tatmadaw flight and arrived in Namban on 29 September.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htun, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Brig-Gen Kyaw Aung of Namban Station and officials.

The Prime Minister and party arrived at Langkho in Loilem District where they were welcomed by Brig-Gen Nyunt Hlaing of Mongpar Station, members of Loilem District and Langkho Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

The Prime Minister and party went to the site of Darseik river water pumping project in Langkho Township.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung and Director-General of Water Resources Utilization Department U Win Phyo reported on flow of water in Nanthee Creek all year round, data on Darseik river water pumping project that will benefit 3,400 acres of lands, construction of the 27,800-foot main canal, one main water pumping station and three sub-water pumping stations, arrangements for the 38,000-foot tributary canal and related programmes for water supply to Langkho.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint reported on cultivation acreage and types of crops, extended cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, arrangements for rice sufficiency in the township and rice sufficiency in the townships in the district.

In his address, the Prime Minister said Darseik river water pumping project is being implemented for extended cultivation of paddy and rice sufficiency and at the same time water supply project is to be undertaken.

He said officials from central level would fulfill the requirements in the region. He spoke of the need for local officials to extend paddy cultivation not only in Langkho Township but also in the rest of the townships for rice sufficiency in accord with the targets. He called on local authorities and departments concerned to organize farmers for land preparations and reclamation of lands to extend monsoon and summer paddy cultivation. On completion of the project, monsoon and summer paddy and cold season crops will be grown and surplus paddy can be transported to Loilem and Kunhein Townships, he said. (See page 7)

All strata of population in country have adopted unified approach, supported the roadmap challenges. In addition to the perennial problems of extreme poverty, spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and environmental degradation, we are faced with the challenge posed by new forms of terrorism.

We must confront all these challenges squarely if we are to fulfill the vision of global prosperity and collective security set out in the declaration of the Millennium Summit three years ago.

The United Nations has a vital role to play in ensuring peace and security. Myanmar firmly believes that the Organization must be revitalized to accomplish our objectives. We cannot overcome the complex problems that beset our world without universal commitment to multilateralism and reaffirmation of faith in the central role of the United Nations in the promotion of global peace and security. The importance of multilateralism and the need for countries to strictly abide by the principles of international law cannot be overemphasized. Indeed, Member States, large and small, have an interest as well as a responsibility to uphold the Charter of the United Nations.

More than ever before, our world needs greater international solidarity and cooperation. In this respect, we welcome the intention of the Secretary-General to reform the United Nations into a more effective organization. My delegation also shares the Secretary-General’s concern that the use of force preemptively could set precedents that result in a proliferation of the unilateral and lawless use of force, with or without justification. (See page 10)

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

**Secretary-1 and Secretary-2 attend ceremony to mark International Day of Older Persons Page 16**

**Foreign News Pages** 3,4,5,6,12,13,14

**Circulation** 24,192
Actively participate in laying down democracy foundations

The Union of Myanmar is home to various national races who have been living together in unity and amity for ages. It was with their united strength and sacrifices that they regained their freedom and the country its sovereignty. Therefore, it is up to all of us to safeguard what our forefathers have striven for us.

Our national goal, as we have said very often, is the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. It is due to the correct leadership and realistic policies of the Government that we are now witnessing the results of development all over the nation.

For instance, in the past, only Taunggyi, headquarters of Shan State, developed and the other areas in the state lacked development owing to instability and poor transport. But now, the Government has been striving for the development of the entire Shan State, dividing it into four development regions. Since 1989, the Government has spent K 7850 million on development of Shan State alone.

In transport sector in Shan State (South) Taunggyi-Pinlaung-Loikaw railroad, Shwe-nyaung-Yaksauk railroad, Shweyaung-Taunggyi-Banyin-Saikkhaung railroad, Namhsan-Mongnau railroad and Taunggyi-Namhsan road were built. As a result, local people can easily travel from one place to another in the region. With improvement in transportation, there has been a remarkable increase in agricultural production of Shan State. Shan State produced about 20 million baskets of paddy a year but now its annual output of paddy stands at 60 million baskets.

The Government has been striving for the emergence of a genuine democracy in accord with the historical background of the nation and culture, customs and traditions of the people. A mass rally to support the Prime Minister’s speech on the future policies and programmes of the State was held at the sports ground in Taunggyi, Shan State (South), on 29 September, and local people numbering more than 8,500 attended the rally.

At the rally, Dr Daw Win Nu Nu Thant, anaesthetist of Women and Children’s Hospital attended the rally.

At the opening ceremony, President of Vietnam Mr. Do Van Luu presented medical and medical equipment worth US $ 3,000 to Myanmar Union of Shan Women and Children’s Hospital.

Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries U Win Myint also donated K 500,000.

It was also attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and Deputy Minister for Trade of Vietnam Mr Do Nhu Dinh.

The two sides discussed outstanding bilateral consular and financial issues in a spirit of friendship and good neighbourliness. As Myanmar-India bilateral relations increased, consular and financial meeting between the two sides enhanced mutual understanding between the two nations.

The meeting continued this morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the second day and a Joint Report was signed between the two delegation leaders later in the afternoon.

During their stay in Myanmar, the delegations called on Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa at his office this afternoon. The Indian delegation also paid courtesy calls on Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein. They were welcomed and stayed at the Government. The delegation also visited places of interest here today.

The delegation also visited places of interest here today.
Small developing countries, could not and should not be expected to follow same policy prescriptions applied to larger, more advanced countries

The following are excerpts from the address of Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Jamaica Percival James Patterson delivered to the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 29 September.

Small developing countries, he stated, could not and should not be expected to follow the same policy prescriptions applied to larger, more advanced countries. He emphasized the importance of special and differential treatment.

In the aftermath of Cancun, the international community needed to accept that: trade rules must be asymmetrical in recognition of the diversity in levels of development and size of economies; trade rules must also recognize the rights of all countries to protect their development priorities and vulnerable groups, especially their small farmers; and development issues, as they related to the World Trade Organization (WTO) agenda, must be defined by developing countries themselves and not by others for them.

The 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 29 September.

Minister of Defence of Jamaica Percival James Patterson delivered to the collective management of world affairs. Third, preserving the interests of the Iraqi people and legitimacy. It is in this gauge that we look to the United Nations.

The eyes of all Iraqis are now set on the international community in the hope to receive every possible assistance that would enable them to forge ahead in laying a solid foundation for building a promising future.

They look forward to rebuilding a new Iraq. An Iraq that reclaims its proper and legitimate status as an active Arab member in this Organization and within the community of nations.

I wish to emphasize the need to safeguard the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iraq; to ensure the withdrawal of the foreign occupation forces as quickly as possible; and to enable the people of Iraq to determine their future by themselves.

Therefore, we welcomed the formation of the transitional Governing Council as a first and important step towards the composition of a broad-based government that represents the full spectrum of the Iraqi population, to be elected by the people of Iraq as expeditiously as possible on the basis of a constitution accepted and endorsed by the Iraqi people. Against this backdrop, we decided to deal positively with the Governing Council as well as with all political affiliations in Iraq.

In this context, let me elaborate that my Government has accepted the assumption, on a temporary basis, by the Council of Ministers of the Arab League, which temporarily recognized the Transitional Council of Governance in Iraq. Such recognition is a significant step that would hopefully enable Iraq to play its role at both regional and international levels.

Bangladesh reiterates its support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the country. We stand ready to take part in the reconstruction and revitalization of multilateralism, call for a prompt handing over of the security and humanitarian situation in Iraq. We call for the empowerment of the Iraqis to exercise their right of sovereignty as stipulated in international law so that this brotherly country could live in peace and harmony with its neighbors.

In this context, it gives me pleasure to remind this august Assembly of the important resolution adopted, a few weeks ago, by the Council of Ministers of the Arab League, which temporarily recognized the Transitional Council of Governance in Iraq. Such recognition is a significant step that would hopefully enable Iraq to play its role at both regional and international levels.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Thursday, 2 October, 2003 3

Our task now must be to prevent the disintegration of Iraq

Dr Marwan Muasher, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

May I move now to the question of Iraq. Iraq has now entered a new phase during which the brotherly people of that country are facing enormous hardships and challenges.

The eyes of all Iraqis are now set on the international community in the hope to receive every possible assistance that would enable them to forge ahead in laying a solid foundation for building a promising future.

