Peace and stability required for success of political roadmap that will serve national interest

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

Published 29 September 2003

Peace and stability required for success of political roadmap that will serve national interest

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

YANGON, 28 Sept — A mass rally, organized by Union Solidarity and Development Association, was held in support of the Prime Minister’s clarification on seven stages of the policies and programmes of the State (roadmap) in Myintkyina, Kachin State on 24 September.

Present on the occasion were Central Executive Committee members of USDA, members of USADs in Kachin State, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, national race delegates of Kachin Special Regions 1 and 2, members of Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Working Committee for Women’s Affairs, War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, associations, social organizations, farmers, workers and local people totalling more than 17,500.

Before the mass rally, Majkhla column comprising members of national traditional cultural troupe, non-governmental organizations, farmers, workers and local people led by Column Leader Executive U Chit Oo of Myintkyina District USDA with flag bearers and band tropue marched into the Nyeinchanthaya Sports Ground from Manaw Ground and took their designated places.

Similarly, Malikha Column comprising members of Kachin nationals, non-governmental organizations, farmers, workers and local people led by Column Leader Executive U San Lin of Myintkyina District USDA with flag bearers and band tropue marched into the Nyeinchanthaya Sports Ground from the state golf course.

Likewise, Myit Ayar Column comprising members of Kachin nationals, non-governmental organizations, farmers, workers and local people led by Column Leader Executive U Soe Min of Myintkyina District USDA with flag bearers and band tropue marched into the Nyeinchanthaya Sports Ground from No 1 Basic Education High School and took their designated places systematically.

Rector of Myintkyina University U Thin Hlaing presented over the mass rally together with Kachin State USDA Executive U Kyaw Soe Lay, Kachin Traditional Cultural and Dance Troupe Patron Daw Sha Daung Khuang Taung, Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee member Daw Tin Tin Htay and Kachin State Shan ethnic literature and culture committee member U Swet Ngn.

Rector U Thin Hlaing chairs the mass rally together with U Kyaw Soe Lay, Daw Sha Daung Khuang Taung, Daw Tin Tin Htay and U Swet Ngn. — MOA

In marching towards this national goal of a peaceful, modern and developed State, we have laid down and are vigorously implementing political, economic and social objectives that would not only yield positive results such as peace and stability, progress and development but will also strengthen national unity spirit and Union Spirit that constitute the main pillars for the perpetuation of the Union.

(See page 16)

Our nation is home to various national races. Thus, all the people believe that making of efforts to build a firm national unity, while striving for regional development, installation of the economic infrastructures and enhancement of the social standard, constitutes laying down the foundation needed for democracy.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Realization of national education promotion programmes

Now is the time when the entire national people of the Union, based on own national forces, are striving for the nation to be on a par with other nations of the world.

Student youths are the basic national forces. Therefore, they are to be nurtured to possess high morale. Especially, student youths are to be equipped with strong patriotism. They must possess the ever strengthening will to serve the interests of the whole Myanmar society.

The Government’s efforts to uplift the education standard of the entire nation are aimed at turning out brilliant intellectual and intellectual. Through education promotion programmes, efforts are being made for the students to become educated and patriotic citizens.

At the concluding ceremony of Special Refresher Course No 19 for Basic Education Teachers held at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that to realize the educational goal of the State, the teachers, applying the concept of nationalistic fervour in the practical life, are to nurture the students according to the requirements of the State.

Nowadays, there occur rapid changes and advancements in science and technology. To keep pace with the changing science and technology, it is necessary not to lose sight of every situation and development. In the interests of the State and its people, preparatory measures are to be taken for applying the ever advancing science and technology.

The government is carrying out tasks for educational reform in conformity with the changes in the world. In doing so, efforts are being made to create an education system that will bring about the development of the State. In line with the development of science and technology, students are being trained to possess ability to enable them to face the challenges of the future.

Teachers are urged to strive for successful realization of national education promotion programmes as national duty.

Secretary-2 attends cash and provisions donation ceremony

YANGON, 28 Sept.—Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the cash and provisions donation ceremony of the families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers to monasteries and nunneries in Mayangon Township held at Nga Hlaingu Kalewa Taunya Sarthintaik this afternoon.

It was attended by members of the Sangha led by the Joint-Secayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, nun, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Hwa, senior military officers, departmental heads, local authorities, members of social organizations and wellwishers.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the chairman Sayadaw of Mayangon Township Sangha Nayaka Committee. Afterwards, the Secretary-2, the minister and senior military officers presented the cash and provisions donation to the Sangha and nunners.

Next, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, government department and wellwishers presented offerings to the members of the Sangha and nuns.

The Secretary-2, the minister and senior military officers accepted the cash donation of wellwishers at the ceremony. Next, Col Zin Yaw explained the purpose of donation. The Joint-Secayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee delivered a sermon, followed by sharing the merits gained. Today’s donations to 31 monasteries and 9 nunneries in the township were 1607 bags of rice, 756 viss of edible oil, 12,330 viss of iodized salt, 1233 boxes of soft salt, 1233 viss of gram and 7,796,555.

The families of Tatmadaw members and wellwishers also donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicines, gram and cash to the Muslim Home for the Aged and the Muslim Home for Old Women in Thingangyun Township, Yangon East District, at a ceremony held at the former on Pyithaya Street, Bawkhtaw, Thingangyun Township.

The Secretary-2 accepted the donations from the wellwishers, which totalled 41 bags of rice, 45 viss of edible oil, 45 viss of grams, 337 viss of salt, 17 boxes of soft salt, 750 boxes of various traditional medicines and K 3,877,990.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-2 courteously greeted the aged of the homes.

MNA

Seminar on Women and Sport commences

YANGON, 28 Sept.—A National Seminar on Women and Sport jointly conducted by Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, commenced this morning at the International Business Centre here.

The seminar is being held with the aim of increasing academic and research programmes for women and sport. The papers are to be delivered by experts and scholars from the universities.

A total of 250 persons, including the members of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, sports officials, educators and researchers, attended the seminar.

At the seminar, Vice-President-1 of MWSF Prof Dr Mya Mya presented the objectives of the Seminar. Next, Daw Yi Yi Win, Executive of MWSF, Joint Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee U Khin Maung Lwin and Head of the Psychology Department of the University of Yangon Prof Daw Khin Aye Win gave presentations on “Psychology”, “什么 is Sport, Physical Education and Sport Marketing” and “Sport Psychology” respectively.

Those present also discussed the presentations and the morning session adjourned with concluding remarks by the chairman and the co-chairperson.

At the afternoon session, MOC Joint Secretary U Than Zaw gave presentation on “Sport Leadership” and Dr Mya Lay Sein, Medical Officer at MWSF on “Sport Medicine”.

Afterwards, resource persons and officials replied to the queries raised by those present. The seminar will continue tomorrow.

MNA

Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein speaks words of encouragement to the older persons at the Muslim Home for the Aged.

MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung inspects Sittoung Paper Mill No 1.
Iraqi people should assume control of their resources and political destiny as soon as possible

New York 28 Sept — Following is the excerpt from President Pervez Musharraf’s address to the 58th session of the United Nations General Assembly:

I believe the way forward is to adopt a two-pronged strategy — a double pincer — to build harmony, promote moderation, oppose extremism, and ensure justice. I call this strategy: “Enlightened Moderation”.

On the one hand, Muslim nations must assume their responsibility for internal reform and renewal. They are at the crossroads. They must eschew extremism and confrontation. They must embrace the march of human civilisation. They must address the deficits in their social and economic development. They must seek science and technology, higher education and human resource development.

It is clear that a consensus must be quickly evolved at the United Nations on ways to restore Iraq’s stability, security and sovereignty. Iraq cannot be allowed to remain on an uncertain path. We will impact on the region and could inject a new dimension to the campaign against terrorism and extremism. The consensus evolved must enable the Iraqi people, through an inclusive political process, to determine the sequence of steps leading to a fully representative Iraqi government and an end to occupation.

