Matapitu upatthanam, to serve thy parents; this is the way to auspiciousness.

The chairman and members at the mass rally in support of the seven future policies and programmes of the State. — MSA

YANGON, 10 Oct.—A mass rally, organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, was held in support of the Prime Minister’s clarification on seven-point political roadmap in Sittway, Rakhine State on 9 October morning.

Present on the occasion were Central Executive Committee members of USDA, members of USDAs in Sittway, Thandwe, Kyaukpyu and Maungtaw districts, members of USDA, members of USDA’s Committee members of Central Executive of Rakhine State with flag bearers and band troope marched into the Danyawady Sports Ground from the front of City Hall and took their designated places. Similarly, Bayintnaung of Rakhine State Court with flag bearers and band troope marched into the Sports Ground from No.4 Basic Education High School and took their designated places systematically.

At the rally, Pro-Rector of the University of Sittway U Wan Tin presided over the mass rally together with Physician of Sittway People’s Hospital Dr Myo Win, Then national U Hla Tun Kyaw of Maungtaw Township, Prof Daw Khin Than Nu of the University of Sittway Department of Philosophy, Mr Maung Yin of the University of Sittway, U Hla Tun Kyaw of the University of Sittway Philosophy Department of Rakhine State USAU U Hla Tun as members.

Mass rally held in support of Prime Minister’s clarification on seven-point roadmap

policies and programmes of the State (roadmap) in Sittway, Rakhine State on 9 October morning.

Present on the occasion were Central Executive Committee members of USDA, members of USDAs in Rakhine State, members of Sittway, Thandwe, Kyaukpyu and Maungtaw districts USDAs including 17 townships in the state, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Working Committee for Women Affairs, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, faculties of University of Sittway, and band troope marched into the Danyawady Sports Ground from the front of City Hall and took their designated places.

Similarly, Bayintnaung of Rakhine State Court with flag bearers and band troope marched into the Sports Ground from No.4 Basic Education High School and took their designated places systematically.

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We need to be well aware of the dangers posed by internal and external destructive elements

Out of seven-point political roadmap, the two points—successful holding of the National Convention and the emergence of the enduring State Constitution—are of paramount importance

We need to be well aware of the dangers posed by internal and external destructive elements

Mass rally held in support of Prime Minister’s clarification on seven-point roadmap

...
Beneficial Myanmar-China relations

Practising independent and active foreign policy, the Union of Myanmar is cooperating fully with nations of the world especially with regional countries.

After its full membership of ASEAN, Myanmar, hand in hand with regional countries, has been actively participating in efforts to promote regional economy, social affairs and culture through cooperation in the region.

At the invitation of President of the Republic of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the 9th ASEAN Summit, the Summits of the ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Heads of State/Government of the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and ASEAN-India Summit held in Bali, Indonesia from 6 to 8 October.

On 6 October, the Prime Minister met with Premier Mr Wen Jiabao of State Council of the People’s Republic of China. Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato’ Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad and Prime Minister of Singapore Mr Goh Chok Tong and attended the working dinner of ASEAN Heads of State/Government.

At the meeting, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao of State Council of the People’s Republic of China cordially discussed matters related to bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The Chinese Premier said that China wishes Myanmar united, stable and developed and wants to promote bilateral relations. He also pledged to promote economic cooperation with Myanmar.

General Khin Nyunt said that Myanmar-China relations are satisfactory and the bilateral economic cooperation is fruitful; that Myanmar thanks China’s stand regarding Myanmar in all aspects; and that the assistance of China for development of natural resources, infrastructures, agriculture and human resources is very much beneficial to Myanmar.

In 1955, Myanmar, China and India proposed the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and they have contributed much towards promoting relations among countries and efforts for preserving world peace and stability.

As China understands her, Myanmar, on her part, will constantly abide by the One-China policy of the People’s Republic of China.

We firmly believe that as Myanmar is cooperating with the nations of the world and those in the region, she will be able to promote cooperation in economic, social and cultural sectors with other countries.

Abhidhamma Day observed at famous pagodas in Yangon

YANGON, 10 Oct — Today is Full Moon Day of Thadingyut (Abhi-dhamma Day). The Buddha, after the attainment of enlightenment, preached Abhidhamma on the celestial abode of Tavatimsa for three months with the aim of re-paying the gratitude to His deceased mother who was reborn as Santusita Deva.

The Buddhists traditionally observe the lighting festival on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut. Being the day on which the preaching of Abhidhamma ended, ceremonies to commemorate the Abhidhamma Day are held. The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees held the precepts receiving ceremony in conjunction with a ceremony to mark the success of alms offering at the pagoda images prayer’s hall on the platform of the pagoda this morning. Pagoda Board of Trustees Ovadacariya Nyanyodn Pali Tekkatho Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sobana invested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

Afterwards, members of the pagoda board of trustees and wellwishers donated offerings to 11 Ovadacariya Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. The Nyanyodn Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits gained.

For the same reason, the Sule Pagoda Board of Trustees organized the observance of Abhidhamma Day at the pagoda this morning. Five thousand lights were offered to the pagoda in the evening.

Similarly, Botataung Kyakikayapy Pagoda, Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Ngahatgyi and Chaukkhhatgyi Pagodas in Bahan Township, Lawka Chanthi Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on Minallowa Hill in Insein Township, Okkalapa Pagoda in South Okkalapa Township, Kyakkkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township, Thadugan Pagoda in Swemyitha Township, Shwephonepint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township, Kyaukkalo and Kyakkkalari Pagodas in Mingaladon Township, Maellamu Pagoda in North Okkalapa Township, Kyakkhauk Pagoda in Thanyin Township and Kyakkkamaw-wunyaye Pagoda in Kyauktown Township were crowded with pilgrims doing meritorious deeds and the Abhidhamma Day was observed there.

Abhidhamma Day observed

YANGON, 10 Oct — Led by Course Instructor Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pantasami of the Basic Buddhist Culture Course of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the trainees observed Abhidhamma Day (Full Moon Day of Thadingyut) at Maha Theindawgyi on Thirimgal Kaba Aye Hill here this morning. On the occasion, ‘soon’, flowers, water and lights were offered to the Buddha Image and religious verses recited. The trainees paid homage to the Sayadaw, followed by sharing of merits.

Boiler user course concludes

YANGON, 10 Oct — The closing ceremony of the boiler user course No 3/2005, organized by the Regional Coordination and Inspection Department of the Ministry of Industry, was held at the Electric Inspection and Boiler Inspection Department in Mayangon Township yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for Industry U Aung Thaung, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises.

The minister made a speech and presented prizes to the outstanding trainees. Altogether 75 trainees of the ministries and private workshops attended the six-week course.

Thadingyut festival celebrated in Yangon University and Latha BEHS N0 2

YANGON, 10 Oct — Thadingyut festival was held on a grand scale in Yangon University and No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township yesterday morning and evening. Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and U Myo Nyunt, directors-general and officials concerned visited Thadingyut and sale festival at Yangon University yesterday morning and viewed the foodstalls and goods shops of the respective major departments at the festival.

They together with the students took selfies made by the latter.

A similar festival was held in No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township at 6 pm yesterday. The minister and party viewed the lighting festival and enjoyed entertainment programmes presented by the students.

There was also music entertainment programmes on the lawn of Yangon University Convocation Hall at 8 pm yesterday, attended by the minister and party, and teachers who compiled books on environmental conservation and further development and development in Myanmar.