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In this context, let me elaborate that my Government has accepted the assumption, on a temporary basis, by the representatives of the transitional Iraqi government of the seat of Iraq in the League of Arab States on the understanding that Iraq will subsequently move towards the drafting of the constitution of Iraq and the holding of elections leading to the formation of a representative Iraqi government.—Internet

Mr M Morsheed Kham, MP Foreign Minister of Bangladesh

The UN is indispensable as the central organ for the collective management of world affairs. Third, legitimacy. As has been underlined, the greatest strength of the UN remains its legitimacy founded on the bedrock principles of international law. There is no substitute for such legitimacy. It is in this gauge that we look to the United Nations.

The people of Iraq inherit an ancient and glorious civilization. The present situation in Iraq should be resolved preserving the interests of the Iraqi people and longterm peace, security and stability of the region.

Experience gained by the developed democracies is really priceless

Establishing a democracy should not be regarded as a simple process, but rather as a most complicated evolutionary one. In this sense the experience gained by the developed democracies is really priceless.

However, even they are still trying to optimally balance the interests of a state and an individual, to find an answer to the question of how to meet the primary needs of their citizens while accepting the primacy of the right to private property in a market economy.

The people of Tajikistan won their independence and democracy through enormous suffering and deprivation. Tajikistan is in favor of an increased regional cooperation in all areas. Our goal is to create in Central Asia a belt of peace and stability, harmony and prosperity. Turning Central Asia into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction is a matter of principle for Tajikistan, and that is why my country approved of the idea of establishing a nuclear free zone in the region.—Internet

Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmonov

Internet

We further call for the empowerment of the Iraqis to exercise their right of sovereignty

The statements delivered during the few past days clearly demonstrated the keenness of the international community to preserve international peace and security.

We, while adding our voice to those calling for the revitalization of multilateralism, call for a prompt handing over of the security and humanitarian situation in Iraq. We call for the empowerment of the Iraqis to exercise their right of sovereignty as stipulated in international law so that this brotherly country could live in peace and harmony with its neighbors.

In this context, it gives me pleasure to remind this august Assembly of the important resolution adopted, a few weeks ago, by the Council of Ministers of the Arab League, which temporarily recognized the Transitional Council of Governance in Iraq. Such recognition is a significant step that would hopefully enable Iraq to play its role at both regional and international levels.

Sudanese Foreign Minister

Dr Mustafa Osman Ismail

Revert sovereignty to the Iraqi people as quickly as possible

Clearly, Iraq continues to remain a serious issue: Now that the war is over the global community must agree to revert sovereignty to the Iraqi people as quickly as possible, to let them govern themselves and to help them rebuild their country. The United Nations should be given an enhanced role in this process.

Nepalese delegation leader

Dr Bheki B Thapa

Internet

Professor Jayakumar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore

The 2002-2003 crisis over Iraq in the Security Council has only underscored what we have known all along: the Security Council can only authorize intervention when the Permanent Members are in agreement and that all states, big and small, will do what they must to protect their national interests. This is not the occasion to revisit old debates over whether the war in Iraq was authorised on the basis of a continuity of authority from 1990 to 2003. Certainly, as Resolution 1441 recognised, Iraq had been in material breach of several resolutions.

My point is that the intense diplomatic effort to secure another-explicit authorisation for the use of force, whatever its eventual outcome, was it significant, in the Security Council’s legitimising role. In May, only weeks after a formal end to major combat operations was declared, Resolution 1483, adopted without any dissenting vote, recognised that the UN had a significant role in post-war Iraq.
Chinese, French presidents stress UN role in Iraq

BEIJING, 1 Oct—Chinese President Hu Jintao said Monday that the United Nations should give scope to its role in the reconstruction of Iraq and China supports a new resolution on Iraq by the UN Security Council (UNSC) acceptable to all parties concerned.

President Hu made the remarks during a phone conversation with his French counterpart Jacques Chirac Monday evening.

The Chinese Government maintains that the security and stability of Iraq should be resumed as early as possible and the administration of Iraq by the Iraqi people should be materialized, Hu said. A new UNSC resolution, which is acceptable to all parties concerned, is conducive in pushing forward the process of reconstruction, Hu said.

French President Chirac said Iraq is in a state of turbulence and the problems should be settled through political means.

The sovereignty of Iraq should be transferred to the Iraqi people gradually, and the United Nations should play a key role in that process, Chirac said.

Moreover, Chirac briefed Hu on his experience in the 58th session of the UN General Assembly as well as his views on the current Iraqi situation.

The two presidents said they were satisfied with the sound development of bilateral ties, noting that they will continue to make joint efforts to promote the progress of the comprehensive partnership between the two nations to a new height.

Majority of Britons say Blair lied on Iraq

LONDON, 10 Oct—Nearly 60 per cent of Britons believe Prime Minister Tony Blair lied over the threat posed by Iraq in the run-up to the US-led war to oust Saddam Hussein, an opinion poll showed on Tuesday.

Blair, whose popularity ratings have dived since the war, faces one of the toughest speeches of his career on Tuesday at the ruling Labour Party’s annual conference as he tries to ride out anger among activists over his support for the invasion.

The NOP poll, published by the Independent newspaper, found 41 per cent wanted Blair to resign while 52 per cent did not. Fifty-nine per cent thought Blair lied over Iraq and 29 per cent did not.

Other polls have also shown a majority of Britons no longer trust Blair after the failure of US-led forces to find any banned weapons in Iraq, his main justification for the invasion.

The NOP poll suggested that replacing Blair with Finance Minister Gordon Brown, an option favoured by many Labour activists, would not boost the party’s appeal significantly.

Labour, on 38 per cent, had a nine-point lead over the opposition Conservatives. If Brown took over as prime minister, Labour’s lead would increase by only one point, the poll showed. — MNA/Reuters

UAE, Egypt urge for security and stability in Iraq

ABU DHABI, 1 Oct—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt here Monday stressed that it is important to bring about security and stability in Iraq.

UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan al-Nahayan and his visiting Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak made the remarks during their talks.

Mubarak arrived here earlier in the day for a two-day visit.

During the meeting, the two presidents called on the international community to help Iraq gain rights to reconstruct homes, run the state and elect their leaders.

The two leaders also discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian territories as well as bilateral ties between Egypt and the UAE. — MNA/Xinhua

Filipines says most HIV cases unreported

MANILA, 1 Oct—Philippine Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said Tuesday an estimated 8,000 cases of HIV/AIDS are not reported in the country, where other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are also observed to be on the rise.

“We estimate that there are about 10,000 cases, but only 2,000 have been reported,” the ABS-CBN on-line news quoted Dayrit as saying.

Dayrit has warned about the possibility of an AIDS epidemic hitting the country, citing the rising trends of STIs among Filipinos.

He said that the Department of Health conducts surveys among prostitutes yearly, yet despite this, many HIV/AIDS cases remain unreported. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai air force chief pledges beefed-up security for APEC meeting

BANGKOK, 1 Oct — The chief of the Royal Thai Air Force on Monday dismissed reports that Bangkok’s Don Muang International Airport was under terrorist threat, saying the airport was safe enough for the upcoming APEC Meeting 2003.

Air Commander-in-Chief Kongsak Wantana told reporters that the location of the airport, which is located among civilian community, was not a barrier to security operation as civilians could provide useful information in case that anything went wrong.

He said the Royal Thai Air Force was currently in its second phase of the APEC security procedures, including reorganizing its runway traffic, establishing electronic fences with laser devices for weapons detecting, stationing up to 1,300 security guard personnel, with well-trained military dogs, patrolling both inside and outside the airport.

Concerning security procedures, Thai officials were already in contact with security officials of the participating members, especially the US and Russia, he said.

Since October 1, Thailand would enter the final phase of security measures for the holding of the Asia Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) 2003 meeting, he added.

To provide security for world leaders and delegates, the Royal Thai Air Force would mobilize F-16 fighter jets to patrol the air and clear way for the planes carrying them.

Moreover, a large number of fighter jets would be standing by to be able to take off within five minutes in case of any emergency.

MNA/Xinhua

Irish minister appeals for full return of UN agencies to Iraq

GEGENVA, 1 Oct—Iraq’s Minister for Migration and Exiled Persons, Mohammed Khudir, urged UN agencies and other aid groups to return full force to his country, saying that their absence would lead to more suffering.

