Roadmap, State’s own policy to build up modern developed nation

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

Yangon, 12 Oct—A mass rally, organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, was held in support of Prime Minister’s clarification on seven policies and programmes of the State (roadmap) at Yamanya Sports Ground in Mawlamyine, Mon State on 11 October morning.

Present on the occasion were Central Executive Committee members of USDA, members of USDAs of Mawlamyine, Mudon, Chaungzon, Thanbyuzayet, Yay, Kyaukmaraw, Paung, Thaton, Bilin and Kyaiiko Townships in Mawlamyine and Thaton Districts, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Working Committee for Women’s Affairs, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Societies, Matapitu Matapithanam, to serve thy parents; this is the way to auspiciousness. — MNA

Rector U San Tint delivers a speech at the mass rally. — MNA

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

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan. — MNA

...continued from page 16...
PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 13 October, 2003

The successful historic trip
The Association of South East Asian Na-
tions (ASEAN) was formed on 8 August 1976
and since its formation, the ASEAN summit has
been held regularly. On 8 October, Prime Min-
ister General Khin Nyunt, together with leaders
of all ASEAN states, attended the 11th ASEAN
Summit held in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, together
with leaders of other ASEAN nations, attended the 9th ASEAN
Summit held in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia, from 7 to 8 October.

The Prime Minister also attended the Sum-
mits of the ASEAN Heads of State/Government and
Leaders of the ASEAN Heads of Government. The ASEAN
summer is a major event that takes place every
year in different countries. The ASEAN summits serve as
a forum for Heads of State/Government to discuss
matters related to economic, social, and cultural
affairs and to promote peace and stability in the
region.

The 11th ASEAN Summit was attended by leaders from
the ten ASEAN countries. The summit was held in Bali,
the Republic of Indonesia, from 7 to 8 October.

At the meeting of Prime Minister General
Khin Nyunt and Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar
Dr Daw Khin Thet Htay, the two leaders discussed
matters related to bilateral relations and common
interests with leaders of the region and
promoted relations with PR, Japan, ROK and
India.

Performing Arts Competitions Holding Leading Committee
Chairman meets team managers of states/divisions

Chairman and officials of the work committee and
subcommittees reported on their tasks being carried
out and the team managers on their teams.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe fulfilled the
requirements and made closing remarks.

Religious Affairs Minister pays reverence to
Sayadaws in Mawlamyine, Bago

Religious Affairs Minister pays reverence to
Sayadaws in Mawlamyine, Bago

Yesterday, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and
Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min
also paid reverence to Sayadaws of Kyakhetwai,
Panthaising, Dhammalinkara, Myoma and Okha
monasteries in Bago and donated offerings.— MNA

Road, bridge construction in Ayeyawady
Division inspected

Road, bridge construction in Ayeyawady
Division inspected

Today arrivals from YANGON arrived at
the airport through Bago and donated
offerings.

Opening ceremony of youth education training camp held

Opening ceremony of youth education training camp held

MMCCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe cordially greets the youths at the opening ceremony. — YANGON COMMAND

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe meets managers of the teams from States and
Division. — MNA

Afterwards, the com-
mander inspected supplies
for the camp, and gave
instructions to the con-
testants and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

Contestants, managers, members of panel of judges arrive to participate in performing arts competitions

Contestants, managers, members of panel of judges, who are going to participate in the 11th Myanmar Tra-
nitional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, arrived here this morning and af-
ternoon.

Today arrivals from Mon State, Shan State, Yangon Division and Sagain Division were wel-
come by officials con-
cerned.

Ambassador presents
Credentials to Austrian President

Ambassador presents
Credentials to Austrian President

The ambassador presented the Credentials to the President of the Republic of Austria.

MMCCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe cordially greets the youths at the opening ceremony. — YANGON COMMAND

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe meets managers of the teams from States and
Division. — MNA
Focus of the war against terror should not lead to another arms race or spark the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction throughout the world

The following are excerpts from the speech delivered by Jean-Bertrand Aristide, President of Haiti, at 58th session of UNGA. Haiti was actively working towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. But, economic globalization threatened to derail those efforts. To reach its objectives, the country must promote good governance, fight the war on corruption, curtail the drug trade and ensure free and fair elections.

He hoped that the reduction in global military spending during the past decade and the rise in spending for human development would promote both human and economic growth. At the same time, the international focus of the war against terror should not lead to another arms race or spark the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction throughout the world. He hoped that the international community would work assiduously to ensure peace wherever wars were inflicting untold suffering. Violence and slavery were rooted in darkness, he said, but peace and freedom were rooted in light. Haiti, though impoverished, would continue to shine beyond the darkness of colonization like a gleaming beacon. It was the geographical axis for the freedom of all blacks. It was the mother of liberty, and its sons and daughters the product of that liberty.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide, President of Haiti

The United Nations to increasingly become a meeting place between cultures and civilizations.

Ricardo Maduro, President of Honduras

Ricardo Maduro, President of Honduras, said that his country’s commitment to the United Nations had been demonstrated by its decision, although possessed of only modest resources, to send a humanitarian mission to Iraq. In the same spirit of participation, Honduras also renewed its commitment to see the Organization hold a referendum on the status of Western Sahara. Along with its sister republics of Central America, it had developed plans to combat international terrorism, as well as organized crime, in all its forms. His Government had put forward timely initiatives aimed at increasing exchanges of information and creating an order for regional arrests, so that the enjoyment of impunity through the crossing of a border was put to an end. The Central American region had, moreover, moved forward in adequately limiting investment in weapons, so as to ensure adequate spending on social issues.

Hopeful that the slow pace of human development seen throughout the world could be overcome with growing international solidarity and the more equitable and just distribution of the benefits of globalization, he urged the United Nations to increasingly become a meeting place between cultures and civilizations. The Organization should be made more efficient in meeting new challenges and channeling differences.

Ricardo Maduro, President of Honduras

The Baghdad bombing and other violent eruptions elsewhere in the world grimly remind us that serious threats to world peace and security remain

Terrorism has always menaced the human race in one form or other. Yet, never before have we witnessed acts of terrorism so organized, so frequent and so lethal, threatening international peace and security in its entirety. The Baghdad bombing and other violent eruptions elsewhere in the world grimly remind us that serious threats to world peace and security remain, undermining the noble principles that so far had contributed to the survival of the world order and the sustenance of the values that we uphold. Yet the persistence of these deplorable acts signals our failure to address the fundamental causes of these threats. Bold decisions need to be taken swiftly to address them.