Pagodas in Yangon were teeming with visitors on the whole Thadingyut Full Moon Day (10-10-2003). — MNA
There was no adequate alternative to the United Nations

While the need to implement the objectives of the Millennium Declaration had been made clear, the consensus and cooperation for implementation, which had been evident three years ago, had waned somewhat.

Nationally, Mexico had made headway in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. They had been fully adopted into national policy, and some progress had been made on the path to poverty eradication.

He said that radical reform was needed for the Organization to respond to the many challenges and threats confronting the international community. He reaffirmed that the great strength of the Organization was found in the legitimacy and principles enshrined in its Charter. It must be recognized that there was no adequate alternative to the United Nations. He supported the establishment of a panel of eminent personalities, and felt that the work of the Assembly must be revitalized and updated and the role of the ECOSOC strengthened.

The ECOSOC should act as the coordinator of activities between and within specific agencies, including those of the Bretton Woods system, he concluded. The ability of the United Nations to impact economic and financial issues would depend largely on its understanding of the role ECOSOC was to play. Moreover, the work of the Security Council must be made more transparent, its membership more representative and the use of the veto curtailed, in order to ensure greater legitimacy and support for its decisions.

Revitalization of the Assembly was key to making the wider Organization more efficient and transparent

Arnoldo M Listre

The urgent threats to global security should not make Member States lose sight of the need to ensure sustainable socioeconomic development for all.

He agreed with the Secretary-General that there was currently a huge gap between the rhetoric of inclusion and what was actually practiced. To that end, he supported efforts to follow-up on implementation of the major United Nations conferences of the past decade. As the Secretary-General’s report pointed out, major differences existed in the way developed and developing countries viewed international macroeconomic and fiscal policies. That, coupled with the failure of the recent Cancun round of the World Trade Organization, had underscored the need for a successful round of international trade talks aimed at revitalizing the economy and strengthening the process of development, so that small countries could achieve growth, based on resources derived from their respective competitive advantages.

On United Nations reform, he believed revitalization of the Assembly was key to making the wider Organization more efficient and transparent.

The restoration of security in Iraq and the resumption of the exercise of sovereignty by its people were of priority

Wang Guangya

It was in the common interest of all countries to safeguard the authority of the Organization. Yet, appropriate reforms were necessary to keep pace with the times, including increased capacity and increased capability to respond to various challenges and promote economic and social development.

The restoration of security in Iraq and the resumption of the exercise of sovereignty by its people were of priority.

Goncalo Santa Clara Gomes (Portugal)

The usefulness of the United Nations would always be judged by its capacity to avoid and handle conflicts. Conflict prevention had three fundamental dimensions, namely security, institution building and development. Those three dimensions were closely intertwined; the failure of one put in jeopardy, all the others.

The Security Council, besides its continuing efforts in security and peacekeeping, had recently considered just how to develop laws as essential elements for nation and state-building, and had explored ways to give more emphasis to the inclusion of women.

The Economic and Social Council, on its part, had been trying to address the development component of conflict prevention through the formation of ad hoc working groups for specific countries.

He reiterated his Prime Minister’s suggestion for the creation of a new Commis-
Six months on, Iraq ponders price of freedom

BAQDHAD, 10 Oct—Six months after US troops tore down Saddam Hussein’s statue in central Baghdad another has replaced it, a nameless figure holding high a sun and crescent moon. It was supposed to symbolize a new dawn, a new Iraq.

“I understand the symbolism, it means freedom,” money changer Hadar Abbas said, squinting up at the sculpture from the rickety table where he tries to sell grimy dinars. “But in Iraq, today, that means nothing.”

Half a year since their capital fell to US troops, welcomed by cheering crowds, Iraqis are waiting to see the benefits of the US-led occupation.

“Six months on, we haven’t seen anything,” said Kais al-Shara. Until April 9, his barber shop looked out on the statue of Saddam. Now clients watch the jams on Firdaws Square, traffic diverted from side roads blocked because of security.

“They said America will give us peace, comfort, change Baghdad,” he said. “Do you see electricity in my shop? There is none. But they said they would make it better.”

Outside now is the new statue erected in May by a group of Iraqi actors and artists who call themselves al-Najin (The Survivors), referring to the fact they survived Saddam’s rule.

US-led authorities say much has been achieved. They have removed Saddam but have so far failed to capture him. They have restructured and retrained security forces, rebuilt schools and power lines, formed an Iraqi Government Council, poured money into health and reconstruction.

But explosions and gunfire often shatter the routine. Women, once unveiled, now cover their heads to attract less attention. Civilians stay at home to avoid getting caught gunfire aimed at the occupying forces.

“Nothing has changed,” said 25-year-old Bassam Youssef. “If anything it’s worse. There are criminals everywhere.”

Baghdad, and the volatile region around where resistance to the occupation is strongest, may give a skewed impression of Iraq today. There is less violence in the north and south, better power supplies, less crime.

Few Iraqis volunteer solutions to the current turmoil, all say they want life back to normal.

“The US are the ones who came in, they need to find a solution,” Mohammad Ali Hussein said. “It’s not for us to find one.”—MENA/Reuters

Nine killed in Iraq suicide blast, Spanish diplomat murdered

BAQDHAD, 10 Oct—A suicide bomber attacked a Baghdad police station, killing eight other Iraqis, a Spanish diplomat was murdered and a US soldier died in an ambush, as Washington tried to play up progress made in the six months since Saddam Hussein fell.

Three policemen, five civilians and the bomber were killed in the morning car-bomb attack on the station in the capital’s main Shia neighbourhood of Sadr City, US military police spokesman Captain Sean Kirley said.

A hospital official said another 38 people were wounded in the blast, which sent bodies flying on to the roof of the police station. One police officer said he found the bearded head of the bomber.

The latest suicide blast, which left a crater three metres (10 feet) wide and one metre deep, came six months to the day since US troops entered Baghdad, overthrowing Saddam’s regime.

Iraqi minister calls for more aid from South Korea

SEOUL, 10 Oct—Visiting Iraqi Trade Minister Ali Alawi Thursday called on the South Korean Government to pledge both financial and military support to Iraq as part of efforts to help reconstruct the devastated country.

“I am aware that the Seoul government already pledged 60 million US dollars’ worth of financial donations related to the fields of education, vocational training, medical and health to Iraq. We are very appreciative for that,” he said at a Press conference.

Alawi, who arrived here Wednesday, expressed belief that the South Korean Government would pledge a sizable contribution to Iraq during a conference of donor nations scheduled for October 23-24 in Madrid, Spain.

US soldier killed in attack northeast of Baghdad

BAQDHAD, 10 Oct—An American soldier was killed in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on a military convoy northeast of the Iraqi capital early on Thursday, a US military spokeswoman said.

She said the soldier from the 4th Infantry Division was pronounced dead in a US military hospital a few hours after the attack at about 2 a.m. (2300 GMT Wednesday) near the town of Baquba.

The US military says 92 US soldiers have been killed in action in Iraq since major combat was declared over on May 1.

Baquba lies 40 miles northeast of Baghdad, in Iraq’s “Sunni triangle” where resistance to the US occupation is strongest. Military convoys are attacked almost daily.

Returned students help China’s modernization

BEIJING, 10 Oct—Thousands of young Chinese people swarm to foreign universities each year, but returned scholars are playing a huge role in China’s modernization.