The Iraqi people should assume control of their resources and political destiny as soon as possible. They must receive the full support of the international community, including Iraq’s neighbours and the Arab and Islamic countries, in building security and reconstructing their country. Pakistan would be prepared to help in a collective UN-sanctioned Arab and Islamic effort to help the Iraqi people, if they wish us to do so.

Endeavours to stabilise Iraq will be enhanced by progress in promoting peace with justice in the Middle East.

The leaders assembled here bear an enormous responsibility:
- to rescue our world from war and violence, poverty and pestilence;
- to redress inequity and impoverishment which breeds despair and destruction;
- to collectively construct a new global architecture of peace and prosperity for all peoples and nations.

Abubakr Al-Qirbi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Yemen

During its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly had unanimously condemned terrorism, welcomed the “Road Map” and committed itself to avoiding war in Iraq. And yet, one must ask how well those goals had been accomplished. Had the removal of Saddam Hussein’s regime brought about peace in the region and allowed the people to exercise their right to choose their new political leadership through free, democratic elections? The United Nations should have a fundamental role in helping Iraq achieve those objectives, and the international community should contribute promptly to the rebuilding of the country and help it meet its people’s needs. Qatar had been contributing to international efforts to consolidate security and stability and reconstruction of the country.

Shaiikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain

It was fundamental that the international community, the United Nations and influential parties, like the United States, normalise 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.

Phil Goff, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand

The invasion of Iraq had had a profound impact on the Organisation, he said, and it was to be regretted that the different points of view had not been resolved within the Security Council. However, the reconstruction of the country, the restoration of its sovereignty, and the rebuilding of its political and social structures were now the critical issues.

People of Iraq should be empowered to determine their own future, to rebuild their nation

Following is the excerpt from Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s speech at the 58th session of the UN General Assembly on Thursday:

Our reflections on the UN should focus on three key aspects:
- First, we need to introspect on some of the assumptions that have been made over the years on the will and reach of the United Nations. We need to clearly recognise, with a sense of realism, the limits to what the UN can achieve, and the changes of form and function required for it to play an optimal role in today’s world.
- Second, the Iraq issue has inevitably generated a debate on the functioning and the efficacy of the Security Council and the changes of form and function required for it to play an optimal role in today’s world.

Janez Drnovsek, President of Slovenia

Turning to Iraq, the President said the course of events in Iraq demonstrated the limits of unilateralism. The country’s reconstruction demanded the widest possible support of the international community and of Iraqis themselves.

The complexity of the post-conflict reconstruction and revitalisation of Iraq demands the widest possible support of the international community and of Iraqis themselves.

Only a strong UN – with a broadly defined mandate – will be able to fulfil the role we require of it: to serve as a factor for stability in Iraq and the entire region.

Sri Lanka demands strong UN

Janez Drnovsek, President of Slovenia

Turning to Iraq, the President said the course of events in Iraq demonstrated the limits of unilateralism. The country’s reconstruction demanded the widest possible support of the international community and of Iraqis themselves.

The United Nations was the only body capable of serving as the embodiment of such support, and the Organisation’s role in Iraq must become more active while retaining its autonomy.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and of the UN itself. Over the decades, the UN membership has grown enormously. Most UN members today recognise the need for an enlarged and restructured Security Council with more developing countries as permanent and non-permanent members. The permanent members guard their exclusivity. Some states with weak claims want to ensure that others do not enter the Council as permanent members. This combination of complacency and negativism has to be countered with a strong political will. The recent crises warn us that until the UN Security Council is reformed and restructured, its decisions cannot reflect truly the collective will of the community of nations.

Hama Bin Jassin Bin Jabral thani, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar

On Iraq, he looked forward to the success of the international efforts to consolidate security and stability and called on the Coalition forces to intensify their efforts in coordination with the competent international bodies and institutions. That would pave the way for the return of Iraqis to the country and allow people to exercise their right to choose their new political leadership through free, democratic elections. The United Nations should have a fundamental role in helping Iraq achieve those objectives, and the international community should contribute promptly to the rebuilding of the country and help it meet its people’s needs.

Sri Lanka’s Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe

United Nations, 27 Sept — Smaller nations including Sri Lanka stressed Friday that the UN should be allowed to rebuild their own economic, political and social foundations.

The recent crises warn us that until the UN Security Council is reformed and restructured, its decisions cannot reflect truly the collective will of the community of nations.

Sri Lanka demands strong UN

M.S. Meralafe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Botswana

In Iraq, the situation clearly called for an intervention by the Security Council to ensure the Iraqi people were given the mandate to govern themselves, and to expand the role of the United Nations in the reconstruction of the country.

“The rich would become richer, the poor poorer, conflict and disharmony would erupt along political, ethnic and religious lines,” Botswana, a peaceful southern African nation, pointed out the UN’s role in bringing peace to Liberia’s capital – although fighting continues in other parts of the West African nation.

“It is a welcome development that the Security Council has decided to send a peacekeeping mission to that war-torn country,” Botswana Foreign Minister MS Meralafe said.

M.S. Meralafe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Botswana

In Iraq, the situation clearly called for an intervention by the Security Council to ensure the Iraqi people were given the mandate to govern themselves, and to expand the role of the United Nations in the reconstruction of the country.

“The rich would become richer, the poor poorer, conflict and disharmony would erupt along political, ethnic and religious lines,” Botswana, a peaceful southern African nation, pointed out the UN’s role in bringing peace to Liberia’s capital – although fighting continues in other parts of the West African nation.

“It is a welcome development that the Security Council has decided to send a peacekeeping mission to that war-torn country,” Botswana Foreign Minister MS Meralafe said.

M.S. Meralafe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Botswana

In Iraq, the situation clearly called for an intervention by the Security Council to ensure the Iraqi people were given the mandate to govern themselves, and to expand the role of the United Nations in the reconstruction of the country.

“The rich would become richer, the poor poorer, conflict and disharmony would erupt along political, ethnic and religious lines,” Botswana, a peaceful southern African nation, pointed out the UN’s role in bringing peace to Liberia’s capital – although fighting continues in other parts of the West African nation.

“It is a welcome development that the Security Council has decided to send a peacekeeping mission to that war-torn country,” Botswana Foreign Minister MS Meralafe said.

M.S. Meralafe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Botswana
The fallout from the con-
invasion of Iraq in March.

40,000 troops to the US-led
Trafalgar Square.

dren”, Livingstone told the
cost the lives of innocent
about oil and always (will)
capital.

Ken Livingstone was among
mayor and Labour dissident
Iraq conflict.

pared to the massive rallies
although turnout paled com-
paired to massive rallies
earlier this year ahead of the
Iraq conflict.

London’s high-profile
mayor and Labour dissident
Livingstone was among the
speakers in the British
capital.

The war has “always been
about oil and always (will)
cost the lives of innocent
Arab men, women and chil-
dren”, Livingstone told the
thousands gathered in
Trafalgar Square.

Britain contributed over
40,000 troops to the US-led
invasion of Iraq in March.
The fallout from the con-
lict, including the suicide of
David Kelly, the respected
government scientist at the
centre of claims Britain ex-
aggerated its case for war.

have left Prime Minister
Tony Blair facing the worst
crisis of his tenure.

Banners carried by dem-
onstrators in London carried
the slogans ‘Blair must go’
and ‘UK troops out of Iraq’

In Paris on Saturday,
3,000 people (8,000 accord-
ing to organizers) took to the
streets to protest US policy
and voice strong support for
the Palestinians, police said.
French President Jacques
Chirac had been at the fore-
front of European opposi-
tion to the Iraq war launched
in March.

In Warsaw, about 100
3,000 demonstrators gathered
in central Athens
and another 500 in the
eastern city of Salonika,
Greece’s second largest.

In Vienna, up to 1,000
took to the streets, including
chairman of Austria’s Com-
munist Party, Walter Bauer,
who demanded a rapid with-
drawal of US troops from
Iraq.

Some 5,000 people
marched in the streets of the
Lebanese capital Beirut.

Opposition to the request is mounting in the
Middle East.

Arab states will not send forces to Iraq to “defend occupa-
tion troops.”