We should all recognize that the strength and stability of the international security system or any political order would be determined by the strength of its weakest members, and not just the endurance or the prevalence of the strongest among them.

HE Mr. Fathulla Jamee, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rep of Maldives

The United Nations in need of reform

Prince ´Ulukalala Lavaka Ata, Prime Minister of Tonga, said attacks such as “9/11” and those that were carried out at the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad last month served as stirring reminders to all to remain vigilant and strong in fighting terrorism.

Thus, after careful study of the United Nations conventions on terrorism, Tonga was now a party to all 12 instruments. But merely becoming parties to those instruments was not enough, as concrete steps would continue to be needed for small countries like its to fully and meaningfully implement their obligations.

Tonga continued to participate in national and regional activities designed to assist countries implement viable counter-terrorism measures. In that regard, the ongoing assistance of traditional development partners and other organizations, such as the Organisation of African Cooperation and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, had been a boon.

On HIV/AIDS, he said the epidemic remained a devastating development and public health challenge for all, particularly in small and remote island communities. He welcomed the work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the funding it had recently approved to assist Tonga and other countries in the region.

That action complimented the country’s own national strategies and programmes to combat the epidemic.

Concluding, he said that one of the lessons of “9/11” and Iraq was not just that the United Nations was in need of reform, but the urgency with which that reform was so desperately needed. Describing Iraq as a “sharp backdrop” for the Organization, he reiterated his support for calls to reform the Security Council by expanding its permanent and non-permanent members, adding, “Otherwise we shall be dealing with today’s realities through mechanism of yesteryear”.

Prince ´Ulukalala Lavaka Ata, Prime Minister of Tonga

Iraq must regain its Arab, regional and international role

Shaikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, said that since its inception, the United Nations had carried out the responsibilities of its Charter in a range of fields relevant to both the lives of individuals and to the international community as a whole, such as peacekeeping operations, development programmes and the promotion of human rights. However, any achievements the Organization had made during the past 58 years threatened to be undone by lingering regional conflicts, civil war and ethnic strife in many parts of the world. Stressing that the wider Middle East also faced great challenges, as well as unique opportunities that would determine the future of the region for generations to come, he said it was fundamental that the international community, the United Nations and influential parties normalize political, economic and civil life in Iraq. That country must regain its Arab, regional and international role. Furthermore, the Iraqi people must be allowed to rebuild their own economic, political and social foundations.

Shaikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain
Islamic nations call for US out of Iraq

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia 12 Oct—Delegates to the world’s largest gathering of Islamic nations opened their biggest meeting in three years Saturday with calls for the eviction of US troops from Iraq.

The US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council also sought to get backing for its effort to prevent the deployment of Turkish peacekeepers to its territory.

“We don’t like to have any peacekeeping troops to neighboring countries, because it might cause problems inside Iraq,” said Riyadh al-Fadhli, an Iraqi delegate attending preparatory meetings for next week’s summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The situation now in Iraq is very sensitive,” al-Fadhli said. “It cannot take more difficulties and more dangerous situations inside Iraq.”

The gathering of the 57 countries in the Islamic Conference, the world’s biggest Muslim political grouping, is its first regular summit since the Sept. 11 attacks brought terrorism to the center of world politics.

Divisions over Iraq threatened to prevent Islamic leaders from finding a unified voice to address a widespread feeling that the war against terrorism has turned into a war against Muslims.

Senior officials opened discussions with a prayer Saturday in Malaysia’s new administrative capital, Putrajaya.

They will lay out positions for their foreign ministers and national leaders to consider later in the week, ranging from Israel’s airstrike on Syria to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

But Iraq took center stage.

Musa Braiza, head of the Jordanian delegation, said a resolution would acknowledge that positive change was underway in Iraq but would emphasize the full restoration of Iraqi sovereignty.

Abdelouahed Belkhazie, the OIC’s secretary general, said Islamic nations “are still under the strain of extremely difficult challenges and unprecedented threats to our countries’ independence, sovereignty, security and courses.”

Top priority should go to “the eviction of foreign forces from Iraq, allowing the Iraqis to administer Iraqi affairs (as a) prelude to restoration of Iraq’s independence,” and to the rebuilding of what has been destroyed over the past 20 years, all in accordance with a clear and short timetable,” he said.

Host Malaysia, led by blunt-spoken Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, had attempted to keep the US-picked Iraqi council from taking the seat formerly held by Saddam’s government, viewing the council as puppets. —Internet

China to improve export tax rebate system

BEIJING, 12 Oct—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao Friday urged all localities across the country to work to facilitate reform on the export tax rebate system which may have an impact on the benefits of local governments.

Wen said at a meeting on the reform that with the rapid growth of China’s exports, the problem of the share of tax refunds to be refunded to enterprises has become increasingly prominent. This has affected the normal operation of export-oriented enterprises, especially those engaged in export business.

The Premier attributed the failure to the unreasonable export tax rebate mechanism, saying it failed to meet the needs for industrial restructuring and the volume of the rebates has grown far beyond the capacity of the central finance. As a result, “the more rapidly exports grow, the heavier the financial burden of the central finance faces,” Wen said.

“Today’s entry into force is the first step to reform the export tax rebate system,” Wen said. “To reform the current export tax rebate system, he said, efforts should be intensively deepened to reform the system in the financial and foreign trade systems, which will help improve enterprises’ competitive edge, export product mix and the efficiency of export business, alleviate the government’s financial burden, promote exports and enhance management of tax refunding.”

China has accumulated sufficient foreign exchange reserves thanks to years of fast growth in economic development and exports as well, which creates a good condition for the reform, Wen said, stressing, “we must lose no time to promote the reform.”

According to Wen, plans have been drawn out for the reform after mass investigations. The major reform measures cover readjustment of the export tax rebate rates, with the increased share of rebated tax paid by both the central and local fiscal departments. — MNA/Xinhua

US and France face diplomatic gulf on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 12 Oct—France is eager to “turn this bitter page” in the dispute over Iraq, says Paris’ ambassador in Washington, but significant differences remain with the United States over Iraq’s future.

