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Message from His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the Fifty-eighth Anniversary of United Nations Day (Yangon, 24 October 2003)

We are today celebrating the fifty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The International Organization was founded with the collective determination. It aims to eradicate the scourge of war, to strengthen peace in conformity with justice and international law and to respect the equal rights of nations large and small, among others. It also aims to use the United Nations as a centre for harmonizing the actions of Member States in the attainment of these common ends. Since its inception, the United Nations has exerted tireless efforts to achieve its goals for the benefit of humankind. Remarkable achievements have been attained in many areas, while success has proved to be elusive in others.

The leaders of the nations of the world greeted the arrival of the new millennium with the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This important document embodies a large number of specific commitments aimed at improving the lot of humanity

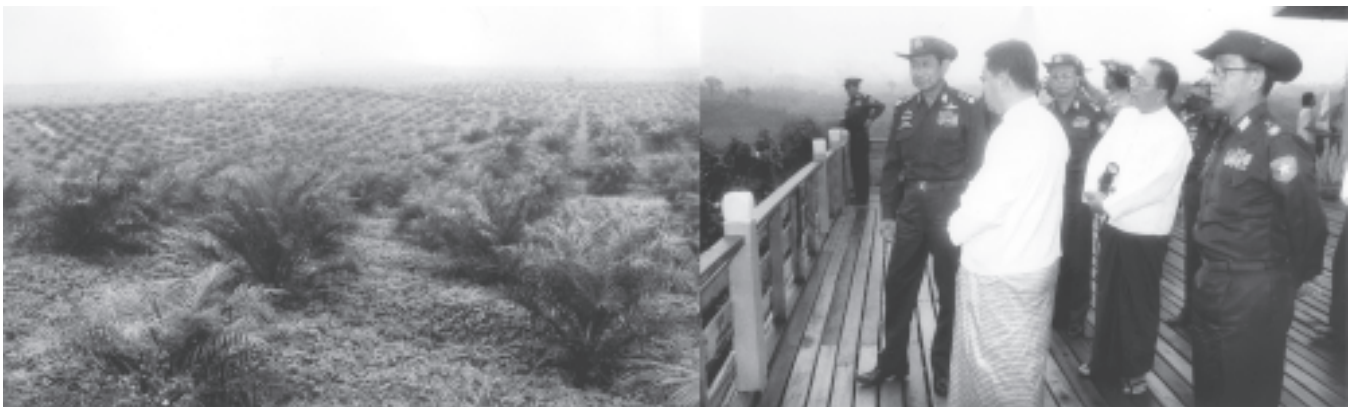
in the new century. Among the areas on which commitments have been made, peace and security are priorities. The turn of the millennium has brought new challenges in the field of peace and security. Strengthening respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs, taking concerted action against international terrorism, redoubling efforts to counter the world drug problem, intensifying efforts to fight transnational crime, resolving armed conflicts, and disarmament matters are the goals set by the Millennium Declaration to be implemented by the States in this century. Other priority areas of commitment are development and poverty eradication. In order to significantly reduce poverty and promote development, it is essential to achieve sustained and broad-based economic growth. The millennium development goals highlight some of the priority areas that must be addressed to eliminate extreme poverty. These goals include commitments made by developed nations such as increased development assistance and improved market

access for exports from developing countries.

This is the third year since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration. Some progress in a few areas have been made so far in achieving the objectives agreed upon. Member States need to continue to undertake appropriate measures towards their implementation.

Myanmar, as a member of the World Organization, believes that it is important to realize the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration in comprehensive, integrated, coordinated and balanced manner at the national, regional and international levels.

On the auspicious occasion of the fifty-eighth anniversary of the United Nations, we in Myanmar join with other Member States in reaffirming our commitment to purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and pledge our fullest support for and cooperation with the Organization in its efforts to create a world at peace and development.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects oil palm plantation at the Oil Palm Cultivation Project of Yuzana Co Ltd in Khamaukgyi Region, Kawthoung Township. — MNA

Taninthayi Division will be one of the divisions on which the State can rely economically Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets national entrepreneurs in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 24 Oct — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo

and Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, and departmental heads, left here by helicopter and arrived at Kawthoung in Taninthayi Division on 22

October morning.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Command Staff Colonel Col Than Myint, Tactical Operations Commander Col Myint Tun, departmental officials and entrepreneurs engaged in oil palm plantation.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to Khamaukgyi in Kawthoung Township and met with officers and other ranks of Khamaukgyi Station and their families at the basic education high school.

The Secretary-1 also met with departmental officials, service personnel and local residents at Khamaukgyi General Administration Department. Kawthoung District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Phyto reported on education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding and transport sectors of the town. Officials concerned reported on tasks being carried out.

Assregardes the reports, the Secretary-1 attended to the needs, saying that the service personnel assigned duties in Khamaukgyi are to make collective efforts as possible as they can for welfare of local people. He added that departmental employees

are to defend and safeguard local people in conformity with existing laws and only then will they win the respects of the local people.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at the meeting hall of Khamaukgyi GAD and met with local people and employees.

In the afternoon, they arrived at oil palm farm of Yuzana Co Ltd in Khamaukgyi region. Chairman of the company U Htay Myint presented a report, saying that Yuzana Co Ltd and Annawa Tun Co Ltd are involved in Taninthayi Division Oil Palm Project. They launched their business on 283-acre land of oil palms in 1999 and now altogether over

40,000 acres of oil palms have been planted so far. He continued to say that arrangements are being made for annual extension of 10,000 more acres of oil palms during the period from 2004 to 2007. He reported on strength of staff and machinery, and arrangements for construction of palm oil mills.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that the region between Kawthoung and Myeik has good potential for oil palm cultivation and thus the government granted permission to national entrepreneurs to run oil palm industry there.

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24,244

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 25 October, 2003

Better foundations for regional development

For equitable development of various regions in the country, the State Peace and Development Council is implementing border areas development projects, projects for development of the 24 development regions and the five rural development tasks harmoniously.

With the conviction that progress in all the 14 states and divisions will lead the entire Union to her development, the Government is striving day in, day out for the nation to be developed.

The 860 feet long Laynya-Mandaing Bridge in Pyigy Mandaing in Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Division, built by the Bridge Construction Special Group-3 of Public Works was commissioned into service on 23 October. The bridge is the 162nd one among the 180 feet and above bridges that have been built since 1988.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attended the opening ceremony and extended greetings to local people.

In his speech, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that at present, Taninthayi Division is accessible by water, air and road routes and thus there lie opportunities for development, and that the local people are to make efforts for regional development and boosting production at a time when the Government, on its part, is striving for national development.

On the Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Union Highway, a total of six 500 feet and above bridges—the Winwa Bridge, the Palauk Bridge, the Palaw Bridge, the Taninthayi Bridge, the Pathoung Bridge and the Laynya-Mandaing Bridge—were built spending K 2,723 million plus US\$ 1.74 million.

Although there are good foundations for business such as fishery, agriculture and mining, the development of the region is slow because of difficulties in transportation in the division.

Thanks to the opening of Laynya-Mandaing Bridge, one can travel straight through from the northernmost part of the country to Kawthoung, the southernmost part of the country. As speedboats are plying along the Taninthayi coast, the journey to Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung takes only a day. Besides, people can now use Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung road and thus more regional development tasks can be carried out.

People are urged to strive for regional development and boosting production through the effective use of development infrastructures built by the State.

Clerical courses conclude

YANGON, 24 Oct—Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun attended the course conclusion ceremony of Nos 27 and 28 Clerical Courses at the central training school of the Education

and Training Department this morning.

The deputy minister presented prizes to the outstanding trainees and course completion certificates to the leaders of the trainees. A total of 89 trainees attended the 12-week courses.

MNA

Prize presentation of 58th Anniversary UN Day
Commemorative Essay, Poster and Painting Competitions held

YANGON, 24 Oct—The prize presentation ceremony of the 58th Anniversary United Nations Day Commemorative Essay, Poster and Painting Competitions was held at the Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, directors-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and officials, resident representatives of UN agencies, and guests.

Minister U Win Aung presented prizes to eighth grader Maung Phyo Paing Thaw of No 1 Basic Education Middle School, South Okkalapa Township, ninth grader Ma Khaing Malar Nyunt of No 1 Basic Educa-

tion High School, Kyimyindine Township, and ninth grader Ma Mi Mi Cho Than of No 2 BEHS, Yinkin Township, who won first, second and third prizes in BEHS level essay competition.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung presented prizes to sixth grader Ma Thazin Thet Su Tin of Myoma BEMS, Kyauktan Township, sixth grader Ma Khaing Myat Myo Tun Lin of Institute of Education Practicing School, Kamayut Township, and sixth grader Ma Zin Mi Mi Thaw of BEHS-2 Latha Township, who won first, second and third prizes in BEMS level poster competition.