As one of China’s largest returned overseas students groups, the Western Returned Students’ Association (WRSA), has had over 11,000 members since it was established 90 years ago, deputy chief Han Qide said here Wednesday.

Han, also vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature, said on the 90th anniversary celebration of the WRSA that it had made new efforts to foster China’s reform and modernization. —MENA/Xinhua

Urban minimum living allowance system covers most of China

BEIJING, 10 Oct—China has achieved major progress in carrying out its urban minimum living allowance system, which has covered the urban areas of the country, according to a report released Wednesday by the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

A total of 21.825 million Chinese urban residents were registered as recipients of the minimum living allowance up to August this year, says the report.

The payment of the subsidies totalled 9.51 billion yuan (1.15 billion US dollars) for the first eight months this year, with 9.2 billion yuan from the central government. All the subsidies have been distributed to the local destinations. —MENA/Xinhua

Spanish diplomat murdered

WASHINGTON, 10 Oct—As of Thursday, Oct 9, 3,244 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence.

The British military has reported 50 deaths; Denmark, one; and Ukraine, one. On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 186 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,448 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to US Central Command.

More than 1,000 others have been injured numbered 333. The latest deaths reported by US Central Command: A 4th Infantry Division soldier died Thursday after an attack northeast of Baghdad, Iraq. —Internet

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

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A soldier of the US Army’s 720th Military Police Battalion walks next to a shepherd as soldiers prepare to question him, on 9 October, 2003 during a raid on farmland just outside Tikrit, Iraq. —INTERNET

A suicide bomber attacked a Baghdad police station, killing eight other Iraqis, a Spanish diplomat was murdered and a US soldier died in an ambush, as Washington tried to play up progress made in the six months since Saddam Hussein fell.

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IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

An Iraqi man sits on a bed in front of a US armored personnel carrier during a search for weapons by the US 720 Military Police Battalion, from Fort Hood, Texas, in a village some 15 km northeast of Tikrit, on 9 October, 2003. US President Bush, in a new push to defend the war on Iraq in face of mounting doubts, said on Thursday he acted to protect Americans from Saddam Hussein. Internet

A young Iraqi girl enters a school through a damaged wall in Douleyah, 100 kms north of Baghdad. A key congressional committee overwhelmingly approved a controversial White House request for 87 billion dollars to stabilize and rehabilitate Iraq and Afghanistan. Internet

An Iraqi man sits on a bed in front of a US armored personnel carrier during a search for weapons by the US 720 Military Police Battalion, from Fort Hood, Texas, in a village some 15 km northeast of Tikrit, on 9 October, 2003. US President Bush, in a new push to defend the war on Iraq in face of mounting doubts, said on Thursday he acted to protect Americans from Saddam Hussein. Internet

A mortar attack targeted Iraq’s foreign ministry Wednesday after stalemate at the UN left US troops facing a long haul in efforts to stabilize and reconstruct the country “under new management” from Washington. Internet

More than 2,000 protesters blocked the entrance to the US headquarters in the Iraqi capital yesterday to demand the release of a Shia cleric. It was the second day that demonstrators had confronted American soldiers to call for Sheikh Moayed al-Khazraji, who was arrested from a Baghdad mosque on Monday, to be set free. Internet

Shi’ite Muslim protesters lie down in front of a US Army Bradley vehicle after hundreds marched to the Baghdad headquarters of the US led administration in Iraq on 8 October, 2003. More than 2,000 Shi’ite Muslims marched to the headquarters on the second day of protests demanding the release of a cleric arrested by US forces. Internet

Soldiers of US Army 101st Airborn Division guard a bank entrance as Iraqi customers stand in a line in downtown Mosul, 400 kms (250 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday 9 October, 2003. The new Iraqi dinars will go into circulation on 15 October. Internet
New York, 10 Oct—The Committee to Protect Journalists said on Wednesday it had filed new requests for information from the Pentagon seeking details on incidents that led to the deaths of several journalists in the war in Iraq.

The committee filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests regarding several April 8 attacks that killed Reuters cameraman Taras Protsyuk and Spanish television cameraman Jose Couso, and Al Jazeera correspondent Taqee Youyoun, as well as the August 17 killing of Reuters cameraman Mazen Dana.

The requests involve military investigations that have been conducted but not made public by US officials.

Comment from the Pentagon was not immediately available.

Reuters filed its own FOIA request for information about the Dana incident on September 24. Dana, an award-winning Palestinian cameraman, was killed by a machine-gunner on a tank as he was filming near the Abu Ghraib Prison outside Baghdad.

Chief Executive Tom Glocer wrote to Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld last month of his dismay that neither Reuters nor Dana’s family had been properly informed of the conclusion of a military investigation into Dana’s death.

The committee’s executive director Ann Cooper said in a statement on Wednesday, “The failure of the US military to provide an honest and open accounting of what occurred keeps alive questions about whether US forces are taking the necessary steps to avoid endangering journalists.”

“These questions are urgent because hundreds of journalists continue to work in Iraq, and their reporting is vital for the world’s understanding of events in this postwar period,” said Protsyuk, a 35-year-old Ukrainian, and Couso were killed when a US tank fired on the Palestine Hotel, where most of the international press corps in Iraq was headquartered during the US-led war. Ayyoub was killed earlier that day when US forces bombed the generator at Al Jazeera’s Baghdad bureau.

The committee also asked for information regarding the March 22 death of British ITV News reporter Terry Lloyd, whose two colleagues remain missing.

The journalists group called on US officials to ensure US troops take all measures to avoid harming members of the media and order US commanders to review operational guidelines and rules of engagement as relates to protecting journalists.

A truck bomb outside UN headquarters in Baghdad on August 19 killed 22 people including the international body’s top Iraq envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello. A second suicide bomb near the UN offices on September 22 killed two people, plus the attacker, and injured 17.

Marti Ahtisaari, the head of an independent commission looking into UN security in Iraq, went to Baghdad this week, Hua said.

The visit was not announced earlier for safety reasons, the spokesman added.

Ahtisaari has met US representatives and other officials, Hua announced, without giving details.

The former Finnish president was named on September 22 to head the commission that will look into security relations with the US-British coalition and the circumstances of the attacks on the UN offices.

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The secretariat reiterates that all terrorist acts, from whatever quarter and whatever their justification, are morally repugnant and indefensible. He remains greatly concerned about the security situation in Iraq,” the spokesman said.

“The secretary general is deeply saddened by the toll of dead and wounded arising from these murderous attacks. He conveys his condolences to the families of the victims and hopes that the injured will make a full recovery.”

The United Nations has withdrawn about 600 of its expatriate staff from Iraq after being the target of attacks in recent weeks. There are about 50 now.

Iraq on track for mid-October northern oil restart

Tokyo, 10 Oct—Repairs to Iraq’s northern oil export pipeline through Turkey are running to schedule for an expected mid-October reopening, the US military said on Tuesday.

Colonel Robert Nicholson of the US Army Corp of Engineers in Tikrit also said the line would be able to pump pre-war capacity of 800,000 BPD of Kirkuk crude by the end of 2003.

“At present the northern fields are producing 500,000 BPD but they could produce more if the pipeline was functioning,” he told Reuters.

That means that, barring further sabotage attacks of the type that have kept the northern line closed since the US-led invasion of the country, Iraq’s total crude exports should be close to pre-war volumes by the end of year.