France and America, allies for two centuries, have taken steps to repair a souring fissure, created when France opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

While there is cooperation in Afghanistan and the Balkans, Bush administration officials say US puts a different emphasis on Iraq and the US’s long-term intentions, remains acute.

“They have one to point out every time—” he says “—they point out that all of us are united in fighting terrorism. France is willing to cooperate with the US to fight terrorism but there is still a lot of division.”

France insists it is not developing Europe as a rival to the American superpower but US officials are skeptical.

A US perception that France wants America to fail in Iraq does not bode well for French-American relations, says Phillip Gordon, an expert on France with the Brookings Institution.

If President Bush is re-elected in 2004, “France will be forced to remain on the sidelines, left in the dust as the US moves ahead on its own,” Gordon said.

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Experts say traditional Chinese medicine safe in SARS treatment

BEIJING, 12 Oct—The combination of Western medicine and traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is a safe treatment method for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), according to medical experts attending an international seminar here Friday.

The combination method can alleviate the breathing difficulties of SARS patients and help reduce inflammation, said Deputy Director Li Zhenji of the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine at a Press conference.

According to research reports submitted to the seminar, which focuses on treating SARS with the combination of Western medicine and TCM, SARS patients of identical age and physical condition enjoy higher survival chances using the combination method compared with those just receiving Western medicine alone.

The cost of the combination method, experts say, is also lower compared with the purely Western medicine method.

Research findings also show that of doctors and nurses attending to SARS patients, those that had taken Chinese herbal medicine as prevention were all free from SARS infection during the SARS outbreak in parts of China in the first half of this year.

China gives “farming” therapy to mentally ill people in recovery

SHANGHAI, 12 Oct—Chinese psychiatrists have come up with a novel therapy for the mentally ill—let them do moderate physical labour on farmland or in orchards during their recovery after a period of treatment.

Moderate farm work will enable mental patients to relax and lessen their chances of relapse, experts of the Shanghai Mental Health Center here told the 57th International Mental Health Day, which falls on October 10 each year.

The centre has, in cooperation with the Shanghai-based Shenlong Forestry Company, set up a two-hectare farming base in the suburbs, offering therapeutic programmes like growing crops or planting fruit trees or breeding aquatics.

The centre plans to accommodate 200 people with mental problems in the initial stage, who will work and live in the farm in a self-reliant and self-sufficient manner, who will work and live in the farm in a self-reliant and self-sufficient manner, leading them to lead a normal life. — China Daily
US FACES WORLDWIDE PROTESTS, IRAQI RESISTANCE

An American soldier guards an Iraqi family during a raid on their home near Tikrit, Iraq.

Iraq and Afghanistan have appealed for the support of other Islamic nations during the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in Malaysia. — Internet

Smoke rises from a burned truck as Iraqi men stand near it in the city of Baiji, some 250 kms (160 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 10 October, 2003. The truck, which delivered water supply for US troops through Baiji, exploded and its driver was reported seriously wounded. — Internet

US soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment secure the perimeter, on 11 October, 2003 as troops search a house for an alleged bomber during an early morning raid in Tikrit, Iraq. — Internet

Turkish students chant anti-American slogans as they march during a protest in front of the Istanbul University, Turkey, in this on 8 October, 2003 file photo, a day after the parliament debated the government’s motion for dispatching Turkish soldiers to Iraq. Turkey became the first Muslim country to approve sending peacekeeping troops to Iraq without requiring that the United States first turn control over to the United Nations. The president of Iraq’s US-appointed Governing Council on 11 October, 2003 objected to the deployment of Turkish peacekeepers but said the issue is still under discussion, seeking to play down differences with the Americans over the issue. — Internet

Egyptians chant anti-US slogans during a demonstration at the Al-Azhar mosque in Cairo. Nearly 3,000 Egyptians gathered outside the mosque to protest against the recent Israeli raid on Syria and the US occupation in Iraq. — Internet

South Korean civic group members and students march in Seoul, South Korea, after a rally opposing a possible dispatch of South Korean troops to Iraq on 11 October, 2003. The banners say ‘No dispatch of South Korean troops to Iraq and Oppose the occupation in Iraq by USA’. More than 2,000 protesters attended the protest. — Internet
**Blasts start oil fires in Iraq**

Baghdad, 12 Oct — Two explosions caused large fires at two parallel oil pipelines in northern Iraq today, the director general of Iraq’s Northern Oil Co said.

The first explosion started at a fire at 7.15pm on a pipeline linking the northern city of Kirkuk with al-Debs oil fields, further to the north, Adel Gazzaz told AFP.

A second blast at 8.30pm started a fire on a parallel pipeline running at about five metres from the first, he said.

Firefighters rushed to the area in an attempt to extinguish the fires, Gazzaz added.

The first explosion was caused by a bomb planted on the pipeline and the second pipeline blew up because of the heat, firefighters said.

Earlier today, unknown assailants hurled handgrenades at a fire at 7.15pm on a pipeline near the village of Hatim, about 45km north of Kirkuk.

Iraqi police, firefighters and coalition troops converged on the area to put out the fire and search for the assailants, Mohammad, adding no arrests had been made so far.

Mamnaa Abdullbaha al-Ubaidi, director general of Iraq’s northern oil company, confirmed “there was no major damage, just a small fire started by oil remnants in the pipeline, which has not been in use and was targeted at dawn with hand grenades.”

**US denies Iraq war link in Ford Belgium job cuts**

Brussels, 12 Oct — The United States on Friday dismissed reports linking 3,000 job cuts at a Belgian plant of US car giant Ford Motor Co to Belgium’s opposition to the war in Iraq.

Ford Europe is to cut the jobs at its plant in Genk in eastern Belgium amid slumping sales and cut-throat price competition.

Two newspapers said the decision was linked to Belgium’s opposition to the US-led invasion.

“Our is no link whatsoever between these matters,” the US Embassy said in a statement.

“Overseas direct investment decisions are solely the responsibility of the investing companies,” it added.

**Malaysia urges Muslim peacekeeping in Iraq under UN**

Kuala Lumpur, 12 Oct — Malaysia said on Friday that Muslims should take responsibility for peacekeeping in Iraq, but only under the command of the United Nations.

Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, speaking on the eve of an Islamic summit, said Muslim countries should not send troops to help US-led coalition that toppled Saddam Hussein.