The United Nations now has fewer than 50 international staff in Iraq or less than one-tenth the number before last month’s deadly suicide bombing on its headquarters in Baghdad.

The staff of the United Nations and particularly the staff of the UNHCR (the UN refugee agency), if they do not return to the country, this will have very deleterious (harmful) consequences on a humanitarian level,” Khudir told an annual meeting of the executive committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva.

Speaking through an interpreter, he said that it was “absolutely essential” that a very clear signal should be sent to the international community to find a solution to the current humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

Efforts must also be made to prevent militant groups from causing more harm in the country, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Stones and a buoy are seen on the bed of the river Rhein in Dusseldorf, western Germany, on 29 September, 2003. A long heat wave and rainless period has left the river at its lowest level since 1947. The Cologne gauge indicated the rivers level at only 80 centimeters on Monday, three centimeters less than in 1947. —Internet

INTERNET

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INTERNET

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US UNDER INTENSIFIED IRAQ RESISTANCE

Iraqi children watch as British soldiers carry out a patrol in Basra, in southern Iraq on 29 September, 2003.

Iraqi official escapes bid on life Baghdad: US forces used tanks and rocket-firing helicopters to fight their way out of ambushes on Monday as two convoys came under heavy attack west of Baghdad, leaving at least one soldier dead. —AP

311 soldiers US killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

As of Monday, Sept 29, 311 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defense.

The British military has reported 50 deaths. Denmark’s military has reported one death.

On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 173 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defense Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,368 US service members have been wounded as a result of hostile action, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 327.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

— A 17th Field Artillery Brigade soldier died Tuesday from a non-hostile gunshot wound at a base camp near Balad.

— A soldier from the 800th Military Police Brigade died Monday night when his vehicle overturned in a Baghdad canal. A second soldier from the 82nd Airborne division drowned trying to rescue the trapped soldier.

The latest identification reported by the military:

— Army Staff Sgt. Christopher E. Cutchall, 30, McCannelsburg, Pa.; killed Monday when an explosive device detonated near his vehicle west of Baghdad; assigned to Delta Troop, 4th Cavalry, Fort Riley, Kan. —AP

Iraqi cars cross into Syria at the Iraqi border with Syria Saturday Sept. 27, 2003. Guarding against cross-border infiltrators from Syria, where the regime has been harshly critical of the U.S. occupation of Iraq, has become a high priority in the battle against insurgents who are attacking American forces daily in the Sunni heartland to the west and north of Baghdad as well as in the capital itself. —AP

A US Army Abrams tank secures an area following a firefight in the Iraqi town of Khalidiyah, on 29 September, 2003. Posed for a fiery debate on an $87 billion bill for Iraq, Senate Republicans pushed to give President George W Bush broad authority over money to rebuild the country, resisting calls to make Baghdad repay the funds. —AP

Anti war protestors demonstrate outside the Bournemouth International Centre at Britain’s Prime Minister Tony Blair delivers his keynote speech at the Labour Party conference on 30 September, 2003. British Prime Minister Tony Blair acknowledged on Tuesday that his support for war in Iraq had divided the nation and the world, but told his ruling Labour Party he had no regrets and would battle on. —AP
The U.S. Justice Department said it had opened a criminal investigation into the leak of a CIA agent’s identity allegedly to try to deflect criticism of the war, a case very similar to one that has shaken British Prime Minister Blair.

Bush said after meeting business leaders in Chicago he wanted anyone with information about the leak to come forward. "If anybody’s got any information inside our administration or outside our administration, it would be helpful if they came forward," Bush said in his first public comment on the issue.

In Britain, Blair defended his position on the Iraq war, which he acknowledged had divided the nation and the world.

The speech aimed to repair damage done by the British leak of the identity of a government expert in Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, who had anonymously questioned the handling of pre-war intelligence to a journalist. A judicial inquiry was launched after the expert committed suicide.

Party leaders have headed off a full-scale debate on Iraq at the Labour conference, but anti-war dissidents plan to get in their challenge when Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon address the gathering on Wednesday.

Bush’s spokesman said the White House had ordered staff to cooperate fully with the U.S. investigation into what Justice Department lawyers termed "possible unauthorized disclosures concerning the identity of an undercover CIA employee.

The controversy centers on the disclosure that Valerie Plame—who was the wife of Joseph Wilson, a former U.S. ambassador to Gabon and was an undercover CIA operative specializing in weapons of mass destruction.

Wilson, a critic of prewar intelligence on Iraq, says his wife’s cover was blown by administration officials looking to discredit him. The investigation is a further blow to Bush as he seeks more help in tackling a guerrilla insurgency in Iraq and shouldering the costs of rebuilding the country by drafting a new resolution for the United Nations Security Council to consider.

France and Germany have led calls for Washington to transfer power from U.S. occupation forces to an Iraqi government within months as a condition for supporting a resolution in the Security Council.

The disclosure concerning the identity of an undercover CIA employee.

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An expert on tea planting from south China’s Fujian province arranges the potted tea trees at the Badachu Park in Beijing, on 8 Sept. 2003. About 300 tea dealers gather here Sunday to celebrate the opening of the second Beijing Chinese Garden and Tea Culture Festival. More than 200 potted tea trees of about 10 categories from Fujian found their new home in the park on the same day. —Xinhua

Shanghai Municipal Government, Jiang Lan.

The rules demand that local government canvasses responses to government decisions and objectively evaluate the decisions.

A political assassination, two bombings at the UN in Baghdad and a strike against an American television network have together prompted a massive re-think of security in US-occupied Iraq. —INTERNET

The California Democrat said in the letter that his concerns stemmed from recent conversations with members of the Iraqi Governing Council who "told me that my staff that the costs to the American taxpayer had been underestimated by 90 percent if the projects were awarded to local companies rather than large government contractors like Halliburton or Bechtel."

"Rather than seeking low-cost solutions based on expensive local Iraqi labor, the administration appears to be requesting huge dollar amounts for complex projects that will be awarded to well-connected US contractors operating at exorbitant prices," Waxman wrote in his letter.

The criticism comes as the White House has encountered sticker shock from US lawmakers to its request for $87 billion dollars in funding for stabilizing Iraq and Afghanistan.

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He spoke of the need to move sugarcane plantations to fallow lands at the foot of the mountain. By doing so, paddy plantation acreage will increase. On completion, the Darseik river water pumping project will irrigate over 3,000 acres of land. There are now 2,500 acres of monsoon paddy. Due to the project, monsoon paddy acreage will increase up to 3,000. Moreover, triple-cropping can be undertaken and 3,000 acres of fallow lands can also be reclaimed.

Next, the Prime Minister met local people and explained measures to be undertaken for development of agriculture. Local people are glad to learn about the implementation of the project.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the construction of the main canal. They went to the site of Kengtwang Hydro-electric power project on Namting Creek, 31 miles east of Monai. The Prime Minister and party closely observed water falling from Kengtwang Waterfall. Director-General of Hydro-electric Power Department U Win Kyaw reported on data on Kengtwang Hydro-electric power project, aims of the project, and location, flow of water from the Namting Creek, findings in the hydrological record, geological conditions, construction of concrete diversion weir, intake facility and canal, installation of steel pipe and power lines and progress of work.

Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on arrangements for distribution of power generated from Kengtwang Hydro-electric power project. The Prime Minister then gave instructions. He said the government has systematically laid down plans and is implementing them as required by the respective regions. It is doing so, he said, with a view to effecting equitable development of the States and Divisions concentrating on economic and development infrastructures. There are still development gaps in 11 townships in Loilem District. This is why the government is making arrangements for development of Loilem District. The project is expected to complete in 2006. On completion of the project, 24-hour electric power can be distributed to 11 townships and surplus power can also be supplied to the national grid. Industries in the townships including cottage industries and the whole region will develop by the year 2006, he said.

The Darseik river water pumping project is being built for rice sufficiency and agricultural development in Langkho Township. Moreover, arrangements have been made for construction of Nanfalok Dam Project. Eleven townships including Langkho and Loihein Townships in Loilem District will develop economically in the near future, he said. The government is launching projects for development of 11 townships in the district and it is necessary for officials to make concerted efforts for realization of the project in accord with the targets.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the ground position of the project. Three 18-megawatt vertical turbines will be installed at the power station that will generate 472 million kWh a year.