As a professional military man, and an expert in heading
joint troops, I say there is no benefit in having troops from
neighbouring countries (deployed) in Iraq,” said Prince
Khaled, who commanded Arab and Islamic forces during
the 1991 Gulf War in Kuwait.

Prince Khaled bin Sultan spoke to the Okas daily as the
United States worked to secure a new UN resolution to
persuade more countries to contribute troops and money to
postwar Iraq.

Prince Khaled said it would not be a good idea for
neighbouring states to send troops to Iraq.

“We care about Iraq, not the occupation.”

Some 5,000 people
marched in the streets of the
Lebanese capital Beirut.
IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION

US soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division, 1st Brigade, 22nd Infantry Regiment walk past anti-aircraft missiles, on 27 September, 2003 after they uncovered a large arms cache just outside Tikrit, Iraq.

Specialist Moses Rodriques of the 4th Infantry Division, 1st Brigade, 22nd Infantry Regiment carry rocket propelled grenades, on 27 September, 2003 after they uncovered a large arms cache just outside Tikrit, Iraq.

US Army of the 101st Airborne Division’s soldier patrols a street in Mosul, 400 kms (250 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 27 September, 2003.

An Iraqi boy looks at bloody clothing along the highway near Fallujah, Iraq on 27 September, 2003 where US troops fired on two vehicles at a checkpoint Friday night, killing four Iraqis and wounding at least five, including a child.

A young girl rests in a Fallujah, Iraq hospital after an attack by US troops on two cars at a checkpoint in Fallujah, in this image made from television on 27 September, 2003. At least four Iraqis were killed and three others injured according to local residents and Arab satellite television. The condition of the girl was not available.

US Army of the 101st Airborne Division’s soldiers dig a garbage looking for weapons during patrol in a quarter in Mosul, 400 kms (250 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 27 September, 2003.
Bangladesh against sending troops to Iraq

DHAKA, 28 Sept—Analysts and newspapers have hailed Bangladesh’s strong position against sending peacekeeping troops to Iraq saying the decision is consistent with the South Asian country’s earlier stance against the US invasion.

The United States has been trying to get other countries — especially Muslim ones — involved in keeping the peace in Iraq, and US officials reportedly had considered Bangladesh a possible candidate because of its moderate Muslim tradition.

Bangladesh also is a frequent contributor to UN peacekeeping efforts. Its soldiers volunteer in the thousands for such missions for a chance to earn extra money. The government recently pledged to send nearly 5,000 peacekeepers to Iraq, political scientist Badruddin Umar said.

Bangladesh will not “approve sending our troops to Iraq under the present circumstances,” Umar said.

The United States has said it would welcome Bangladeshi participation in the rebuilding of Iraq. It is unclear, however, whether Washington is pressing Dhaka hard for a larger role in peacekeeping in Iraq since it would be a playground of terrorism without Bangladesh’s involvement.

“Bangladesh can’t send peacekeepers to Iraq, which is still under the US-led occupation forces,” Enayetullah Khan, editor of Dhaka’s New Age daily, told The Associated Press.

“It is now a combat zone and sending troops there will mean aiding the occupation forces,” said Khan.

The South Asian country has not changed its position since then, and there has been no indication from Washington or Dhaka that any damage to the relationship between the two countries has resulted.

The relationship has been improving ever since a visit by US President Bill Clinton in 2000.

Before that, there was much distrust. The United States backed the rulers in Pakistan when Bangladeshis waged their war of liberation in 1971 and became free with help from neighboring India.

Britain urges for larger UN peacekeeping role in Iraq

KUWAIT CITY, 28 Sept—Britain has urged that the United Nations should have a larger role in peacekeeping in Iraq since it would be a playground of terrorism without institutionalizing a peacekeeping system, Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Ra‘s Am reported on Friday.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw made the remarks in an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper.

Straw told the newspaper that the coalition forces would not stay one second more than necessary, but they would remain until an orderly and smooth handover power to the Iraqis is achieved and conditions in the war-ravaged country are stabilized.

Those opening fire on coalition forces are the remnants of the former regime, Straw said, adding some of the attackers may have come from outside Iraq.

The security situation in Iraq has been deteriorating as anti-coalition occupation resistance activities and terrorist bombing attacks have occurred one after another in the war-torn country, killing and injuring not only US-led coalition troops, but also civilians and UN officials and staff workers. Amidst rising calls for an end to the occupation of the oil-rich country, more than 70 US soldiers have reportedly been killed since US President George W. Bush declared major combat over in Iraq on May 1.

UN staff continue to flee Baghdad violence

BAGHDAD, 28 Sept—UN staff continued their exodus from Iraq as a Baghdad hotel housing US officials came under fire, while Washington agreed to a six-month target to draw up a new constitution.

Twenty-six international aid workers, including an unknown number of UN personnel, were evacuated from a Baghdad hotel on the heels of 12 UN staffers who departed late Friday, a spokesman said.

A third of the United Nations’ 86 international staff remaining in Iraq are being pulled out in line with a decision Thursday by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. The United Nations kept about 650 international personnel in Iraq before an August 19 bombing killed 22 people, including Annan’s top envoy to Baghdad. A second bombing Monday killed an Iraqi security guard.

Major UN aid agencies said their emergency operations will continue in the war-torn country, but some admitted the exodus would hamper their work.

The moves come as foreign civilians were again the target of a new attack.

Iraqis feel safer but bombings bring fear

BAGHDAD, 28 Sept—Ali Tawfeek feels safer taking his wife and one-year-old son Ahmad shopping in the evening now after months of fear for his family in the lawless days in Baghdad following the flight of Saddam Hussein.

But as life slowly recovers some normality, deadly bombings that have brought the battle between Iraqi guerrillas and US troops to the city’s streets is a new source of anxiety.

“It’s safe here in this street,” Tawfeek said this week. “But these attacks are making us worry. We see a US checkpoint or vehicle and know it’s a target. Maybe a suicide attack will take place and we will be victims.”

Talking to people out and about in the city on Friday, it is clear that a sense of improved security due to an increase in police numbers and a perceived reduction in crime is offset by growing fears of being caught up in guerilla violence.

Nouri Sabah, a civil servant shopping in bustling Saadioun Street, said the bombings were unsettling people just getting adjusted to a post-war society with few restrictions of the kind imposed under Saddam’s dictatorship and imposed by his police.

“Theft has lessoned but we now have explosions. When you are in a crowd you are now afraid that there could be an explosion and you may become a victim,” Sabah said.

“When we are driving behind the US military we are now afraid they will be hit and try to avoid them because they (the soldiers) shoot back left and right,” said teacher Thamer Talal.

Shoppers now crowd Baghdad’s main shopping neighbourhoods and shops stay open longer in the evening.

Police who run regular patrols have taken over from the unruly men who once roamed the streets. Gunshots are less frequently heard across the sprawling city’s neighbourhoods than in the months immediately after Saddam’s fall in April.

Singapore’s manufacturing output grows by 10.3% in August

SINGAPORE, 28 Sept—Singapore’s industrial output increased unexpectedly by 10.3 per cent in August 2003 compared with the same period last year, a government release said here on Friday.

The positive growth was boosted mainly by increased output of the bio-medicals and electronics clusters, which expanded by 68.5 per cent and 19.1 per cent year-on-year respectively, said the Press release published by the Economic Development Board (EDB).

The substantial expansion of the bio-medicals cluster is due mainly to high growth in the pharmaceuticals cluster, whose output surged up by 78.4 per cent in the month, said the EDB release.

Twenty-six international aid workers, including an unknown number of UN personnel, were evacuated from a Baghdad hotel on the heels of 12 UN staffers who departed late Friday, a spokesman said.

A third of the United Nations’ 86 international staff remaining in Iraq are being pulled out in line with a decision Thursday by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. The United Nations kept about 650 international personnel in Iraq before an August 19 bombing killed 22 people, including Annan’s top envoy to Baghdad. A second bombing Monday killed an Iraqi security guard.

Major UN aid agencies said their emergency operations will continue in the war-torn country, but some admitted the exodus would hamper their work.

The moves come as foreign civilians were again the target of a new attack.