“You cannot have peacekeepers from countries which are not Muslim, Syed Hamid told a news conference before the eight-day meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Malaysia’s new administrative capital, Putrajaya.

“It must be done under the umbrella of the UN. We cannot take part if it is still under the United States,” he said.

Syed Hamid said Turkey, a Muslim neighbour of Iraq, was a special case. When pressed about Turkey’s potential involvement, he replied “I think the Turks are not happy.”

Iraq and the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians are expected to dominate the meeting, which will be the first OIC summit since the September 11 attacks.

A delegation from Iraq’s US-appointed Governing Council, and a Palestinian representative are also expected to be there.

**Poll says UK opposition overtakes Blair’s Labour**

London, 12 Oct — Britain’s opposition Conservatives have overtaken the ruling Labour Party of Prime Minister Tony Blair, who continues to suffer a post-Iraq war slump, according to an opinion poll published Sunday.

The YouGov survey in the Monday magazine gave the right-wing Conservatives — who dominated 20th century British politics with leaders like Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher — a 38 percent level of support.

That was five points higher than Labour’s 33 percent.

Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith, who defined a plot to oust him at this week’s party conference, saw his approval rating rise to 31 percent from 22 percent a week ago.

Blair’s approval rating was down to 37 percent from 40 percent a week ago, according to the survey of 205 people interviewed Friday and Saturday.

Duncan Smith, trying to make political capital out of a dire year for Blair since his decision to go to war with Britain down the middle, said his party would mount a serious challenge at the next general election, expected in 2005. “The truth is we do have a hell of an opportunity, with the government in serious trouble and disaster,” he told the Sunday Express.

**China Merchants Bank opens representative office in New York**

Brung, 12Oct — The first representative office of China Merchants Bank (CMB) has opened in New York, in a landmark move of Chinese banks in the international finance market.

It is also the first representative office of a Chinese business bank authorized by the US banking regulatory structure since 1996.

CMB has intended to set up a representative office in the United States since 1999 and made great efforts in its applications under both China’s financial regulations and the US laws.

**Vietnam strives to control blindness**

Hanoi, 12 Oct — Vietnam will make greater efforts to control blindness which still casts shadow on the country.

Over 50,000 people will be offered eye examinations, consultation and treatment free of charge, while more than 7,000 poor patients with impaired eyesight will receive free operations, according to a report of the local newspaper Pioneer on Friday.

Specifically, the Central Institute of Ophthalmology in Hanoi will conduct free surgeries for 300 patients in the capital city.

The incidence of people with impaired eyesight in Vietnam dropped from 2.25 per cent in 1995 to 0.63 per cent in 2002. There are now 500,000 blind people and 1.3 million visually-impaired ones throughout the country.

**Cambodia to host regional conference on poverty reduction**

Manila, 12 Oct — The Second Regional Conference on Poverty Reduction Strategies will be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on October 16-18, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), one of the four sponsors of the meeting, announced here Thursday.

The meeting, jointly sponsored by ADB, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, will be attended by delegates from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, East Timor, and Vietnam, an ADB statement said.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka will send their observers to the meeting.

While decades of strong growth in the region contributed to some of the fastest declining poverty rates anywhere in the world, for many of the lower-income Asian countries, progress on steadily reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remains a serious challenge.

The MDGs are a set of eight goals pledged by world leaders to halve poverty, eradicate hunger, put every boy and girl in school and improve health and environment indicators by 2015.

As a way to address these challenges and help countries meet their poverty reduction objectives, low-income countries in Asia and around the world have been increasingly developing National Poverty Reduction Strategies as a vehicle to set policy and guide progress.

**Philippines’ top oil firm signs contracts to upgrade refinery**

Manila, 12 Oct — Con- tracts worth 63 million US dollars to upgrade refineries have been signed between Petron Corp, the top oil firm in the Philippines, and an international consortium, Petron said on Friday.

The projects would allow Petron’s products to meet stricter anti-pollution requirements stipulated in a Clean Air Law passed in the 1990s, the company said in a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The consortium includes Stone and Webster Interna- tional Inc and CTCT Corp of Taiwan, and the two companies won the engineering procurement and construction contracts with Petron worth 49.17 million US dollars and 76.27 million pesos (13.98 million US dollars) respect- ively, the statement added.

**In this 16 October, 2003 file photo taken in Baghdad, books are seen on the floor of the Iraqi National Library where some 17,000 of books were lost following the US led war on Iraq. But after decades of censorship under Saddam Hussein and devasting postwar plunder, Iraq’s book lovers at Frankfurt’s Buch Fair say they are eager to restore a vibrant literary scene to their struggling country and set forth its ancient literary tradition.”**
Democracy does not come down from heaven

Aung Hla San

In laying down a political programme, it is required to set up the strategy and tactical programmes. Tactical programme must consider the strategies that involve organizing and nurturing the people based on political, economic, and social experiences in order to accomplish the strategic goal. They therefore are the stopovers along the long march of the revolution.

It is essential that a political programme takes its base on objective social and economic conditions of the society concerned. A political programme subjectively laid down and free from the objective social and economic conditions will meet its end with numerous sufferings. It can be seen that certain political programmes had failed to realize their goals in the history of Myanmar. Myanmar clearly has laid down the goal of building a democratic nation and phase-by-phase political programme (roadmap) that corresponds with her present social conditions. It is required to collectively strive for the accomplishment of the goal through the National Convention. In undertaking the tasks for meeting the basic human needs such as food, clothing and shelter, man can attain his goal commensurate with the degree of development of productive forces under his management. Productive relations or social relations cannot be carried out at will. A combined set of productive relations is called an economic system. It is from this foundation that wisdom, laws, and political programme of man emerge. It is required to uphold this trend of modern political economy. It is because laws and political programmes cannot be drawn as desired by man. They cannot be laid down by themselves. They must take their base in objective social conditions.

A constitution which corresponds with the objective conditions of the country may not be in harmony with her objective conditions when her productive forces develop. It is natural to amend the inharmonious part of the constitution. Development of a system requires to meet the material preconditions. In the volume-2 of “An inquiry into the poverty of nations” written by Dr Gunnar Myrdal, it is mentioned that political democracy means a popular government elected through universal suffrage, independent administration of justice, and extensive civil liberty. The west Europe was not able to enjoy the democratic rights as today during the industrial revolution. The ruling class gradually increased the civil liberty only when they felt they had established well. Legal, social, political and racial equalities are the civil rights. They are now called the rule of law. Again it is required to set up the strategy and tactical programmes. It is required to oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State. It is required to set up the strategy and tactical programmes. It is required to oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State.