In the evening, the Prime Minister and party arrived in Loilem. They went to Yadansasi TatOo Monastery and presented offerings to Yadansasi Sayadaw Bha ddanta Silananda and members of the Sangha.

On 30 September, the Prime Minister and party, accompanied by commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, arrived at the site of Maharatha Bhitha Maggi Pagoda on Wikathini Hill in Panglong. Director of Asia World Co U Kyaw reported on (See page 10)
The Border Area 
(Conditional surrender of MTA)

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

(continued from 30-9-2003)

On 11 January 1996, at the meeting hall of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Col Thein Sein (Now Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein) briefed the members of the border area special administrative board on the instructions of Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Maung Aye (Now Vice-Senior General Maung Aye). Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Tin Oo (deceased) gave instructions. Respective ministries gave lectures at the short-term courses on the border area development.

The MTA group members were transported from Yangon to Namsang by Tatmadaw aircraft at 8.40 pm on 19 January. On arrival at Namsang airport, they were briefed on the mission and the deep assignments. The commander of the group was a minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the commander of Eastern Command. They were later transported to Langkho by car. While in Langkho, Tactical Operations Commander Col Thein Nyunt (Now the minister for PBA/NRA) briefed them on the conditions of Homain region, stock-pile of provisions and matters related to the surrender of arms for the third time.

They were divided into two groups and transported to Homain from Langkho by aircraft in two flights times starting 11.20 pm on 20 January. The tactical operations commander himself was on the first flight. At noon in Homain, they were briefed at length on the conditions of the region by No 55 Light Infantry Division Deputy Commander Col Moe Hein (Now Commandant of National Defence College Maj-Gen Moe Hein) and Lt-Col San Pwint of Military Intelligence (Now Col San Pwint of Military Intelligence Office).

Not all the instructions given by the senior officials placed emphasis on the acts to be avoided in order not to make people misunderstand the government and to carry out the tasks with diligence from the four points of view.

Our Yangon-Homann trip took only two days using aircraft, cars and helicopters. But we would have reached the destination in a day if we did not have to wait the helicopters. It will be wrong to assume that everything was OK in Homain region. Although the people could be transported quickly, there were many things such as rice that could not be. As they had returned to the legal fold with strong peace and development councils, to ensure the rule of law, the conditions of the region and duty assignments by the respective ministries gave lectures at the short-term course for distributing a number of bags of rice. The motor road did not get to the bank of Thanlwin River. Bags of rice with the use of had to be transported from Langkho to Wansalaung and Tatswattein jetty by car and then to Thanlwin River stretching about 12 miles by three power schooners. Then they had to be carried to Taonmu Jetty. As the road did not get to Taonmu Jetty, soldiers had to carry the bags of rice to Taonmu Point-3775 climbing up and down. It took four or five hours for a person to get to the point when climbing up even without carrying anything. It was hard to breathe climbing up such a steep mountain.

The generosity and goodwill of the Tatmadaw members was marvellous. A great number of bags of rice were carried for many times and days. They then transported them by car to Homain.

On 20 January 1996... When I got to Homain, I first noticed that temporary national registration cards were being issued to the MTA troops, who would be going home. There were hundreds of people including toddlers and children at the place. Some were very happy to go home because they would meet their parents. Authorities concerned arranged to transport them by land, by boat and even by air.

The administrative board carried out the tasks to form the ward law and order restoration councils (now ward peace and development councils), to ensure the rule of law, to open schools, hospitals and dispensaries and to collect relevant data. The board members made field trips from the town centre of Homain down to the regions of Meaw-Kholon, Naungwaw, Namkat, Huakhaung, Moneytaw/Monetcha. Data were collected and work projects submitted. Within a short period, schools, hospitals and dispensaries were opened. Issues on the rule of law had been addressed gradually. Heads of the wards also fulfilled the requirements. Doctors, nurses and medicines were brought in by helicopter. Power tillers, No 203 paddy straings, fertilizers and agricultural workers were also provided by land. If I say about the agricultural matter, I remember Ko Khin Maung, who was first a member of KNPP and then of MTA. Whenever all the goods supplied by the Development of Border Areas and National Races Department arrived in Homain, the position of the local ethnic people was like someone who had been unable to make use of something valuable in his hand.

There were a lot of merchants in Homain but very few farmers. I saw the vacant lands when going about in the town. Those lands were only used as the pastures for donkeys and horses used in military operations and in carrying heroin. Now the lands are ownerless. While in Pekkion, Ko Khin Maung used to run a farm. So, he was supplied with a power tiller and fertilizers, and given training how to operate the machine. It did not take even a day to train him and he was able to do his farming business very well. I had to prevent him from doing his work through the night.

When there came the day on which paddy was cultivated, Commander Brig-Gen Khin Maung (now Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation) was surprised when he saw some 300 women were ready to volunteer in the farmland. In the days of U Khun Sa, members of our administrative board took part happily in Homain Thingyan festival in 1996 together with the women members of the WASS. As a result of our organizational efforts, we got their help and strength whenever we carried out activities. If there was any school or dispensary to be opened, it was crowded with people. Due to the cooperative efforts, plantations of No 203 paddy straings produces about 100 baskets of paddy per acre. However, I did not have the chance to ask old bachelor Ko Khin Maung whether he got married or not that year when he made a good harvest. We have not seen each other ever since. (concluded)

(Translation: ST)
Myanma Alin: 28-9-2003

People’s Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets staff at Loilem District Information and Public Relations Department on 30-10-2003. (News page 1) — Myanma Alin

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Civil Service Journal comes out

YANGON, 1 Oct — Journal for Civil Service, a bimannual publication, was released by the Civil Service Selection and Recruitment Board yesterday.

Further information can be obtained at No 65, Awaysa Road, Myintanyon Ward, Tamwe Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-557383. — MNA

Secretary-2 tours... (from page 16)

Non-disintegration of the Union, non-violence, non-violent national solidarity and Per- petuation of sovereignty: Strong bearing of the national economy and literacy of entire people also play a vital implementability, secure- nce and rule of law are es- sential in strengthening the economy, the government, after assuming the state du- ties, placed great emphasis on them from 1988 to 1992 and was able to restore sta- bility and tranquility in the entire nation. Seventeen armed groups have returned to the legal fold and taken part, hand in hand with the government and the people and in the deve- lopment and promoting the living standards of the local people.

The government, laying down border area develop- ment project, 24 special de- velopment zones project and five rural development tasks, is striving to reduce the de- velopment gap between one region and another day and night. As for economic develop- ment, short term eco- nomic plans were success- fully implemented.

Bago Division is one of the six divisions that vitally connect the State. Agriculture sector of the division is the most reliant one, followed by in- dustrial and livestock breed- ing sectors. As so many acres of vacant and virgin land re- main uncultivated in the di- vision, efforts must be made for the development of the agriculture sector based on five agricultural develop- ment tasks in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Furthermore, efforts must also be made for in- creasing the per acre yield. Besides ten major crops such as paddy, cotton, sugarcane, corn, ground nut, sesame, sunflower, Pedisine, black pulse and pigeon pea, ex- tended cultivation of coffee, tea and pepper for foreign tinned cultivation of coffee, corn, ground nut, sesame, creasing the per acre yield.

As for the administrative affairs, Peace and Develop- ment Councils at various lev- els, being the administrative bodies assigned by the gov- ernment, are required to lead the people and people out the development with tasks with integrity, and de- partmental personnel are to cooperate in projects of min- istry and regional develop- ment tasks. In implementa- tion of works, efforts must be exerted for completion of works meeting the set stand- ards within short period, avoiding the loss and wast- age of money, materials, time and manpower. In conclusion, the Secre- tary-2 urged local authori- ties and departmental per- sonnel, realizing the policies and tasks of the State, to actively participate in build- ing the modern, developed and democratic nation in re- sponses roles with the es- sence of Union Spirit.

Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee of Myanma War Veterans Or- ganization Secretary-2 Ad- yangyi General Lt Gen Thein Sein met with chairman and members of Myanma Veterans Supervisory Committees in Bago Division (West), 14 townships in Pyay District and Thayetmyo District, and district and township mem- bers of WVOs at the same venue at 11.30 am.