Iraqis feel safer but bombings bring fear

BAGHDAD, 28 Sept—Ali Tawfeek feels safer taking his wife and one-year-old son Ahmad shopping in the evening now after months of fear for his family in the lawless days in Baghdad following the flight of Saddam Hussein.

But as life slowly recovers some normality, deadly bombings that have brought the battle between Iraqi guerrillas and US troops to the city’s streets is a new source of anxiety.

“It’s safe here in this street,” Tawfeek said this week. “But these attacks are making us worry. We see a US checkpoint or vehicle and know it’s a target. Maybe a suicide attack will take place and we will be victims.”

Talking to people out and about in the city on Friday, it is clear that a sense of improved security due to an increase in police numbers and a perceived reduction in crime is offset by growing fears of being caught up in guerilla violence.

Nouri Sabah, a civil servant shopping in bustling Saadioun Street, said the bombings were unsettling people just getting adjusted to a post-war society with few restrictions of the kind imposed under Saddam’s dictatorship and imposed by his police.

“Theft has lessoned but we now have explosions. When you are in a crowd you are now afraid that there could be an explosion and you may become a victim,” Sabah said.

“When we are driving behind the US military we are now afraid they will be hit and try to avoid them because they (the soldiers) shoot back left and right,” said teacher Thamer Talal.

Shoppers now crowd Baghdad’s main shopping neighbourhoods and shops stay open longer in the evening.

Police who run regular patrols have taken over from the unruly men who once roamed the streets. Gunshots are less frequently heard across the sprawling city’s neighbourhoods than in the months immediately after Saddam’s fall in April.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gives instructions on development of Uto-Kya-in region agriculture and livestock breeding projects. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Uto-Kya-in Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm

YANGON, 28 Sept — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected the Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm being undertaken by the Yangon City Development Committee in Uto-Kya-in Region, Taikkyi Township, this morning.

Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the General arrived at the farm. They were welcomed there by ministers, the mayor of Yangon, deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, departmental heads, YCDC members, members of the YCDC Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Supervisory Committee and officials.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin gave a report to the General, saying that the YCDC has been undertaking the farm since June 1998 with a view to extending agricultural and livestock breeding tasks for fulfilling the food requirement of the Yangonites, running a recreation centre for public recreation and doing more researches on paddy, vegetables and fruits for promotion of the agricultural sector. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has made tours of the Uto-Kya-in Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Farm from time to time and has given guidance on the development of the farm, placing emphasis on implementation of the projects through mechanization system, irrigation system and hybridization system.

Upholding the guidance, the General reported the advance of the project. The Prime Minister gave instructions on development of the project and the development zone, and laid the cornerstone.

And said the cornerstone.

It was attended by members of the Sangha led by Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, president Nyayaka Sayadaw and members of Sangha of the monastery. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, social organizations and guests.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt placed the jewellery casket at the centre of the foundation. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt put the pond to the pond and placed the plaque at the foundation. Afterwards, they sprinkled scented water on it.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmyaybonsan Sayadaw. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the commander and ministers presented offerings to the Sayadaws.

The Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt then presented K 1.3 million to Chief Coach U Mi Mi Khin. K 100,000 to Chief Coach U Kyaw Thura Aye Myint. K 50,000 each to President of National Sports Federation Thiri Soe Tun, Chairman of National Sports Federation Thiri Khine, MOC chairman and Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, and other guests.

Double gold medallist Yin Yin Khine honoured

YANGON, 28 Sept — A ceremony to honour Track and Field athlete Yin Yin Khine, who won two gold medals in the 15th Asian Championships Track and Field Meets held in Manila, the Philippines, from 20 to 29 Sept, took place at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel in Bahan Township yesterday.

Afghanistan Track and Field Federation Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Chairman of Myanmar Sports Committee Commander of Yangon City Development Committee Commander Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Vice-Chairman of MOC Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, the presidents of sports federations and sports associations, the members of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, the presidents of sports federations and sports associations, the athletes, and guests attended the ceremony.

The Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addressed the guests and said, "I am of the view that the track and field athletes add glory to our country. Therefore, I present K 2.3 million and a promotion to sportswomen of the Yangon City Development Committee Commander Yangon City Development Committee Commander Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Vice-Chairman of MOC Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, the presidents of sports federations and sports associations, the athletes and guests with the hope that they will give glory to our country and excel in the international arena."

The Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented K 2.3 million and a promotion to sports women of the Yangon City Development Committee Commander Yangon City Development Committee Commander Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Vice-Chairman of MOC Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, the presidents of sports federations and sports associations, the athletes and guests. The Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addressed the guests and said, "I am of the view that the track and field athletes add glory to our country. Therefore, I present K 2.3 million and a promotion to sportswomen of the Yangon City Development Committee Commander Yangon City Development Committee Commander Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Vice-Chairman of MOC Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, the presidents of sports federations and sports associations, the athletes and guests with the hope that they will give glory to our country and excel in the international arena."
Peace and stability…

Thus, we must oppose all the acts leading to the destruction of the peace and stability. So, I would like to alarm the people to energetically take part in materializing the seven stages of the political programme, despite the difficulties that may lie ahead.

The seven stages are the foundation for the future nation. They are also the political programme desired by the people who love the country. In addition, they are the political programme we must materialize without fail to reach the goal. In this regard, I would like to urge the entire national races to strive in harmony, with Union Spirit and patriotism as the base, for successful realization of the seven stages.

Tabling the motion calling on the entire people to participate in any sectors for the successful implementation of the seven-point future policy of the State with true sense of Union Spirit, Daw Yu Yu Kyi, Executive of Myitkyina Township USDA, said now is the time when the Government is making all-out efforts to develop the motherland so as to catch up with the world nations, to strengthen the national economic life, raise the living standard of national people, and to create a peaceful, modern and developed nation. It is undeniable that the State is witnessing progress in every sector as national people keep rendering harmonious cooperation in this endeavour.

For instance, the emergence of roads and bridges across the nation is a living structure needed for development as irrigation facilities, universities, colleges and hospitals were also built throughout the country. At the same time, industries, big and medium, cottage industries and industrial zones were also established with the aim of ensuring symmetrical progress in the industrial sector.

Thus, the growth of GDP is becoming greater and greater by year. For example, the annual growth of GDP during the 3-year period from the 1989-90 fiscal to the 1991-92 fiscal was 5.9 percent. But, it rose to 11.1 percent in the 2002-03 fiscal.

At the time of the Government of the State Peace and Development Council, the growth of GDP is greater and to be expected.

The democracy copied like this can in no way serve the interest of national people and the State. The democracy copied like this in no way serve the interest of national people and the State. The democracy copied like this in no way serve the interest of national people and the State. The democracy copied like this in no way serve the interest of national people and the State. The democracy copied like this in no way serve the interest of national people and the State. The democracy copied like this in no way serve the interest of national people and the State. The democracy copied like this in no way serve the interest of national people and the State. The democracy copied like this in no way serve the interest of national people and the State.
Peace and stability required for success of ...

(from page 8)

The emergence of a firm constitution is the most important key to the creation of a new future State. To put it in a nutshell, the Prime Minister’s address concerning the seven-point future policy and programme of the State is the torch that will shed its light, with national outlook, on actual development condition, political situation and transitional process throughout the past, present and future times of the State. For the successful accomplishment of the seven-point future policy and programme of the State, the entire mass of people of national races should therefore do their bit enthusiastically with a keen sense of Union Spirit, he concluded.

Afterwards, Vice-Chairman U Sai Then Aung of Ethnic Shan Literature and Culture Committee of Kachin State seconded the motion tabled by Daw Yu Yu Kyi calling for the active participation of entire national people in any sector for the successful implementation of seven-point roadmap of the State with full essence of Union spirit.

He said the State Peace and Development Council is implementing the political, economic and social objectives day and night aiming at the national goal of a new peaceful, modern and developed nation, the Union of Myanmar is now firmly and clearly marching on the right path of development.

All the people are now enjoying the advantages of sound foundations for national solidarity, development of national economic life, social advancement and technological development in the nation.