Myanmar bags two gold, three silver in Asian Youth Wushu Championship

YANGON, 12 Oct — In Kunsu contest (age 12-14) of the second Asian Youth Wushu Championship held in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China. Ma Yin Min Thu of BEHS No 2 in Sangyoung Township won the third, Vietnam the first and Japan the second. It is the first time for Myanmar to participate in the championship. Among the eight Myanmar contestants, seven won ten medals — two gold, three silver and 5 bronze.

The victorious Myanmar sports team will arrive back here on 14 October. — MNA
Dams and reservoirs, sluice gates were built and river water pumping projects and underground water tapping projects implemented all over the nation to ensure development of agro-economic sector.

As a result, over 150 dams and reservoirs have been constructed and 265 river water pumping projects implemented, thereby contributing to extended cultivation of over 2 million acres of paddy. In the education sector, more basic education schools, universities and colleges were opened to pursue the higher education. Therefore, there were 32 universities and colleges in the nation in 1988, and there are now 154 in total.

There were altogether 617 hospitals in 1988 and there are now 757, and 114 hospitals were upgraded. Thus, the government has been able to improve the health care services of the public.

The second part of the Prime Minister’s speech includes those to be taken as lessons. One of which is the national reconstitution, the unprecedented achievement in Myanmar history. Myanmar is giving priority to forging the national solidarity and the national reconstitution based on Union Spirit. Making efforts for regional development and improving the education through the creation of the opportunity, 3,800 more post-pri-

(See page 9)

The mass rally held in support of the State’s future political roadmap in progress at Yamanya sports ground in Mawlamyine Township, Mon State. — MNA

Roadmap, State’s own policy…

(opened after designating the development zones in states and divisions for creating the opportunity for students to pursue the higher education. Therefore, there were 32 universities and colleges in the nation in 1988, and there are now 154 in total.

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Roadmap, State’s own …

(From page 8)

In the education sector, the State is nurturing human resources needed for building a modern nation. To this end, Mawlamyine University, Government Technology College and Education College have been upgraded, and a government computer college has also been opened.

Number of basic education schools in Mon State, which stood at 1,205 in the past, increased to 1,354. A total of 64 monastic education schools have been opened, and multimedia classrooms have been opened in 19 basic education high schools in Mon State.

In the health sector, 200-bed Mon State General Hospital has been upgraded into a 350-bed one, a 50-bed one in Thanon into a 100-bed one, and eight 16-bed ones into a 50-bed one and seven 25-bed ones. Number of station hospitals increased from 10 to 15. To provide effective healthcare services to the people of Mon State, a traditional medicine hospital has been opened in Mawlamyine, and number of traditional medicine clinics increased from 4 to 10.

Development of Mon State must be attributed to the concerted efforts exerted by making best use of natural resources in the interest of the nation. The Prime Minister clearly pointed out the future political programmes to be implemented step by step for the emergence of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Sustainable development of border areas undertaken by the present government would be present. As the sectors being carried out for the development of border areas include education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding, electric power, communication, construction of roads and bridges and mining of metal, the people of the border regions are now enjoying the fruits of development which they have never expected before.

The border towns of Tamu, Loije, Muse, Kawthoung and Maungtaw have developed like urban cities. Similarly, national race regions such as Laingza, Panwa, Pangsa, Mongla, Laukkai and Chin Shwe Haw have significantly progressed.

Due to the efforts of the State, significant progress has been made in the border areas and national unity and Union Spirit forged. A historic work programme which was included in the Prime Minister’s speech is the achievement of the Tatmadaw government in national reconciliation. Firmly building of national reconciliation in the State and tasks for regional development, emergence of economic infrastructures and raising of living standards are an essential prerequisite for establishing the democratic system.

(See page 15)
Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends opening ceremony of Heho Airport

YANGON, 12 Oct—A ceremony to open the Heho Airport in Heho, Shan State (South) was held at the airport this morning, with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Brig-Gen Mya Win of Kalaw Station, senior military officers and officials, Shan State level departmental officials, the Chairmen of Taunggyi District and Kalaw Township Peace and Development Councils and members, local authorities, the Managing Director of Asia World Co, the Project Manager and officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, members of the Working Committee for Women’s Affairs and the War Veterans Organization, the national race cultural troupes, guests and local people numbering over 9000.

In his address, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said that the government in cooperation with the people has been making relentless efforts for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation and for bringing about harmonious development across the nation.

In the process, the rural development projects, projects for development of border areas and national races and the 24 development zones have been laid down and are being implemented in the states and divisions.

Systematic measures are being taken for ensuring equitable development in all spheres and further improvement of socio-economic life of the people. That is why efforts are being made to ensure better transport, the prerequisite for improvement of socio-economic life of the people. With better transport, there have been frequent contacts among the national races, thereby contributing to flourishing of the spirit of national unity and Union Spirit.

Better transport plays a leading role in development of a nation or a region. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance, saying that communication is of paramount importance for economic development. The communication covers waterways, motor ways and airways as well as telegraphs communications. To ensure economic development, efforts are to be made for better transport.

Therefore, the government has been building roads, bridges, railroads and new airports and upgrading the old ones. In this context, priority is being given to development of air transport sector. Thus, the new airports were built and the old ones upgraded. At the same time, airport buildings, runways were upgraded. Facilities for air transport and air control system have been upgraded to the international level.

In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, the Mandalay International Airport which has the longest runway in Southeast Asia was upgraded in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. In the process, the 6000 feet long and 50 feet wide runway was upgraded into the 8500 feet long and 100 feet wide one. Thus, Fokker F-28 Jets could use only 6. The Fokker F-29 could now use 18 airports out of 26. Taunggyi and Panglong regions, the main regions in Shan State (South) have turned out to be development regions. The emergence of the newly upgraded Heho airport is a triumph for development of Shan State.

Under air transport development project, the Heho Airport and its runway were built. The airport has been equipped with modern facilities. There are now two gateways for the international airways as the Mandalay International Airport has emerged in addition to Yangon International Airport. This contributes to development of tourism industry in Myanmar.