Having heard reports on implementation of the five tasks laid down by the Cen- tral Organizing Committee of MWVO presented by the chairman of Bago Division (West) War Veterans Organi- zation Supervisory Committee, the Secretary-2 gave instructions on objectives, expansion, train- ing and welfare of MWVO, and urged the members to actively participate in build- ing the modern, developed and democratic nation in re- sponses roles with the es- sence of Union Spirit.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Director of the con- struction Department U Tin Win re- ported to the Secretary-2 on facts about the project, con- struction works being car- ried out and benefited acre- age. Director-General U Kyaw San Win gave supple- mentary report: Myaynyaw Division Peace and Devel- opment Council Col Zaw Min reported on condition of the clusters of dams in eastern and western parts of Magway Division and area of the benefited farmland. The Secretary-2 gave in- structions on meeting the set standard and timely comple- tion of the dam and inspected round the construction site.

Afterwards, the Secre- tary-2 and party inspected the condition of benefited farmland, development of Aungla, inlets of water dam, Taungnawin Dam, thriving monsoon paddy and other crops around the area of the cluster of dams in eastern part of Magway Division and in Myanmar Township, Ayeyawady Division. The Secretary-2 charged with pushing drugs traffickers, to 11 years in prison under Section 19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

A combined team compris- ing members of local in- telligence unit and local po- lice force in Toungoo on 12 February 2003 seized 2.776 kilos of marijuana hidden in his house.

In connection with the case, Thein Seoe, son of U Maung Maung, of Htilayaung Ward-1, Toungoo, was charged with pushing drugs traffickers, to 11 years in prison under Section 19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

The chairman of Myanma Township Peace and Development Council reported on economic, so- cial and management affairs of the township and the com- mander on that of Ayeyawady Division.

The Secretary-2 gave in- structions on active partici- pation of local authorities, departmental officials in their respective sectors with patri- otic spirit and Union spirit in building a new democratic nation in accord with the seven-point roadmap of the State Clarified by the Prime Minister, efforts to be made for economic development of the region, extended cultiva- tion of suitable crops out of ten major crops, measures for livestock raising and mini- mizing loss and wastage in carrying out the tasks. The Secretary-2 cordially greeted those present. later, the Secre- tary-2 and party arrived back here in the evening. — MNA
All strata of population in country ... (from page 1)

Mr. President,

Recent attacks by terrorists in Bangladesh, Bali, Casablanca, Jakarta, Jerusalem, Mumbai and other places serve to remind us of the grim fact that the fight against terrorism is not over. It is evident that the use of force alone cannot wipe out terrorism. If we wish to achieve enduring results, we must address such fundamental problems as the persistence of extreme poverty, disparity of income between and within countries, racial and religious prejudice and attempts by some countries to impose their values on small and developing countries.

Terrorism poses a common threat to mankind. It respects neither borders nor national race. All nations must therefore join hands to meet the challenge posed by terrorism, and it is only through increased cooperation at the regional and international levels that we can overcome this menace.

I wish to reiterate that Myanmar is against all forms of terrorism. We have had bitter experiences with terrorism in our own country and we are firmly committed to work with the international community to prevent, counter and eliminate this terrible scourge of mankind.

Last month the terrorists brought their war to the doors of our Organization when they attacked the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad. They took the lives of 22 people, including that of Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, one of the most outstanding international civil servants. We join the rest of the world in paying tribute to his memory and profess our profound sadness over the loss of the life of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

The Prime Minister and Party presented offerings to the members of the Sangha.

Mr. President,

I would like to turn to recent political developments in my country.

Some have accused us of deliberately creating a political impasse in order to delay the transfer of power. If one takes a close and objective look at the situation in the country, one will see that what we are doing is simply to achieve a smooth transition to democracy. It laid down four political objectives:

- Establish peace and stability in the whole nation and ensure prevalence of law and order in the unwarranted attack.
- Consolidate unity among all national races.
- Strive for durable constitution;
- Build a modern and democratic nation in keeping with the new constitution.

At the outset, an olive branch was extended to the armed groups that had been fighting the government for decades. Following successful negotiations these groups returned to the legal fold. National unity was achieved.

Peace now reigns in the entire country, providing an opportunity for long neglected border areas to develop quickly.

The gap between urban and rural areas has narrowed. At the same time we have taken developmental initiatives to promote good and friendly relations with all countries in the region and the world so that we can thrive and prosper.

We have never posed a security threat to any neighbour and have always sought to promote regional peace and stability and the common weal of all our nations. We have never sought to turn a blind eye to the realities of our neighbours. Some countries have chosen to turn a blind eye to the realities and have subjected Myanmar to a wide array of unfair economic sanctions for political ends. These unilateral coercive measures not only go against the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations but also violate international law and rules of the international trade. They are intrinsically unfair and only add to the hardships of the people already marginalized by globalization.

Countries that place a high premium on democracy and human rights have a responsibility to live up to the noble ideals in relation with others. Our common aspirations for peace and development can only be fulfilled if nations avoid double standards and adopt a more positive attitude.

Mr. President,

We live in challenging and dangerous times. Conflicts and tensions in various parts of the world threaten global peace and security. Transnational crimes and new forms of terrorism also add to our problems.

Yet it is in our power to make the world a better place. Here, it is pertinent to recall what I stated last year in these hallowed chambers. If we want to ensure a better future for mankind we must heed the teachings of the great religions of the world. Every religion calls for tolerance, understanding and compassion for fellow human beings. Only when we can overcome narrow-mindedness and do away with false pride and prejudice will we succeed in establishing a world in which peace and justice prevail.

All conflicts, rivalries and hostilities have their roots in hatred and enmity. We must try to overcome them. We should all try to build a global order, where the strong will not impose their will on the weak, where democracy prevails not only within nations but also in the international arena.

Let us work together, as a family of nations, to overcome the serious common challenges we face.

MNA
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

As transport was difficult in Rakhine State, the Government has spent billions of kyats to build roads and bridges in the state for its rapid development. The 300 feet long Kyaukkyibauk bridge is on Taungup-Maei-Kyaukphyu Road in An Township in Rakhine State. Construction started on 6-2-2001 and it was built within one year and five months and was opened on 25 June 2002.— PHOTO: MNA

Intellectuals and intelligentsia are key players in national development. Therefore, with the aim of nurturing students for human resources development, the government has opened universities and colleges wherever suitable in the country. The photo taken on 14 July 2003 shows the Dawei University which was opened on 22 February 2000.— PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation is taking various innovative measures to manufacture new coaches for travellers’ convenience. The photo shows the DMU 302 coaches assembled at Ywahtaung Loco-Shed under MR. PHOTO: KYEMON
About 15.2 per cent of the population, or 43.6 million people, lacked medical coverage for the entire year, the Census Bureau said in a report that prompted new calls for lawmakers and President George W. Bush to address the problem. In 2001, 14.6 per cent lacked health coverage.

Last year’s drop was attributed largely to fewer people receiving insurance from employers. The percentage of those covered by employment-based health insurance slid to 61.3 per cent in 2002 from 62.6 per cent in 2001, the report said.

Some of the uninsured had lost their jobs as the economy struggled through a recession, according to policy experts. In other cases, employers dropped health coverage as bonuses or increased employees’ portion of the cost to the point that some workers could not afford to pay.

“Clearly employers are struggling to hang on to their coverage,” said Kate Sullivan, director of health care policy for the US Chamber of Commerce. “Government insurance programmes such as Medicaid provided a cushion. About 25.7 per cent of people were covered by the government programme in 2002, up from 25.3 per cent in 2001. “Things could have been substantially worse” without the government assistance, Sullivan said.

The figures should spur politicians to quickly agree on ways to help more people obtain medical coverage, said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a health advocacy group. “The failure so far may have significant repercussions in the 2004 elections,” Pollack said.

**Report says more in US living without health insurance**

WASHINGTON, 1 Oct — The ranks of Americans without health insurance grew by an estimated 2.4 million in 2002, the second consecutive yearly increase, the US Census Bureau reported on Tuesday.

**Study says suncreams cannot guard fully against cancer**

LONDON, 1 Oct— Sunscreen creams cannot fully protect people against an increasingly common form of skin cancer even when correct amounts are applied, according to research published on Monday.

“Since ambient sunlight is principally ultraviolet A (UVA) light, which can cause the skin cancer melanoma, than UVB. “When ultraviolet A impinges on the skin it triggers release of highly reactive chemicals called free radicals which we believe can induce a malignant change,” he told BBC Radio.

