Government’s seven stages of political policies and programmes constitute roadmap laid down in the interest of its citizens

Mass rally in support of Prime Minister’s clarification on the seven-point roadmap held in Hpa-an, Kayin State

YANGON, 24 Sept — A mass rally, organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association, was held in support of Prime Minister’s clarification on the seven policies and programmes of the State (roadmap) at Thiri ground in Hpa-an, Kayin State, yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were USDA central executive committee members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, members of USDAs in Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe, Papan, Thandawgyi, Kaw-karei, Kya-in-See-kyu, Myawady townships in Kayin State, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar National Working Committee for Women’s Affairs, nurses, Kayin State War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, faculties of Hpa-an Education College, invited guests, PaO, Mon, Kayin national races and local people totalling over 7,000 in the state.

Before the mass rally, No 1 column comprising members of non-governmental organizations, farmers, workers and local people totalling 1,750 led by Column Commander Executive of Hpa-an District USDA U Sa Shwe Zin Latt together with flag bearers and band troupe marched into the Thiri Ground and took their designated places systematically.

Similarly, No 2 column comprising members of non-governmental organizations, farmers, workers and local people totalling 1,750 led by Column Commander U Ko Ko Naing of Hpa-an Township Auxiliary Fire Brigade together with flag team and band troupe marched into the ground. Likewise, No 3 and No 4 columns comprising members of non-governmental organizations, farmers, workers and local people totalling 1,750 led by Column Commander of Hpa-an Township USDA U Saw Aye Lwin and Staff Officer of Hpa-an State Red Cross Society U Kun Kyaw Win respectively together with flag team and band troupe marched into the ground and took their designated places systematically.

At the rally, Chairman of Kayin Literature and Culture Propagation Organization U Saw Lun Shein presided over the mass rally together with Kayin State USDA Executive U Saw Myat Htun Win, Pro-Rector of Hpa-an University U Saw Han Shein, Principal of Hpa-an Education College Daw Nu Nu Yi and Chairman of Kayin State PaO Literature and Culture Organization U Kun Than Myint as members. Hpa-an Township USDA member Daw Hnin Thuzar and Executive of Hpa-an Township USDA Daw Tin Zar Min Naung of acted as masters of ceremonies.

On the occasion, the master of ceremonies declared that today’s mass rally was to hail and support the Prime Minister’s speech on the political roadmap of the State.

Next, U Saw Lun Shein made a speech on the occasion. He said: We are here to support the roadmap on the future policies and programmes of the State delivered by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 30 August, 2003. At a time when the country needs a roadmap suitable to the historical background of the nation, the customs and traditions of the people and the history of the country to take the democracy route, the Prime Minister, in accordance with the accord of the public, presented the roadmap.

The first part of the Prime Minister’s speech dealt with the measures taken by the Tatmadaw Government since its assumption of State duties in 1988, the second part touched on political developments and the third part clarified the process for building a modern and developed country in the future, in accordance with the historical background of the nation, the customs and traditions of the people and the prevailing political, economic and social conditions.

I would like to brief the first part of the Prime Minister’s speech for the public to know. Although Myanmar and its people have lived in peace through thick and thin, due to the incitement of destructive elements at home and abroad, there broke out an uprising in 1988 all over the country that put the country on the verge of disintegration. Whenever the country is in danger, the Tatmadaw
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends congratulations to Syrian Arab Republic

YANGON, 25 Sept — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Mohammed Naji Al-Otari on his appointment as the Prime Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic. — MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

He is presently serving as Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad. He holds a Master degree in English. Mr Chaudhry is married.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends congratulations to Syrian Arab Republic

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 25 September, 2003

President of the Republic of Indonesia Mr Ali Alatas left Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and

Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the Indonesian President being seen off by officials at the airport. — MNA

Indonesian Special Envoy concludes visit

Mr Alatas, Special Envoy of the Indonesian President, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister discussed the reports presented at the meeting and said that after seeking ways and means, systematic measures are to be taken for further development of the industry in the interest of the State.

Myanmar Gems Enterprise holds gem emporium in the months of March and October yearly and invites gem merchants at home and abroad to sell gems through tender and competitive bidding systems.

Mid-year Gems Emporium-2002 was held from 26 October to 2 November and the emporium fetched US$ 30.7 million.

Success has been achieved in gem industry due to giving permission to Myanmar citizens to mine gems under the Myanmar Gem Law, allowing them to sell gems abroad according to law, assistance rendered by local authorities in gem mining and regional stability.

Moreover, high-quality gems have been sold after fixing floor-price by officials and entrepreneurs. Myanmar embassies abroad and Central Government’s offices have rendered necessary assistance to foreign gem merchants for the latter’s convenience.

For national interests, we would like to urge officials concerned to make efforts for flourishing of gem market in the country and to seek ways and means for ensuring the gem industry to contribute much towards national development.

Myanmar is endowed with abundant water and land resources. With the combination of human resource and technology, these natural resources can be tapped for national development.

Promoting of productivity and producing of value-added natural resources play a key role in rapid development of national economy.

Out of the natural resources, the mining sector is vital for development of the State’s economy. A meeting to coordinate work for development of Myanmar gems industry was held at the Ministry of Mines on 19 September, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the Indonesian President

GEM industry to contribute towards national economy

Myanmar is one of the few countries to possess abundant natural gem stone resources. It is endowed with gems of different kinds and various shapes and sizes. The gem industry in Myanmar is expanding, with many gem merchants visiting the country every year.

Gem mining is mainly carried out by individuals and private businesses. However, the government has taken measures to regulate the gem mining industry and ensure that it contributes to the country’s economic development.

Gem mining in Myanmar is predominantly focused on the production of jade, rubies, and sapphires. These gems are highly valued in the international market, and Myanmar is a major producer of these minerals.

The gem industry in Myanmar plays a significant role in the country’s economy, and there is potential for further development.

The government has established the Myanmar Gems Enterprise (MGE) to regulate the gem mining and gem trade in the country. The MGE is responsible for ensuring the quality of gems produced and for regulating the prices of gems.

Gems are exported from Myanmar to many countries around the world, and the gem industry is a major source of foreign exchange for the country.

The Myanmar government has taken steps to promote the gem industry and to ensure that it contributes to the country’s economic development. The government has established the Myanmar Gems Enterprise (MGE) to regulate the gem mining and gem trade in the country. The MGE is responsible for ensuring the quality of gems produced and for regulating the prices of gems.

Gems are exported from Myanmar to many countries around the world, and the gem industry is a major source of foreign exchange for the country.

The government has taken steps to promote the gem industry and to ensure that it contributes to the country’s economic development. The government has established the Myanmar Gems Enterprise (MGE) to regulate the gem mining and gem trade in the country. The MGE is responsible for ensuring the quality of gems produced and for regulating the prices of gems.

Gems are exported from Myanmar to many countries around the world, and the gem industry is a major source of foreign exchange for the country.
Annan criticizes Bush’s pre-emptive attack on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 23 Sept— The United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan delivered an address to the General Assembly on Tuesday and the following are excerpts from his address.

He said: “The last twelve months have been very painful for those of us who believe in collective answers to our common problems and dangers. In many parts of the world, terrorism has once again brought death and suffering to innocent people.

“In the Middle East, and in certain parts of Africa, violence has continued to escalate. And barely one month ago, in Baghdad, the United Nations itself suffered a brutal and deliberate assault, in which the international community lost some of its most talented servants. Yesterday it was attacked again. Another major disaster was averted only by the prompt action of the Iraqi police, one of whom paid with his life.

“Excellencies, you are the United Nations. The staff who were killed and injured in the attack on our Baghdad headquarters were your staff. You had given them a mandate to assist the suffering Iraqi people, and to help Iraq recover their sovereignty.

Security of UN staff

“In future, not only in Iraq but wherever the United Nations is engaged, we must take more effective measures to protect the security of our staff. I count on your full support – legal, political and financial.”