Mr Charles James Petrie, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System's Operational Activities for Development in Myanmar, presented



Minister U Win Aung presents a prize to a winner of UN Day Commemorative Essay, Poster and Painting Contest.

— MNA

prizes to second grader Ma May Htu Myat Mon of Myoma BEMS Kyauktan Township, fourth grader Maung Wai Yan of BEHS-4 Ahlon Township, and second grader Maung Htet Lin San of East Basic Education

Primary School, Kyauktan Township, who first, second and third prizes in BEPS level painting competition.

After the ceremony, the minister viewed round the prize winning works.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and Minister U Win Aung view basic education piano contest (Girl) (Aged 5-10). MNA

11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continue

YANGON, 24 Oct—The 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the eleventh day at the designated places here today.

The competitions were attended by Members of the Panel of Patrons of the Committee for Holding the Competitions Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee for holding the competitions Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Brig-Gen Than Tun of the Ministry of Defence, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, officials of work committees and sub-committees, foreign tourists, students and enthusiasts.

The song contest continued at the National Museum on Pyay Road at 9 am today. Chairperson of the Panel of Judges Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Mya of MRTV, Secretary Assistant Engineer Daw May Pyone Khaing and members made judgments on the performance at the contest. A total of eight contestants participated in the basic education level Maha Gita song contest for men, and 15 contestants in the higher education level Maha Gita song contest for girls (aged 10-15).

The contest of songs composed by amateur level song composing contestants continued at the Kanbawza Theatre on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. Chairman of the Panel of Judges for the contest Bogale U Tint Aung and members made judgments on the performance of the contest. A total of 14 contestants participated in the contest.

The piano contest continued at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township.

Pianist U Chit Swe and members acted as the judges of the contest.

A total of four contestants participated in the basic education level piano contest for boys (aged 5-10), and eight contestants in the basic education level piano contest for girls (aged 5-10). The oboe contest continued at the Padonma Theatre on Bagaya Road in Sangyoung Township. A total of ten con-

testants participated in the contest, six contestants in the basic education level oboe contest for men (aged 15-20), and four contestants in the professional level oboe contest. Member of Panel of Judges U Mya Gyi and members acted as the judges at the contest.

The competitions continue at the designated places tomorrow.

MNA



Ma Win Ke Khaing (a) Ma Cho The of Chin State competes at basic education level classical song contest (girls) (Aged 10-15). — MNA

Yangon Division competes in professional level oboe contest (men). — MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun makes a speech at the concluding of clerical course. — MNA



Nine South Asian countries agree on sanitation promotion

DHAKA, 24 Oct — Nine South Asian countries Thursday unanimously agreed that the focus of proper sanitation and hygiene in the region should be based on a “people centered, community-led, gender-sensitive and demand-driven” paradigm.

This was stated in the Dhaka Declaration on Sanitation issued here on Thursday at the closing ceremony of the first South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) attended by some 200 delegates from nine countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The declaration recognized the overall picture of sanitation in South Asia still remains dismal, and the practice of open defecation, unsanitary disposal of human excreta and other unhygienic practices by the majority of people in the region is a serious threat to the quality of life, control of disease and the environment.

It pointed out some one million children under the age five in South Asia die each year of water and sanitation related diseases, such as diarrhea.

To fulfil the millennium targets to reduce by half the number of people without access to hygienic facilities by 2015, and to provide sanitation to all by 2025, the nine participating countries of SACOSAN all made their commitments to accelerate the progress of good sanitation and hygiene promotion in South Asia, in order to improve people's quality of life and reduce child mortality and morbidity.

It was also underscored in the declaration that the sanitation promotion campaign should focus on providing hardware subsidies only to the poorest of the poor, who have no means of helping themselves.

On the other hand, the overall efforts should focus on raising the sanitation awareness among people.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia agreed on this point, and

said on the occasion that motivation yields more benefits than the provision of subsidy for replacing unhygienic latrines.

As to the “gender-sensitive” paradigm, experts suggested that programmes to improve sanitation should take into account gender differentiated demands and preferences.

In this regard, Pakistani Health Minister Nasir Khan said in his speech that if you educated a man, you educated an individual; if you educated a woman, you educated the whole family.

The three-day SACOSAN was hosted by the government of Bangladesh, and co-sponsored by a number of international organizations including United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, World Health Organization (WHO) and World Bank.

MNA/Xinhua

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US soldier killed, two wounded in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 Oct—One US soldier was killed and two wounded on Thursday when their convoy was hit by an explosion near Baquba, north of Baghdad, the US military said. US Central Command said the soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division had been hit by an improvised explosive device in the latest in a series of attacks on US occupying forces.

The death brings to 105 the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since Washington declared major conflict over on May 1. At least 13 US soldiers have also committed suicide in Iraq, most of them desperate to return home, a US officer said.

Roadside bombs are popular weapons among guerrillas who have also launched a number of suicide bomb attacks against Western targets in Baghdad since a US-led coalition toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in April. Iraqi police seized a car holding two bombs on Thursday and arrested two men in connection with it in southern Baghdad. They also found a roadside bomb around the same time and a second roadside explosive was found in the area later in the day.—Internet



An Iraqi man mourned after learning that a relative was killed in an explosion outside a police station in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr on Tuesday. —INTERNET

UN security in Iraq dysfunctional, sloppy

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Oct—A chilling report of the August bombing of UN offices in Iraq says some lives might have been saved if a “dysfunctional” and “sloppy” UN security system had heeded advance warnings and followed its own rules.

The probe by an independent panel, released on Wednesday, blames the security apparatus in New York and in the field as well as top management for lapses before the August 19 attack on UN offices in Baghdad that killed 22 people and injured 150.

“The main conclusion of the panel is that the current security management system is dysfunctional,” said the 40-page report by former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari, appointed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to lead the investigation.

“The observance and implementation of security regulations and procedures were sloppy and noncompliance with security rules commonplace,” the report said.

The probe also confirmed allegations made by US officials — that the United

Nations in Baghdad had refused protection because it was uncomfortable with US tanks and other security measures, wanting to distance itself from the occupation.

Consequently, UN officials asked the US military to withdraw heavy equipment from the compound in the Canal Hotel, dismantle an observation post on the roof and remove obstacles and concertina wire from the access road where an orange flatbed truck approached and exploded, the report said.

“Adequate security arrangements may not have been able to prevent the attack against the Canal Hotel perimeter, but would certainly have minimized the vulnerability of the staff and premises and reduced the number of casualties caused by the attack,” the report said.

MNA/Reuters

Kasturirangan gets IAF award

BANGALORE, 24 Oct—Former Indian Space Research Organization Chairman Dr K Kasturirangan is being honoured with the prestigious Allan D Emil Memorial Award for 2004 by the International Astronautical Federation.

The award announced at the recently held 54th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) at Bremen, Germany, is in recognition of Kasturirangan's outstanding contributions to space science, technology and applications and furthering international cooperation in space, an ISRO statement said on Wednesday.

Kasturirangan will be presented with the award at the 55th IAC next year to be held at Vancouver in Canada.—MNA/PTI

UNDP says population explosion may stall development in Uganda

KAMPALA, 24 Oct—The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has said Uganda's development scores could be ruined if the high maternal mortality and population growth rates are not checked.

UNDP representative in Uganda Daouda Toure was quoted Thursday by *The New Vision* newspaper as saying that Uganda had scored highly in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Universal Primary Education, redressing gender imbalances and increasing the provision of clean water

coverage. “Other areas, however, still hold a big challenge, including low levels of sanitation which are responsible of most of the diseases,” he said.

He said that child and maternal mortality were still high, adding that Uganda's maternal mortality is estimated at 505 deaths per 100,000 women.

He said Uganda's population growth rate of 3.4 per cent is the third highest in the world and poses a threat to the resource envelop of the country.—MNA/Xinhua

Memorials dedicated to UN staff to be unveiled

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Oct—Two memorials dedicated to United Nations staff who have died in the service of peace will be unveiled Friday at the world body's headquarters in New York and Geneva, marking the annual United Nations Day.

In New York, a memorial has been erected in the North Garden at the UN complex, funded by the prize money from the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded to the UN's peacekeeping forces. Secretary-General Kofi Annan will make a brief statement at the unveiling. In Geneva, a memorial has been built in Ariana Park, near door 20 of the Palais des Nations in the Swiss city. This memorial has been paid for by contributions from the Secretary-General, UN programmes and funds, UN agencies, staff associations and individual UN staff members.

The dangers faced by UN staff in doing their daily work have been tragically highlighted this year, especially after 22 people — including the top UN envoy, Sergio Vieira de Mello — were killed in a terrorist bomb attack on the UN's headquarters in Baghdad on August 19. —MNA/PTI



Two people march behind a banner which reads ‘War’ during a demonstration against the International Donors Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq taking place in Madrid, on 23 October, 2003.—INTERNET

US troops in helicopters swooped down on Iraqi village to detain all men

BAGHDAD, 24 Oct—American troops in helicopters swooped down on this remote sheepherding village in the desert and detained nearly all the men, one as old as 81, one as young as 13. A month after the raid, apparently aimed at preventing terrorists from slipping across the border from Saudi Arabia, only two of the 79 captives have been freed.