Baghdad already is averaging about a million barrels daily of exports from its southern fields through the Gulf port Mina al-Bakr.

Iraqi police officers secure the area in Baghdad’s Mansur district where a Spanish military attacke was killed outside his home on 9 October, 2003. —REUTERS

Clark now asserts he would have opposed Iraq war

Washington, 10 Oct—Wesley Clark who has made seemingly conflicting statements on whether he would have supported a congressional resolution to authorize the war in Iraq has now asserted unambiguously that he would have opposed it.

“I would never have voted for war,” the retired four-star general said at a Democratic presidential debate sponsored by CNN television.

“The war was an unnecessary war, it was an elective war, and it’s been a huge strategic mistake for this country,” Clark said. “I always supported taking the problem of Saddam Hussein (news - web sites) to the United Nations and bringing international resolve to bear,” Clark added at a debate in the southwestern US city of Phoenix, Arizona.

“I fully supported the problem to the United Nations, and dealing with it in the United Nations.”

He asked if he hadn’t altered his position on Iraq. Clark flatly answered: “No.”

“I would have voted for a resolution that took the problem to the United Nations. We would not have voted for a resolution that would have taken us to war,” he said. “It’s that simple.”

China has already allocated 3.83 billion yuan (54.2 billion US dollars) to help the country’s flood victims this year in addition to severe insect pest problems in the north and flooding in the south.

The central and local authorities have been plagued by widespread public unrest this year in addition to severe insect pest problems in the north and flooding in the south.

The central and local governments have had to make strenuous, substantial efforts to meet the food needs of the country’s 1.3 billion people. The cost of food grains has risen threefold this year, but the government has managed to contain inflation at 1.5% over 2002.

Inflation has been kept low through government purchases of food grains in the capital market and allocation of sufficient grains to the market to meet the basic needs of the people.

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**The Border Region**

(Homain, Monhtaw-Monhta, Manpan, Monghin-Mongha, Shwepyiaye and Narai Regions)

Mijria Soe (Na Tlo-La)

Together with the winter

The name was the title of my only novel published in a Magazine. The issue of the Sitpyan (Veterans) Magazine which carried the story coincided with the Armed Forces Day of 1996. The plot of the story was set up in Anya upper Myanmar Region, and the battalion I discharged duties in 1987, Thitsa hostel of Mandalay University, Mandalay Hill and U Pain bridge, Waybu Mountain and elephant dance shows in Kyankwe were all depicted in the beginning of the story.

The girl in the story was featured as a Shan national girl under the influence of the MTA. She is tall and beautiful, and has a fair complexion. She met with a young military officer for the first time in Naunglai Village in Tanyang Township, the native of U Khun Sa. Then, the girl disappeared from the scene for a time.

The story continued with the border area development tasks in Homain, Monhtaw-Monhta regions carried out after the surrender of the MTA on 5-1-96. Some members of MTA from Monhtaw-Monhta happened to go to Homain and stopped on a land mine they had laid before their surrender. One of the victims of the land mine (the girl of our story) was taken to Homain hospital, and at the time she was a platoon commander of MTA. At the hospital she again met with the young military officer whom she met at Naunglai Village. And again, she was brought from Homain to Thaunggyi Defence Services Hospital by Tatmadaw helicopter. (During the time, Light Infantry Division Headquarters used to arrange for the serious patients to be carried by Tatmadaw helicopter.)

When the girl recovered, they returned to Homain, walked along the bank of Naunglon Lake, chattered, and paid homage to Myo Oo Pagoda. In reality, victims of land mine are usually amputated at least under the knees or limbs. But, I created my heroine to be hurt only by some bomb splinters so that she could return to Homain.

It was not the main theme of the story whether they got married or not. My purpose of writing the story is that the MTA surrendered to the government and their drug trafficking business came to an end together with the winter. MTA surrendered to the government and their drug trafficking business came to an end together with the winter.

Development of Homain region

I shared the delight with the people of Homain region when Homain-Narmonlon 45-mile strategic road for the region was constructed. The first axis of the road was designed to pass Taroomu-Point 3775-Mayyan-Namlin and Homain. It was too steep and long. Besides, it was too dangerous to cross the Thawnwin between Tarsohtin and Taroomu. Current in the river was strong when it was brimming, and it had too many rocks when it was shallow. There were damages and casualties due to the capsizing of boats. The new road was to cross the river aboard rafts and again cross the Namse creek. A Bailey bridge on Namse creek has been constructed. Z-crafts for crossing the Thawnwin river are also being built.

Thanks to the construction of Homain-Khantpa 47-mile road, Monhtaw-Monhta is now accessible to Shan State (East) regions. Roads in Homain have been already tared. The school, which was opened in May, 1996 as a branch of Homain Basic Education Middle School, was upgraded into a high school in 2002. There are nine primary schools in the region. The hospital of MTA and another under construction have been handed over to the government. In addition to these hospitals, three rural health care centres have opened in the region.

I used to sit under a tree near a spirit altar on the bank of Naunglon Lake. Thinking about my duty, I used to gaze at the surface of the lake and listen to the pleasant sound of bells of Myo Oo pagoda. In order to generate electricity, the lake, which contains 240,000 cubic feet of water, was constructed by MTA in 1993. Now, power generation works were being carried out there. In June, 1996, the group led by U Mya Thein and U Khin Maung Htay of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise conducted surveys on Namli creek waterfall south of Homain.

I still remember that U Win Myint Aung of MRTV and his team, climbing one hill after another in the vicinity of Homain, chose the site for construction of a TV retransmission station. Now, a 50-watt TV retransmission station is in operation in Homain. Before the opening of post offices and telegraph offices in the region, a letter to Yangon at least took a month or one and half months to reach its destination. Though phones installed by Thailand were available, but their service charges were high. Local people had to pay overseas charges for a call within the country. Money they had in their pockets lasted only a few minutes. Now, a telegraph office installed with TW-7000 communication equipment has been opened, they can chat for a long time on the phone. I would like to express my thanks to Ko Thaug Han, who takes charge of the Yangon communication station.

(To be continued)

**Efficient use of electricity**

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

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

**Efficient use of fuel**

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

**All this needs to be known**

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

**Boxing Tournament concluded**

YANGON, 10 Oct —

Boxing Tournament of Division Commander’s Shield of No 11 LID 2003 started on 5 October and the prize presentation of the tournament was held at the hall of division command headquarters on 9 October. It was attended by No 11 LID Commander Col Hla Htay Win and wife, senior military officers, and athletes. Commander Col Hla Htay Win presented the shield to local Battalion team of Inndaing Station.

**Myanmar Wushu secure one gold and one silver**

YANGON, 10 Oct —

Myanmar Wushu athlete Thura Soe secured one gold, Hong Kong, one silver and Vietnam, one bronze respectively in the event of age 12 to 14 at the 2nd Asian Youth Wushu Tournament for the year 2003 being held in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China. In the event of age 15 to 17, Myanmar athlete Myo Min Soe secured one silver, China, one gold and China (Taipei), one bronze respectively. After the events of today morning, the People’s Republic of China with three gold secured the first place followed by Myanmar with one gold and one silver and Vietnam with one bronze.

**People’s Desire**

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

Helping each other, cooperation, having loving-kindness for one another, understanding and forgiveness are the Union Spirit of the national races.

Due to dogmatism, sectarianism, various isms, the national races had to live in a miserable condition. Drawing lessons from the past, the entire national races are to engage in the future national work programmes that could guarantee the development of political, economic and social sectors of the State.