I would like to present the systematic measures of the government for the harmonious development of the respective economic and development sectors, making comparisons of the conditions before the Tatmadaw Government’s assumption of the State duties and the present period of 2003.

Witnessing the development and prosperity in every sector in the entire nation including Kachin State, all the national people are pleased with the efforts of the government.

In the agriculture sector, total sown acreage of Kachin State, which stood at 360,000 acres previously, reached 560,000 acres now, showing an increase of 200,000 acres. Therefore, Kachin State, which was not known to have produced sufficient rice for itself in history, has become a self-sufficient state of rice since 1998. At the time of the Tatmadaw government, over 150 irrigation facilities have been constructed in the entire nation and over two million acres of agricultural land can be irrigated. The government have constructed Bandanayang Namhsai, Kazunkhaya and Namtarhwe Diversion Weirs and Myogon and Myothitgale river water pumping stations in Kachin State.

In the road and bridge sector, total length of tarred, granite and earth roads in Kachin State increased from over 2,000 miles in 1988 to over 2,600 miles today and 660 miles long roads in total was constructed in the state. At the time of the Tatmadaw government, a total of 11 bridges each of which is above 180 feet including the Ayeawaddy river crossing Bala Min Htin Bridge can be constructed in Kachin State after 1988.

At the time of the Tatmadaw government, a total of 11 bridges each of which is above 180 feet including the Ayeawaddy River crossing Bala Min Htin Bridge can be constructed in Kachin State after 1988. Other six bridges are also under construction. High mountains, rivers and creeks, and thick forests are abundant in our Kachin State. It was very difficult to travel from one place to another in Kachin State in the past. Now, with the completion of the maintenance of Myitkyina-Bhamo road and construction of Mandalay-Shwegu-Bhamo roads, entire Kachin State can be traveled conveniently.

Furthermore, Myitkyina is accessible from Hsacon, Hsama, Panwa, Chipwe and Lawkhaung of Maykha Valley. Communication service in no time was installed, and 13 digital microwave stations that were never known previously have been constructed in Kachin State. Auto telephone systems have also been installed in Myitkyina, Bhamo, Mogamau, Mohinyin and Hopang and those in Shwegu, Phakant and Namti are underway. Satellite communication systems have also been installed in far-flung areas such as Putan, Panwa, Chipwe, Tanai and Sunprabam. A total of 12 rural communication stations have been set up in rural areas. Therefore, local people of Kachin State are now able to communicate not only in the country but also all over the world in no time.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said in his guidance, ‘Youth are the fundamental human resources, and human resources of a nation is the wealth of that nation. Enhancing the value of natural resources, qualified human resources are always able to raise the standard of the national people. Institutes of higher learning including university, two technologically colleges, two computer colleges and one degree college emerged in Kachin State where there was only one college previously. Mohnyn Degree College, and Mohnyn Technological Institute are also under construction. Therefore, youth of Kachin State are able to enjoy the equal opportunities of learning advanced technologies. In proportion to the increase in number of basic education schools in the entire nation, the number of teachers also rose from over 173,000 in 1988 to over 222,000 now.

(See page 10)
In the health sector, the number of hospitals in Kachin State stood at 35 previously, now reached 43, increasing the number of new hospitals to 8. Myitkyina People’s Hospital was upgraded 200-bed to 300-bed one; Bhamo District Hospital turned into 200-bed one and Patan District Hospital into 100-bed one. Now, these hospitals are providing health care services of physicians in accord with their advanced status. Number of health personnel in Kachin State also increased from 707 to 982.

I have already presented the volume of development in our country and in Kachin State. Now, Kachin State is of a firm constitution for the future of the State. In such a time, we are to collectively strive for the emergence of economic basics for the development of the Union and outstanding persons for the future of the State, preserving our national prestige and integrity. We, with no submission to intimidation and flattery, are to overcome all the obstacles and hindrances hand in hand with the government and march on towards our goal without losing sight of it. In conclusion, I would like to highlight that the seven point policy of the State is of greatest importance for the entire people and it is the roadmap of our country, and enthusiastically second the motion tabled by Daw Yu Yu Kyi calling for the active participation of the entire people in any sector for the successful implementation of the roadmap.

Member of Kachin Literature and Culture Central Committee Advocate Daw Fabrant Dwebu seconded the motion calling for active participation of the entire national people in realization of the political roadmap of the State by doing their bit with full Union Spirit. She said that the Prime Minister clarified the political roadmap of the State in three parts on 30 August 2003. In the first part, the Prime Minister clarified the progress made sector-wise in the nation from 1988 to this day with accurate figures. In the second part, the Prime Minister clarified how Tatmadaw took the State’s responsibilities, and political progress after its assumption of the State’s duties compared with real events. In the third part, the Prime Minister clarified seven future policies and programmes to be implemented by the Government.

With regard to national development, unprecedented progress has been made in all sectors of the nation when compared with the development in the period of 1988 and now. No one can deny the fact that the current development was made by the government and the people. In making efforts for enabling the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with the world nations, the Government has laid down and implemented the national development projects and projects for rural development to bring about harmonious development across the nation, to narrow development gap among the regions, to ensure equitable development in economic, education, health and social sectors. To bring about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation, the government has laid down the 24 special development zones, projects for development of border areas and national races and the five rural development tasks and is implementing them.

As the Tatmadaw government has been able to forge the national solidarity, there has been development of border areas and national races. As priority has been given to development of border areas and national races, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was formed, and tasks for development of border areas and national races and enhancement of socio-economic life of the local people could be implemented with added momentum.

Previously, tasks for development of border areas and national races was implemented in the regions where peace and tranquillity prevails. Later, harmonious development has been brought about in all border regions that lagged behind in development. Now, over 5.3 million national people who reside in border regions have been able to enjoy the fruits of development. The government has spent over Ky 506 million on development of border areas and is implementing them.

For the achievement of the national policies such as non-disintegration of the national solidarity and non-disintegration of the Union. In other words, it shows that the strength of the nation lies within. The disturbances that brought anarchy and terror occurred in 1988. The Tatmadaw had to unavoidably assume the State responsibilities. The Tatmadaw, after its assumption of the State duties, had to restore peace and tranquillity in the nation.

At the same time, it has been making all-out efforts for shaping of a peaceful modern and developed nation. Meanwhile, it has been making continued efforts for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation in line with discipline-flourishing democracy. Democracy must be based on conditions of geography, race and culture and historical trends of a nation. It needs to be well aware that it is out of the question to copy democracy of foreign nations.

In building the future, efforts will have to be made for implementing the strong political, economic and social objectives to ensure flourishing of Union...
Stability and peace bears fruits of development in Kachin State

Hopin Bridge which was opened on 17 June 2003 is constructed across Thayet creek on Shwebo-Myitkyina road in Hopin, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State. The bridge is 200 feet in length and is of concrete reinforced type. It also has a 75 feet wide clearance with 8 feet in height. The bridge plays a vital role in linking Kachin State to Central Myanmar. The bridge will also ensure smooth flow of commodities in Kachin State. It will also contribute to the flourishing of Union Spirit that forges amicable relations among different national races. —PHOTO:MNA

Tanai Bridge spanning the Tanai River on Tanai-Nanyun Road in Kachin State was opened on 12 February 2002. The bridge is 942 feet long and 12 feet wide and can withstand 30-ton loads.—PHOTO:MNA

The 2,688 feet long steel-framed Bala Min Htin bridge opened on 14 November 1998 links Sitapu of Myitkyina and Mongna on the other bank of Ayeyawady River in Kachin State. It was built at a cost of K 1077.3 million plus US$ 5.9 million.—PHOTO:KYEMON

The 2,688 feet long steel-framed Bala Min Htin bridge opened on 14 November 1998 links Sitapu of Myitkyina and Mongna on the other bank of Ayeyawady River in Kachin State. It was built at a cost of K 1077.3 million plus US$ 5.9 million.—PHOTO:KYEMON

Stability and peace bears fruits of development in Kachin State
**Advertisements**

**South Korea-made products exhibited in Beijing**

**Bunton, 28 Sept.—** A South Korea-made products show started here Thursday at the China International Exhibition Centre to promote cooperation in trade between China and the South Korea.