The sweep similar to those conducted in Afghanistan by US special operations troops came at a time when American officials are concerned that foreign fighters, including those loyal to Saudi exile Osama bin Laden, are crossing into Iraq to join the resistance against the US-led occupation.

The US-appointed mayor of Habbariyah and its deputy police chief believe the Americans rounded up so many men and boys to punish the village because of suspicions it maintains contact with desert smugglers or infiltrators from across the border, 80 miles away.

US military officers refused to talk about the operation, but knowledgeable American sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed the basics of the account given to The Associated Press by six villagers, including one who was detained and released.

Their description of what happened Sept. 10 offers the first details of US military operations in this border area as well as one of the first looks at efforts to fight the influx of foreign insurgents as the scope of guerrilla violence against American troops increases.

Villagers say they heard the whir of helicopters at dawn over Habbariyah, a Bedouin enclave of 500 people clustered in an area about the size of two football fields.

The village is in Anbar province, a third of Iraq's territory stretching west, north and south from Baghdad to the borders with Saudi Arabia, Syria and Jordan. US soldiers come under daily attack in the conservative, mostly Sunni Muslim province, a former stronghold of support for Saddam Hussein that includes such hotspots as Fallujah, Ramadi and Khadiyah.

Over the next 10 hours, villagers say, US troops rounded up men including police, the elderly and teenagers. One woman also was seized. All were restrained with plastic handcuffs and taken to one house.

From there, US troops loaded the captives onto the helicopters and flew them to an air base north of the village.

The woman, the wife of a tribal leader, was released the next day. The men were transported to the Abu

Ghraib prison west of Baghdad, once used by Saddam to house political prisoners.

All but two remain there. Those released were 66-year-old tribal chief Sheikh Meta'ab al-Hathal and 81-year-old Hawas Sahn Ibrahim.

The sheik's nephew, Thamer Nayeef al-Hathal, is the U.S.-appointed mayor of Habbariyah and two nearby villages. He was away at the time of the raid but heard about it from other villagers.

"Sheik Meta'ab was questioned about strangers in the area, a terrorist camp the Americans think is in our area," said the mayor.

He also said the Americans searched every house and confiscated cash and gold jewelry, used as currency among Bedouin, desert tribes with a nomadic tradition.

The next day, the Americans, dressed in desert camouflage and carrying semi-automatic weapons, came to the village the mayor was visiting.

He showed them a certificate from coalition authorities appointing him mayor of three communities, including Habbariyah.—Internet

ဝက်မွန်းအား ခေါ်ကျော်လွှား

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

BAGHDAD, 24 Oct—As of Thursday, October 23, 343 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence.

The British military has reported 50 deaths; Denmark, one; and Ukraine, one.

On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 205 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Defence Department figures.

Since the start of military operations, 1,609 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to US Central Command. Non-hostile injured numbered 338.

—The latest deaths reported by US Central Command:

—A 4th Infantry Division soldier was killed Thursday in an attack south of Baqubah, Iraq.

—The latest identifications reported by the US Military:

—Army Pvt Jason M Ward, 25, Tulsa, Okla.; died Tuesday in Baghdad of non-combat causes; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Fort Riley, Kan.

—Army Spc John P Johnson, 24, Houston; died Tuesday in Baghdad of non-combat causes; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany.—Internet

Iraq group said main threat to US forces

WASHINGTON, 24 Oct—An Iraqi extremist group whose main base was destroyed by US and Kurdish forces last spring has emerged as the key terrorist threat to American forces in Iraq, a senior US general said Thursday.

Lt Gen Norton Schwartz, director of operations for the Pentagon's joint staff, said American forces in Iraq are concentrating on Ansar al-Islam, a shadowy group that the United States calls a terrorist organization with links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Schwartz referred to the group as "our principal organized terrorist adversary in Iraq right now."

He noted that one of Ansar's highest-ranking members, Aso Hawleri, was captured recently by soldiers of the US Army's 101st Airborne Division near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. He would not say whether interrogations of Hawleri

have provided any useful information.

In a memo to four of his top advisers last week about progress in the global war on terrorism, Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld wrote: "With respect to Ansar al-Islam, we are just getting started." He did not elaborate, and his chief spokesman, Lawrence Di Rita, declined to discuss it further when asked Thursday why the effort against Ansar was just now beginning.

The Pentagon has no official estimate of the size of Ansar al-Islam, but its members are thought to number in the hundreds rather than thousands.

Internet



A young man waves the Iraqi flag during a demonstration in Khadiyah, near Fallujah, Iraq on 23 October, 2003 after US troops released three women who were detained Saturday. Hundreds of people have been demonstrating there daily to demand their release.—INTERNET

India, Oman to bolster ties in energy sector

DUBAI, 24 Oct—India and Oman have decided to bolster bilateral cooperation in the energy sector by setting up more joint ventures like the fertilizer project in the Omani gas fields of Sur as well as initiating IT projects by India in the Sultanate.

The decision was taken at the fourth Indo-Oman Joint Commission meeting which ended in Muscat Wednesday. The minutes of the meeting were signed by Maqbool bin Ali Sultan, Omani Minister of Commerce and Industry, and S B Mukherjee, Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry.—MNA/PTI

India hosts training programme for UN peacekeepers

GURGAON, 24 Oct—The United Nations has picked up India as one of the countries to train foreign military observers and police personnel for peacekeeping operations and the first batch of 50 peacekeepers have completed their training at Bissar Village in the northern Indian state of Haryana.

About 35 UN peacekeeping officials, drawn from 15 countries and some of them without experience of the peacekeeping operations, were flown in here for the simulated exercise that was enacted to give future UN peacekeepers an experience of being in a conflict situation.

Joining them were 15 Indian Army personnel who would soon be flying to Lebanon for UN peacekeeping operations.

An entire battalion of India's 10 Garhwal Rifles aided the mock exercise that created a scenario of a conflict-ridden zone in Congo, Africa, where rival armed factions are engaged in a war and the UN personnel are acting as unarmed monitors who are trying to bring them to the negotiating table. This is for the first time that the UN is sponsoring the

peacekeeping training programme for foreign observers in the country, in an apparent acknowledgement of India's significant role in such operations worldwide.

The training course is a complex, over-sized enactment of the United Nations' peacekeeping role in a conflict-ridden country, Colonel K K Sharma of Indian Army told reporters here.

MNA/PTI

Britain taps green power, building more wind farms

LONDON, 24 Oct—The British Government has given green light Wednesday to the construction of four new wind farms off the east coast, which could power nearly a quarter of one million homes.

The decision was announced by Energy Minister Stephen Timmins at a London conference. He said, "We are building the first

phase of offshore wind power and these new farms will help us towards our target of producing 10 per cent of our electricity from re-

newable sources by 2010." "Wind power is playing a central role in the UK's renewable energy revolution," he said.—MNA/Xinhua



Soldiers of US Army 4th Infantry Division blindfold a suspect with his hands tied behind his back during a weapon search operation in the village of Hanra, about 20 km (12 miles) northeast from Tikrit, Iraq on 22 October, 2003.—INTERNET

PROTESTS AGAINST WAR IN IRAQ



Australian Federal Police push protesters back as they demonstrate outside the US Embassy in Canberra as US President George W Bush arrived, on 23 October, 2003. —INTERNET



A protester dressed as Uncle Sam participates in an anti-Bush protest in Sydney on 22 October, 2003.—INTERNET



Protesters mocking American President Bush and Australian Prime Minister John Howard participate in an anti-Bush protest in Sydney on 22 October, 2003, just hours before the arrival of President George W Bush on a 21-hour visit. About 2,000 people chanting 'Go home Bush' and 'Iraq for Iraqis, troops out now' marched the one kilometre (half a mile) from Town Hall to the US consulate blocking downtown streets of the nation's largest city in the evening rush hour.—INTERNET



Protesters yell out during an anti-Bush protest in Sydney, on Wednesday, 22 October, 2003, just hours before the arrival of President George W Bush on a 21-hour visit.—INTERNET



Protesters march in a anti-Bush protest rally in Sydney on 22 October, 2003, just hours before the arrival of President George W Bush on a 21-hour visit.—INTERNET



Protesters wave various flags during an anti-American demonstration near the US Embassy in Aukar, a suburb north of Beirut, Lebanon, on 22 October, 2003. —INTERNET

Charity urges clarity on Iraq reconstruction fund

BAGHDAD, 24 Oct — A prominent British aid agency accused Iraq's US and British administrators on Thursday of failing to account for four to five billion US dollars in oil revenue and other money that is meant to go toward rebuilding the country.

As officials from around the world gathered in Madrid to hear US requests for aid for Iraq, Christian Aid said the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) had not publicly detailed cash flows since ousting Saddam Hussein in April.