To ensure the emergence of the discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the Prime Minister clarified the seven-point political roadmap of the State on 30 August 2003.

The seven future policies and programmes are:

1. Re-convening of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996.
2. After the successful holding of the National Convention, the government has now implemented the provisions out of the 12 objectives of the seven-point political roadmap of the State in essence.
3. Out of seven-point political roadmap, the two points—successful holding of the National Convention and the emergence of the enduring State constitution—are of paramount importance.
4. In view of serving the interests of the State and the people, the government commenced the National Convention in 1993. The six objectives of the National Convention:
   (a) Non-disintegration of the Union
   (b) Non-disintegration of the national solidarity
   (c) Perpetuation of the national sovereignty
   (d) Flourishing of a genuine multiparty democracy system
   (e) Further flourishing of worldly values—justice, liberty and equality in the nation
   (f) Participation of the Tatmadaw in the national political leading role of the future State

When a time when the National Convention was held to successfully adopt the basic principles for drafting the constitution, the representatives of the NLD walked out of the National Convention on 29 November 1995. The NLD decided to ignore the future of the country and put the attitude and wishes of an individual and the interests of its own party above the national cause, and hatched up a scheme aimed at destroying the National Convention. Consequently, efforts for political development have now faltered at half way point.

Under such circumstances, we must do what we should in the interests of the State and the people.

The entire national races have been living in the same land in weal or woe keeping the State’s duties for national races and the State on 30 August made a speech, consisting three parts. In the first part of the speech, the Prime Minister clarified the point political roadmap of the State clarified by the Prime Minister. The entire national races welcome the seven-point political roadmap of the State clarified by the Prime Minister.

We all the national races welcome the seven-point political roadmap of the State clarified by the Prime Minister.

Convening of Hluttaws attended by Hluttaw members in accord with the new constitution.

Building a modern, developed and democratic nation by the state leaders elected by Hluttaw, and the government and other central organs formed by Hluttaw. The four political objectives out of the 12 objectives of the State correspond with the seven-point political roadmap of the State in essence. Out of seven-point...
Out of seven-point political... (from page 8)

baskets in 1988, compared with 1,000 million baskets in 2000-2003 fiscal year. 
In a bid to upgrade the agricultural sector, dams, sluice gates, river water pumping stations and under- 
ground water tapping projects were undertaken across the nation. During the period from 1998 to date, a total of 152 dams and reser- 
voirs have been constructed, which benefits some 2.9 mil- 
lion acres of cultivable land. Moreover, 39 dams and reser- 
voirs are now under con- 
struction and arrangements are being made for construc- 
tion of 84 irrigation projects. Emergence of 265 river wa- 
ters are being made for construc- 
tion of 152 dams and reser- 
voirs have emerged. It reflects 
State-owned factories and 
large, medium and small 
farm and paddy land.
Emergence of 265 river wa- 
courses have been 
open around the nation. In ad- 
dition to emergence of 
140 new hospitals, a total of 114 hospitals have been 
upgraded from 25-bed hos- 
pitals to 50-bed ones, and 
100-bed hospitals to 200-bed 
or 300-bed ones.
In the third part of the 
speech, the Prime 
Minister said that as the Union of 
Myanmar is composed of over 100 national races who have lived together in 
unity and harmony for years countable by 
thousands it is a nation which 
is giving the highest priority to building of na- 
tional education in rural areas. The 
people are urged to par- 
ticipate in building up a peaceful and 
democratic nation.
In an endeavour to en- 
able the nation to keep 
abreast with the nations of 
the world he added, the gov- ernment is striving the de- 
structive acts of internal and 
external destructive elements 
protesting to all possible 
means and ways. Despite 
great challenges, the govern- 
ment has made sure that 
the nation enjoy the fruitful 
results of development, and 
the people therefore thank the 
government for its brilliant 
performance.
He expressed his belief 
that the entire people can 
surely overcome the hard- 
ships and obstacles through 
the might of unity.
In conclusion, he hailed the 
motion, calling for ac- 
tive participation of the 
entire people fully 
equipped with Union Spirit 
doing their bit for success- 
s of the State’s seven future pro- 
grammes and projects.
Afterwards, Demonstra- 
tor Daw Ma Khin Win of 
Zoology Department of 
Sittway University seconded 
the motion calling for the entire mass of people to par- 
ticipate in any sector for the successful implementation of the seven-point future policies 
and programmes of the 
State with true sense of 
Union Spirit.
Demonstrator Daw Ma 
Khin Win of Sittway 
University/college students 
also seconded the motion. 
Hence, the motion 
calling for the 
entire people fully 
prepared to support the 
State’s future political 
roadmap. — MNA

Whatever system a nation pricthes, it needs to be based on the state constitution. In drafting the state constitution, people from all walks of life should participate in the task and the State should give priority to the wishes of the people.

Sittway University seconded the motion calling for the entire mass of people to participate in any sector for the successful implementation of the seven-point future policies and programmes of the State with true sense of Union Spirit. Demonstrator Daw Ma Khin Win of Sittway University/college students also seconded the motion. Hence, the motion calling for the entire people fully prepared to support the State’s future political roadmap. — MNA

Those in attendance chanting slogans at the mass rally. — MNA

It is being raised in the ponds 
for growing prawns. In the meantime, 
the government has already built the 
State has already built the 
agriculture sector of Rakhine 
State included in the Prime 
Minister’s speech are the 
number of teachers, number of 
university/college students is 
1,174 bridges including 25 
major ones each of which 
leads to the emergence of in- 
dustry. Realizing that develop- 
ment of human resources de- 
pends on the national educa- 
tion, the government has been con- 
structing new schools, uni- 
versities and colleges. In 1988, there were only over 30,000 basic education 
schools, but now the number has increased up to 40,049 in 2003. Around 3,800 post-pri- 
mary schools have been opened for enabling the stu- 
dents to pursue middle school level education. In 1988, there were only 32 universi- 
ties and colleges, but now there are 145 universities and colleges.
In the health sector, there are 757 hospitals in 2003, compared with 617 hospi- 
tals in 1988. Besides, 84 dis- 
pensaries and 1,414 rural health care centres have been opened around the nation.
In the communication sector, telephone 
lines have been increased to 11,882 at present. The number of uni- 
tional College and the Sittway 
lege, the Kyaukphyu Educa-
itv Women University/college students is 
doubled. The number of uni- 
tional College and the Sittway 
lege, the Kyaukphyu Educa-

Aung Zeya Column marching to the mass rally to support the State’s future political

ment and development of the State. The government has already built the 
agriculture sector of Rakhine 
State included in the Prime 
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tlateral nation.

The new light of Myanma Saturday, 11 October, 2003 9
PM General Khin Nyunt receives Indian Home Affairs Secretary

YANGON, 10 Oct — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received the visiting delegation led by Indian Home Affairs Secretary Shri N Gopalaswami at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Kommyinttha at 4 pm today. Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Shri Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and embassy staff.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt …

(from page 16)

YANGON, 10 Oct — The prize-presentation of the 11th Yangon Division Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at Saya San Hall in Kyaikkasan Ground this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Secretary Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and members, Myanmar Music Association Chairman Accordion U Ohn Kyaw, Myanmar Artists and Artisan Ayasay Chairman U Sein Aung Min, chairmen of district and township PDCs, judges of the competitions and guests.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented a flag to Major Mya Win on behalf of the artistes representing Yangon West District which won the first in the 11th Yangon Division Performing Arts Competitions. Yangon West District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein accepted the shield. Later, the artists who judged the competitions were presented to gifts.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations pose for a documentary photo.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Secretary of Home Affairs of India Mr Shri N Gopalaswami. — mna.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends the ASEAN + 3 Summit together with Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations, the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. — mna.