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Next, the Minister for Transport made a speech. He said that under the guidance of the Head of State, the 6,000 feet long and 50 feet wide tarred runway has been upgraded to a 8,500 feet long and 100 feet wide nylon tarred one. And the 600’ x 300’ apron was also upgraded to a 720’ x 300’ one. The newly-constructed 300’ x 50’ airport building can accommodate 600 passengers simultaneously. Arrangements are being made for upgrading of the runway to a 10,000 feet long and 200 feet wide one.

In order to contribute towards the tourism industry, the Ministry of Transport has been implementing the projects for upgrading Magway, Pakokku and Kyaukhtu airports in Magway Division, NyaungU and Alla airports in Mandalay Division, Monywa and Bhamo airports in Sagaing Division, Heho, Lashio and Kengtung airports in Shan State, Bhamo airport in Kachin State, An airport in Rakhine State, Pathain airport in Ayeyawady Division, Myeik and Bokpyin airports in Tanintharyi Division and Yangon Interna-

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends opening ceremony of Heho Airport in Heho, Shan State (South). — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presses the button to unveil the stone inscription of Heho Airport in Heho, Shan State (South). — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and Managing Director U Tun Myint Naing formally open Heho Airport. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe addresses the inauguration of Heho Airport in Heho, Shan State (South). — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presses the button to unveil the stone inscription of Heho Airport in Heho, Shan State (South). — MNA

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Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presses the button to unveil the stone inscription of Heho Airport in Heho, Shan State (South). — MNA
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) will be 11,575 feet and can withstand 60 tons of loads. The construction project is targeted to complete in December 2004. The bridge is on Kawthoung-Myeik-Dawei-Mawlamyine-Yangon Union highway. It is the biggest one through which vehicles and trains could pass. On completion of the bridge, access to Taninthayi Division, Kayin State, Mon State and Bago Division will be easier.—PHOTO: MNA

The Zaikkaye Sluice Gate lies by the Zaikkaye canal near Aungkantha Village in Thaton Township in Mon State. It is of reinforced concrete type and has 21 gates each of which is 6 feet by 12 feet wide. The benefited area of the sluice gate is 20,000 acres. It is built with the aim of letting rain water flow out rapidly during the rainy season and supply water in summer.

PHOTO: MNA

No 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory of Myanma Tyre and Rubber Industries under the Ministry of Industry -2 is located six miles from Thaton, Mon State. Being surrounded by many rubber plantations, the factory gets raw materials with ease. Thanks to the factory there are job opportunities for over 1,000 people. It produces different kinds of tyres. The photo shows part of the production process at the factory. —PHOTO: HTWE KYI
China-invested explosives plant operational in Zambia

LUSAKA, 12 Oct.— A 7.6-million US-dollar industrial explosives plant with an annual production capacity of 6,000 tons went into commercial operation Thursday in Kitwe, a copper producing city in Zambia’s Copperbelt province.

The plant is a joint venture between the Beijing General Research Institute of Mining & Metallurgy (BGRIMM) and NFC Africa Mining Plc. (NFCA), holding a 70-per-cent and 30-per-cent stake, respectively.

The plant, officially known as BGRIMM Explosives (Zambia) Limited (BBSL), will mainly cater for the Chambrezi copper mine owned by NFCA, a Sino-Zambian joint venture. The Chambrezi mine, with an investment of 150 million dollars, is the biggest non-ferrous metal project invested by China in Africa.

It was officially inaugurated in July this year after three years of construction, with an annual production of 2.15 million tons of ores and copper concentrate containing 30,000 tons of copper.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Peng Keyu said China’s investment in Zambia has amounted to 270 million dollars, while still more and more Chinese enterprises are coming to invest in the southern African country.

On his part, Ronald Banda, Zambian Deputy Minister of Mines and Minerals Development, said the inauguration of the explosives plant demonstrated China’s commitment to further invest in Zambia’s copper mining. —MNA/China

HONG KONG, 12 Oct.— Passenger traffic at various control points during China’s National Day “golden week” holidays was smooth and orderly despite a substantial increase in the number of visitors from the Chinese Mainland, an official said here Friday.

A spokesman for the Immigration Department said that from September 30 to October 7, about 287,000 Mainland visitors entered Hong Kong, an increase of 31 per cent from the same period last year.

The majority of passengers were able to clear immigration within 30 minutes, he added.

During the holiday period, the total passengers throughput at land-boundary checkpoints was about 2.77 million, up by 9.3 per cent over 2.53 million recorded during the same period last year.

To cope with the large influx, the department redeployed 335 officers from other divisions to reinforce various control points. Moreover it formed a 50-strong Emergency Response Team, which was ready to handle any emergencies that might arise at the control points, said the spokesman.

In addition to staff reinforcement, the Immigration Department took a series of measures to enhance the handling capacity of the checkpoints.

These included suspension of leave, compulsory overtime, flexible deployment of staff and the use of innovative technology such as the introduction of the “Expedient Immigration Clearance System” to deal with the flood of passengers.

During the busiest hours, the number of departures was raised from 76 to 109, enabling 23,826 passengers being processed per hour, he added. —MNA/China

Prominent Chinese journalist Mu Qing dies

BEIJING, 12 Oct.— Mu Qing, China’s prominent journalist and former president of Xinhua news agency, died of illness at the age of 85 in Beijing early Saturday.

Mu, of Hui nationality and born in 1921, was a native of Qianxian County, central China’s Henan Province.

He joined the Eighth Route Army of China, a leading military force in fighting against Japanese aggression of China, in 1942 as a war correspondent.

Until the founding of New China in 1949, Mu had been engaged in war news coverage, including the reporting on the War of Liberation against the rule of Chiang Kai-shek.

Mu became a member of the Communist Party of China in 1939. He served as president of Xinhua news agency from 1982 to 1992, during which time Xinhua initially developed from a state news agency to a news agency of world level. —MNA/China
Singapore economy to register positive growth in third quarter

The manufacturing sector is estimated to have expanded by 2.5 per cent in the third quarter, with stronger electronics cluster supported by increased production of semiconductors and disk drives, it said.

Activity in the construction sector remained lackluster, which is estimated to have contracted by 9.5 per cent year-on-year in the third quarter, it said. The services-producing industries are estimated to have grown by 0.8 per cent, mainly on the strength of entrepôt trade and financial services, it added.