A spokeswoman for the CPA in Baghdad responded only by saying the authority was committed to full accountability in its handling of Iraqi funds and was complying with a UN resolution obliging it to do so.

Public details are scant, however.

Christian Aid said its figures were a conservative estimate of oil revenues collected by the CPA since the war, prewar oil revenues handed over from the UN "oil-for-food" account and seized assets of Saddam's government. All but one billion US dollars of these funds had disappeared into a "financial black hole", it said.

The charity said failure to show where the money has gone would fuel suspicion among critics that funds were going to US firms

given contracts to rebuild the country.

"There is a UN mandate obliging the CPA to account for money coming in and money going out and they just haven't done it," Dominic Nutt, one of the report's authors, told *Reuters*.

"Maybe the money has all been spent perfectly legitimately, but we don't know that, and the Iraqis don't know that, and it's fuelling mistrust."

A UN Security Council resolution in May ordered the creation of an independent watchdog to oversee how oil money and other Iraqi funds were used by the CPA.

"The CPA is unequivocally committed to maintaining the highest standards of transparency and accountability in stewarding Iraqi funds," a CPA spokeswoman said in a statement. The United Nations said on Wednesday that the International Advisory and Monitoring Board was up and running and the world body issued ground rules covering its operations. — *MNA/Reuters*

မြို့ပြချွေးတာ၊ ထိန်းပါးလေထွင်း၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်

China says no need for UN to resolve Iran nuke issue

BEIJING, 24 Oct — China welcomed on Thursday Iran's decision to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency and said it was unnecessary for the UN Security Council to resolve the issue.

Iran, which faced an October 31 UN deadline to prove it had no atomic bomb ambitions or face possible Security Council sanctions, is expected to submit key documents to the Vienna-based IAEA later on Thursday that it says will prove it has no plans to build a nuclear bomb.

"The Chinese side believes the issue can be appropriately resolved within the framework of the IAEA through consultation with all parties on equal foot-

ing," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said on the ministry's web site.

"It is not necessary to submit it to the UN Security Council," she added. China is one of five veto-wielding permanent members of the Council along with the United States, Britain, Russia and France.

US President George W. Bush has singled out Iran as part of an "axis of evil" along with pre-war Iraq and North Korea. Washington has accused Iran of seeking to de-

velop nuclear weapons, and of harbouring and assisting terrorists — charges Tehran denies.

Zhang said China recognized Iran's right to develop a nuclear energy programme, but called for complete transparency.

She also welcomed Iran's decision to agree to snap inspections of its nuclear sites and to freeze uranium enrichment. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Gulam Ali Khoshroo visited China on Wednesday to explain Iran's decision. — *MNA/Reuters*

US soldier dies of mysterious sickness in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 Oct — A US soldier died of unidentified sickness in Iraq's capital city of Baghdad, the US military said in a statement issued on Thursday.

The soldier from the 1st

Armoured Division collapsed in a bunkhouse area at 9:00 p.m. (1800 GMT) Wednesday and was sent to hospital where he died later, it said.

Since US President George W. Bush declared the major

combat in Iraq over on May 1, 103 US soldiers have died in non-combat incidents, defined as accidents, friendly fire and other incidents unrelated to hostile fire.

MNA/Xinhua

Goh Chok Tong meets Russian foreign minister

SINGAPORE, 24 Oct — Visiting Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong have agreed that there is potential to further strengthen trade and investment links between Singapore and Russia, a government release said here on Thursday. During their meeting on Thursday afternoon, they had a wide-ranging discussion on regional and global issues, including the situation in the Korean Peninsula, developments in Iraq and Afghanistan and the threat of terrorism, said the Press release published by the Prime Minister's Office.

Ivanov also shared his views with Prime Minister Goh on the political settlement process in Chechnya, said the release. — *MNA/Xinhua*

International donors conference on Iraq opens in Madrid

MADRID, 24 Oct — The two-day international conference on the reconstruction of Iraq, which gathered about 1,200 representatives from 71 countries, 20 international organizations and 225 private companies, opened in Madrid Thursday.

The conference would seek to "set long-term reconstruction priorities, perhaps stretching over 10 years or longer, draw the participation of various countries and create a multilateral fund" for getting Iraq back on its feet, Spanish officials said.

The first day of the conference would feature technical discussions on Iraq's needs in education, health and its electrical grid. The formal pledges for Iraq will come Friday, when US Secretary of State Colin Powell,

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, and foreign ministers from Japan and Italy would appear at the conference, while most other countries would send lower-level delegations.

Separate from the two-day event, representatives from private companies and several business associations from more than 40 countries around the world are expected to meet with Iraqi officials to discuss investment opportunities. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Spain Foreign Minister Ana Palacio and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan during the opening ceremony of the international donor's conference for the reconstruction of Iraq in Madrid, Spain, on 23 October, 2003. US and Iraqi officials want billions to help rebuild Iraq. Kofi Annan warned that they might not get all they need right away. — *INTERNET*

Five new members elected to UN Security Council

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Oct — The United Nations General Assembly on Thursday elected Algeria, Benin, Brazil, the Philippines and Romania to become the new five non-permanent members of the Security Council. The quintet will take up their seats on the first day of next year, replacing Bulgaria, Cameroon, Guinea, Mexico and Syria, which will step down as scheduled at the end of their two-year terms. The new members will serve on the 15-member Council until the end of 2005. The new group were elected according to a pre-arranged geographical distribution, which allocated three seats to African and Asian countries, one seat to an Eastern European nation and one seat to a Latin American or Caribbean state. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Annan says donors' conference "moment of hope" for Iraqi future

MADRID, 24 Oct — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Thursday that the international donors' conference for the reconstruction of Iraq is "a moment of hope for the future of Iraq."

"For many years, the Iraqi people have suffered some of the worst privations known to the human kind. They carry the wounds of decades of conflict, sanctions, and unspeakable human rights abuses," he said in a 10-minute opening speech.

"Today, they are looking to this conference for a signal that the international community is indeed ready to help them build a new Iraq — a stable, independent and democratic country

at peace with itself and its neighbours," he stressed. Delegations from 71 countries, 20 international organizations and 13 non-governmental organizations attended the two-day conference. Annan said that the assessment report prepared by the United Nations and the World Bank depicted Iraq as a country with reconstruction needs on a monumental scale. A total of 36.5 billion US dollars are needed in the 2004-2007 period. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Thousands march in Madrid against Iraq conference

MADRID, 24 Oct — Several thousand demonstrators marched through the centre of Madrid on Thursday in a peaceful protest against an international donors conference to fund Iraqi reconstruction being held in the

Spanish capital.

"They say they are here for humanitarian reasons... but what they want is to make the maximum profit from a country destroyed by a war that could have been avoided," said David Llorente, a student

from Madrid who was marching with his parents.

Demonstrators of all ages waved colourful banners reading: "We Won't Pay For Your Pillage" and "Bush's Vultures"

MNA/Reuters



Protesters walk behind a banner criticizing the US policy in Iraq during a demonstration against the International Donors Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq taking place in Madrid on 23 October, 2003. — *INTERNET*

The duty defined by the national cause-2

Ketu Nila

The past successive governments of Myanmar declared they practised democracy. The AFPFL government declared that it would build a socialist nation with the parliamentary democracy system. In accord with its national policy during the independence struggle — independence first; the cause of democracy second; the installation of the socialist system third — the AFPFL aimed at building a socialist country based on democracy.

But the parliamentary democracy of the AFPFL was only in form. In practice, it was facing the dreadful factional prejudice and under the extreme ideologies. The Burma Communist Party was expelled from the AFPFL; the Pyithu Yebaw Party (People's Volunteer Organization, PVO) was split into two factions — the Yebaw Bu Party and Yebaw Wa Party —, and the former went underground; the Kayin armed insurgency led by Saw Ba Oo Gyi broke out; and some commanders and officers of the Tatmadaw under the influence of BCP betrayed the nation. The civil strife was burning high in the nation, which had just regained independence.

The ministers of the ruling AFPFL resigned, and the then Prime Minister retreated into telling beats at Mount Popa for 45 days. The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces was crushing the internal insurgency with all the available men and arms. The prime minister had given the posts of the deputy prime minister, the minister of home affairs and the minister of defence to the Commander-in-Chief.

He had striven to put all the districts and townships that were dutiful in safeguarding the nation under the administrative machinery of the AFPFL. In addition, he was doing his best to restore the rule of law and community peace. After finishing the job, he resigned from the posts of deputy prime minister, the minister of home affairs and the minister of defence, and discharged only his original military duties. This is the record of the Tatmadaw's performance of the national duty in accord with the requirement.