He added: “All of us know there are new threats that must be faced – or, perhaps, old threats in new and dangerous combinations: new forms of terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

“But, while some consider these threats as self-evidently the main challenge to world peace and security, others feel more immediately menaced by small arms employed in civil conflict, or by so-called ‘soft threats’ such as the persistence of extreme poverty, the disparity of income between and within societies, and the spread of infectious diseases, or climate change and environmental degradation.

Threats and challenges

“In truth, we do not have to choose. The United Nations must confront all these threats and challenges – new and old, ‘hard’ and ‘soft’. It must be fully engaged in the struggle for development and poverty eradication, starting with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; in the common struggle to protect our common environment; and in the struggle for human rights, democracy and good governance.

“In fact, all these struggles are linked. We now see, with chilling clarity, that a world where many millions of people endure brutal oppression and extreme misery will never be fully secure, even for its most privileged inhabitants.

“Yet the ‘hard’ threats, such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, are real, and cannot be ignored.

“Terrorism is not a problem only for rich countries. Ask the people of Bali, or Bombay, Nairobi, or Casablanca.

“Weapons of mass destruction do not threaten only the western or northern world. Ask the people of Iran, or of Halabja in Iraq.

“Article 51 of the Charter prescribes that all States, if attacked, retain the inherent right of self-defence. But until now it has been understood that when States go beyond that, and decide to use force to deal with broader threats to international peace and security, they need the unique legitimacy provided by the United Nations.

“Now, some say this understanding is no longer tenable, since an ‘armed attack’ with weapons of mass destruction could be launched at any time, without warning, or by a clandestine group.

Argument

“Rather than wait for that to happen, they argue, States have the right and obligation to use force pre-emptively, even on the territory of other States, and even while weapons systems that might be used to attack them are still being developed.

“According to this argument, States are not obliged to wait until there is agreement in the Security Council. Instead, they reserve the right to act unilaterally, or in ad hoc coalitions.

“This logic represents a fundamental challenge to the principles on which, however imperfectly, world peace and stability have rested for the last fifty-eight years.

“My concern is that, if we were to be adopted, it could set precedents that resulted in a proliferation of the unilateral and lawless use of force, with or without justification.”

Only one world to live in

“At that time, a group of far-sighted leaders, led and inspired by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, were determined to make the second half of the twentieth century different from the first half. They saw that the human race had only one world to live in, and that unless it managed its affairs prudently, all human beings may perish.

“So they drew up rules to govern international behaviour, and founded a network of institutions, with the United Nations at its centre, in which the peoples of the world could work together for the common good.

“Now we must decide whether it is possible to continue on the basis agreed then, or whether radical changes are needed.

“And we must not shy away from questions about the adequacy, and effectiveness, of the rules and instruments at our disposal.

“Among those instruments, none is more important than the Security Council itself.

“The Council needs to consider how it will deal with the possibility that individual States may use force ‘pre-emptively’ against perceived threats.

“Its members may need to begin a discussion on the criteria for an early authorisation of coercive measures to address certain types of threats – for instance, terrorist groups armed with weapons of mass destruction.

“As for the composition of the Council, that has been on the agenda of this Assembly for over a decade. Virtually all Member States agree that the Council should be enlarged, but there is no agreement on the details.

“No excuse for failure

“I respectfully suggest to you, Excellencies, that in the eyes of your peoples the difficulty of reaching agreement does not excuse your failure to do so. If you want the Council’s decisions to command greater respect, particularly in the developing world, you need to address the issue of its composition with greater urgency.

“But the Security Council is not the only institution that needs strengthening. As you know, I am doing my best to make the Secretariat more effective – and I look to this Assembly to support my efforts.

“In my report I also suggested that this Assembly itself needs to be strengthened, and that the role of the Economic and Social Council – and the role of the United Nations as a whole in economic and social affairs, including its relationship to the Bretton Woods institutions – needs to be re-thought and rejuvenated.

“I even suggested that the role of the Trusteeship Council could be reviewed, in light of new kinds of responsibility that you have given to the United Nations in recent years.

Time is ripe

“In short, Excellencies, I believe the time is ripe for a hard look at fundamental policy issues, and at the structural changes that may be needed in order to strengthen them.

“History is a harsh judge: it will not forgive us if we let this moment pass.

“For my part, I intend to establish a High-Level Panel of eminent personalities, to which I will assign four tasks:

“First, to examine the current challenges to peace and security;

“Second, to consider the contribution which collective action can make in addressing these challenges;

“Third, to view the functioning of the major organs of the United Nations and the relationship between them, and

“Fourth, to recommend ways of strengthening the United Nations, through reform of its institutions and processes.

“The Panel will focus primarily on threats to peace and security. But it will also need to examine other global challenges, in so far as these may influence or connect with those threats.

Recommendations

“I will ask the Panel to report back to me before the beginning of the next session of this General Assembly, so that I can make recommendations to you at that session. But only you can take the firm and clear decisions that will be needed.

“Those decisions might include far-reaching institutional reforms. Indeed, I hope they will.

“But institutional reforms alone will not suffice. Even the most perfect instrument will fail, unless people put it to good use.

“The United Nations is by no means a perfect instrument, but it is a precious one. I urge you to seek agreement on ways of improving it, but above all of using it as its founders intended – to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, to reestablish the basic conditions for justice and the rule of law, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

“In conclusion, he said: “The world may have changed, Excellencies, but those aims are as valid and urgent as ever. We must keep them firmly in our sights.” — Internet
The United States has said women should play a big role in rebuilding Iraq. For many women, they do not want to take the risk. They have seen what happened to Akila al-Hashemi, Heyzer said. Hashemi, one of three women on the Iraqi Governing Council, was critically wounded in an attack in Baghdad last Saturday.

“We need to address this culture of fear and the culture of terrorism as until you do that you are not going to have people (women) participating,” Heyzer said at a lunch to discuss the role of women in conflict zones.

The United States has said women should play a big role in rebuilding Iraq but Heyzer, whose organization promotes women’s rights and tries to improve the lot of women in developing countries, said many women saw the risk as being too high.

“If they want to engage they feel they can’t at the moment,” she said.

In many areas, Iraqi women were too afraid to take their children to school for fear of them being attacked and some were being forced by male relatives to wear veils as a means of protection.

“They are trying to get on with everyday life ... but life is, in that sense, worse for Iraqi women even though there are possibilities of greater opportunities as they move toward democracy,” she told Reuters.

Heyzer said there was a contest between moderates and extremists to win over women in Iraq and the international community needed to do more to support women, who were among the most educated in the Middle East.

“There was a lot of hope that the lives (of women) would improve ... but we have a situation where a lot of extremists have come into the country and women do not want to live under such extremism.”

Before the bombing of the UN’s headquarters in Baghdad last month, Heyzer said the United Nations had mobilized about 450 women for a national symposium.

But after the bombing, she said this meeting was cancelled and those women were now too frightened to become openly involved in such a process. — Internet

A US soldier taking pictures at the scene of the incident said he had been told a foot patrol had come under fire from the building.

“A gunship was called in which then put fire into the building,” he said. “No fire was then received from here.”

A US military spokeswoman in Baghdad said she could confirm at least one “enemy fighter” had died. But local people in the village of Sajur, north of Falluja, said three people had been killed and that all of them were farmers, not guerrillas.

“A family was asleep in the house, which is nowhere near any base or any weapons,” declared Sami Azziz, who said his brother was among those killed.

Falluja lies in the volatile “Sunni triangle” north and west of Baghdad where Sunni Muslims predominate. The region is a bastion of support for ousted leader Saddam Hussein, himself a Sunni.

A US military spokesman said several people in the area have frequently argued over whether civilians or guerrillas have been the victims of violence in recent months. Around 1,000 people attended the funeral of those killed in Tuesday’s attack, chanting slogans such as “God is great, America is the enemy of God.”

— Specialist Nicole Thompson, a spokeswoman for US forces in Baghdad said “unknown forces” had attacked 82nd Airborne Division troops about 2 am (2200 GMT Monday).

“I can confirm at least one enemy dead,” Thompson said. She had no information on other casualties. — MNA/Reuters

China proposes free trade zone with Russia, four Asian nations

BEIJING, 24 Sept—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao Tuesday proposed setting up a Free Trade Zone within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as the prime minister of the member-nations signed six documents to further enhance their relations.