Zhang Zhigang, Vice-Chinese Minister of Commerce, said at the opening ceremony of the exhibition that there is increasing cooperation in trade and economic area between China and the South Korea.

The bilateral trade volume between China and South Korea reached $36 billion US dollars in the first eight months of this year, showing a 42.4 per-cent increase year-on-year. South Korea has become the fifth largest trade partner and the sixth foreign capital source of China.

Kim Chul-woo, Vice-Minister of Commerce, Industry and Energy of South Korea, said at the opening ceremony that the two countries had cooperated successfully in many industries, including automotive, steel and IT.

China has become South Korea’s third largest trade partner and second largest export market. China and South Korea will hold exhibitions of their own products in each other’s country every year.— MNA/Xinhua

---

**Honda opens two new plants in Indonesia**

**JAKARTA,** 28 Sept.— Japan’s second largest automotive company Honda Motor Co, Ltd, Thursday officially opened two new plants in Indonesia’s Karawang, West Java.

Visiting Honda president Takeo Fukui said the company had decided to establish the plants in Indonesia because it believed that Indonesia would become a major player in automotive spare parts production in the region.

“We are talking about long-term prospects. I know that there are security concerns here, but I believe they will not last long,” Fukui was quoted Friday by The Jakarta Post as saying.

He said that the plants were part of Honda’s attempt to establish a highly efficient and flexible global network for production and parts procurement, making the best use of the competitive strength of its plants located in different regions in the world.

Foreign direct investment in Indonesia has plunged since the late 1990s economic crisis. The recent improvement in the country’s macroeconomic indicators has not translated into higher investment activities due to lingering problems in other areas such as high uncertainty, labour disputes, corruption, lack of productivity and poor implementation of the regional autonomy policy.

The government is now under pressure to increase investment to help push economic growth higher to resolve the exploding unemployment problem.

Honda’s two new plants are located in Bukit Indah Industrial Park, Karawang, about 70 kilometres southeast of Jakarta. Honda has invested a total of 134 million US dollars to set up the plants and has employed around 3,000 workers.— MNA/Xinhua

---

**Zambia to distribute subsidized fertilizer, seeds to farmers**

**LUSAKA,** 28 Sept.— The Zambian government said Thursday that it will distribute 60,000 tons of subsidized fertilizer and 3,000 tons of subsidized maize seeds to 150,000 small scale farmers in the 2003/2004 farming season.

Chance Kabaghe, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, told a Press briefing that the prices of the subsidized maize seeds and fertilizer are only half of the market prices.

The distribution began on Thursday, he said. According to Kabaghe, the government distributed 48,000 tons of fertilizer and 2,400 tons of seeds to 120,000 small farmers during the 2002/2003 season.— MNA/Xinhua

---

**Bank Holiday**

All Banks will be closed on 1st October (Wednesday) 2003, being Bank Holiday under the negotiable instruments Act.
Peace and stability required for success …

That is why in shaping the future nation, the entire national people are striving to overcome every obstacle and hindrance with Union Spirit.

In the second part of the Prime Minister’s speech, it was clearly clarified efforts for national solidarity with goodwill. Making efforts for the emergence of economic infrastructures and improvement of the living standard of the people after forging the national solidarity is the prerequisite for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

With prevalence of law and order in the nation, the government has been able to forge the national solidarity to a certain extent. In such a time, arrangements were made for convening the National Convention in 1992. The National Convention is the meeting to discuss and search for basic principles required in shaping the future democratic nation.

To be able to shape the future nation, successful holding of the National Convention and the emergence of the constitution are the driving factors. Only when the National Convention succeeds will the political roadmap of the State be implemented phase by phase, using the basic principles laid down by the National Convention. Therefore, resumption of the National Convention is of paramount importance for the nation. All the people in Kachin State will make concerted efforts for realization of the seven future policies and programmes clarified by the Prime Minister.

The seven future policies and programmes are meant for the emergence of the discipline-flourishing democratic nation which is the national objective and building of the peaceful, modern and developed nation. The emergence of a new enduring constitution that guaranteed the national development is the national duty for the entire national people. The Kachin State practically experienced good and bad consequences of the history. The people in Kachin State have now been enjoying the fruits of development. That is why the people in Kachin State thank the government for its relentless efforts with goodwill and will take part in the national and regional development.

In conclusion, the motion calling for active participation of the entire national people in realization of the political roadmap of the State by doing their bit with Union Spirit tabled by Daw Yu Yu Kyi is our cause, our desire and our objective. Thus, we the people in Kachin State, seriously and enthusiastically second the motion.

Afterwards, the chairman sought the approval of the mass rally concerning the motion for active participation of the entire national people by doing their bit for the successful implementation of the seven future policies and programmes tabled by Daw Yu Yu Kyi.

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

The mass rally concluded with chanting of the slogans. — MNA
**Yin Yin reigns supreme**

The article is reproduced from the New Straits Times of Wednesday on 24/9/2003.—Ed

**MANILA, Sept 24 —** As the mighty Chinese continue to sweep aside every strand of competition, it was Myanmar’s Yin Yin Khine who kept everybody on their feet on the final day of the Asian track and field meet yesterday.

Like her famous victory in the 400 metres on Sunday, she again reigned supreme in the 800 metres yesterday to complete the two-lap race in a time of 2:03.75 secs and the field just cannot keep up with her.

And the victories of the 26-year old from the high-lands of Mandalay in the north of Myanmar have come like a generous whiff of fresh air which the competition needed in the face of the total Chinese domination which saw them winning 19 golds out of the 43 at stake.

Yin Yin whose running career started in 1993 at a regional meet in Mandalay has blossomed into a one-lap sprinter and middle distance runner with a fearful reputation.

She is no longer the unknown she was when she was a sprinter and middle distance runner with a fearful reputation in 1999. Since the 1995 Games in Bangkok, she has been a force to be reckoned with every time she steps out on track.

Her next stop? Vietnam in December and the Sea Games. And even before stepping foot in the Vietnamese circuit for the biennial series she had bettered the Games record of 2:03.75 secs held by Thailand’s S Chatanahong in the 1985 Games in Bangkok.

**AC Milan’s Rivaldo, left, is chased by Brescia defender Fabio Bilia, during their Italian first division soccer match at the Mario Rigamonti stadium in Brescia, Italy, in this Saturday May 10, 2003 file photo. The Brazilian veteran star Rivaldo, unhappy with his season start on AC Milan’s substitute bench, is leaving the Italian soccer powerhouse, AC Milan, announced on 26 September, 2003. The Milanese team said Friday that the club owned by Premier Silvio Berlusconi and Rivaldo decided on a separation by mutual consent.— Reuters**

**Milan release Rivaldo from contract**

**LONDON, 28 Sept—**Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo has been released from his contract with European champions AC Milan, the Serie A club said on Friday.

Milan said in a brief statement on their official website that the former Barcelona player had asked to be freed from his deal which ran until July 2005.

The Brazilian is now free to find a new club without the potential obstacle of transfer fee. England or a return to Spain are his most likely options.

Rivaldo, 31, has not featured for Milan in Serie A or the Champions League this season and had become frustrated by being kept on the sidelines. “I couldn’t cope any longer with the idea of having so little possibility of playing,” Rivaldo said in comments reported by Gazzetta dello Sport’s website.

The Brazilian added that Milan’s opening run of the season was the moment when he realized it was time to move on.

“I understood at Ancona, where I was left on the bench for the whole game,” he said. “If you can’t play games like that, I thought, then you will never play in the big matches.”

It was also a personal decision. “I am not looking to blame anyone, it is simply that I think this is the right thing to do.”

The forward, who played a major role in Brazil’s World Cup triumph in Japan and South Korea last year, joined Milan from Barcelona on a free transfer at the start of last season but has struggled to make an impact.

He was forced to watch Milan’s triumph in the Champions League final against Juventus in May from the bench at Old Trafford. Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani said there had been no dispute or bitterness behind Rivaldo’s departure.

“The decision to mutually cancel the contract, with effect from today, was taken in absolute friendship and calmness,” said Galliani.