It is said in a Press release that the global economic recovery is gaining pace and an upturn in investment spending appears to be in progress. “Barring significant adverse developments, such as a second outbreak of SARS in Asia, Singapore’s economic growth momentum is expected to continue to improve within the current year,” it said.

The Singapore economy contracted by 1.3 per cent year-on-year in the first half of 2003. The ministry has earlier set its economic growth forecast for the year as a whole at 0.1 per cent.

MINA/Xinhua

Chinese, Irish Presidents vow to enhance bilateral ties

BEIJING, 12 Oct — Chinese President Hu Jintao and visiting Irish President Mary McAleese vowed Thursday to enhance bilateral ties in their official talks.

‘He made a four-point proposal for strengthening Sino-Irish relations:

— Enhance and develop political dialogue, maintain the high-level exchanges, expanding inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary communication, and actively developing political dialogue and consultations at various levels.

— Expand and deepen economic cooperation. China welcomes more Irish business people to invest in China and encourages Chinese enterprises to participate in infrastructure construction in Ireland.

— Strengthen scientific and technological and cultural and educational exchanges, make efforts to ensure the smooth recruitment of the joint fund for science and technology and the sound operation of a cultural festival in the other’s territory next year, and promote health and orderly development of educational exchanges and cooperation.

— Properly handle differences and enhance mutual understanding between the two countries so as to make Sino-Irish relations more stable and robust. They also exchanged views on the current international situation and examined the relations between countries of different social systems.

McAleese agreed to the proposal and said the Irish side is willing to work with the Chinese side for the promotion and expansion of bilateral relations.

The talks, Hu expressed appreciation of the Irish Government’s adherence to the one-China policy and its support of China’s reunification cause.

MINA/Xinhua

Gene scan tracks a bee as she grows up

WASHINGTON, 12 Oct — A honey bee turns on and off 40 per cent of her genes as she matures from being a “nurse” to a forager in her worker life, US researchers said on Thursday.

The findings suggest that genes are more closely related than commonly believed — that nature and nurture are closely combined, the researchers said.

“The changes are a result of growing up,” said science Robinson, a professor of entomology and director of the Neuroscience Programme at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who led the study. “About 40 per cent of the genes change as the bee grows up and changes from taking care of baby bees in the hive to graduating and becoming a forager.”

Robinson added in a telephone interview. “The changes are so consistent that a computer programme can look at the expression profiles and characterise the individual as a nurse bee or a forager.”

MINA/Reuters

WHO warns workforce crisis affects TB control

GENEVA, 12 Oct — The World Health Organisation (WHO) warned here on Friday that a growing “workforce crisis” is a serious obstacle to achieving targets for global tuberculosis (TB) control set for 2005 by WHO.

Faster and more effective recruitment and training of TB health workers are needed to ensure that vacancys in developing countries are quickly filled, said a report written by TB experts.

Poor pay and conditions, unhealthy and unsafe working conditions and HIV-related illness among staff are factors which the report said are restricting progress towards the goal of detecting 70 per cent of cases and curing 85 per cent of the people detected.

MINA/Xinhua

Study says uncircumcised men have higher HIV risk

LOS ANGELES, 12 Oct — Uncircumcised men are eight times as likely to be infected with HIV than circumcised men, according to a study of nearly 2,300 men in India released on Thursday.

A researcher at Baltimore’s Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine reported that the foreskin does not have the same protective layer as the outside, and is potentially more vulnerable to HIV.

In the United States, some two-thirds of male infants are circumcised annually. Worldwide, the rates vary widely, depending on culture and religion. In many countries, including India, circumcision is uncommon.

“It is important that we have measures to help curb the spread of AIDS, particularly in developing countries, where it continues to grow at an alarming rate,” Dr Steven Reynolds, post-doctoral fellow in the division of infectious diseases at Johns Hopkins and a study investigator said in a statement.

The research was part of a larger study investigating risk factors for HIV infection in India and focused on men attending one of three sexually transmitted disease clinics in Pune, India between 1993 and 2000.

Demographics, sexual risk behaviours — including having sex with a prostitute — and condom use were among the variables examined.

Johns Hopkins also studied the risk of other sexually transmitted diseases among circumcised and uncircumcised men. Although the incidence of diseases like syphilis, gonorrhoea and genital herpes was slightly higher among uncircumcised men, the difference was not statistically significant.

The World Health Organisation’s adherence to the one-China policy and its support of China’s reunification cause is also willing to work with the Chinese side for the promotion and expansion of bilateral relations.

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MINA/Xinhua
S P O R T S

England through to finals after 0-0 draw in Turkey

ISTANBUL, 12 Oct—David Beckham missed a first half penalty but England still secured their place in the Euro 2004 finals in Turkey on Saturday. England endured a controversy-filled run-up to the decider against the World Cup semifinalists but produced a disciplined performance to stifle Turkey who have still to score a goal against England in nine internationals.

England were rarely threatened and should have gone ahead after 37 minutes but Beckham skied his penalty high over the bar, slipping just as he approached the ball, after Steven Gerrard was fouled by Tugay Kerimoğlu.

Wayne Rooney and Paul Scholes also spurned excellent first half chances and Beckham had a late headed goal disallowed for offside as England battled for the point they needed to top the group.

Turkey went through to the play-offs. England were without any visiting support after a ruling to keep their fans away because of threatened crowd violence and they also lost their defender Rio Ferdinand who was pulled out after failing to undergo a drugs test.

Beckham pays tribute to “magnificent” England

“Just a wonderful, magnificent team really,” he said. “We did well against Turkey and they didn’t score anything. We have a great bunch of players and we just have to go on and improve because the fans deserve that.”

Flo goal wins Norway place in playoffs

OSLO, 12 Oct—Tore Andre Flo secured Norway a place in the Euro 2004 playoffs on Saturday by scoring the only goal in a 1-0 victory over Luxembourg, with the Norwegians also helped by Nordic neighbours Denmark.

Norway finished second in Group Two behind Denmark, who drew 1-1 in Bosnia to qualify automatically for the finals in Portugal. Norway would have finished third behind Bosnia and Denmark if the Bosnians had won.

“Thanks, Denmark!” the Internet version of the Norwegian national daily Dagsbladet said in a banner headline just after the match.