The FTZ proposal is one of three measures Wen suggested to boost regional economic cooperation during his speech while chairing the second prime ministerial consultation among the SCO members here. At the end of the one-day meeting, the prime ministers of the SCO member-nations signed six documents to further enhance their relations, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The six documents cover multi-lateral economic and trade cooperation among members, SCO budget for the year 2004, rules and regulations on salary guarantee and allowances for staff members of the SCO permanent body, local anti-terrorism institution and personnel arrangement, technical initiation of the SCO permanent body, and a joint consultation of the Consultative Committee.

In his speech, Wen suggested to reduce and eliminate non-tariff barriers like those in Customs service, quarantine standards and transportation within the SCO region. He also suggested setting up of certain large projects on economic and technological cooperation and give priority to those in transportation, energy, telecommunication, agriculture, home appliances, light industry and textiles. — MNA/FTZ
US UNDER INTENSIFIED IRAQ RESISTANCE

Iraqis arrested by US army soldiers sit on the ground near the flashpoint town of Falluja, west of Baghdad on 23 September, 2003. US forces in Iraq killed three people on Tuesday in a raid in the early hours in a village near Falluja, locals and hospital officials said. — INTERNET

Two US soldiers have been killed and 13 wounded in a mortar attack on a US-run prison west of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, a military spokeswoman says. Video grab image shot with a nightscope shows US soldiers walking down a Tikrit street in this file photo taken earlier this month. — INTERNET

US soldiers prepare to unload security blocks outside the UN headquarters in Baghdad. The second suicide attack on the UN headquarters in Iraq has forced the world body to review its operations. — INTERNET

Iraqis remove a road barrier blocking the road to a bridge, not shown, after soldiers disarmed an explosive device found on the bridge just south of Baghdad, Iraq Tuesday, on 23 Sept, 2003. — INTERNET

US troops prepare to escort a convoy of oil tankers in northern Iraq. Several OPEC oil ministers were due in Vienna ahead of a meeting of the cartel that will include an Iraqi delegation for the first time since the US-led war against Saddam Hussein. — INTERNET

Jouri Mohammed, sister of Ali Khalaf Mohammed, grieves over her brother’s death next to a missile crater in the yard of their farm after a US aircraft fired six missiles in al-Sajr, Iraq, 9 miles (15 kms) north of Fallujah, Tuesday on 23 Sept, 2003 killing three men and wounding three others, police and villagers said. The US military said its forces were pursuing guerrillas who attacked soldiers and that it knew of only one person killed. — INTERNET
Under fire at UN, Bush seeks aid for Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Sept — US President George W Bush came under fire for bypassing the United Nations to invade Iraq as he tried to convince the world on Tuesday to share the burden of post-war occupation and reconstruction.

Bush faced stiff criticism from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and French President Jacques Chirac in the 191-member General Assembly a year after telling the world body it risked becoming irrelevant if it did not enforce its resolutions on Saddam Hussein.

But the President, whose approval ratings have slumped partly due to the soaring costs of the Iraqi occupation, offered no apology for the chaotic security situation or the failure to find weapons of mass destruction, given as the main reason for the war.

Instead, he urged countries to put differences behind them and offer support, while resisting calls for an early transfer of sovereignty to an Iraqi authority.

“My concern is that, if it were to be adopted, it could set precedents that resulted in a proliferation of the unilateral and lawless use of force, with or without credible justification,” Annan warned.

Iraq Council member likely to survive attack

BAHRAIN, 24 Sept — A member of Iraq’s Governing Council wounded in an assassination attempt at the weekend looks likely to survive, a spokesman for the council’s chairperson said on Tuesday.

“Praise God she has survived,” Entifadh Qanbar, spokesman for Ahmad Chalabi, told a news conference.

Gunmen opened fire on Akila al-Hashemi’s car on Saturday, shooting her in the abdomen and also wounding her driver and two bodyguards.

She is one of three women on Iraq’s US-appointed Governing Council, and had been due to attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York which begins on Tuesday.

Some Iraqis have denounced the Governing Council for cooperating with Iraq’s US-led administration. Last month, the head of a Shia Muslim party represented on the Council, Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim, was killed in a car bomb attack in the holy city of Najaf.

“We believe this assassination attempt was committed by followers of Saddam (Hussein) and Baathists who are desperate, who are trying to create an atmosphere of fear among the Iraqi people,” Qanbar said.

Democrats say Iraq costs could top $400 billion

WASHINGTON, 24 Sept— Occupying and rebuilding Iraq could cost American taxpayers $179 billion under even a best-case scenario and that could rise to more than $400 billion if US troops have to stay in the country for years to come, Democratic budget analysts forecast on Tuesday.

The report, by the Democratic staff of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, comes as Congress debates President Bush request for another $87 billion to fund military operations and reconstruction in Iraq.

With lawmakers eager to show their support for US troops under fire in Iraq, the package is expected to win relatively swift approval, even though it will push up an already-record federal budget deficit over $509 billion next year.

But Democrats have also seized on the chance to contrast the rising cost of US commitments abroad with Bush’s insistence on holding down spending for domestic priorities like health care, education and homeland security.

“It’s easy to say, as the president said: ‘We’ll spend whatever it takes.’ But it is fair to ask how much that is likely to be,” said South Carolina Rep John Spratt, the Budget Committee’s top Democrat.

“We need at a minimum to recognize the real costs of our operations in Iraq so the president and the Congress can work out budgets that accommodate that cost,” he said.

Including the latest funding request, the conflict in Iraq would cost $179 billion even if no new money is needed after the end of 2004, the report estimates. But if US troops remain in the country for a longer period, even at steadily declining levels, that could mount substantially.

The total cost of occupation and reconstruction could rise to $238 billion by 2006, $309 billion by 2008 and $418 billion by 2010, the report says.

The estimates all include the full 10-year cost of increased interest payments on a higher national debt.

With some polls showing public unease over the scale of the possible US commitment to a postwar Iraq, administration officials have sought to link the effort to the marshalling plan that created modern Europe from the rubble of World War II.

Bush on Tuesday went to the United Nations to try to convince it to share some of the burden, though it remains unclear how much other countries will be willing to contribute to deal with the aftermath of a war that many of them opposed.—Internet

Indian Govt to hand over “Agni” missiles to Army

NEW DELHI, 24 Sept — As a step towards immediate operational deployment of short and medium range nuclear capable Agni missiles, Indian Government has decided to hand them over to Army, which is raising two missile groups for the purpose.

“The Government has cleared raising of these two Agni specific groups some time ago,” a Defence Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday adding that the plans were currently under implementation.

Though financial sanction is yet to come through, the Army Headquarters has already earmarked manpower for raising two rocket groups to be called 334 Missile Group, which would be armed with 700-kilometre short range Agni I and 335 Missile Group, which would field the 1,500-kilometre Agni II missiles, officials said.

Though officials were not forthcoming, sources said that the decision to hand over the Agni series of missiles to Army had been taken as the newly-created Strategic Forces Command is yet to find its feet.

With Government financial sanction yet to come, the Strategic Forces Command is still to be located.

The actual raising of these new units, for which Army has already earmarked manpower, is expected to begin near Secunderabad, in southern state of Andhra Pradesh where Bharat Dynamics, the manufacturer of these missiles, is located.

The Government has also cleared the raising of two new Prithvi groups for the Army, which would be named 444 and 555 missile groups, Army already has two Prithvi missile groups — 222 and 333 already deployed.
The border area (Wa region)

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

The development task conducted in the Wa region during the 14-year period from 1989 to 2003 included 406 miles of earth roads, over 303 miles of gravel roads, over 31 miles of tarred roads, in addition to maintaining and repairing the existing over 952 miles of roads. Six major bridges including the Takaw-et and 42 small bridges were built in the region. Hospitals were built in Pansan, Nantip, Mongmaw, Weinkaung and Nantip at the end of the year. Women volunteers were also included in the groups. Some of the women staff who had volunteered to work in the four regions had retired from service at present. Of them, Dwe Cho Cho, Dwe Yin Yin Sein, Dwe Khin Nila Win and Dwe Baby San are serving as staff officers at the head office.