Rivaldo said in an interview with a Brazilian newspaper on Monday that he intended to stay in Europe should he leave the Serie A club. — MNA/Xinhua

**Milan release Rivaldo from contract**

**LONDON, 28 Sept—**Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo has been released from his contract with European champions AC Milan, the Serie A club said on Friday.

Milan said in a brief statement on their official website that the former Barcelona player had asked to be freed from his deal which ran until July 2005.

The Brazilian is now free to find a new club without the potential obstacle of transfer fee. England or a return to Spain are his most likely options.

Rivaldo, 31, has not featured for Milan in Serie A or the Champions League this season and had become frustrated by being kept on the sidelines. “I couldn’t cope any longer with the idea of having so little possibility of playing,” Rivaldo said in comments reported by Gazzetta dello Sport’s website.

The Brazilian added that Milan’s opening run of the season was the moment when he realized it was time to move on.

“I understood at Ancona, where I was left on the bench for the whole game,” he said. “If you can’t play games like that, I thought, then you will never play in the big matches.”

It was also a personal decision. “I am not looking to blame anyone, it is simply that I think this is the right thing to do.”

The forward, who played a major role in Brazil’s World Cup triumph in Japan and South Korea last year, joined Milan from Barcelona on a free transfer at the start of last season but has struggled to make an impact.

He was forced to watch Milan’s triumph in the Champions League final against Juventus in May from the bench at Old Trafford. Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani said there had been no dispute or bitterness behind Rivaldo’s departure.

“The decision to mutually cancel the contract, with effect from today, was taken in absolute friendship and calmness,” said Galliani.

Rivaldo said in an interview with a Brazilian newspaper on Monday that he intended to stay in Europe should he leave the Serie A club. — MNA/Xinhua

**Milan release Rivaldo from contract**

**LONDON, 28 Sept—**Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo has been released from his contract with European champions AC Milan, the Serie A club said on Friday.

Milan said in a brief statement on their official website that the former Barcelona player had asked to be freed from his deal which ran until July 2005.

The Brazilian is now free to find a new club without the potential obstacle of transfer fee. England or a return to Spain are his most likely options.

Rivaldo, 31, has not featured for Milan in Serie A or the Champions League this season and had become frustrated by being kept on the sidelines. “I couldn’t cope any longer with the idea of having so little possibility of playing," Rivaldo said in comments reported by Gazzetta dello Sport’s website.

The Brazilian added that Milan’s opening run of the season was the moment when he realized it was time to move on.

“I understood at Ancona, where I was left on the bench for the whole game," he said. “If you can’t play games like that, I thought, then you will never play in the big matches.”

It was also a personal decision. “I am not looking to blame anyone, it is simply that I think this is the right thing to do.”

The forward, who played a major role in Brazil’s World Cup triumph in Japan and South Korea last year, joined Milan from Barcelona on a free transfer at the start of last season but has struggled to make an impact.

He was forced to watch Milan’s triumph in the Champions League final against Juventus in May from the bench at Old Trafford. Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani said there had been no dispute or bitterness behind Rivaldo’s departure.

“The decision to mutually cancel the contract, with effect from today, was taken in absolute friendship and calmness,” said Galliani.

Rivaldo said in an interview with a Brazilian newspaper on Monday that he intended to stay in Europe should he leave the Serie A club. — MNA/Xinhua

**Milan release Rivaldo from contract**

**LONDON, 28 Sept—**Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo has been released from his contract with European champions AC Milan, the Serie A club said on Friday.

Milan said in a brief statement on their official website that the former Barcelona player had asked to be freed from his deal which ran until July 2005.

The Brazilian is now free to find a new club without the potential obstacle of transfer fee. England or a return to Spain are his most likely options.

Rivaldo, 31, has not featured for Milan in Serie A or the Champions League this season and had become frustrated by being kept on the sidelines. “I couldn’t cope any longer with the idea of having so little possibility of playing," Rivaldo said in comments reported by Gazzetta dello Sport’s website.

The Brazilian added that Milan’s opening run of the season was the moment when he realized it was time to move on.

“I understood at Ancona, where I was left on the bench for the whole game," he said. “If you can’t play games like that, I thought, then you will never play in the big matches.”

It was also a personal decision. “I am not looking to blame anyone, it is simply that I think this is the right thing to do.”

The forward, who played a major role in Brazil’s World Cup triumph in Japan and South Korea last year, joined Milan from Barcelona on a free transfer at the start of last season but has struggled to make an impact.

He was forced to watch Milan’s triumph in the Champions League final against Juventus in May from the bench at Old Trafford. Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani said there had been no dispute or bitterness behind Rivaldo’s departure.

“The decision to mutually cancel the contract, with effect from today, was taken in absolute friendship and calmness,” said Galliani.

Rivaldo said in an interview with a Brazilian newspaper on Monday that he intended to stay in Europe should he leave the Serie A club. — MNA/Xinhua

**Milan release Rivaldo from contract**

**LONDON, 28 Sept—**Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo has been released from his contract with European champions AC Milan, the Serie A club said on Friday.

Milan said in a brief statement on their official website that the former Barcelona player had asked to be freed from his deal which ran until July 2005.

The Brazilian is now free to find a new club without the potential obstacle of transfer fee. England or a return to Spain are his most likely options.

Rivaldo, 31, has not featured for Milan in Serie A or the Champions League this season and had become frustrated by being kept on the sidelines. “I couldn’t cope any longer with the idea of having so little possibility of playing," Rivaldo said in comments reported by Gazzetta dello Sport’s website.

The Brazilian added that Milan’s opening run of the season was the moment when he realized it was time to move on.

“I understood at Ancona, where I was left on the bench for the whole game," he said. “If you can’t play games like that, I thought, then you will never play in the big matches.”

It was also a personal decision. “I am not looking to blame anyone, it is simply that I think this is the right thing to do.”

The forward, who played a major role in Brazil’s World Cup triumph in Japan and South Korea last year, joined Milan from Barcelona on a free transfer at the start of last season but has struggled to make an impact.

He was forced to watch Milan’s triumph in the Champions League final against Juventus in May from the bench at Old Trafford. Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani said there had been no dispute or bitterness behind Rivaldo’s departure.

“The decision to mutually cancel the contract, with effect from today, was taken in absolute friendship and calmness,” said Galliani.

Rivaldo said in an interview with a Brazilian newspaper on Monday that he intended to stay in Europe should he leave the Serie A club. — MNA/Xinhua
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening of National Seminar on Women and Sport

ANGON, 28 Sept — The opening ceremony of the National Seminar on Women and Sport, jointly organized by Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs, the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, was held at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this morning, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

It was also attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney general, deputy ministers, President of Myanmar Ma-

terial and Child Welfare Association Member of the MNCWA Leader of Panel of Leading Patrons of the MWSF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, members of the panel of leading patrons of MWSF Daw Khin Than Nwe, Daw Khin Lay Thein, Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Win Win and members, Member of the MNCWA Vice-Chairperson of the Myanmar National Working Committee for Women’s Affairs President of MWSF Prof Dr Daw May May Yee, patrons of MWSF, members of MNCWA and MWNCWCA, executives of MWSF, officials of the State Peace and Development Council office, departmental heads, presi-
dents, secretaries and officials of Myanmar sports federa-
tions, members of the working committee and subcommit-
tees for holding the seminar, delegates to the seminar and guests.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made an address on the occasion.

He said that the government, at present, has been mak-
ing efforts in all aspects for development of Myanmar women sector to enable Myanmar women to keep abreast of women of international community.

In the time of the present government, steps are being taken for making the world know about Myanmar women enjoying equal rights as men in the course of history, for the emergence of outstanding Myanmar women and for ena-
bling the women to effectively participate in the nation-
buiding endeavours.

To ensure harmonious development in all sectors of Myanmar women sector, priority is being given to improve-
ment of education, health, social, culture, economic and sports sectors.

In the process, Myanmar National Committee for Women Affairs, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Associa-
tion, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association, and Myanmar Women Sports Federation have been making concerted and collective efforts in the respective sectors.