At a time when peace and stability was prevailing to a certain degree in the nation, the Kuomintang troops intruded into the Myanmar territory under the instigation of a big nation, and the plan to contain and attack the People's Republic of China. The Tatmadaw launched major operations to fight a just war. Many officers, rankers and privates of the Tatmadaw including ace pilot Lt Peter sacrificed lives to safeguard the nation. The culprit, a super power nation, that created the problem of intrusion into the Myanmar territorial integrity was exposed at the UN with firm evidence. Those events show the Tatmadaw's dutiful endeavours for the national cause.

While the Tatmadaw was crushing the internal and external enemies, the Workers and Peasants Party broke away from the Socialist Party, the main pillar of the ruling AFPFL. It later formed the opposition party — Union of Myanmar National Unity Front. It competed with the ruling AFPFL in the 1956 Pyithu Hluttaw and Chamber of Nationalities elections. The AFPFL won the elections by committing infamous murders in the nation. The then deputy prime minister of the AFPFL declared that the government of thier party would last for 40 consecutive years. All the events showed that the AFPFL was away from the cause of the parliamentary democracy as it was

turning towards single party capitalist dictatorship. The opposition parties criticized the AFPFL that its democracy was the rule of the sword. Although the AFPFL won the 1956 elections, it got only a mere ten-thousand votes more than the Pa-ma-nya-ta. After the criticism by its chairman for its falling rate of popularity, the AFPFL launched the party cleaning campaign. But factional problems became more violent.

Because of the growing rift, the ruling AFPFL split into two factions — the AFPFL (Clean) and the AFPFL (Stable) — in 1958. After the voting at the Hluttaw, the AFPFL (Clean) formed the government. As its formation of the government was against the principles of the AFPFL, the AFPFL (Stable) criticized that the AFPFL (Clean) betrayed the AFPFL; and that it exchanged the democracy with the power. The split had caused conflicts, beatings and killings in all the classes in the nation.

As the AFPFL (Clean) was not able to control the instability, it elected the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services as the Prime Minister with the approval of the Hluttaw. The Caretaker Government led by the Commander-in-Chief restored the rule of law and community peace and crushed the internal insurgency. With the ardent efforts, the Tatmadaw members took part in the tasks to ease the food, clothing and shelter problems of the people and to reduce the commodity prices. The Tatmadaw relocated the slum dwellers in Yangon to new satellite towns — North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa and Thaketa. After restoring the peace and stability in the nation, the Tatmadaw held the election in 1960, and transferred the State power to AFPFL (Clean) or the Pa-ha-sa that won the majority votes.

During the pre-election period, the AFPFL (Clean) gave democracy courses for its members. But after winning power, there broke out various factions in the AFPFL (Clean) due to disagreements in sharing the power. So far, it was not able to solve the many problems arising from the issues of the designation of the State religion and the formation of the separate states, and some discontented Shan feudal lords and racial extremists to secede Shan State from the Union under the influence of the SEATO.

The danger of the Union disintegration and the loss of independence was looming large then. In this regard, the Tatmadaw formed the Revolutionary Council, and took over the State duties on 2 March 1962 to restore the situation back to normal.

Under the national policy — the national security and socialism — the Revolutionary Council formed the Burma Socialist Programme Party. Before the BSP was transformed from the cadre party to the people's party, the Revolutionary Council held discussions with the leaders of the political parties; issued amnesty order; strove for restoring the internal peace; held the workers seminars and peasants seminars; explained its convictions for the national races; and formed the advisory committee to forge internal unity for national re-consolidation.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 10 October 2003.

Delegates to China+Japan+ATM arrive

YANGON, 24 Oct — Delegates to the Second Meeting of ASEAN-China Transport Ministers Meeting Minister of Communications of China Mr Zhang Chunxian, and delegates to the First ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting led by Mr Yousuke Tsuruho, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, arrived here by

air this evening. The two meetings will be hosted by Myanmar tomorrow.

The delegations were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by the ambassador and officials of the embassies of PRC and Japan, and Chairman U Hla Thauang Myint and members of Reception and Accommodation Sub-committee.

MNA



Myanmar Korea Timber Int'l Ltd holds meeting

YANGON, 24 Oct — Myanmar Korea Timber International Ltd held its eleventh general meeting at the International Business Centre on Pyay road this morning.

It was attended by Managing Director of Myanma Timber Enterprise U Win Tun, Managing Director of MKTIL Mr Jung Han Kim, members of Board of Directors and Shareholders Mr S P Lim of Daewoo International Corporation and Mr J I Park of Samik T R Corporation and officials and

guests.

U Win Tun, Managing Director of Myanma Timber Enterprise and Mr Jung Han Kim made speeches on the occasion.

Director Mr Y G Kim read out the Directors' Report and the report and financial statement were approved. Donation of Ks Five million for greening fund of the Ministry of Forestry was presented by Mr Jung Han Kim, Managing Director of MKTIL to U Myint Sein, Director of Forest Department.

NLM

Delegates to ASEAN-China+Japan Transport Ministers Meeting, being welcomed at the airport. — MNA

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်

မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ အောက်တိုဘာလအတွက်

(၂၆-၁၀-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့



Managing Director of MKTIL Mr Jung Han Kim presents five million kyats to the Ministry of Forestry towards the greening funds. — H

Taninthayi Division will...

(from page 1)

Like Yuzana oil palm farm, other private-owned farms are thriving and occasionally they will visit the farms, he pledged.

The government encouraged national entrepreneurs and rendered necessary assistance in the hope that Taninthayi Division must be the oil bowl of the nation as the division is endowed with water and land resources. Now, over 100,000 acres can be put under oil palms. The nation has to spend foreign exchange on importing palm oil due to insufficiency of edible oil, he pointed out.

With extended planting of oil palms in the division, it will ensure edible oil sufficiency and the surplus can be exported to international markets. Thus, running oil palm plantations is an industry that can produce import-substitute products and it can

and oil palm entrepreneurs are to make relentless endeavours for further boosting production after laying down lofty aims, he said.

Taninthayi Division is blessed with favourable conditions for effective extension in planting oil palms in addition to rubber and pepper. Moreover, efforts are to be made for extended cultivation of paddy in the vacant and fallow land for ensuring rice sufficiency in the region.

It is also needed to further broaden the scope of fishery industry which is making progress in Taninthayi Division. If thorough and effective measures are taken for promotion of such potential industries, Taninthayi Division will be one of the divisions on which the State can rely economically, and it will also make significant contribution towards raising the living



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents offertories to Sayadaws of the monasteries of Bokpyin. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye makes a speech in meeting with oil palm entrepreneurs at the oil palm cultivation project of Yuzana Co in Khamaukgyi Region in Kawthoung Township. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye plants a oil palm tree at the oil palm cultivation project of Yuzana Co in Khamaukgyi Region in Kawthoung Township. — MNA

promote the nation's export sector as well, he noted.

The government is encouraging the oil palm industry for it benefits both the State and national entrepreneurs. It places emphasis on promotion of transport and security sectors in the region for economic development of the division including oil palm industry. The government has spent a huge sum of money on implementation of Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Myeik-Dawei Union Highway. At a time when the government on its part is taking responsibilities for regional development, local people

standard of local residents, he remarked. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye signed in the visitors' book. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed the oil palms farm of Yuzana Co Ltd and planted some oil palms there.

Afterwards, they headed for Bokpyin, where they were welcomed by Col Thura Thet Oo Maung of Bokpyin Station and officials.

This morning, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party attended the inauguration of Laynya-Mandaing Bridge in Bokpyin Township. Next, they visited the

Sayadaws from the monasteries in Bokpyin at the prayer hall of Atuladhipati Maha Muni Shwethalyaung Reclining Buddha Image in Bokpyin. They received the Five Precepts from Dhamma Vijaya Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indacakka and presented offertories to him. They paid reverence to the Buddha image. Next, they inspected progress of the Bokpyin by car.

Chairmen of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, who accompanied Vice-Senior General Maung

Aye, together with Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Col Thura Thet Oo Maung and officials, inspected the operation theatre and the X-ray room of Bokpyin Township People's Hospital yesterday evening.

The Secretary-2 presented cash assistance to staff of the hospital, and Lt-Gen Maung Bo, cash donations for medical trust fund through Head of Township Health Department Dr Ko Lay Yu. The Secretary-1 and the Secretary-2 signed in the visitors' book. — MNA

Senior literati to be honoured

YANGON, 24 Oct — In commemoration of the "Sarsodav Day" 1363 ME, the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association will organize a ceremony to pay respects to doyen literati, aged 80 and above, in the last week of November by providing them with cash and medicines.

Those wishing to make some donations to the ceremony should contact the MWJA, No 529/531, corner of Merchant Street and 37th Street, Tel: 254173 and 252417. — MNA

Shwe Myaya Cup Invitational Hockey tourney opens

YANGON, 24 Oct — Shwe Myaya Cup Youth Invitational Hockey Tournament, organized by Myanmar Hockey Federation and Ngapali General Services Ltd U Myint Naing and hockey sport gear worth K 300000 by Managing Director of Moving Co U Hla Shwe.