Two years since before I joined the Working Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, groups were carrying out the development task in the four regions with might and main in turn. They were giving priority to building schools, hospitals and dispensaries, which were temporarily opened at certain places, and roads. It was not so easy for the group members to conduct the development task in the Wa region then. They had to make bricks, and find sand, timber and water in different places. They faced many difficulties in finding the materials because of poor transport. Sometimes, roads were eroded during construction. Some drivers of the trucks carrying materials for the regions died because of accidents, and some construction workers also died of malaria, as they had to work under heavy rains and wind. The group members had to distribute rice, cloths and other materials including animal farms, communication centres are in operation in the area. The region now has important places. The entire Wa region is accessible now, as the Wa people have also built regional roads, in addition to the main roads built by the Government.

The alternative plantation fields in Loihsanhsaw and Mongyun regions and Minezine farm are gaining success. The Lonhtan mine is contributing towards the region’s economy as well as generating job opportunities for local people.

(Continued from yesterday)

When I was transferred to Yangon, it seemed that my relationship with the Wa people had ended. But it was wrong. At that time, transport in Wa region might be the poorest to conduct the region development task. Because of the difficulties, there were many limits in the transport sector in the region. The task force for the regional development plan had to be divided into four groups. They were: one group in Pansan, one in Mongmaw, one in Weinkaung, and one in Nantip. Although the development programme included Naphan region, it could not be initiated because of the poor transport. Soon after the region had been restored in the region, the respective tactical command commanders had to supervise the border area development task. Staff from the Head Office started to arrive at Pansan region in the early part of 1993. Groups were formed to enter Pansan, Mongmaw, Weinkaung and Nantip at the end of the year. Women volunteers were also included in the groups. Some of the women staff who had volunteered to work in the four regions had retired from service at present. Of them, Dwe Cho Cho, Dwe Yin Yin Sein, Dwe Khin Nila Win and Dwe Baby San are serving as staff officers at the head office.

Two years since before I joined the Working Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races, groups were carrying out the development task in the four regions with might and main in turn. They were giving priority to building schools, hospitals and dispensaries, which were temporarily opened at certain places, and roads. It was not so easy for the group members to conduct the development task in the Wa region then. They had to make bricks, and find sand, timber and water in different places. They faced many difficulties in finding the materials because of poor transport. Sometimes, roads were eroded during construction. Some drivers of the trucks carrying materials for the regions died because of accidents, and some construction workers also died of malaria, as they had to work under heavy rains and wind. The group members had to distribute rice, cloths and other materials including animal farms, communication centres are in operation in the area. The region now has important places. The entire Wa region is accessible now, as the Wa people have also built regional roads, in addition to the main roads built by the Government.

The alternative plantation fields in Loihsanhsaw and Mongyun regions and Minezine farm are gaining success. The Lonhtan mine is contributing towards the region’s economy as well as generating job opportunities for local people.

(Continued)

(Translation: TMT)


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

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 can 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
Government’s seven…

(From page 16)

sector in implementing the national economic policy applicable to the public. Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of national economic plans.

While repairing the factories and economic infrastructures which were destroyed owing to chaotic situation in 1988, the Government built roads, river-crossing bridges, dams, universities, colleges and hospitals nationwide.

The present leadership, who shoulder the responsibilities of the State as historical duties, are making efforts day on, day out to overcome various obstacles enduring the hardships encountered. As a result, the GDP of the State rose to K 50,260 million in the 1990-91 fiscal year from K 47,000 million in the 1988-89 fiscal year in such short a time.

Likewise, the average annual GDP growth in the 1989-90 to 1991-92 fiscal years and the 1992-93 to 1995-96 fiscal years was 5%, 7%, 8% and 10% respectively. At present, the GDP growth of the 2002-03 fiscal year stood at 11.1% while the per capita GDP reached K 105,940 at the end of the 2002-03 fiscal year.

After reforming economic systems, the Government speeded up the tasks for construction of new irrigation facilities, roads and bridges, reclamation of farmland, export and import in industries. At the time of present Government, job opportunities were created for some 10 million unemployed persons. Therefore, the increase in the strength of labours from 19 million in 1988 to 29 million now made it clear that the living standard of the public is on the rise.

As for the agricultural sector, the amount of paddy output was only 654 baskets per annum in 1988 when the Government started assuming the responsibilities of the State. With a view to providing the growing population with sufficient rice, the Government has set target to produce 1,000 million baskets of paddy every year. With this end in view, not only monsoon paddy but also summer paddy are cultivated extensively. More than 800 million baskets of paddy were obtained in 1998.

Nowadays, the Government is giving priority to agriculture, and the people are also lending themselves actively in this endeavour. Therefore, the set target to obtain 1,000 million baskets per year has been met since the 2000-01 fiscal year.

Water resources are of the essence in the agricultural sector. As part of fulfilling these requirements, the present Government has built more than 150 dams in a span of 14 years since 1988.

Meanwhile, there were altogether 91 irrigation facilities during the period from the reign of King Anawrahta in 1044 to 1988. Moreover, 260 river water pumping projects have been implemented along Chindwin, Ayeyawady, Sittoung and Thanlwin rivers, and they are now benefiting over 2 million acres of cultivable land.

In doing so, the Government has spent a huge sum of foreign currency and over K 6,349.4 billion on the construction of these irrigation facilities. Moreover, other bridges, and three Thanlwin river crossing bridges.

Another 35 bridges are under construction, including Thanlwin bridge (Mawlamyine), which will be the longest one in Myanmar, and the Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon), and other 23 bridges under planning stage.

In the rail transportation sector, new railroads are being constructed while efforts are under way to promote water transport and air transport sectors. In construction of airports, there existed previously only six airports F.28 jet craft could land on. But now, the number of major airports have stood at 18.

In the communication sector, application of modern communication facilities capable of linking not only some rural areas with urban areas as well as worldwide are now in use.

In the electrical power sector, the use of electricity now has risen to 5,064 million unit from 2,226 million unit in 1988. To produce more electricity, a total of 28 hydel power stations have been established in a span of 14 years.
Government’s seven...

(from page 8)

power projects and six gas-fired power stations were constructed at the time of the present Government.

For the education sector, there were only 32 universities and colleges before 1988. However, there are now 154 universities, degree colleges and colleges. Technological colleges were also extended to promote human resources. Now, four technological universities, two universities of computer study, one Myanmar Aerospace and Engineering University, 26 government technological colleges and 24 government computer colleges, and nine government technical sciences have been opened.

As regards the education sector, the high standard of education and health of the citizens cited by the words of the Prime Minister is required for national development. There were altogether 617 hospitals in 1988 and the number of which now rose to 757 in 2003. Similarly, 84 regional dispensaries and 1,141 rural health centres have been opened nationwide. In the first part and second part of his speech, the Prime Minister highlighted the achievements in economic, political and social sectors in 2003 in comparison with the political, economic and social instability in 1988.

In the third part of the Prime Minister’s speech, it is stressed that the seven future policies and programmes of the State are the correct road map most essential for Myanmar. The constitution which will protect the rights of the entire mass of nationalities is a must for every single nation desirous of shaping genuine democracy. And a basic law that is accepted by the majority has to be taken step by step for the holding of fair and free elections, the holding of meetings with representatives, and the implementation of nation-building tasks by the leadership, government and authoritative bodies.

In marching towards a disciplined, modern, developed, new democracy, the ongoing development activities cannot be left out. Special care must be taken for smooth and delicate transformation of the nation into the genuine democracy which has everything in conformity with the national characteristics. It is believed that the seven-phase future policies and programmes of the State are the sure way leading to a genuine democratic nation.

Junior Assistant Teacher Daw Khin Mar Lwin seconded the motion tabled by U Thein Kyi, saying it was heartening to hear further clarifications on the roadmap section-wise made by the U Thein Kyi.

She said that in his speech, the Prime Minister briefly clarified progress in economy, social affairs and political sectors during the period from the Tatmadaw government assumed duties to date. She added that she would like to present today’s all-round development of Kayin State.