**HK keen to attract talents from Chinese Mainland**

Hong Kong, 1 Oct — Hong Kong Chief Secretary for Administration Donald Tsang stressed here Monday, are very keen to attract talented people from the Chinese Mainland and elsewhere in the world.”

Speaking at a conference, he said: “The skin had been treated with three popular high factor suncreams which say they contain some UVA protection. While the creams prevented the sun from burning the skin, they did not stop UV A rays from penetrating it. RAFT, which published the research on its website on Monday, predicted that the rise in the lifetime risk of the disease will approach one in 50 of the British population.

**China’s first marine satellite operating well**

BEIJING, 1 Oct — HY-1A, China’s first marine satellite, has sent back data on ocean colour, water temperatures and coastal zones since it was launched in May last year.

“The satellite is working well after it was delivered to our bureau on September 18 last year,” said Wang Shuangguang, director of the National Bureau of Oceanography. He said that during the conference, a Press conference was held.

**Schroeder, Putin to meet next week**

BERLIN, 1 Oct — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet next week to discuss bilateral and international issues including Iraq, it was announced Monday.

According to the Chancellery’s Office, the two-day meeting from October 8 to 9 in the town of Jakschinburg, in the Russian Ural region, is part of the regular government consultations between the two countries.

Participants from the German side include Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, Interior Minister Otto Schily, Economic Minister Wolfgang Clement and Minister for Family Affairs Renten Schmidt. Representatives from the German business circle will also be present.

The consultations will cover bilateral economic cooperation, security policy coordination and the situation in Iraq, said Bela Anda, spokesman for the German Government.

**Thousands of books are waiting to give you knowledge free of charge**
Annan urges developed world to do more to help Africa

UNITED NATIONS, 1 Oct — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan Monday urged developed countries to do a lot more on aid, trade and debt relief to help Africa meet its current challenges.

"We need to see effective action, from all stakeholders, on all fronts, to address Africa's great problems, and to ensure that Africa realizes its even greater promise," he said.

Since the TICAD process was launched a decade ago, it had emphasized the importance of African ownership of the African development process, as well as the need for the international community to support African efforts in the spirit of partnership.

Annan said he was confident that the TICAD process would now be geared towards supporting Africa's own strategy for African development, namely, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), an African-led initiative of self-help efforts.

"African countries must make bold reforms, and they need to find ways to allocate additional core funding to NEPAD priorities. NEPAD must be popularized at the national level, so as to ensure greater ownership by all stakeholders in civil society and the private sector," Annan said. MNA/Reuters

India’s FM asks NAM to “unequivocally” condemn terrorism

UNITED NATION, 1 Oct — Asserting that there can be no justification for terrorism on any ground, India’s External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha has asked the Non-Aligned Movement to “unequivocally” declare that killing of innocent people is an “evil to be condemned by all”.

"As members of NAM, we must strive now to see that full sovereignty is restored to Iraqs as early as possible and that a credible, viable, and widely accepted political roadmap is drawn and quickly implemented," he said and called for a “central and critical” role for the United Nations in the process.

Talking about the crisis in the Middle East, Sinha called for putting an end to the “spiralling cycle of violence, to violent or precipitate actions” which, he said, can only complicate the search for peace.

The minister strongly backed reforms and restructuring of the United Nations system including expansion of the Security Council, which, he stressed, is an “urgent imperative”.

On the economic front, Sinha said, “We could draw some comfort from the unity and solidarity shown at Cancun by developing countries, the majority of whom are members of NAM.”

India, he told the meeting, is prepared to work with other NAM members in such serious and substantive endeavours.

The World Trade Organization talks at Cancun had failed after the developing countries led by India took a strong stand against subsidies being given in the rich nations and called for reducing them with the ultimate objective of removing them.

MNA/PtI

Russian rocket launches disaster monitor satellites

MOSCOW, 1 Oct— A Russian rocket successfully launched on Saturday half a dozen satellites, including three devoted to monitoring natural disasters throughout the world.

State television showed the Kosmos-3M lifting off from the Plesetsk launch site in Russia’s far north, with spectators on a viewing stand embracing each other after it was completed.

News agencies, quoting Russia’s rocket forces, said all six satellites aboard — two of them Russian, and others belonging to organizations in Britain, Nigeria, South Korea and Turkey — had later been placed in orbit without incident. The launch had been postponed from Friday “for technical reasons”.

"The launch is proceeding according to plan,” Interfax quoted the rocket forces’ Press service as saying.

Television showed the two Russian satellites Mohnets-4 and Larets — were to conduct research and coordinate radar monitoring stations for the Defence Ministry.

The British, Nigerian and Turkish satellites were part of the 40-million-US-dollar Disaster Monitoring Constellation Project, which its British backers say will provide real-time monitoring of disasters.

The file picture shows the Ariane-5 rocket during the 7th May, 2002 launch at Kourou, in French Guiana. Europe’s first mission to the moon blasted off late on 27 September, 2003, aboard an European Ariane rocket, the Ariane-5, carrying the SMART-1 Moon exploration probe and two commercial satellites. The rocket blasted off at 8.14 pm (2314 GMT) from the European Space Agency’s (ESA) launch centre at Kourou, in French Guiana on the northeast coast of South America.—INTERNET

France blames Swiss-Israeli power line for blackout

PARIS, 1 Oct — France’s electrical grid operator said a blackout in Italy on Sunday was caused by four successive line failures between Switzerland and Italy, followed by interruptions to supplies from Austria and France.

"The origin of the main failure is Swiss. There was a failure between Switzerland and Italy around 3 a.m. (0100 GMT)," Reseau de Trans-Electricite (RTE) spokesman Patrick Larradet said.

A second Swiss power line went off-line at 3:25 a.m. (0125 GMT), followed by two others and an Austrian line failure, RTE later said in a statement. Citing data from the Swiss co-ordination centre for the European electricity network, ETRANS. MNA/Reuters

Income of wealthiest Americans down

WASHINGTON, 1 Oct— The income of the richest top 1 per cent of Americans declined 18 per cent in 2001 resulting mainly from the plunge of stock market boom and economic recession, the New York Times reported Saturday.

The top 1 per cent of the wealthiest American citizens reported 1.09 trillion dollars of income in 2001, down from 1.34 trillion dollars in 2000, the paper quoted a latest report by the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as saying.

Meanwhile, the minimum income to reach the richest top 1 per cent in the United States declined to 293,000 dollars in the year from 313,500 dollars in 2000, but almost identical to the threshold in 1999.

Some analysts said the sharp decline in incomes at the top 1 per cent “is obviously due to the collapse of the stock market boom and the recession”. The IRS report also showed that the US federal tax revenue fell 9.4 per cent in 2001 mainly because the incomes of those at the top, who pay the highest tax rates, dropped sharply.

Taxes paid by the top 1 per cent group declined to 300.1 billion dollars in 2001 from 366.9 billion dollars in the previous year. The drop accounted for most of the decline of 92.7 billion dollars in US individual income tax revenue in 2001. MNA/Xinhua

Graphic recapping the major blackouts in the world following a large power cut in Italy. — INTERNET

The top 1 per cent of the wealthiest American citizens reported 1.09 trillion dollars of income in 2001, down from 1.34 trillion dollars in 2000, the paper quoted a latest report by the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as saying.
Chilavert hits first goal for Penarol
MONTREDO, 1 Oct — Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert scored his first goal for Penarol when he converted a penalty in a 2-0 victory over Villa Espanola in the Uruguayan Championship.

The 38-year-old, who captained his country at the last two World Cups, struck after the penalty was controversially awarded for handball.

Chilavert, who has scored more than 50 goals in his career, alsotested Villa goalkeeper Juan Obelar with a free kick before halftime. Mario Leguizamon added the second goal for Penarol in the first half.

Penarol, Uruguay’s most popular club, are unbeaten since Chilavert joined them in July and lead the second stage of the championship with 19 points from a possible 21.

The match was played on Penarol’s 112th anniversary in front of a full 50,000 crowd. — MNA/Reuters

S Korea destroy Nepal 16-0 in Asian Cup qualifier
INCHEON (South Korea), 1 Oct — Midfielder Park Jinho scored five goals to spearhead South Korea to a 16-0 demolition of Nepal in an Asian Cup qualifying match on Monday. Strikers Woo Sung-yong and Kim Do-hoon also scored hat-tricks for the 2002 World Cup semi-finalists, who lead Group E with nine points from three games.