Prize-presentation of Yangon Division Performing Arts Competitions held

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Secretary of Home Affairs of India Mr Shri N Gopalaswami. — mna.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Secretary of Home Affairs of India Mr Shri N Gopalaswami and party. — mna.

Foreign Minister receives Indian delegation

YANGON, 10 Oct — Foreign Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung received Indian delegation led by Secretary of Home Affairs Mr Shri N Gopalaswami, who arrived here to attend the Ninth State level Myanmar-India Border Civil Authorities, at his office at 2 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of Political Department U Thaung Tun and Director-General of Consular and Legal Affairs Department U Thein Myint.
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Ma-ei Creek Bridge linking Taungup Township of Thandwe District and An Township of Kyaukpyu District in Rakhine State was opened on 18-11-2001. The 940 feet long and 30 feet wide bridge was built at a cost of K 7,129 million.

PHOTO: MNA

To promote the tourism industry, new hotels are being built while the old ones renovated. The photo shows Sittway Hotel in Sittway of Rakhine State.

PHOTO: MNA

Hinywet Dam in An Township, Rakhine State was opened on 29-10-2002. With 750 feet in length and 70 feet in height, the dam was built at a cost of about K 100 million to supply water to about 100,000 people.— PHOTO: MNA
China, Afghanistan working for closer economic, trade ties

KHALED, 10 Oct—The Chinese-Afghan Economic Promotion Seminar opened here Tuesday, aiming to promote economic and trade relations between China and Afghanistan.

The seminar, sponsored by the Chinese Embassy here, was attended by nearly 130 Chinese and Afghan businessmen.

Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan Sun Yu Xi said the seminar was aimed at encouraging Chinese businessmen to take part in the reconstruction process of Afghanistan and seek further cooperation with their Afghan counterparts.

Moh Guln Hormand, president of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce, said the 23-year-long destructive war has exhaust all of Afghanistan’s material and intellectual resources, which reduced the country’s economy to zero.

He said “we hope our friends, especially China, to contribute actively to restore our economy”.

Hoshmand added the transitional government had invited many domestic and foreign companies and private sectors to invest in the country, to take advantage of the situation and invest in economic and trade fields.

At the seminar, Afghan businessmen expressed the hope that in order to promote Afghanistan’s export, trading centres should be set up in different parts of the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnamese population to reach 80.78 million in 2030

HANOI, 10 Oct—Vietnam’s population is estimated to reach 80.78 million in 2030, increasing 13.3 per cent over last year, according to General Statistics Office on Wednesday.

Of which, the Central Highland (Tay Nguyen) and the Southeast region are expected to record the highest population growth rate of 1.8 per cent, followed by the Northwestern region with the growth rate of 1.6 per cent, the coastal central province with 1.4 per cent, and other regions with 1.1-1.2 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

More than 35 kilos of drugs burned in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 10 Oct—More than 35 kilos of heroin and methamphetamines seized last week by Cambodian police were publicly burnt Thursday in Hun Sen Park, the centre of the capital.

Cambodian police seized record 40 kilos of heroin and other drugs in the Cambodian history during the last week raids, and arrested 13 suspects.

“Recent evidence has shown that the Mekong River, along which we have successfully eradicated marijuana plantations, has now become a major illicit drug and chemical precur sor trafficking route,” Cambodian Deputy Prime Min ister and Minister of Interior Sar Kheng said at the burning ceremony.

“However, the Royal Government of Cambodia always considers that drug control is one of the highest priority issues in its own leadership guidelines,” Sar Kheng added. During the past nine months, the Phnom Penh Authority have made 32 drug busts and 68 suspect arrests, as well as confisc ated tonnes of drugs, including heroin and ecstasy.

More, in last week’s operation, the authority ar rested 13 more suspects and 106 packs of heroin weighted 33.3 kilos which was burnt on Thursday.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam strives to boost industrial production

HANOI, 10 Oct—Vietnam has worked out concrete measures to further boost the industrial production in the remaining months of 2003, according to a report of local newspaper People (Nhan Dan) on Wednesday.

The measures include concentrating on accelerating production sectors and products with advantages of competition, the equalization process, invest more in developing new products with many opportunities to raise output and expand market share, serving for export.—MNA/Xinhua

PDVSA decides to sell petroleum complex in Bahamas

CARACAS, 10 Oct—The Venezuela State-run oil company, PDVSA, has decided to sell its petroleum complex in the Bahamas Oil Refining Company Interna tional Limited, in the Bahamas, the El Nacional daily reported Tuesday.

The daily quoted officials in the national hydrocarbon sector as saying this was the second time the company, valued at 100 million US dollars, had been put up for sale.

Previously, a bid of more than 25 million US dollars has been made for the oil company, but no one so far has reached.

A former PDVSA manager said the authorities want to sell the company for a more strategically-situated one.

The oil refining company has a storage capacity of 20 million barrels.—MNA/Xinhua

WB reports fewer business regulations lead to strong economies

WASHINGTON, 10 Oct—Fewer business regulations lead to strong economies, and poor country regulates the business the most, said a new World Bank report released on Tuesday.

The new report entitled “Doing Business in 2004”, said regulation in poor coun trying to promote economic and trade relations between China and Afghanistan.

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Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan Sun Yu Xi said the seminar was aimed at encouraging Chinese businesses to take part in the reconstruction process of Afghanistan and seek further cooperation with their Afghan counterparts.

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Previously, a bid of more than 25 million US dollars has been made for the oil company, but no one so far has reached.

A former PDVSA manager said the authorities want to sell the company for a more strategically-situated one.

The oil refining company has a storage capacity of 20 million barrels.—MNA/Xinhua
ASEAN, China forge strategic partnership for peace, prosperity

**Bali (Indonesia), 10 Oct—** The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China agreed on Wednesday to establish “a strategic partnership for peace and prosperity,” in a bid to further strengthen their cooperation in the 21st Century.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and leaders of the ten-member ASEAN signed a joint declaration after their meeting.

“Today’s world that is undergoing complex and profound changes, the enhanced cooperation between ASEAN and China, as two major neighbors in the Asia-Pacific Region, will serve the immediate and long-term interests of both sides and is conducive to peace and prosperity in the region,” the declaration said.

“This to this end, we agree that ASEAN and China establish a strategic partnership for peace and prosperity.”

The purpose of the establishment of a strategic partnership for peace and prosperity is “to foster friendly relations, mutually beneficial cooperation and good neighbourliness” between ASEAN and China by deepening and expanding ASEAN-China cooperative relations in a comprehensive manner in the 21st Century, it declared.

The strategic partnership is comprehensive and forward-looking cooperation focusing on politics, economy, social affairs, security and regional affairs. To achieve this end, both sides will strengthen high-level exchanges and contacts, consolidate and deepen understanding and friendship among the peoples of ASEAN and China and give fuller and more effective play to the role and function of the coordination mechanism at different levels.