In the past, there were conflicts in Kayin State due to misunderstanding among the national brethren. But, the government having great patience and genuine goodwill managed to organize solidarity among the national brethren and restore peace. They took part in the regional development tasks in cooperation with the government. As a result, the entire Kayin State expect some far-flung areas has enjoyed fruitful results of tranquility and development. Now, development projects are being implemented for development of urban and rural areas. The five rural development tasks are being undertaken with added momentum in rural areas. In Kayin State, the government has been realizing river water pumping projects and highway cultivation projects.

Some distinct construction projects in the transport sector in Kayin State are construction of Hpa-an-Kawkyaik-Zarthabyin-Mawlamyine road, Eindu-Zarthabyin road, Kya-in-Seikkyi-Chaungnhakha road, Hpa-an-Myawady gravel road, Hpa-an-Shwegon-Myainggyingtat road, Myainggalay-Kamamaung gravel road and Kamamaung-Papan gravel road Being endowed with bridges such as Thanbyin River bridge, Gyanaing-Zarthabyin bridge, Hpa-an-Gyanaing bridge and Dawlan.

Myanmar. The constitution is completed after seeking the public approval, measures are to be taken step by step for the constitution acceptable to the majority has to be taken phase by phase for the creation of genuine and discipline-flourishing democracy. In doing so, detailed discussions will be needed for policies to be laid down by the National Convention. And then, a blueprint to the constitution acceptable to the nationalities are to be drawn and announced to the nation, and a public opinion poll should also be conducted for approval.

When the drawing of the constitution is completed after seeking the public approval, measures are to be taken step by step for the constitution acceptable to the majority has to be taken phase by phase for the creation of genuine and discipline-flourishing democracy. In doing so, detailed discussions will be needed for policies to be laid down by the National Convention. And then, a blueprint to the constitution acceptable to the nationalities are to be drawn and announced to the nation, and a public opinion poll should also be conducted for approval.

When the drawing of the constitution is completed after seeking the public approval, measures are to be taken step by step for the holding of fair and free elections, the holding of meetings with representatives, and the implementation of nation-building tasks by the leadership, government and authoritative bodies.

In marching towards a disciplined, modern, developed, new democracy, the ongoing development activities cannot be left out. Special care must be taken for smooth and delicate transformation of the nation into the genuine democracy which has everything in conformity with the national characteristics. It is believed that the seven-phase future policies and programmes of the State are the sure way leading to a genuine democratic nation.

Junior Assistant Teacher Daw Khin Mar Lwin seconded the motion tabled by U Thein Kyi, saying it was heartening to hear further clarifications on the roadmap section-wise made by the U Thein Kyi.

She said that in his speech, the Prime Minister briefly clarified progress in economy, social affairs and political sectors during the period from the Tatmadaw government assumed duties to date. She added that she would like to present today’s all-round development of Kayin State.

In the past, there were conflicts in Kayin State due to misunderstanding among the national brethren. But, the government having great patience and genuine goodwill managed to organize solidarity among the national brethren and restore peace. They took part in the regional development tasks in cooperation with the government. As a result, the entire Kayin State expect some far-flung areas has enjoyed fruitful results of tranquility and development. Now, development projects are being implemented for development of urban and rural areas. The five rural development tasks are being undertaken with added momentum in rural areas. In Kayin State, the government has been realizing river water pumping projects and highway cultivation projects.

Some distinct construction projects in the transport sector in Kayin State are construction of Hpa-an-Kawkyaik-Zarthabyin-Mawlamyine road, Eindu-Zarthabyin road, Kya-in-Seikkyi-Chaungnhakha road, Hpa-an-Myawady gravel road, Hpa-an-Shwegon-Myainggyingtat road, Myainggalay-Kamamaung gravel road and Kamamaung-Papan gravel road Being endowed with bridges such as Thanbyin River bridge, Gyanaing-Zarthabyin bridge, Hpa-an-Gyanaing bridge and Dawlan.

In the third part of the Prime Minister’s speech, it is stressed that the seven future policies and programmes of the State are the correct road map most essential for Myanmar. The constitution which will protect the rights of the entire mass of nationalities is a must for every single nation desirous of shaping genuine democracy. And a basic law that is accepted by the majority has to be drawn up through the coordination with the public. To draw the constitution, it will by no means be possible without holding the National Convention which fell into abeyance due to a certain reason in 1996. This being so, it is essential to hold the National Convention as the first phase. In the national convention, steps are to be taken phase by phase for the creation of genuine and discipline-flourishing democracy. In doing so, detailed discussions will be needed for policies to be laid down by the National Convention. And then, a blueprint to the constitution acceptable to the nationalities are to be drawn and announced to the nation, and a public opinion poll should also be conducted for approval.

When the drawing of the constitution is completed after seeking the public approval, measures are to be taken step by step for the holding of fair and free elections, the holding of meetings with representatives, and the implementation of nation-building tasks by the leadership, government and authoritative bodies.

In marching towards a disciplined, modern, developed, new democracy, the ongoing development activities cannot be left out. Special care must be taken for smooth and delicate transformation of the nation into the genuine democracy which has everything in conformity with the national characteristics. It is believed that the seven-phase future policies and programmes of the State are the sure way leading to a genuine democratic nation.

Junior Assistant Teacher Daw Khin Mar Lwin seconded the motion tabled by U Thein Kyi, saying it was heartening to hear further clarifications on the roadmap section-wise made by the U Thein Kyi.

She said that in his speech, the Prime Minister briefly clarified progress in economy, social affairs and political sectors during the period from the Tatmadaw government assumed duties to date. She added that she would like to present today’s all-round development of Kayin State.

In the past, there were conflicts in Kayin State due to misunderstanding among the national brethren. But, the government having great patience and genuine goodwill managed to organize solidarity among the national brethren and restore peace. They took part in the regional development tasks in cooperation with the government. As a result, the entire Kayin State expect some far-flung areas has enjoyed fruitful results of tranquility and development. Now, development projects are being implemented for development of urban and rural areas. The five rural development tasks are being undertaken with added momentum in rural areas. In Kayin State, the government has been realizing river water pumping projects and highway cultivation projects.

Government’s seven…

...tions and difficulties, the border regions and the remote areas where the national races live lagged behind in education, health, social and economic conditions. Thus, braving and overcoming these difficulties, the State has adopted the seven future policies to build up a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation.

On 9 January 1993, the government launched the National Convention, in which all walks of life, representatives of national races and political parties participated. In accordance with the six objectives, the National Convention laid down basic principles. The emergence of a new enduring State Constitution is the most important key to the building of a new nation. So, all have to place emphasis on emergence of a reliable State Constitution.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance by saying that whatever policy the State practises, it needs State constitution, which must peremptorily serve the interest of the entire people.

After holding solemn and vast discussions, the National Convention could adopt the basic principles in line with the six objectives. Law experts and political scientists defined the essence of law. Constitution is basic principles, a must and the most paramount importance for a nation. Efforts are to be thus made for a firm and enduring basic principles in the interest of the entire people.

Moreover, since the time of the regaining of independance, armed insurgencies occurred across the country due to the differences in ideology, and thinking, thus greatly hindering internal peace and stability as well as development and progress. This is the reason why we lagged behind in development. Even today, in some parts of the border areas there still exists armed opposition from some people. Because of these conditions, the border regions and the remote areas where the national races live lagged behind in education, health, social and economic conditions.

Thus, braving and overcoming these difficulties, the State has adopted the seven future policies to build up a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation.
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

TRANSPORTATION plays a vital role in regional development. The photo (right) shows the Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge that serves the interests of the people in Kayin State. PHOTO: MNA

The State Peace and Development Council, after laying down 12 political, economic and social objectives, is striving for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In doing so, efforts are being made to bridge the gap between one region and another. As a result, new roads, railroads, bridges, hospitals, schools, etc. have emerged across the country. People living in the various regions of the nation are now witnessing significant development in their respective regions.

For promoting the health care services of rural people that is included in the five rural development tasks, ways and means are sought for providing health care services by specialists to the public right down to the grassroots level.