At the opener, Defence Services Records Office Team-A played against YCDC Team. Ten men teams and four women teams are participating in the tourney which will continue till 9 November. — MNA



Brig-Gen Myo Myint accepts cash from wellwishers at the opening of Shwe Myaya Cup Hockey Tournament. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Republic of Kazakhstan

YANGON, 25 Oct — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Imangali Tasmagambetov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan which falls on 25 October 2003. — MNA

Ceremony to mark 58th...

(from page 16)

Nations. In the Millennium Declaration, they identified key objectives such as international peace, security and disarmament; development and poverty eradication; protecting the environment; protecting the vulnerable; and strengthening the United Nations. The leaders gave pledges based on fundamental human needs, — that of reducing poverty, providing access to safe drinking water, halting the spread of diseases and so on. These fundamental human needs are to be met by the year 2015. We can achieve these millennium development goals if we all make greater efforts and if we all work together



Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan delivers an address at the 58th United Nations Day Commemorative Ceremony. — MNA

as the Secretary-General urges.

Myanmar remains firmly committed to the purposes and principles contained in the United Nations Charter.

We sincerely believe that the United Nations contributes to the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of development of Member States. Therefore, cooperation with the United Nations is a cornerstone of the foreign policy of Myanmar. We believe that the United Nations remains the principal forum through which the nations of the world can create a stable new world order to replace the post cold war instability that the international community is currently experiencing.

In conclusion, on this United Nations Day I would like to reaffirm that it is within our capability to make the world a better place to live in — a world of peace, prosperity and free from conflicts. We need to renew our dedi-

cation to the Charter of our world body. Myanmar hopes that the United Nations and its agencies will continue to support our efforts for the well-being and development of the people of Myanmar.

I wish you a good day.

Next, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung read out the message from Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar. Message from Mr Kofi A. Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was read by Resident Co-ordinator Mr Charles James Petrie.

Later, those who attended the ceremony were presented cultural performance by artistes of the Department of Fine Arts.

MNA



Minister U Win Aung reads the message of Senior General Than Shwe to the 58th United Nations Day Commemorative Ceremony. — MNA



Mr Charles James Petrie reads the message of UN Secretary General Kofi A. Annan at the 58th United Nations Day Commemorative Ceremony. — MNA



Ponnya Byan troupe of Mon State takes part in marionette contest. — MNA

The Secretary-General's Message on United Nations Day

24 October 2003

Dear friends all over the world,

These are difficult times, for the world and for the United Nations.

In Iraq and in many other regions, violence and terror continue to bring death and suffering to innocent people. In August, the United Nations itself suffered a brutal assault on its Baghdad headquarters. We lost some of our dearest friends and colleagues. You, the peoples of the world, lost some of your best and most dedicated servants.

But on this United Nations Day, let us not mourn or be downcast. Let us rather remember what our colleagues were in Iraq to do: to help the Iraqi people rebuild their country, after years of war, oppression and isolation — just as other United Nations workers are in other war-torn countries, helping to relieve suffering, restore peace and build new institutions.

We must continue that work of serving humanity wherever its needs are greatest. We must continue helping you, the peoples of the world, to find common solutions to common problems. And we will.

We will continue our efforts to tackle poverty, disease, climate change, and the spread of small arms. And we will also work together to fight terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction. We do not have to choose. The United Nations must confront all these threats at once.

To do so successfully, it may be necessary to make changes in our international system, including the United Nations itself. By and large, I believe our Organization has served humanity well for fifty-eight years. But it has never been perfect, and the time may well have come to improve it. I have urged all governments to think about that, and I am appointing a panel of wise men and women, to make suggestions.

In the end, governments will decide. But they will make the effort to reach agreement only if you, the peoples, tell them clearly what you expect — what kind of world you want to live in. I rely on you to do that. And I believe that if you do make your voices heard, loudly and firmly enough, we can indeed win through this crisis and build a better world, based on the rule of law. Let us all persevere, in the knowledge that we are all contributing to a better future, for ourselves and for our children.

United Nations Information Centre, Yangon

Maha Janaka marionette contest continues

YANGON, 24 Oct — Maha Janaka marionette contest of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions continued for the fourth day at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this evening.

Among the audience were Chairman of the Work Committee for holding the competitions Commander of No 3 Military Region Col

Tint Hsan, Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Yan Naing Oo, officials of respective work committees and sub-committees and artistes.

Ponnya Byan marionette troupe of Mon State took part in the contest with artistic performances today.

Ayar Hlaing marionette troupe of Ayeyawady Division will participate in the contest tomorrow. — MNA



Those in attendance at the 58th United Nations Day Commemorative Ceremony. — MNA

Prime Minister addresses...

(from page 16)

Prosperity signed with China included cooperation in political, economic, social, regional and international spheres. Its main objective is to contribute towards peace and development with the improvement of friendship and co-operation during the 21st Century.

At ASEAN-India Summit, ASEAN-India Joint Declaration on cooperation in the fight against international terrorism was confirmed. Its main objective is to cooperate to enhance capability in the fight against terrorism. The declaration benefited Myanmar much since it has obtained the opportunity to take part in the international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

At the ASEAN-Japan Summit, Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation was signed. As Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Economic Partnership-CEP was signed in Phnom Penh, the framework that includes spheres to be cooperated, times and principles was signed again at the summit.

The Framework ASEAN-India Economic Cooperation Agreement includes measures to be taken and time frames. The particular spheres of cooperation are trade in goods, trade in services, investment, areas of economic cooperation and early harvest programme.

In the protocol amending the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement signed by ASEAN and Chinese economic ministers, the framework agreement ratified by ASEAN and Chinese leaders yesterday was signed again to make some amendment to it. According to this framework agreement, the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area will be implemented within a period of 10 years. Generally speaking, the 9th ASEAN Summit is very crucial for the ASEAN. At a time when the unity of ASEAN and the prospects of economic cooperation is under watch by the world, the successfully signing of Bali Concord II can be defined as a lucid determination to create an ASEAN region where peace, economy and culture flourish. Members of the ASEAN are to strive earnestly to practically serve the interest of all.

A glance at other agreements will reveal that the ASEAN needs to cooperate with China, Japan, South Korea and India for the long run for in such spheres as politics, (See page 15)

Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Kazakhstan

YANGON, 25 Oct — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Kasymzhomart K Tokayev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan which falls on 25 October 2003. — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe donates cash for free surgical operation for those with inborn deformation to Dr Daw Aye Kyi Sein at Taunggyi Sao San Tun Hospital. — MNA

Free surgical operation conducted on patients with inbred deformation in Taunggyi

YANGON, 24 Oct — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, together with Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, yesterday morning visited Sao San Tun Hospital in Taunggyi, where they encouraged the undertakings for free surgical treatment being given to patients with inbred malformation under arrangement of the MMCWA.

At the theatre of the hospital, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party also encour-

aged the surgical operation on cleft lips and palate patients and provided cash assistance and requirements to them.

At the out-patient hall, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe addressed a cash donation ceremony for the MMCWA's free surgical treatment for patients suffered from inborn deformation.

For the surgical operation, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe donated K 612,304 through medical superintendent Dr Daw Aye Kyi Sein and K 844,200 through

Specialist Dr Daw Nu Nu Yi, followed by words of thanks spoken by Daw Win Win Nu, Patron of the Supervisory Committee for Shan State (South) MCWA.

Surgical operation was conducted on 56 patients. Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party looked into the youth training camp (1/2003), opened at the Taunggyi Hotel and sponsored by Supervisory Committee for Shan State (South) MCWA under the juvenile reproductive health programme (MYA/02/P06) jointly conducted by the

MMCWA and the UN Population Funds.

Later, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party viewed the documentary photos of youth activities displayed at the hall. Altogether 40 youths from 16 townships in southern Shan State are attending the camp.

Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, a member of the group of Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, attended the opening ceremony of the delivery room of MCWA (Branch) in Taungni model village, Taunggyi Township.

CEC member Daw Yu

Za Na and Daw Win Win Nu formally opened the delivery room.

Next, Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint unveiled the signboard of the delivery room and viewed round it together with the guests.

After Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint had spoken on the occasion, Dr Khin Aung Cho, health officer of southern Shan State, briefed on the emergence of the delivery room.