Oman, who host the second-leg matches next month, beat Vietnam 6-0 at the same venue and occupy second spot on six points.

Nepal have lost all three games so far. They have yet to score and have conceded 28 goals.

South Korea coach Humberto Coelho named a weakened squad for the Asian Cup qualifiers in the absence of his overseas-based players. — MNA/Reuters

Morphine not a performance-enhancer, says player’s lawyer
PARIS, 1 Oct — The lawyer of Racing Strasbourg’s Czech defender Vaclav Drobny, who failed a dope test for morphine after a match at Stade Rennes in May, says the drug cannot be considered a performance-enhancer.

“I want to make it clear that, as far as I know, morphine does not help you to run faster or jump higher but only to kill pain,” Jean-Louis Dupont told Reuters on Tuesday.

Drobny, 23, faces a French Football Federation (FFF) hearing on October 15. “Technically, it’s dop ing but I think that the moral context in which we are is radically different,” said Dupont.

The Belgian lawyer, who became famous by representing footballer Jean-Marc Bosman, said the traces of morphine probably came from a treatment taken for an injury.

“Two products were de tected, codeine and mor phine, and there seems to be a chemical link between the two, codeine being a product that can partially metabolize into morphine,” Dupont said. “We’re going to try to demonstrate that there were no repeated takes but an isolated case,” the lawyer added, saying he was convinced Drobny had taken the drug as part of a treatment.

MNA/Reuters

Rivaldo changes mind, decides to stay with Milan
MILAN, 1 Oct — European champions AC Milan said on Monday that Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo was staying with them after, despite last week agreeing to cancel the player’s contract.

“Rivaldo remains at Milan and tomorrow will leave with the squad for Vigo,” Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani told a club’s official web site after a meeting with the player on Monday.

Milan face Celta Vigo in the Champions League on Wednesday and Rivaldo has been named in a travelling party of 21 players.

After announcing on Friday that he was leaving Milan, with the club’s blessing, Rivaldo, who has not featured for Milan in Serie A or the Champions League this season, had said he was considering offers from English clubs.

But on Sunday, after the Brazilian was given a warm “send off” from Milan fans at the San Siro before the 3-0 win over Lecce, Galliani asked him to reconsider his decision.

The documents relating to the cancella tion of the player’s contract had not been lodged with the Italian Football Federation, and so Rivaldo remains under contract.

While the former Barcelona forward’s decision to stay with Milan is a remarkable turnaround, it means, at the very least, the player can keep in training and match fitness until the transfer window opens.

Had he left Milan now and become a free agent, he would not have been able to play for a new club for three months. Such a lengthy absence from competitive football might have brought his place in the Brazilian national side into question.

His future now depends on whether or not he can gain a regular starting place in the Milan line-up and few doubt, if he is still on the fringe when the transfer market re opens, he will look for a new team. — MNA/Reuters

Corinthians coach resigns after record defeat
RIO de JANEIRO, 1 Oct — Corinthians coach Geninho resigned after his team crashed to a record 6-1 defeat at relegation-threatened Juventude in the Brazilian Championship.

“I don’t think a team like Corinthians can lose by a scoreline like this,” he told reporters in the players’ tunnel. “It’s not normal.”

It was Geninho, the 36th coach to fall since the Bosman ruling, who took over at the start of the year from Carlos Alberto Pereira, who left to run Brazil’s national side.

But Geninho lost two of the club’s top players halfway through the championship, central defender Fabio Luciano joining Turkish side Fenerbahce and left-back Kleber moving to German Bundesliga club Hannover 96.

His departure means that only Cruzeiro’s Santsos, Corinthi, Ponte Preta and Interna tional have kept the same coach throughout the championship.

Corinthians, runners-up last year, are 10th in the table. Their previous worst results in the championship, which started in 1972, were two 5-1 defeats. — MNA/Reuters

Ranieri’s Chelsea may soon leave their nursery
LONDON, 1 Oct — Claudio Ranieri has a difficult task choosing his best team each matchday from a talent-laden squad of more than 30 top-class professionals, most of them internationals and all eager to impress the boss.

But the Chelsea coach laughs at suggestions that is the toughest job he has ever done.

“I remember 15 years ago when I started my pre-season with nine players. It’s much harder trying to pick a team from nine players than 30,” the 51-year-old Italian said after a training session last week.

Ranieri has come a long way since those Serie B days with southern Italian side Catanzaro-Potenza.

He now works for one of the richest clubs in football, fuelled by Roman Abramovich’s oil fortune and intent on glory in the Premier League or in Europe — preferably both.

His squad, shaped over three years, had last season been producing competent, entertaining and, on occasion, exciting football. They are fourth place in the League and a chance to play Champions League. Since July it has been swollen with some 180 million dollars’ worth of explosive new stars.

From mercurial Romanian striker Adrian Mutu, through Argentines Juan Sebastian Veron and Hernan Crespo to midfielders Geremi of Cameroon, Frenchman Claude Makelele and Ireland’s Damien Duff, Ranieri has added a list of soccer celebrities to the club’s books.

“I told Mr. Abramovich I wanted two players at least for each position. That is what I have got — in some cases three,” Ranieri said.

“Where possible I try to rotate so I always have fresh players,” he added. “I have fresh players,” he added, listing the fourfold obligations of Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup.

“You can play lots of matches but sooner or later players will lose some motivation, some quality. They are tired. They don’t think they are. They think in good form. Then it’s up to the manager to try to choose his best player for that match.”

The result, he maintains, is players working hard in training to make an impact and extending that enthusiasm on to the pitch.

“Indergaard and Butterfield have felt the competition keenly. ‘It’s been demanding,’ he said.

The spotlight this season has been firmly on the south-west London side. Newspapers and pundits have speculated on whether money can buy success on the pitch, on whether Chelsea can match champions Manchester United and 2002 champions Arsenal and on how long Ranieri can hang on to his job.

Few gave him long after England coach Sven Goran Eriksson spotted Abramovich three months ago and the rumours of his imminent departure resurfaced after Chelsea chief executive Trevor Birch was pushed aside in favour of former Manchester United supremo Peter Kenyon.

Ranieri said he earned a vote of confi dence from Abramovich shortly after the Russian bought Chelsea and has had no rea son since to doubt the new owner.

Abramovich impressed Ranieri with his knowledge of football, of Chelsea’s players and of the coach’s track record, which in cludes stints at Napoli, Fiorentina, Valencia and Atletico Madrid. Ranieri shrugged when asked for the unctuous time he is coping with the pressure used to. “I had it in Italy. I had it in Spain. It does not affect me.” — MNA/Reuters

Quilmes can match champions
BUENOS AIRES, 1 Oct — Defending champions River Plate were held to a 2-2 draw by eight-man Quilmes in an astonishing Argen tine Championship game.

Quilmes clung on for a point after having Raúl Saavedra, Patricia Campos and Ariel Lopez sent off with 20 minutes to go.

Saavedra was dismissed for a second bookable offence while Camps and Lopez were given straight red cards following fierce protests from the Quilmes players.

The visitors raced into a two-goal lead after defender Juan Herbella scored after 38 seconds and Colombian Kilian Virviescas put through his own net in the 33rd.

Fernando Cavenagh pulled a goal back for River in the 68th minute before Alejandro Dominguez forced an 83rd-minute equaliser. Boca Juniors stayed four points clear at the top of the table by winning 4-1 at Racing Club in a clash of the country’s two most popular clubs. — MNA/Reuters

China’s Bai Jie shoots at the goal in the Group D game against the team of Russia at the fourth Women’s World Cup soccer tournament in Portland, the United States, on 28 September, 2003. Chin won the match 1-0 to qualify for the quarterfinal. — XINHUA/PETRILY

River held by eight-man Quilmes in Argentina
Government implementing... (from page 10)

Lokeim District Peace and Development Council, K 100,000 each to Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Lt-Gen Aung Hto. The Saydaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

The Maha Rath Thbsamaggi pagoda is being built for the people of Panglong, the people in Shan State and the national people in the Union. The Panglong region is the right place for the Union. The State has implemented the projects for development of the region and some have materialized and some under construction. The Panglong University, the Panglong Government Technical College and Panglong Government Computer College have emerged. As a result, the offspring of the people in the region can pursue higher education in the region.

In upgrading the health care services of the people in Panglong region, the State has already upgraded the Panglong Hospital into a 200-bedded one. Health care services for the public have improved.