The photo shows the modern medical equipment installed at Kayin State People’s Hospital in Hpa-an. — PHOTO: MNA

Development of a region depends much on easy access to it. With this end in view, the State has been building a network of roads and bridges the length and breadth of the nation. As a result, new roads and bridges have emerged one after another throughout the country. The Government is continuing its efforts to build new roads and bridges.

The photo (left) shows Gyaing Bridge (Zathabyin) that links Kayin and Mon States across the Gyaing River. PHOTO: MNA

For promoting the health care services of rural people that is included in the five rural development tasks, ways and means are sought for providing health care services by specialists to the public right down to the grassroots level.

The photo shows the modern medical equipment installed at Kayin State People’s Hospital in Hpa-an. — PHOTO: MNA

The State Peace and Development Council, after laying down 12 political, economic and social objectives, is striving for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In doing so, efforts are being made to bridge the gap between one region and another. As a result, new roads, railroads, bridges, hospitals, schools, etc. have emerged across the country. People living in the various regions of the nation are now witnessing significant development in their respective regions.

For promoting the health care services of rural people that is included in the five rural development tasks, ways and means are sought for providing health care services by specialists to the public right down to the grassroots level.

The photo shows the modern medical equipment installed at Kayin State People’s Hospital in Hpa-an. — PHOTO: MNA

Transportation plays a vital role in regional development. The photo (right) shows the Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge that serves the interests of the people in Kayin State. PHOTO: MNA
Monday launched a countrywide programme aimed at fighting malaria through the use of Insecticide Treated Mosquito Nets (ITN).

Minister of State for Health Mike Mukula was quoted Tuesday by the government newspaper The New Vision as saying that the government plans to have 80 per cent usage of ITN in malaria endemic areas of the country.

Malaria is one of the most infectious diseases affecting the population in Uganda. Over 80,000 Ugandans die from malaria annually. Most of these people are children under the age of five years and pregnant mothers.

Launching the campaign at the International Conference Centre in Kampala, Mukula said, "The government put a tax waiver on ITN in order to make them affordable to everybody. We want the treated mosquito nets to go for as low as 5,000 shillings (about 2.5 US dollars)."

She made the announcement from Honiara, where she is on a visit and being briefed on the situation in the Solomon Islands capital of Honiara, where the intervention force was deployed.

Clark said "the restoration of a reliable electricity supply in the Solomon Islands is a priority." She said the supply in Honiara had deteriorated over the last few years and there were daily power cuts.

Power was particularly important in Honiara where the National Referral Hospital provided services for all the islands. A recent assessment estimated the cost of restoring a reliable supply in Honiara at about 2.5 million NZ dollars (about 1.45 million US dollars).

New Zealand has about 230 military personnel and 35 police on the islands, part of the Australian-led force that went to the Solomons in July to restore law and order. The Solomons was torn by ethnic conflict for years which brought it to the verge of bankruptcy and economic collapse. "The economy has been ruined, society has been under very considerable pressure," Clark said before she left.

"What I want to see out of this intervention is the ability of the Solomons to get on with organizing its own affairs," she said.

One of the issues she will be examining when she meets Solomons’ Prime Minister Sir Allan Kamakana and other leaders on Tuesday is how long the international force will need to stay in the Solomons.

MNA/Xinhua
Russia, China, Central Asia agree on anti-terror base

BEIJING, 24 Sept— The prime ministers of China, Russia and four Central Asian countries signed agreements on Tuesday that set plans in motion for a long-awaited regional anti-terrorism centre in Uzbekistan.

The leaders also agreed to give the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) a leading role in boosting economic ties among members: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan with the goal of creating a free trade zone.

Plans to found an anti-terrorism base in a volatile region long a focus of Muslim separatist movements opposed to rule by Communist parties and more recently by leaders seen as secular heads of one-party states gained momentum after the September 11, 2001 strikes on New York and Washington.

The centre will be in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, but the nature of its role was not made clear.

"I am highly satisfied with the fruits of the meeting. These actions show that the SCO has entered a stage of overall development," Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told reporters. "Economic development is an important area of cooperation for the SCO. "SCO economic cooperation has now launched onto the main track: this is the biggest result of the meeting."

Wen proposed the eventual establishment of a free trade zone, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The leaders signed six documents, including one authorizing the regional anti-terrorism body and its personnel arrangements and an outline of major points of regional economic cooperation.

The SCO, set up as the Shanghai Five in 1996 to resolve Soviet-era border disputes, admitted Uzbekistan in 2001 and shifted focus to combating Islamic militants.

One Western diplomat who follows the organization said the SCO had yet to prove itself as little more than a talk shop foreign sources.

"For the SCO, the big challenge was to attach the organization said the SCO had yet to prove itself as little more than a talk shop and was hard pressed to point to its achievements.

HK sets up new system to prevent SARS resurgence

HONG KONG, 24 Sept— The Hong Kong Government has set up a three-level response system to combat any resurgence of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food Yuen Eng-kiong said Monday.

Yeah said the move is part of the Government’s comprehensive strategy to beat SARS swiftly and rigorously.

"The system will be activated when there are laboratory-confirmed SARS cases outside Hong Kong, or a SARS alert in Hong Kong.

"When there are one or more laborator-confirmed SARS cases here, occurring in a sporadic manner, the Level One response will be activated.

Level Two will be in place when there are signs of local transmission of the disease.

A steering committee will be set up to issue Government responses to Level One and Level Two outbreaks. Yeah will head the committee at Level One, while the Chief Executive will head at Level Two.

Yeah said the steering committee will formulate overall disease control strategy and decide on measures to curb its spread.

"Apart from closely monitoring the situation and reviewing measures taken, the committee will assess the socio-economic impact of the crisis and make decisions on measures to minimize its impact."

"It will also evaluate the Government’s preparedness to cope with possible deterioration of the situation and direct measures to be taken to augment any inadequacy. Drills will be conducted in November to test the operation and effectiveness of the response plan, said Yeah.

To strengthen the Government’s preparedness, temperature screening and health declarations at immigration checkpoints will continue, he said.

Yeah said that action is in hand to set up a Centre for Disease Control-like organization to strengthen the longer-term infectious disease prevention. He expects its preparatory body to be in place towards the end of the year.

On maintaining close and effective surveillance, the Government will keep close contact with the Mainland, Macao and other neighbour- ing health authorities to ensure sufficient information exchange.

Health experts not heeding skin cancer warnings

COPENHAGEN, 24 Sept— Even the experts are failing to heed warnings about skin cancer, a conference heard on Monday.

A British nurse who developed a test about skin cancer awareness said the experts may know all about the dangers, but they were still getting too much sun.

"My study showed that they were continuing to expose themselves intentionally to undesirable amounts of UV (ultraviolet) radiation, despite their universally high awareness of risk factors for malignant melanoma," said Kerry Guille, a senior chemotherapy nurse at St George’s Hospital in London.

"Melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer. It accounts for roughly 10 per cent of reported cases of the illness and can spread rapidly throughout the body, forming secondaries. Guille gave the test, which includes 30 questions about skin cancer awareness and how to protect against it, to four groups of health workers, including cancer specialists and nurses, and to the public.

"Not surprisingly, the cancer experts knew most about the illness, but it did not translate into behaviour changes. "These findings are consistent with studies in some other populations: it means that assumptions by public health bodies that improving awareness of the risk of sun exposure will reduce the incidence of melanoma are probably not correct," said Guille—MNA/Reuters

Sweden promotes native plants in eastern Africa

KAMPALA, 24 Sept— The Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) has given a grant of 3.75 million US dollars to promote conservation and development of native plants in 10 eastern African countries.

Ugandan Minister for Agriculture Kisamba Mugera was quoted Tuesday by The New Vision newspaper as saying that experts should utilize the grant to enhance food security and economic growth.

Mugera said the biggest challenge was to attach value to plants so that communities appreciate the wealth of life forms in different conservation sites.

UN faces blizzard of bleak “AIDS” statistics

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Sept— Despite more money and a myriad of programmes, most nations are unable, unwilling or too impoverished to provide treatment or prevention plans that could reverse the AIDS pandemic by 2015, UN officials said.

