

Rangoon on Friday calling for adoption of the 1947 constitution drawn up after Burma's independence from Britain.

It also urged the formation of a caretaker government and free elections as soon as possible.

"As regards the constitution, the people are not demanding (amend-

Since early August the government has been under siege by a national revolt encompassing almost all sectors of society, with the exception so far of active army officers.

The bar council statement was directed at President Maung Maung, chairman of the Burma Socialist Programme Par-

ty rule — drafted by Maung Maung and other party leaders — "had also been violated when students and people peacefully demonstrating were shot at," the council said. "These are only some of the instances in which the laws had been violated by the organs of power."

at Tachilek town

Mae Sai — More than 5,000 Burmese students, merchants and villagers protested against the Rangoon government during a demonstration in Tachilek yesterday.

The rally, organised by students and bolstered by

60 monks, began at 10 a.m. and saw a number of fiery speeches while unarmed troops and police looked on passively.

A group of 11 students, in an interview on the bridge spanning the Mae Sai river, said mass protests and general strike will continue until the embattled Ne Win regime gives way to a caretaker government.

The students said rallies will be postponed because villagers needed to tend to their farms but the campaign will resume on Wednesday.

According to the students, Tachilek district officer Maung Song had been summoned to Rangoon to brief the authorities on developments.

Amid the protests, Burmese authorities have closed the border, crippling trade in Mae Sai and keeping goods out of Tachilek, where prices have doubled.

Burmese residents said petrol and bunker oil was in short supply, and the power supply was being cut at 9 p.m.

Faced with the prospect of shortages of food and other necessities, Tachilek residents said they were worried about crime, including robbery.



Thousands of people march past the Sule Pagoda (right) and the City Hall (left) during a massive demon-

stration on Thursday to demand an interim government. — AP



Students carrying banners reading 'Enough of Lanzin (govt) party' and 'No more dictatorship' march through Rangoon yesterday. — Reuter

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U Nu says Burma must return to democracy



Students shout slogans to demand democracy and an interim government during a rally in Rangoon on Friday. — Reuters

Burmese lawyers urge return to '47 charter

Rangoon (Reuters) — Burmese lawyers have called for abrogation of the country's constitution and joined demands for the removal of the military-backed socialist government, a state-owned newspaper said yesterday.

The *Shanin* said the Central Bar Council had passed a statement in which the adoption of the 1947 constitution drawn up after Burma's independence from Britain.

It also urged the formation of a caretaker government and free elections as soon as possible.

"As regards the constitution, the people are not demanding

mental. What they are demanding is to abrogate the 1974 constitution and to form a caretaker government," the council statement said.

Demonstrations being held throughout the country are ample proof that the whole constitution of 1974 is no longer in agreement with the people's wishes.

The present constitution legitimizing BSPP

party (BSPP). He had appealed one day earlier for patience to allow an emergency BSPP party congress on September 12 to decide on possible multi-party rule.

The bar council said a 1962 military coup which installed the BSPP violated the 1947 constitution.

The present constitution legitimizing BSPP

Rangoon (AFP) — Former premier U Nu, toppled in a coup in 1962 that led to one-party rule, says Burma must return to democracy to avoid further strife and that many in the army are sympathetic to anti-government protesters.

He also denied there was a split among protest leaders.

The 61-year-old former premier said the absence from his League for Democracy and Peace of such key figures as former Brigadier Aung Mye Thaz, and Aung San Suu Kyi, 42, daughter of Burma's founding father Aung San, did not mean they disagreed.

U Nu said the group he set up on Monday with 20 elder statesmen was aimed at ensuring a peaceful transition to democracy after 26 years of rigid rule by the only legal political grouping, the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP).

"I am not against this league. Neither is Aung San Suu Kyi. They are for it in principle," U Nu said in an interview with the AFP at his home here on Thursday. "Since we've had no criticism from them, how can there be a split."

"Of course each of them may have his or her own idea about how to go about things," he added.

U Nu said the league was formed to "address immediate everyday problems" brought about by a month of protests which have seen the authority of the BSPP collapse in most of the country.

But he said it was too early to summarize whether he would form an interim government if the BSPP regime steps down.

"The authorities have not even said that they would form one," he said.

Once a pledge to end the rule of the Buddha from 11 years of exile in



U Nu — urges restraint

1980, U Nu said he would not re-enter politics. But he enjoys great respect in Burma and his name has cropped up as a candidate for interim leader if the BSPP steps down for an interim government.

U Nu urged restraint to the current situation, in which protesters nation-wide have taken over many BSPP offices, including local administrations.

HOPES

"People are doing all sorts of things like freely taking over parts of lines, stopping cars on the roads for rides, and other disruptive acts," said U Nu. Burma's first premier after independence from Britain in 1948.

"These are the immediate problems we're facing. Communications have been cut off, transportation halted, resulting in food shortages. Since there is no movement of food, prices are getting high."

The league hopes to be able to solve all these

problems while trying to attain democracy smoothly and without destruction," said U Nu, whose elected government was overthrown by his then chief-of-staff Gen Ne Win in 1962.

Asked about possible army intervention, U Nu said: "We can't hope for the army to be whole to remain neutral. Some will stay to and some won't."

"However I've heard that a lot of those within the army are sympathetic towards the protesters," he said.

He said his faith in a multi-party system was unshaken despite Ne Win's claim in toppling him in 1962 that such elementary democracy had failed in Burma.