They also agree to continue consultation on China’s international development “can and must” reduce the number and impact of disasters by building communities capable of resisting natural disasters, and the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Wednesday that the international community “can and must” reduce the number and impact of disasters by building communities capable of resisting natural disasters.

**US to issue new $20 note

**Washington, 10 Oct—** The US Government is scheduled to release the newly redesigned $20-dollar bill into circulation Thursday.

On Thursday, the US Federal Reserve will begin distributing the new notes to the public through the national commercial banks, according to a statement of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing of the US Treasury Department.

The new note with background colours and improved security features will be the most secure note the US Government has ever produced,” US Federal Reserve Board Governor Mark Skorobogaty said.

The new note, which was unveiled in May, will be circulated with older-design notes and both of the US notes will continue to be legal tender, said the statement.

**Annan calls for disaster reduction**

**United Nations, 10 Oct—** UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Wednesday that the international community “can and must” reduce the number and impact of disasters by building communities capable of resisting natural disasters.

Marking the International Day for Disaster Reduction, Annan said, “Better decision-making, improved planning, effective risk management, innovation in development and environmental protection activities – all the human activities that can reduce the vulnerability of communities.”

The theme of the 14th International Day for Disaster Reduction is “turning the tide on disasters towards sustainable development” – and the year of 2003 is the International Year of Freshwater set by the world body.
Revamped World Match Play ready to come of age

**LONDON, 10 Oct—** The World Match Play Championship will celebrate its 40th anniversary next week in robust style, a little like a teenage prodigy finally coming of age after waiting rich promise with a few years in the wilderness.

World number one Tiger Woods is not in the 12-man Wentworth field but an event criticized in recent years for not living up to its ‘world’ billing now has to support the希望 of the best possible field.

Aware that the tournament was losing prestige with its previous invitational format, organizers have ensured that this year’s edition has attracted the most possible field.

Gone is the format, which was too often European in bias and favoured players managed by tournament promoters IMG (International Marketing Group).

In its place is a revamped qualification process focusing on performances in the season’s majors in a bid to guarantee that most of the game’s leading players will appear at Wentworth.

The field should now comprise the defending champion, the world number one and the 10 leading players from the four major championships, presuming they are all available.— MNA/Reuters

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Embattled England squad arrives in Turkey

**ISTANBUL, 10 Oct—** England’s embattled footballers arrived in Turkey on Thursday for Saturday’s decisive Euro 2004 qualifier against the World Cup semi-finalists.

The England squad, including captain David Beckham, flew in to Istanbul airport, leaving behind a storm of criticism over their threat to boycott the fixture.

British newspapers were vociferous in their condemnation of the players, who had voted to go on strike after defender Rio Ferdinand was omitted from the squad after he failed to attend a drug test last month.

They reversed their decision on Wednesday after a day of tense talks at their training base.

On arrival in Istanbul, a group of around 100 Turkish fans chanted: “This is Turkey. There is no way out.”, as the players emerged from the airport while police linked hands to prevent any confrontations.

The biggest security was reserved for Beckham, whose arrival was greeted with a mixture of cheering and booping.

His bodyguards blocked a young girl seeking an autograph from approaching the midfielder but Beckham later relented and she was brought over to the England team coach to meet him.

Student Mehmet Sen, 21, brought a bouquet of red and white flowers to give to the England squad.

“I have brought these flowers to show the English they have nothing to fear and that the game should be played in a gentlemanly fashion,” he said.

Security concerns have raised the stakes after a history of trouble between fans from the two countries. England have warned their supporters to stay away for fear that more crowd trouble could lead to a UEFA ban.

Turkish passport officials earlier turned back two England fans who were apparently hoping to see the game. It was not clear whether they were on a list of more than 1,000 known troublemakers provided to local authorities by British police.

Fearing any UEFA sanction itself, Turkey’s Football Federation has warned fans that bad behaviour at the match will be punished.

The federation said police could confiscate any objects that could be used as projectiles, ranging from mobile phones and cigarette lighters to bottles and umbrellas.

England, who top Group Seven with 19 points, must avoid defeat in Istanbul to qualify automatically for next year’s finals in Portugal.

Turkey must win if they are to avoid being the second team in their group.

Rios Suarez, 31, died after he was attacked by a Spanish football fan earlier this week. The group said on Thursday they had voted to go on strike after defender Ferdinand for failing to take automatic qualification for next year’s finals in Portugal.

Latter limping off during training session for the FIFA 2003 Women’s World Cup qualifiers of red and white flowers to give to the coach to meet him.

**Injured Owen misses Turkey clash**

**LONDON, 10 Oct—** England striker Michael Owen has been ruled out of Saturday’s Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey after failing to recover from a shin injury, the Football Association (FA) said on Thursday.

Owen, who sustained the injury after falling awkwardly in Liverpool’s 2-1 Premier League defeat by Arsenal last Saturday, will not fly out to Istanbul with the rest of the squad.

Michael has withdrawn from the squad this morning and will not travel to Turkey,” FA spokesman Adrian Bevington said.

He has been receiving treatment for the last three days from the England medical team as well as having daily consultations with the Liverpool medical staff.

While Michael has made excellent progress, unfortunately he is not fit to play in the game.”

Owen’s absence is a major blow to England, who must avoid defeat in Istanbul to qualify automatically for next year’s European Championship finals in Portugal.

Coach Sven-Goran Eriksson’s preparations for the decisive Group Seven game have already been hit by the Rio Ferdinand controversy, which plunged the FA into one of the biggest crises in its 140-year history.

England players headed down on Wednesday from an unprecedented threat to boycott the game after the FA dropped Manchester United defender Ferdinand for failing to take a drugs test.

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**Suspect over fan’s death goes to authorities**

**MADRID, 10 Oct—** A man police suspect of launching an attack that caused the death of a Spanish football fan earlier this week gave himself up voluntarily to authorities in the northeastern city of Santiago on Thursday.

“A man, accompanied by his lawyer, presented himself before the judge who is investigating the case in Santiago,” a police spokesperson told Reuters on Thursday.

“We are in the process of confirming that he is the suspect we are looking for. We believe it is him.”

Police had appealed earlier in the day for a man they were seeking to come forward.

Deportivo Coruna supporter Manuel Rios Suarez, 31, died after he was attacked by a member of the club’s radical group, known as the Riazor Blues. He had been watching his side beat Galician rivals San- tiago Compostela 1-0 in a King’s Cup first round match on Tuesday.

The group said on Thursday they had decided to disband in response to criticism levelled at them since the death.

“The group has got out of control in recent years,” spokesman Arturo Revelle told Spanish radio station Onda Cero.

“We have shut down this measure some time ago because football should be an excuse to enjoy yourself with your mates.

“The group has now come to an end and anyone who wants to behave violently can no longer hide among us.”

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**Panucci doubtful for Italy’s Euro 2004 qualifier**

**ROSE, 10 Oct—** AS Roma defender Christian Panucci is doubtful for Italy’s final Euro 2004 qualifier against Azerbaijan on Saturday after limping off during training on Wednesday.

The Italian international left-back fell while playing a practice match against the under-17 squad. He will undergo further tests later on Wednesday to see the exact nature of his injury.

Though Italy must win Saturday’s match to guarantee automatic qualification to next year’s finals in Portugal, Panucci’s absence would not represent a major blow for coach Giovanni Trapattoni. The AS Roma player has been in poor form recently and was less than impressive in the nervy 1-1 draw against Serbia and Montenegro in Italy’s last qualifier a month ago.