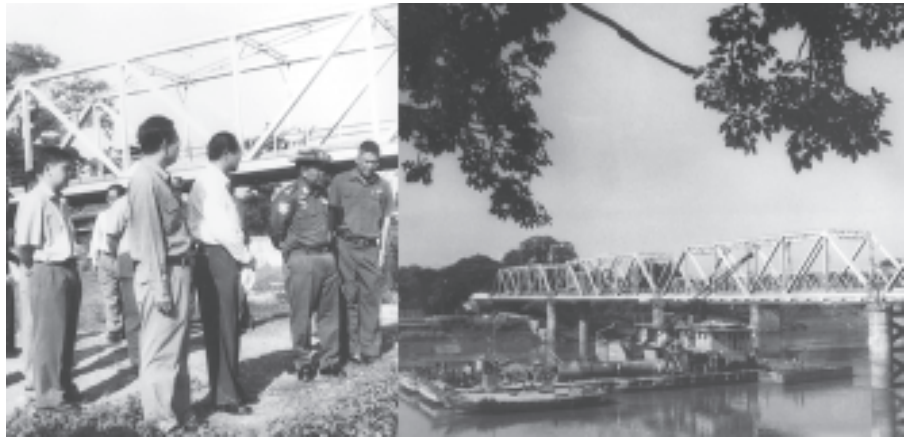
Later, Daw Win Win Nu accepted equipment necessary for the delivery room; and the president of MCWA

of Taungni model village, clothes for villagers.

On the occasion, the Supervisory Committee for Southern Shan State MCWA, the Work Committee for Women's Affairs, the Eastern Command, the Shan State Peace and Development Council and the Taunggyi Township MCWA donated K 100,000 each for the delivery room.

The donations were accepted by the presidents of Taunggyi Township MCWA and the MCWA (Branch) of Taungni model village.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Myitnge Bridge Construction Project. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of Pincha Bridge

YANGON, 24 Oct — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Construction, and the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races

and Development Affairs arrived at Pincha Bridge construction project site in Singaing Township on 23 October morning.

At the briefing hall, In Charge of the Project Assistant Engineer U Maung Maung Thwin reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on work to be carried out and volume of work.

Deputy Chief Engineer of Public Works U Sai Thin Maung gave a supplement-

tary report.

After giving necessary instructions, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected progress of work.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Myitnge Bridge construction project site on Yangon-Mandalay Highway and inspected construction of the approach road and casting of the concrete beams.

Next, they arrived at the briefing hall of the construction project on Myitnge bank

where In Charge of the project Senior Engineer U Soe Min reported on progress of work, set up of Pier No 6, requirements to Lt-Gen Ye Myint who fulfilled the needs.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected set up of Pier No 6 and Pier for the approach bridge, and construction of approach structure.

MNA

Armed Forces Day Organizing Leading Committee holds coord meeting

YANGON, 24 Oct — The first coordination meeting of the Leading Committee for Organizing 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day took place at Yangon Command this afternoon. Chairman of the committee member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win made an address on the occasion.

Also present were Chairman of Management Committee for Organizing 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear Admiral Soe Thein, Vice-chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein, Deputy Minister

for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, and others.

First, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win made an address. He said the 58th Anniversary Armed Forces Day could be held successfully due to the concerted efforts of Tatmadawmen and departmental officials. So, more concerted efforts are to be made for holding the 59th Armed Forces Day at a grand

scale and the needs of all committees are to be presented at the meeting, he added.

Next, Secretary of the leading committee Deputy Adjutant-General Col Tin Soe read out the resolutions of the meeting on review the previous accomplishment. Management Committee Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials

of the work committee and the subcommittees reported on preparations and plans of their committees.

Officials of the MPF, FSD and MRCS reported on plans to take part in the armed forces day parade. Those present also took part in the general round of discussions. Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win made closing remarks. — MNA



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win addresses the first coordination meeting of the leading committee for the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. — MNA

Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country



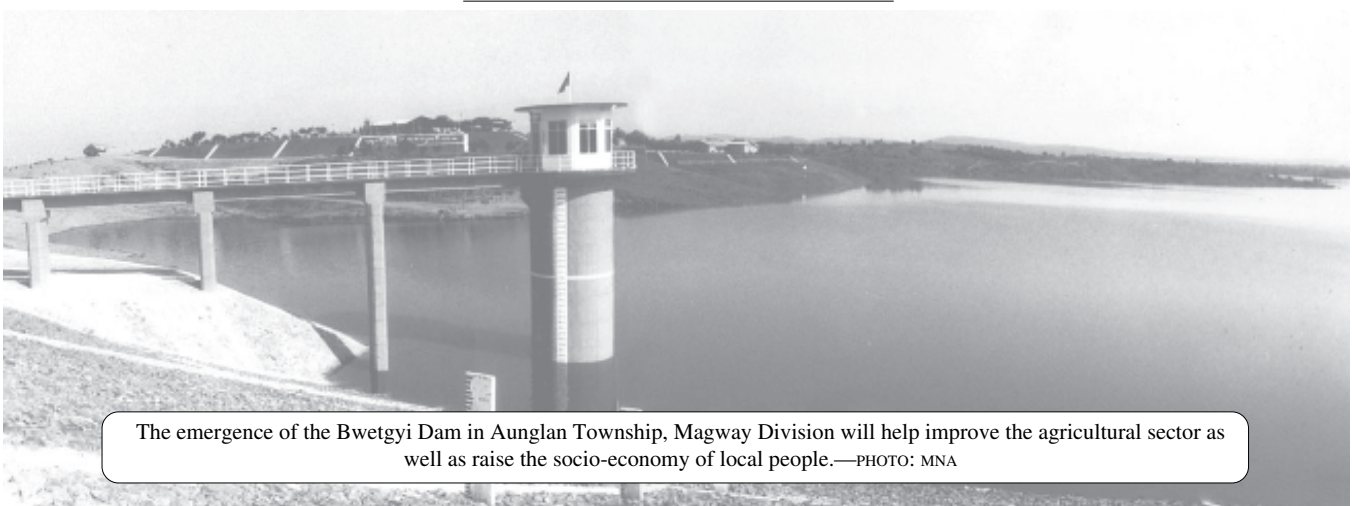
Panhlaing sluice in Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Division was completed in 1994-1995 and is beneficial to over 20,000 acres of farmland.

PHOTO: MNA

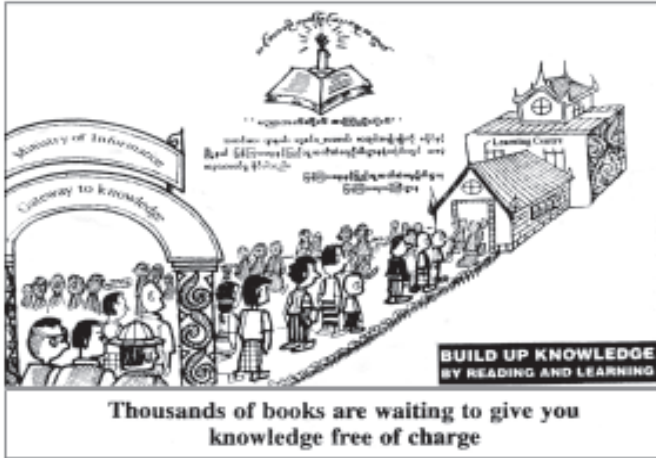


There have emerged 265 river water pumping projects across the nation which is now benefiting 28,210 acres of farmland. The photo shows Ngathayauk River Water Pumping Project in NyaungU Township. — PHOTO:

KO KO SOE NYUNT



The emergence of the Bwetgyi Dam in Aunglan Township, Magway Division will help improve the agricultural sector as well as raise the socio-economy of local people.—PHOTO: MNA



ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV "GEE HONG" VOY NO (315)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG Voy No (315) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-10-2003 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bylaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION**

Phone : 256908,378316,376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV "QING CHUN MEN" VOY NO (045)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN Voy No (045) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-10-2003 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bylaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINE**

Phone : 256908,378316,376797

INVITATION
MYANMAR BUSINESSMEN AND ENTREPRENEURS ENGAGED
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SEAFOOD AND LIVESTOCK FARMING ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
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THAILAND PAVILION

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MYANMAR FISHERY & LIVESTOCK FAIR '2003
YANGON TRADE CENTRE
31 OCT - 04 NOV 2003
10:00 AM - 06:00 PM

ထိုင်းပြည်သူ့လက်ကားကုန်ရောင်းချမှုပွဲတော်

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "MANDALAY" VOY NO 110/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" Voy No 110/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 26-10-2003 and will be berthing on about 27-10-2003 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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ပန်းမန်သစ်ပင် လေသန့်စင်၍

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Boeing to stop production of "757" model

SHANGHAI, 24 Oct — US-based aircraft maker Boeing will stop production of its 757 model by the end of 2004, sources with Boeing's China company told *Xinhua* recently. With good technical support, Boeing will keep its 757 planes to continue operation in the coming years. Over the past 20 years, Boeing delivered more than 1,000 such planes to 55 clients, including China's Shanghai Airlines, which has seven of the aircraft.

Alan Mulally, president and CEO of Boeing Group, said the decision to stop production was made on the market situation. He predicted that in the future, the 737 and 7E7 models will meet the market demand for 757-like planes.—*MNA/Xinhua*

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်လှန်အားလေးပါ

Belarus detains mobile firm managers over fraud

MINSK, 24 Oct — Belarus' KGB secret service said on Wednesday it had detained several top managers of the country's biggest mobile operator Velcom on charges of embezzlement and abuse of power.