At an all-day conference on Monday, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said new reports from 103 governments delivered a series of bleak statistics, showing action fell “far short of what is needed”.

Some 136 delegates, including heads of state and foreign ministers addressed the General Assembly, with representatives from Chile, Benin and others speaking well after midnight.

Dr Peter Piot, head of UNAIDS, which coordinates programmes among UN agencies, told a news conference, said “there isn’t a single A in the report card”.

World leaders were offering weak assistance to the developing world to combat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, set up by the United Nations and leading industrial nations two years ago.

Funds for AIDS spending in the last two years have increased 15 per cent, to 4.7 billion US dollars in low and middle-income countries, with 57 per cent from foreign sources.

But Piot estimated there would be 45 million new infections by 2010 and emphasized denial was still a problem.
Arsenal chairman says we were guilty of stupid behaviour

LONDON, 24 Sept.—Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood has criticized the behaviour of his players during Sunday’s ill-tempered 6-0 draw at Manchester United.

“There are no excuses. We were guilty of stupid behaviour,” Hill-Wood told the Sun newspaper on Tuesday. “The players concerned were rather silly when you would hope they would show more intelligence.

“What matters matters worse is the fact it was senior players who were involved, experienced professionals who have played more than enough games to know better. We should all be looking to be our best and nobody was hurt.”

Ferguson anger after Wenger claims Van Nistelrooy cheated

MANCHESTER (England), 24 Sept.—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said he was disappointed with Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger after the Frenchman accused United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy of cheating on Sunday.

Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vieira was sent off for retaliation to a challenge by van Nistelrooy, who then missed a penalty in stoppage-time to leave the Premier League title rivals with a point each from a 0-0 draw at Old Trafford.

But Wenger claimed that the way van Nistelrooy reacted to a leg raised by Vieira amounted to cheating.

“Arsenal deserve to win this game,” said Vieira. “We were penalized by the referee.”

Wenger’s comments infuriated Ferguson.

“I am not going to comment on Arsene Wenger or his team,” said Wenger. “I am really disappointed. I think the team were better than they showed and the team should be better than they showed.

“I think van Nistelrooy did not respect that in the first half. He was sent off. He was sent off as a result of the challenge on Vieira. He should have been sent off as a result of the challenge on Vieira.”

Wenger also accused van Nistelrooy.

“We were very disappointed about the way van Nistelrooy reacted,” the Frenchman told Sky Sports. “In this country, everyone speaks about sport and the fair play and I think van Nistelrooy did not respect that at all.

“I think it was really hard to be sent off in that way. I am really disappointed. I think the referee got it wrong because of van Nistelrooy’s reaction because I didn’t really touch him at all. I raised my leg but I didn’t touch him at all.

“It is difficult for me to accept the way I was sent off. I really hope that when the referee watches the tape he will change his mind.”

Bologna coach ashamed after handball “goal”

MILAN, 24 Sept.—A goal from Bologna’s Argentine midfielder Andres Guglielminpietro, revealed by television replays to have been scored with his hand, left the club’s coach Carlo Mazzone wishing his player had been more honest.

Guglielminpietro, known as “Guly”, turned in a Giuseppe Signori cross with his hand to give Bologna the lead against Udinese on 63 minutes.

“I am ashamed and I really wish there would come a time when a player would go to referee and tell him it was a hand not to award the goal,” said Mazzone.

“We scored a goal with a hand and goals should be scored with your feet. It was an instinctive reaction from Guly, we apologize but don’t treat us like thieves.”

Udinese coach Luciano Spalletti refused to blame the referee for failing to see the hand of Guglielminpietro.

“It is the player who is trying to deceive. The blame is certainly more with the referee for failing to see the hand of Guglielminpietro.”

Robert censured by Newcastle for criticizing Robson

NEWCASTLE (England), 24 Sept.—Newcastle United winger Laurent Robert has been severely censured by his English Premier League club for “unprofessional and disrespectful” conduct after criticizing manager Bobby Robson.

The Frenchman received a warning about his behaviour from Newcastle chairman Freddy Shepherd after he said Robson was making tactical mistakes with players deployed out of position.

“We all want to see Laurent Robert showing what he can do on the field and putting what happened last week firmly behind him,” wrote Shepherd in the club’s matchday programme ahead of Newcastle’s 0-6 draw with Bolton on Saturday.

“I know what my attitude to the referee as if to say ‘what’s he playing at.’ Wenger said that if Vieira was red carded, van Nistelrooy should also have been.

“Van Nistelrooy does not help,” said Wenger.

“His great player but his attitude is always to be looking for provoking and diving.”

Rivaldo feels humiliated at Milan

RED DE JANEIRO, 24 Sept.—Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo said on Monday he was being humiliated at Italian club AC Milan, where he left on the substitutes’ bench once again at the weekend.

Rivaldo said he knew why he was being repeatedly overlooked by coach Carlo Ancelotti and said he would reveal the truth at an appropriate moment.

“It’s not because I’m out of form or out of shape, you can be certain about that,” he said in an interview with the Sao Paolo-based newspaper Jornal do Estado.

“I know the real reason why I’m not playing and everybody else will also know at the right moment.

“Everyone here at Milan knows that my physical fitness is among the best in the squad. I always stand out in the tests. And that story about my not being well psychologically isn’t true, either.

“I’m going through a humiliation.”

Ex-Russian coach Romantsev takes CSKA with five games remaining

MOSCOW, 24 Sept.—Former Russian manager Oleg Romantsev has been appointed coach of Spartak Moscow following the sacking of Vitaly Shevchenko, the Russian Premier League club said on Monday.

Shevchenko was sacked following Sunday’s 3-1 defeat by Krylya Sovetov Samara, which left Spartak sixth in the 16-side Premier League, nine points behind leaders CSKA with five games remaining.

“Tottenham have bid to sign him,” said the club’s coach Carlo Mazzone wishing his player had been more honest.

Guglielminpietro, known as “Guly”, turned in a Giuseppe Signori cross with his hand to give Bologna the lead against Udinese on 63 minutes.

“I am ashamed and I really wish there would come a time when a player would go to referee and tell him it was a hand not to award the goal,” said Mazzone.

“We scored a goal with a hand and goals should be scored with your feet. It was an instinctive reaction from Guly, we apologize but don’t treat us like thieves.”

Udinese coach Luciano Spalletti refused to blame the referee for failing to see the hand of Guglielminpietro.

“It is the player who is trying to deceive. The blame is certainly more with the referee for failing to see the hand of Guglielminpietro.”

For the second time in less than a week, an English referee failed to see the hand of a defender.

“I think it was a timely decision (to drop van Nistelrooy),” said Vieira. “I think the referee did a good job. He didn’t have to make a decision.”

Wenger also accused van Nistelrooy.

“We were very disappointed about the way van Nistelrooy reacted,” the Frenchman told Sky Sports. “In this country, everyone speaks about sport and the fair play and I think van Nistelrooy did not respect that at all.

“I think it was really hard to be sent off in that way. I am really disappointed. I think the referee got it wrong because of van Nistelrooy’s reaction because I didn’t really touch him at all. I raised my leg but I didn’t touch him at all.

“It is difficult for me to accept the way I was sent off. I really hope that when the referee watches the tape he will change his mind.”

Wenger added: “I think it was a timely decision (to drop van Nistelrooy),” said Vieira. “I think the referee did a good job. He didn’t have to make a decision.”
Government’s seven…
(source page 10)

public relations projects, K 3.4572 million for 10 community projects, K 11.139 million for 3 rehabilitation purposes and K 5.85 million for two social welfare and cooperative projects.

Regional development tasks in border areas were carried out with greater momentum. Peace and stability has been restored in border areas due to the understanding between the government and the armed groups. That is why regional development tasks could actually be undertaken. It is necessary for every national race to possess Union Spirit for restoration of peace in the whole country. The Union of Myanmar is a country made up of 101 national races. National races have lived in the country for many years countable by thousand through thick and thin throughout the history. Up to now national races have been living in unity in various parts of the Union. Basically, the Union Spirit is to be built for enabling the country to stand tall as an independent one made up of various national races. Union Spirit is a uniting spirit of the people living in any place in the country under the single command. It is the spirit built to love and cherish, value and safeguard the mother land. In other words, Union Spirit is the spirit to live in the same land drinking water from the same source in unity through thick and thin. The Union Spirit is still living based on patriotic spirit of safeguarding and cherishing the races.