Flo scored in the 18th minute with a close-range shot after a pass from Harald Bratbak. Luxembourg finished bottom of the group with just one point.

Answer for yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

Answer for yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

England’s David Beckham, right, reacts after missing a penalty as Turkey’s Eren Belogolov jubilates during the Euro 2004 qualifier Group Seven game between Turkey and England in Istanbul on 10 November, 2003. — MNA/Reuters

Vittek double gives Slovakia 2-0 win over Liechtenstein

VARES (Liechtenstein), 12 Oct.—Slovakia completed their Euro 2004 qualifying campaign with a comfortable 2-0 victory over Liechtenstein on Saturday. Striker Robert Vittek, recalled to the starting line-up by coach Ladislav Jurkemik, struck either side of haltime at the Rheinpark Stadium. Slovakia, who were unable to qualify for next year’s finals, claimed their second away victory and finished third on 10 points behind Group Seven winners England and runners-up Turkey. Caretaker-manager Walter Hornmam’s Liechtenstein finished bottom of the group with just one point. — MNA/Reuters

France achieve perfect record with 3-0 win over Israel

PARIS, 12 Oct—Holders France achieved a perfect record in their Euro 2004 qualifying campaign with a 3-0 victory over Israel at the Stade de France on Saturday.

France, who had already qualified, have won all eight of their Group 1 games to pave their way to the defence of their title in next year’s championship in Portugal. Israel had already been eliminated before the kickoff.

The champions opened the scoring after nine minutes with a low shot from just inside the box by striker Thierry Henry. David Trezeguet then doubled the tally when he fired a powerful volley under Nir Davidovich’s bar in the 25th minutes.

Jean-Alain Boumsong wrapped up the win with a third two minutes before the break when he headed home a Zinedine Zidane free kick.

Israel had two good chances, but Idan Tal in the first half and Haim Revivo in the second were unable to convert.

MNA/Reuters
Roadmap, State’s own …

While projects were being laid down and implemented for border areas and national races development, the State also could endeavour to get national armed forces to return to the legal fold.

As a result, three national armed groups in Mon State have returned to the legal fold. And they are participating in the efforts for regional stability and development tasks. Owing to the full use of such natural resources as rubber plantations, agricultural farms, paddy fields and livestock and fisheries and people’s active participation in the development tasks, our Mon State will surely enjoy greater prosperity, peace and tranquility.

In presenting the development images of the state, she said that with the emergence of Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an), Donthami Bridge (Durin Jetty), Zathabyn Bridge (Gyaing) and Athtaran Bridge, every region is accessible with the result that socio-economic life of the state has developed further. Thanlwin Bridge, the longest and the most beautiful one in Myanmar, which had never been dreamed of before in the whole region.

As the highway from Putao, the northernmost part of Myanmar to Kawhoun, the southernmost part, and Myikyina-Dawei railroad are passing through the state, friendship between national brethren will be consolidated throughout the Union.

Depending on stability of state and community peace and tranquility, the National Convention is to be convened and basic principles are to be discussed for drafting the constitution in order to shape the future State into a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. She went on to say that reconvening of the National Convention comprising delegates from all strata would be a great achievement for the development of national politics. So, the entire mass of people are urged to lend themselves to the task in unity with the sense of Union Spirit.

In conclusion, she said the enthusiastically seconded the motion tabled by Daw Nwe Nwe Htay calling on the entire mass of people to actively participate in any sector for the successful implementation of the seven-point future policies and programmes of the State with full sense of Union Spirit.

As Lt-General Than Shwe cordially met with local farmers and urged them to cultivate quality strain paddy and make systematic arrangement for distribution of quality strain not only in Shan State (South) but also to Shan State (East).

Later, Lt-General Aung Htwe cordially met with local farmers and urged them to cultivate quality strain paddy with the systematic use of fertilizer and strive for the development of the agriculture sector.

In conclusion, he thanked the departmental personnel and local people for the collective effort for the upgrading tasks of the union highway and urged them to contribute towards serving the interests of the State and people. After wards, Lt-General Aung Htwe inspected the production of granite, construction works and upgrading tasks of Heho-Taunglelo road section.
Roadmap, State’s own policy to build up…

(from page 1)

He said that it is very heartening to know distinct and significant progress in respective sectors of the State, which the Prime Minister clarified in the first part.

During the period from 1988 to date, the government, in its drive to build up a peaceful, modern and developed nation, has tried its best to make great changes in the sectors of agriculture, meat and fish, forestry, industry, bridges and roads, rail transportation, air and water transportation, communication, electric power, education, technology, health and border areas development. One can vividly and clearly witness the images of these remarkable development of the nation, he remarked.

In the second part, the Prime Minister made clarifications on the efforts of the government to shape the future of the State after assessing the strong and weak points of political changes, progress and democratic system practised in the past.

And in the third part, the Prime Minister clarified the State’s future political development in all sectors when compared with other nations. That is why the Tatmadaw, the patriotic one, has been intensively and constantly undertaking the tasks for the emergence of a modern developed nation, he pointed out. In the process, the government enlisting the strength of the people made significant success based on patriotism, nationalistic spirit, national solidarity spirit and Union Spirit essential for perpetuation of the Union.

He said that indeed, the future plan is the State’s own policy to build up a modern developed nation. And it is also the one which can make effective contribution towards polarising of the traditions of the Union, uplift of the national prestige and integrity and improvement of national characters, he added.

He called on the entire people to be fully equipped with Union Spirit to actively and energetically participate in the tasks for successful implementation of the State’s seven future policies and programmes laid down by the National Union Lecturer of Botany Department of Mawlamyine University Daw Nwe Nwe Htay tabled the motion calling for “active participation of the entire national people to be fully equipped with Union Spirit”. She said that in the first part of the speech, the Prime Minister clarified all-round development in all sectors when compared with other nations.

The government adopted the market-oriented economic system that encourages the private sector in accord with the economic objectives while restoring peace and tranquillity and rebuilding the infrastructures which had fallen into ruin. At the same time, roads, bridges large and small, dams and reservoirs, universities and colleges, schools and hospitals, the prerequisites for national development, were built across the nation.

Means and ways were sought for boosting the pace of development for the entire national economy. There were 654 million baskets of paddy produced in 1988. There were 1,000 million baskets of paddy production in 2002-2003.

(See page 8)

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

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

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