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**Injured Ferdinand denies drug use**

**LONDON, 10 Oct—** Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand, who was dropped by England on Tuesday after missing a dope test, has denied ever using drugs.

“I am absolutely devastated by this situation and I want to take this opportunity to categorically state that I have never used drugs or condoned the use of drugs in sport or society,” Ferdinand said in a statement to the United website.

“I have been routinely tested like all players throughout my career and the results have always been the same: negative.”

Ferdinand was not included in England’s squad to face Turkey in Saturday’s decisive Euro 2004 qualifier in Istanbul after failing to provide a sample during random drug tests at the United training ground last month.

He provided a sample 36 hours later which proved negative.

The Football Association’s decision to drop the 24-year-old was promptly criti- cized by both United and the players’ union, the Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA).

“The biggest disappointment is not being picked for England for a game which is so important not only to myself, but also the team and the England fans,” Ferdinand said.

“I have worked hard from a young age to get where I am and to be left out of the squad at this crucial stage is devastating.”

“I would like to express my gratitude for all the support I am getting from my family and friends, (United manager) Sir Alex (Ferguson) and everyone else at Manchester United and the PFA.”

England need a draw to qualify automatically for next year’s championship in Portugal and send Turkey into next month’s playoffs. — MNA/Reuters

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**German forward Maren Meinert kicks the ball during a training session for the FIFA 2003 Women’s World Cup soccer final, in Carson, California, on 9 October, 2003. Germany faces Sweden in the final on Sunday in Carson. — Instrabt**
Out of seven-point political... (from page 9) interests of the State and the entire national people. They will lead to stability, development and unity. So the entire national people are urged to actively participate in the seven-point future policies and programmes of the State for turning the country into a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic one.

Sittway Township Law Officer U Thein Shwe seconded the motion calling on the entire national people to actively participate in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-stage roadmap of the State with the essence of the

Union Spirit tabled by U Tun Win.

It can clearly be seen in the speech based true events of history delivered by the Prime Minister that the Nation will soon emerge as a peaceful, modern and developed one in the near future thanks to the all-round development achieved in all aspect of the country including the social and economic sectors and in the entire country including border areas. The Prime Minister presented the social and economic development of the country, citing facts and figures of the production sectors such as the agriculture, industrial, meat and fish, and forestry, services sector such as transportation, communications, and energy and education, health, and human resources. He then explained the future programs for the nation building tasks.

It is encouraging to see distinct all-round development of border regions achieved thanks to the border areas development projects launched in 1989. The State has spent Ks. 45,762.87 million and over US$ 506 million on the projects. These accomplishments are the nation building tasks that contribute towards the interests of the entire national people. In other words, these are the success gained with the united strength of the people and the Tatmadaw. Various nation-building endeavours of the government are not dreams but reality.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister declared that the reconvening of the national convention would be implemented as the first phase of the nation-building programs.

The national convention that started in 1993 was an effort to set up basic principles for drawing the State constitution in accord with the six objectives. But the NLD party, decided to ignore the future of the country and placed the attitude and wishes of an individual and the interests of its own party above the national cause, and carried out a plan aimed at destroying the National Convention. Consequently, efforts for political development have now faltered at half way point. I would like to say seriously that democracy, which was almost at hand, has become distant again. Therefore, the program mentioned in the speech of the Prime Minister, the emergence of anew enduring state constitution based on the Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy, is the most fundamental for the emergence of genuine democracy. It is also required to draw out lessons from the constitutions of the past in order to draw a new constitution free from weaknesses and loopholes. It must also be a constitution that can overcome the challenges of the future and in accordance with the conditions of Myanmar. Not only political parties and national race leaders but also scholars, technicians, representatives of people from all strata, and representatives of civil services are to participate in the drafting of the constitution.

The seven-stage program mentioned in the speech of the Prime Minister is full of essence and in accord with mental attitude of the people and conditions of the country. It is also very important to advance along the national path without deviation by firmly embracing patriotism, national spirit, spirit of national unity and Union spirit for the perpetuation of the Union in its march towards the national goal of a new peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic state for the long term interest of the state and all the people.

In conclusion, he enthusiastically supported the motion calling on the entire national people to actively participate in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-stage roadmap of the State with the essence of the Union Spirit tabled by U Tun Win.

Afterwards, the chairman sought the approval of the mass rally concerning the seven-stage roadmap of the State with the essence of the Union Spirit tabled by U Tun Win. The master of ceremonies announced the resolutions of the mass rally calling for active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for the successful implementation of the seven policies and programmes. The mass rally concluded by chanting of the slogans.

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### Development of Rakhine State

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Irrigation</td>
<td>861,000 acres</td>
<td>1,080,674 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat and fish</td>
<td>about 60,000 acres</td>
<td>155,533 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads and bridges</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yangoon-Sittway road</td>
<td>628 miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thandwe-Taungup-Yangon road</td>
<td>323 miles</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thandwe-Gwa-Ngathaingchaung-Yangon road</td>
<td>235 miles</td>
<td>548 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyaukpyu-Yangon road bridges</td>
<td>(under construction)</td>
<td>1174 (including twenty-five 180 feet and above bridges)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7/under construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upgraded roads</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gwa-Thanwede road</td>
<td>83 miles</td>
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<td>Ann-Padegaw-Ma-ei road</td>
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<td>Taungup-Kyaukpyu-Ma-ei road</td>
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<td>Yangon-Sittway road</td>
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<td>Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone exchange station</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>have been built in all Townships in Rakhine State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic education school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of teachers</td>
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<td>Sittway University</td>
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<td>Sittway Technological College</td>
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<td>Kyaukpyu Education College</td>
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<td>Students pursuing higher education</td>
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<td>Faculty members</td>
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<td>Traditional medicine hospital</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional medicine dispensary</td>
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MNA
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends dinner hosted by President of Republic of Indonesia and consort

YANGON, 10 Oct — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended the dinner hosted in honour of the ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Heads of State/Government of the People’s Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Indonesia by President of the Republic of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri and consort Mr Tanfig Kiemas in Tampak Siring Palace in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia, on 7 October evening.

First, President of the Republic of Indonesia Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri and consort Mr Tanfig Kiemas greeted the ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Heads of State/Government of the People’s Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Indonesia. It was attended by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Sanoch Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr Vorachith, Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai.

Observers Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, and ministers, deputy ministers and officials of ASEAN nations were at Nusantara Hall-2 while the Summit was taking place.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the Seminar of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations and ASEAN Business and Advisory Council representatives at Nusantara Hall No 1 at 11.30 am. The Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) was signed at the Auditorium of Bali International Convention Centre. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations signed the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II.

It was also attended by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, ministers, deputy ministers and high ranking officials of ASEAN nations.

The farewell party for Malaysian Prime Minister Dato’ Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad who is going to retire took place at the Auditorium.

The Indonesian President delivered a speech and presented a documentary photo of the 9th ASEAN Summit to the Malaysian Prime Minister.

The Malaysian Prime Minister expressed words of thanks.

Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations, the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea attended the working lunch at the Nusantara Hall No 3.

After the working lunch, those present posed for a documentary photo at Nusantara Hall No 1. Next, the ASEAN+3 Summit followed.

Present on the occasion were heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations, Chinese Prime Minister Mr Wen Jiabao, Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi and Korean President Mr Roh Moo-hyun.

MNA