He quoted Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior Gen Than Shwe as saying in his message on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the Union Day that in Myanmar where national races are residing, the culture, traditions, customs and language and social systems may appear to be different from each other, but in essence they are all based on the common blood of Union kinship and Union spirit like a hundred fruits from a common stem.

As the government lays down and rapidly implements the projects for the development of border areas and national races for the sake of reconsolidating national unity, 17 armed groups have now returned to the legal fold. Our government has to achieve what had not been possible for the previous gov- ernments. This success was due to the fact that there was mutual respect, understanding, confidence and sincerity on both sides.

It is heartening to note that the national leaders from these groups are actively participating in the construction of basic infrastructure not only in their regions but for the common national development as well.

He said he would like to report on more development tasks being carried out by the government with significant goodwill after 1988.

In the past it took three days to reach Myawady from Yangon because of rivers. The government developed Thainwin river-crossing bridge and Hpa-an Gyiing river-crossing bridge spending a large amount of money including foreign exchange. As a result, people can travel to Myawady in a day.

Moreover, the govern- ment built Hpa-an-Shweagon-Myainggyingyi asphalt road, Hpa-an-Mawlaminyi road, Myayanggalay-Kamanmaung-Hpaon Therefore transport in Kayin State has become easier. This is why it is called the National Conven- tion. First, representatives of Kayin public servant, various par- ties and various organizations held discussions on basic principles in conformity with the respective regions, races, cultures and customs in groups in a cordial manner, and progress was made to some extent.

However, in 1995, one of the above-ground political movements decided to ignore the future of the country and placed the attitude and wishes of an individual and the diversities of its own party above the national cause, and carried out activities aimed at destroying the National Convention. Consequently, efforts for po- litical development have now faltered at halfway point.

The golden land of genu- ine multiparty democracy is that we all hope for will remain in the dis- tance due to the acts of a strong number of people who have negative views.

He said Myanmar’s roadmap suitable for time and circumstances is presented based on practical tasks of the govern- ment. He warned the people to be aware of destructive ele- ments with negative views who beguile the develop- ment of the country. They cannot make the country good and plan to undermine the progress of the country. The people must ward off anyone who will undermine peace and stability and al- ready-achieved development momentum.

As the conditions for peace and stability improved in the country and as national unity had been built to a certain extent, efforts were initiated in 1992 for the cele- bration of the 46th anniversary of the National Conven- tion.

The Convention was not only composed of representa- tives from the political parties, representatives-elect, representatives from the national races, national races leaders that had re- turned to the legal fold but also from representatives of intellectuals, public servants and people from various strata in the country.

In the National Conven- tion, political parties and politicians have the right to take part in official discussions and to make known their views and wishes.

The government with goodwill held the National Convention, the main task for transformation of genu- ine multiparty democracy in Myanmar, in 1993. The Na- tional Convention is not a platform held by a single group of people, an organi- zation or a party. It is an organization formed with various mass and classes, various organizations, citi- zens of the Union and repre- sentatives from the armed groups. This is why it is called the National Conven- tion. First, representatives of Kayin public servant, various par- ties and various organizations held discussions on basic principles in conformity with the respective regions, races, cultures and customs in groups in a cordial manner, and progress was made to some extent.

However, in 1995, one of the above-ground political movements decided to ignore the future of the country and placed the attitude and wishes of an individual and the diversities of its own party above the national cause, and carried out activities aimed at destroying the National Convention. Consequently, efforts for po- litical development have now faltered at halfway point.

The golden land of genu- ine multiparty democracy is that we all hope for will remain in the dis- tance due to the acts of a strong number of people who have negative views.

He said Myanmar’s roadmap suitable for time and circumstances is presented based on practical tasks of the govern- ment. He warned the people to be aware of destructive ele- ments with negative views who beguile the develop- ment of the country. They cannot make the country good and plan to undermine the progress of the country. The people must ward off anyone who will undermine peace and stability and al- ready-achieved development momentum.

As the conditions for peace and stability improved in the country and as national unity had been built to a certain extent, efforts were initiated in 1992 for the cele- bration of the 46th anniversary of the National Conven- tion.

The Convention was not only composed of representa- tives from the political parties, representatives-elect, representatives from the national races, national races leaders that had re- turned to the legal fold but also from representatives of intellectuals, public servants and people from various strata in the country.

In the National Conven- tion, political parties and politicians have the right to take part in official discussions and to make known their views and wishes.

The government with goodwill held the National Convention, the main task for transformation of genu- ine multiparty democracy in Myanmar, in 1993. The Na- tional Convention is not a platform held by a single group of people, an organi- zation or a party. It is an organization formed with various mass and classes, various organizations, citi- zens of the Union and repre- sentatives from the armed groups. This is why it is called the National Conven- tion. First, representatives of Kayin public servant, various par- ties and various organizations held discussions on basic principles in conformity with the respective regions, races, cultures and customs in groups in a cordial manner, and progress was made to some extent.

However, in 1995, one of the above-ground political movements decided to ignore the future of the country and placed the attitude and wishes of an individual and the diversities of its own party above the national cause, and carried out activities aimed at destroying the National Convention. Consequently, efforts for po- litical development have now faltered at halfway point.

The golden land of genu- ine multiparty democracy is that we all hope for will remain in the dis- tance due to the acts of a strong number of people who have negative views.

He said Myanmar’s roadmap suitable for time and circumstances is presented based on practical tasks of the govern- ment. He warned the people to be aware of destructive ele- ments with negative views who beguile the develop- ment of the country. They cannot make the country good and plan to undermine the progress of the country. The people must ward off anyone who will undermine peace and stability and al- ready-achieved development momentum.

As the conditions for peace and stability improved in the country and as national unity had been built to a certain extent, efforts were initiated in 1992 for the cele- bration of the 46th anniversary of the National Conven- tion.

The Convention was not only composed of representa- tives from the political parties, representatives-elect, representatives from the national races, national races leaders that had re- turned to the legal fold but also from representatives of intellectuals, public servants and people from various strata in the country.

In the National Conven- tion, political parties and politicians have the right to take part in official discussions and to make known their views and wishes.

The government with goodwill held the National Convention, the main task for transformation of genu- ine multiparty democracy in Myanmar, in 1993. The Na-
### Government’s seven stages of political policies and programmes constitute roadmap

The Prime Minister explained why the Tatmadaw took the responsibilities of the State and the political developments. Starting 18 September 1988, the Tatmadaw has assumed the State duties due to unavoidable situation because there was a complete anarchy in the country. It is incumbent upon the Tatmadaw government to shape the country to be a democratic one by laying down national policies conducive to democracy.

In the third part, the Prime Minister said as the Union of Myanmar is made up of 100 national races, living in unity through thick and thin for years countable and the firmness of Union Spirit is of vital importance for national solidarity. Thus, the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — based on Union Spirit, has been laid down as the State policy. The Prime Minister explained the seven stages of the political programme of the country to be a modern, developed democratic nation. The seven stages of the political policies and programmes are —

1. Reconstituting of the National Convention that has been adjourned since 1996.
2. After the successful holding of the National Convention, step by step implementation of the processes necessary for the emergence of a genuine and disciplined democratic system.
3. Drafting of a new constitution in accordance with basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.
4. Adoption of the constitution through national referendum.
5. Holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaw and (Legislative bodies) according to the new constitution.
6. Convening of Hluttaw members attended by Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution.
7. Building a modern, developed and democratic nation by the state leaders elected by the Hluttaw and the government and other central organs formed by the Hluttaw.

The government’s seven stages of the political policies and programmes laid down in the interest of its citizens. The four political objectives of the twelve objectives of the State have the same essence with the future seven stages of political policies and programmes.

#### Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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