At the same time, the government is making efforts to enable the nation to keep pace with nations of the world. Accord-

gly, improvement of the sports standard is the dignity that could enhance the national prestige and integrity. With this concept, emphasis is being placed on development of the national sports as a national task.

Under these circumstances, the Myanmar National Com-
mittee for Women Affairs and the Myanmar Sports Federa-
tion have been taking steps to increase the development of Women athletes sector with the aim of ensuring physical and spiritual fitness of Myanmar women and of enabling women sports sector to keep abreast with those of international level. This amounts to implementation of tasks for development of women sector and the national duty.

Myanmar women are striving for development of women sector in unity. That is why outstanding Myanmar women athletes emerge in all sports fields. Meanwhile, together with the sports federations, sports management and sports health sectors have been participating in the task for devel-

opment of Myanmar women sports sector.

Myanmar women sports sector is meeting with success in a short period of time in both regional sports meets and world level sports meets. Thus, the International Olympic Committee presented Women and Sports Trophy for Asia to Myanmar Sports Federation in 2002.

Myanmar sportswomen won prizes in swimming, water-skiing, rowing, weightlifting and Taekwondo in both South-

est Asian sports events and those of international level thereby producing outstanding Myanmar sportswomen.

Likewise, Myanmar sportswomen constantly prizes in track & field, archery, Sepak Takraw, football, yachting, shooting and judo and also in sports meets for the disabled at Southeast Asian and Asian levels.

With regard to medal standing of Myanmar sports women, they won 13 gold out of 19 won by Myanmar, 9 silver out of 14 won by Myanmar, 19 bronze out of 53 won by Myanmar in XXI Southeast Asian Games.

In addition, Myanmar women athletes won 133 medals further development of the standard of the entire Myanmar women mass while striving for improvement of Myanmar women sector.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister wished the women sports sector to be able to uplift the national prestige and integrity through improvement of the national sports stand-

ard; to be able to make concerted efforts in the respective sectors. At the same time, the government is making efforts to enable women sports sector.

Therefore, continued efforts are to be made for further improvement of Myanmar women sports sector by formu-

lating and developing systematic and work programmes from the National Seminar on Women and Sports.

In addition, strenuous efforts will have to be made for

10th Global Conference of Women Entrepreneurs concludes

ANGON, 28 Sept — The 10th Global Conference of Women Entrepreneurs sponsored by the International Fed-

eration of Women Entrepreneurs and Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association successfully concluded at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were President of International Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Dr Wei Motik Pramono Msi and members, delegates of Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Ja-

pan, the People’s Republic of China, India, Thailand, Aus-

tralia, Pakistan, China (Taipei) and Nepal and guests.

Managing Director of Ken Resources Pte Co Ltd Mrs Angeline Low (Australia) presided over the first session.

Adviser to the MWEA Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint (Retd) of Institute of Economics presided over the second session.

The resource persons discussed paper on Cultural Un-

derstanding for Progress & Growth from various points of view and replied to queries raised by those present.

Adviser to the MWEA Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint (Retd) of Institute of Economics presided over the second session.

The resource persons discussed paper on Social Entre-

preneurship for Women from various points of view and

replied to queries raised by those present.

Founder and Adviser of MWEA Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint presented gifts to the President and the resource persons.

Later, IFWE President Dr Dewi Motik Pramono Msi made concluding remarks and the conference successfully ended in the afternoon.

In the evening, a farewell party for the delegates to the conference was held through Riverine Trip Programme on Banyar Latt watercraft with an entertainment of songs and dances. — MNA

Preparatory works of Myanmar-Thai border region health education exhibition inspected

ANGON, 28 Sept — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, together with Director-General of Health Department Dr Than Maung, Director-General of Medical Science Depart-

ment Dr Than Maung Wint, Director-General of Tradi-

tional Medicine Department Dr Than Swe and officials, arrived at Kengtung on 26 September.

The minister inspected the preparations for the third Myanmar-Thai border region health education exhibition and health week activities to be held in Kengtung and fulfilled the requirements.

At the Tale station hospital, the minister gave words of encouragement to eye patients and cliff lip and palate patients and inspected the patient wards.

Next, the minister and party inspected the Mongphyat Township hospital and fulfilled the requirements.

At the Tale station hospital, the minister gave words of encouragement to eye patients and cliff lip and palate patients and inspected the patient wards.

Next, the minister and party inspected the Mongphyat Township hospital and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister and party inspected the Mongphyat Township hospital and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister and party inspected the Mongphyat Township hospital and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister and party inspected the Mongphyat Township hospital and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister and party inspected the Mongphyat Township hospital and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister and party inspected the Mongphyat Township hospital and fulfilled the requirements.
Peace and stability required…

Our nation is home to various national races. Thus, all the people believe that making of efforts to build a firm national unity, while striving for regional development, installation of the economic infrastructures and enhancement of the social standard, constitute laying down the foundation needed for the democracy system.

Even as the government laid down and rapidly implemented the projects for the development of border areas and national races in order to re-consolidate national unity, it had been simultaneously engaged in restoring trust and confidence with the armed groups, so that they could return to the legal fold. As a result, 17 armed groups have now returned to the legal fold. Even a casual look can reveal that the task of persuading the armed groups to return to the legal fold represents a very difficult change of events. It was definitely not easy to overcome the difficult conditions created by more than four decades of fighting against each other among national brethren with loss of life on both sides while the people faced all kinds of difficulties and sufferings. Our government has achieved what had not been possible for the previous governments. 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 for development of their regions but for national development.

If we recall the past, we can see that the nation was on the verge of total collapse, and she was about to lose her independence and sovereignty, due to the deterioration of administrative and management machinery and the rule of law. In this regard, the Tatmadaw has taken over the State duties since 18 September 1988 under unavoidable circumstances.

First, the Tatmadaw Government strove to restore peace and stability, and made continued efforts to lay down sound foundations for national economic development. Because of the endeavours, the whole nation is now enjoying surplus food and not enough machinery and vehicles. Travelling from one place to another seemed almost impossible then. Relatives were not able to meet each other, and the health, education and social requirements could not be fulfilled. Now the state has many bridges including the large Bala Min Thit Bridge. Airports in the state have been upgraded. New roads have been built, while the existing ones are being upgraded. Passengers can travel in daytime or at night to every place in the region. Thanks to the peace and stability, a large number of new farmlands can be reclaimed. Thus, the state has developed to a region enjoying surplus food and not enough machinery and vehicles.

People of Kachin State are enjoying the taste of peace and stability to the extent that is most significant development in Kachin State. In doing so, we will have to correctly use the human resource, natural resource, capital, technology, and social environment. The future constitution must be in accord with the objectives and the people which have a long history of up-holding their fine traditions. It can also assure the emergence of a firm constitution. Only the National Convention is able to lay down the sound basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

I will now quote the guidelines given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, who said, “Whatever system the nation is practising, a constitution is needed for it. In addition, the constitution must be a durable one that serves the interest of the entire people of the Union.”

The Tatmadaw has taken over the State duties since 18 September 1988 under unavoidable circumstances. If we recall the past, we can see that the nation was on the verge of total collapse, and the state was about to lose its independence and sovereignty, due to the deterioration of administrative and management machinery. In this regard, the Tatmadaw has taken over the State duties since 18 September 1988 under unavoidable circumstances.

First, the Tatmadaw Government strove to restore peace and stability, and made continued efforts to lay down sound foundations for national economic development. Because of the endeavours, the whole nation is now enjoying surplus food and not enough machinery and vehicles. Travelling from one place to another seemed almost impossible then. Relatives were not able to meet each other, and the health, education and social requirements could not be fulfilled. Now the state has many bridges including the large Bala Min Thit Bridge. Airports in the state have been upgraded. New roads have been built, while the existing ones are being upgraded. Passengers can travel in daytime or at night to every place in the region. Thanks to the peace and stability, a large number of new farmlands can be reclaimed. Thus, the state has developed to a region enjoying surplus food and not enough machinery and vehicles.

People of Kachin State are enjoying the taste of peace and stability to the extent that is most significant development in Kachin State.