In road transportation sector, the road linking the southern and northern parts of Shan State has been renovated to make it serviceable in all seasons. The roads linking 11 townships in Loeik District have been upgraded.

This smooth transportation in the region. The Government has made efforts with goodwill for development of Shan State. Efforts have also been made for development of education and social sectors of Panglong Region which was lagged behind in development. The Maha Rath Thbsamaggi pagoda in Panglong is the nation is not the longest in structure and construction methods as the others over the country. The Saywad Pagoda replica is being built upon the Saraung vine cai with no pivot. Steel frames are used in building the pagoda with high technology to be able to endure the weather and earthquakes. It is a pagoda that will last for many years and can be passed on to the future world exists.

The State’s thanks go to the people and organizations making donations for the pagoda being built with noble aims.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party together with local people posed for a documentary photo in front of Panglong Monumnet in Panglong that symbolizes national solidarity.

The General and party visited the Aung Mingla Pagod Payratty Saritthaya with a strong will to pay homage to members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Rajina and presented offerings to them.

For paying obeisance to Aung Mingla Pagoda and viewed all-round renovation tasks for the pagoda, the General and party made cash donations towards the trust fund of the pagoda.

Next, they visited the Panglong University where they were welcomed by Pro-rector U Tha Oo, professors/head lecturers, demonstrators and tutors.

Secretory-1 and Secretory-2 attends... (from page 10)

Adviser to the MNA Daw Khin Tha Nwe presented gifts, medicines and K 60,000 each to General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Hto and efforts (Yamano Ko Kano), U Hla Kyaing (Paragari), Col U Myint (Mein), U Htn Tha Myaung and U Myint Soe.

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htae presented K 1,000 each to 2,124 elderly and K 60,000 each to Than Lwin, the Little Sisters of the Poor and Kayan homes for the aged, the women in Myanmar, Muslim home for the Aged, Muslim home for the Aged, Women (women) and six homes for the aged in Yangon Division respectively of officials.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw presented K 40,000 each to 42 homes for the aged in the States and Divisions, and Director of the Social Welfare Department U Bo Thaon, K 20,000 each to 24 persons for being the oldest man and woman from the States and Divisions through official channels.

The Work Committee for Observation of the International Day of Older Persons will personally present gifts, medicines and K 60,000 each to older persons who could not attend the ceremony.

The Prime Minister and party inspected construction tasks and heard reports from Dr Min Khaung Cho, Chairman of Eden Group Construction Co Ltd on construction of lecture halls as the second phase. At the hall of the university, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt briefed on the background history of the university and courses being conducted, number of students, and staff strength and matters on teaching and administration. Chairman U Nay Win Tun and wife Daw Daw Aye Aye Myint of Ruby Dragon Co Ltd of PAO Peace Group, Shan State Special Region-6, presented K 10 million for the university through pro-rector U Tha Oo.

The Prime Minister made a speech on the occasion. He said he was there to witness works of progress to fulfill the requirements after opening Panglong University. For development of Panglong Region that depicts the national solidarity, the State has made efforts for all-round development including opening new colleges. Instead of dwelling on words, it is a way of repaying the debt of gratitude to the auspicious ground. In striving for regional development, efforts have been made in the region to be able to pursue higher education for becoming intellectuals and intelligentsia who are able to take responsibilities of the region in the future.

Students from this university, being born and bred in the region where national solidarity originated, are to be trained by the teachers who are in mind and to become children of the Union that will serve the interest of the State.

Teachers are to take pride in themselves for discharging duties to nurture the youth in the historic region. It is heartening to see teachers unitedly and actively discharging duties of the State.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged teachers to train students like their own children to be well-versed in literature and mentally-developed ones who serve the interest of the Union, who contribute to the national solidarity and who are able to strive for the country to be modern and developed.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Mongkai in Loeik District where they were welcomed by township Peiz and Maj-Gen. 442 Regional, civil members, departmental officials, teachers, students and social organization members. The General and party paid homage to the Buddha images at the ancient Shwesandaw Damagun pagodas there. Then, they paid obeisance to Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Revata and members of Sangha and presented offerings to the Sayadaws.

The Prime Minister and party arrived at the construction site for ancient Pawdawmu Buddha image where Deputy Director (Engineer) U Myo Nyunt of the Archaeology Department reported on renovation tasks and construction of Gandhakuti Taik with scale models. The Prime Minister and party looked around the construction site.


The Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to ancient Pawdawmu Buddha image and its relics, ancient images.

Next, the General visited Myitkyina People’s Hospital where he inspected construction tasks for the high-class hospital building. Ruby Dragon Co Chairman U Nay Win Tun and wife Daw Aye Aye Myint and family, and Naungton Co Chairman U Sai Tin Aung presented K 5 million towards the funds of the hospital through officials. The Prime Minister and party paid homage to members of the Shan Yoma Gems Co Ltd, Eden Group Construction Co Ltd and Ruby Dragon Co Ltd through provisions.

He urged the entrepreneurs to carry out their respective work with firm determination that they will acquire gems through truthfulness. He also urged the departmental officials to supervise the tasks with straightforwardness for worksite safety and for the flourishing of the gem industry.

Finally, he wished all the entrepreneurs to achieve success in gem industry.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Maung Myint accepted K 1 million each donated by U Win Naing and wife of Ruby Dragon Co U Maw Lay Myint and wife, U Sai Tin and wife, U Kyin Maung and wife of U Tyoon, and U Kyin Maung of Mongshu, and K 10 million by companies in Mongshu gem land for the funds of Maha Rath Thbsamaggi Pagoda in Panglong.

Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed the gem samples mined from the plots of the joint-venture of the State and private entrepreneurs and plots of the private entrepreneurs.

They next visited the gem industry at Mongshu Gem Land. They arrived back in Loikwel in the afternoon.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsoin, who accompanied the Prime Minister, met with officials of Loikwel District Information and Public Relations Department in Loikwel. Daw Su of Loikwel District IPRD reported to the minister on condition of the district and township IRDPs. The minister gave instructions on staff affairs and office work. The minister, next, inspected e-library, computer room, library and photo booth.

MNA
Entire people of the nation are to strictly follow the national policy or Our Three Main National Causes

Secretary-2 tours Bago Division (West), Magway Division

Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 1 Oct — Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, left here by air and arrived in Pyay, Bago Division, at 9.15 am on 29 September.

The Secretary-2 and party were welcomed there by Col Tin Maung Win and senior officers of Pyay Station and departmental officials.

The Secretary-2 met with members of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, local authorities in the division and members of social organizations in Khittaya Yadana Hall in Pyay.

After hearing reports on area, climate, land utilization, economic, social and agricultural conditions, live-stock breeding tasks, transportation, industrial development and construction tasks of the division presented by Col Tin Maung Win, the Secretary-2 said they came there to attend the opening ceremony of Bwetgyi Dam in Aunglan Township, Thayet District, Magway Division.

During the tour, he said he would also explain the guidance of the Head of State and the latest developments of the country to local authorities, departmental officials and members of social organizations so that they would accept them as working guidelines.

The Secretary-2 continued to explain that on 30 August, the prime minister clarified the seven future policies of the State to be employed in building a modern, developed and democratic nation. In doing so, entire people of the nation are to strictly follow the national policy or Our Three Main National Causes. (See page 9)

Secretary-1 and Secretary-2 attend ceremony to mark International Day of Older Persons

YANGON, 1 Oct — The ceremony to mark the International Day of Older Persons took place at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this morning, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the minister, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the mayor of Yangon, the deputy ministers, officials, departmental heads, members of Myanmar National Working Committee for Women’s Affairs, Deacon of the Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra, guests and the older persons.

At the ceremony, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwu made an address. In his address, the minister said that Myanmar has actively observed the International Day of Older Persons every year since 1995 in accord with the objectives laid down by the United Nations. It reflects and polishes Myanmar’s adorable tradition of taking care of elderly persons.

Altogether 2,054 elderly persons receive warm and kind treatment at 48 homes for the aged in States and Divisions established by Non-governmental organizations and religious associations.

The State has been rendering rice and cash assistance and has spent over K 10.77 million in 2002-2003. Efforts should be made for successful implementation of the three objectives on observance of the International Day of Older People, he noted.

The Secretary-1 presented gifts, medicines and K 60,000 each to the older persons aged 80 and above. (See page 15)