"There is no other alternative. We must go for a multi-party system."

U Nu said that democracy entailed making compromises but cautioned that "not all of the protesters may be willing to do this."

Offered by President Ne Win to hold a referendum on switching to a multi-party system, he said, "Some say it is not present. They are questioning this step at a time when the country is in turmoil clamoring for democracy."

"Others seem to accept it. They feel things should be done in an orderly manner as long as democracy is ultimately achieved," the former premier said.

U Nu has spent most of his time since returning to Burma translating Buddhist texts and manuscripts, said "his health is good in general" but that he was not "severely healthy."



Prince Phitsolajit Rajakul with the Magsaysay award presented to the King's Royal Project.

RP seeks help from the Royal Project

THE Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation has requested assistance for rural development in the Philippines from His Majesty the King's Royal Project.

The project was named to receive the 1985 Ramon Magsaysay Award for international understanding and Project Director Prince Phitsolajit Rajakul spoke of the foundation's request after returning from the Philippines where he attended an awards presentation ceremony.

The Magsaysay Foundation's Board of Trustees complimented Thailand's Royal Project for concerted national efforts in helping hilltribe people in northern Thailand by introducing farming as an alternative to opium growing.

Prince Phitsolajit and the Royal Project can give valuable advice to the Philippine foundation on cultivation of tropical fruits and vegetation as the two

countries have similar climates.

His Majesty the King launched the Royal Project (formerly the Royal Hilltribe Development Project) in 1960.

Project staff have taught villagers and hilltribesmen how to plant vegetables, fruit and coffee seeds, leading to a decrease in opium growing.

More than 300 hilltribe villages benefited directly from the Royal Project which has also set up schools, co-operatives, "rice banks" and centres for basic medical services.

In addition to primary farm products, the villagers and hilltribesmen have been taught to produce gum, wines, fish, sun-dried vegetables, medicinal herbs, dried fruits and flowers for export.

The Magsaysay Award, which is one of the Nobel Prize, was named after a Philippine president and carries a cash prize of US\$50,000.

Thousands protest

More than 5,000 Burmese students, merchants and villagers protested against the Burmese government during a demonstration in Thachlek yesterday.

The rally, organized by students and bolstered by



Bridge to be closed

The Krunpin Bridge will close for three months at 2 p.m. next Saturday for repairs.

The Public Works Department said yesterday it needed to move two support pillars on the bridge, which has been in use for 29 years.

A passenger ferry service will operate from the foot of the bridge, and when it resumes, only smaller trucks will be allowed to use it.

The bridge, which underwent major repairs in 1964, is used by 80,000 vehicles a day.

The women have been asked to keep a look-out for two British women who may have been in contact with an infected puppy, with steering in Hua Hin and then a week ago.

The women have been asked to call Mrs. Sarah Macdonald in Bangkok on 02-248-1872.

Top Indian politician faces murder charge

New Delhi (Reuters) — Opposition politician Singu was charged last night with conspiracy to murder national leader Indira Gandhi.

The Press Trust of India said Anita Modi, the widow of the former Congress minister, was charged with the same offence in a case surrounded by allegations of their sex and political maneuvering.

Anita, 24, was released on bail on August 26 and told not to leave New Delhi.

Singu, 51, once close to prime minister Indira Gandhi, has protested that he is innocent and denied any sexual involvement. Anita also denied having an affair.

Singu accused Gandhi, who has said nothing on the case in public, of trying to frame him because he quit the ruling Congress party to join the opposition Jan Morcha (People's Front).

Jan Morcha is the creation of Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Gandhi's former finance and defence minister, who delivered a stinging blow to the Congress Party in June.

Tourists urged to help

TOURISTS have been asked to keep a look-out for two British women who may have been in contact with an infected puppy, with steering in Hua Hin and then a week ago.

The women have been asked to call Mrs. Sarah Macdonald in Bangkok on 02-248-1872.

False death claims made after quake

Panama (Reuters) — Indian yesterday reduced the official death toll from last month's major earthquake after uncovering false reports of fatalities from people trying to claim government compensation.

The official toll from the northern state rocked by the quake on August 21, said they had reduced the death toll from 286 to 261.

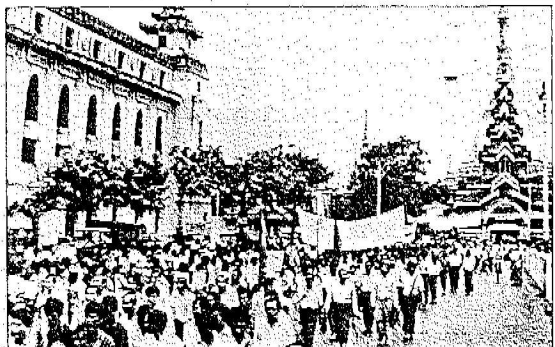
They said the other 25 alleged deaths were reported by people trying to claim the 100,000 (US\$1,000) compensation offered by the government for fatalities.

The officials did not say whether any action would be taken against those accused of making false reports.

13 killed in Kabul attack

Kabul (UPI) — The second round of rocket barrages on Kabul in one week killed 13, officials said on Friday.

Al-Qaeda officials said in another cable that the attack on Thursday.



Thousands of people march past the Sule Pagoda (right) and the City Hall (left) during a massive demonstration on Thursday to demand an interim government. — AP



Students during business meeting 'Enough of Lanza (left) party' and 'No more dictatorship' march through Rangoon yesterday. — Reuters