The KGB said the probe was aimed at the individuals rather than the company, jointly owned by Belarussian state telecom companies and Cyprus firm SB Telecom. Belarussian officials have said they want to review the

privatization of Velcom.

"Events were developing very quickly. Yesterday, in the afternoon, we started searches and detentions," KGB spokesman Alexander Bazanov told *Reuters*.

"The criminal case was launched on charges of embezzlement. We are talking about really large amounts, figures with six zeroes," he said.

The KGB has no questions regarding Velcom's business, Bazanov said. "The company itself is not an object of interest for investigators. We are interested that these events should have no effect on the mobile operator's activities."

Velcom officials were not immediately available for comment.

The telecoms sector has been one of the best performers in Belarus' lacklustre

economy with three mobile operators competing in a market of 10 million people.

Velcom and its major rival Belarussian MTS, owned by Russia's biggest mobile operator Mobile Tele Systems, dominate the market. Velcom had about 550,000 subscribers on September 1, while MTS had about 300,000 clients.

Belarus, which will soon border an expanded European Union, is considered one of the most difficult ex-Soviet states in which to do business. Foreign investment since independence in 1991 has totalled a mere 30 US dollars per capita.

The Belarussian economy is still run along Soviet-era lines with the government controlling prices for most products and ordering companies what to produce.

MNA/Reuters

Brazil, Ukraine agree to cooperate in spaceflight

BRASILIA, 24 Oct — Brazil and Ukraine recently reached an agreement on long-term cooperation in spaceflight. This agreement was signed by Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva and visiting Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

According to the agreement, the two countries will launch commercial satellites by means of Ukrainian Cyclone-4 rockets in the Bra-

zil's Alcantara Satellite Launch Centre and provide service for other clients in sending commercial satellites.

Brazilian Defence Minister Jose Viegas Filho explained the reason for the cooperation — Ukraine masters advanced carrier rockets technology but has no good launch ground, while Brazil owns good launch ground but lacks carrier rockets.

MNA/Xinhua

British grandmother leaves on 1st polar chopper flight

NEW YORK, 24 Oct — A 63-year-old English grandmother of three, and her co-pilot took off from New York in a cherry-red helicopter on Wednesday on a quest to become the first to fly a chopper around the world via the South and North Poles.

The 30,000-mile, 5-1/2-month "Polar First" journey will take Jennifer Murray and Colin Bodill, 53, down the east coast of the Americas to Antarctica and then up the west coast to the Arctic before returning to New York in April.

They plan some 160 stops on the trip, many highlighting projects sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund to raise awareness of environmental and conservation issues.

Helping see them off was Sarah Ferguson, the former wife of Britain's Prince Andrew. Ferguson is a friend of Murray and herself a licensed chopper pilot.

"Are you terrified?" Ferguson asked as she hugged Murray, outfitted in a blue jumpsuit.

"What Jennifer is doing today is something we all

should look up to. I think you're incredible. What you're doing is saying dreams are possible," added Ferguson, who pledged to join them later in their *Bell 407* helicopter for a leg of the trip.

The biggest dangers could be faced when they cross 500 miles of icy waters from Chile to Antarctica, where temperatures can plunge to minus-50 Fahrenheit (minus 45 Centigrade), and high winds whip across 9,000-foot mountains.

Murray said she was eager to tackle the adventure by Bodill, who tracked her in a microlight aircraft in 2000 when she became the first woman to circumnavigate the world solo in a helicopter.

"Colin kept on pushing me. 'Come on, we've got to go for the big one,'" said Murray. The trip is expected to cost about 1.6 million US dollars, most from sponsorships from 30 companies, including *Reuters*.

MNA/Reuters

Two Jordanian pilots killed in military plane crash

AMMAN, 24 Oct — Two pilots of the Jordanian Air Force were killed in a plane crash, the official *Petra* news agency quoted a military source as saying on Wednesday.

The tragedy occurred on Tuesday evening, when the aircraft was on a regular training mission, the source

said, adding that the pilots, Lieutenant-Colonel Malouh Awad Saleh and Lieutenant Malek Ghazi Abdullah Al Sukhni, were killed in the accident.

On Sunday, another Jordanian military aircraft crashed due to technical fault and the pilot was killed.

MNA/Xinhua

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India Inc opens largest-ever trade show in China

BEIJING, 24 Oct— Launching the largest-ever Indian industrial exposition here Thursday, Indian Federal Commerce and Industry Minister Arun Jaitley said that a dynamic India, enjoying political stability and economic growth, is ready to join hands with China to accelerate trade ties to achieve the targeted USD 10 billion in bilateral trade by end of 2004.

Noting that India-China economic relations have witnessed qualitative transformation in recent years, Jaitley observed that during the first eight months of this year, bilateral trade has already crossed the four billion US dollar mark.

"At the current rate, the bilateral trade target of 10

billion US dollars that our two Prime Ministers have set for us is within reach," Jaitley said while inaugurating the Made in India Show, jointly organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Indian embassy here. Jaitley stressed that the reform process initiated by India has not been affected by change of governments in the country.

"Changes in governments has not changed the direction of the reform process," he said while stressing that the Indian economy has registered impressive expansion and growth in the last two decades.

"Over the last 12 years, the Indian economy has maintained an average annual growth of over six per

cent. We have targeted an eight per cent growth over the next five years, and we aim to double the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) within the next decade," he told the captains of Indian and Chinese industries here at a well-attended openings ceremony.

"India is a country on the move. We have an inherently strong economy, a growing and accessible domestic market and rich pool of human resources," Jaitley said while stressing that India's vision for 2020 is not too different from that of China's.

MNA/PTI



A Russian Sukhoi SU-27 jet fighter performs during the air base opening ceremony in Kant, some 20 km southeast of Bishkek on 23 October, 2003. Russian President Vladimir Putin opened an airbase in Kyrgyzstan on Thursday, Russia's first post-Soviet military outpost abroad and a springboard for reviving its clout in volatile Central Asia.—INTERNET

Chinese scientists call for attention to "AIDS" control

BEIJING, 24 Oct—Twenty-two prestigious Chinese scientists have warned that AIDS would become a "nationwide scourge" in 10 years' time, unless prompt, efficient prevention and control measures were taken.

The experts gave such warnings when reporting on the progress of the "121 Joint Action Plan", which, launched in March this year, is to end on December 1 — World AIDS Day. With "Live and Let Live" as the theme, the plan is sponsored by the Chinese Foundation for Prevention of STD and AIDS, a professional AIDS prevention and control institution.

According to relevant official breakdowns, China has about one million AIDS carriers, scattered in all 31 provinces and autonomous regions nationwide. However, experts hold that the actual number of carriers is bigger and that the figure would possibly exceed 10 million in the year 2010, if no adequate

timely and essential measures are taken. Zeng Yi, a renowned AIDS expert with the Chinese Ministry of Health, remarked that both the government and the public underestimated the possibility that AIDS might be widely epidemic in next 10 years.

The society as a whole was not fully aware of the importance and urgency of AIDS prevention and control and there remained a lot to be done in terms of policy making, extensive publicity and scientific researches, he acknowledged.

Zeng said it was of vital importance to increase the awareness of the general public.

In view of a fund shortage in AIDS prevention and control, scientists hoped that the industry and business circles would initially support the plan. The industry and business communities play a crucial part in today's society, and their financial support to AIDS prevention and control would be useful, meaningful and respectable, said He Zuoxiu, a noted academician of Chinese academy of sciences. The plan's committee set this November as "AIDS Care Month", which is expected to feature a host of charity activities including a benefit performance in the Great Hall of the People on December 1.—MNA/Xinhua

Egyptian twin back on ventilator

DALLAS, 24 Oct— One of the Egyptian twins formerly conjoined at the crown of their heads was put back on a mechanical ventilator, and his brother was recovering strength in his limbs, doctors said on Wednesday.

Dr. James Thomas, chief of critical care services at Children's Medical Center in Dallas where 2-year-old Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim were separated on October 12, said Ahmed was placed back on the ventilator after being removed from the device on Tuesday.

Ahmed initially did well after being removed and smiled at his father, Thomas said, but swelling in his throat made it difficult for him to breathe on his own.

"This represents a minor complication of mechanical ventilation and doesn't affect his neurologic recovery," Thomas said.

Mohamed has been off a ventilator since the weekend and is regaining movement in the right side of his body, which has been weak since he regained consciousness last week.

"Physicians, nurses and therapists caring for the boys continue to be optimistic about their progress," Thomas said.

Both boys have shaken a low-grade fever and have been taken off of antibiotics.

It will take weeks to determine if they suffered any brain damage from an operation in which a team of five neurosurgeons separated brain material the boys shared as well as the shared circulatory systems that fed blood to their brains.

The boys were born in a town 800 kilometres south of Cairo on June 2, 2001.

MNA/Reuters

Israeli researchers say certain nuts reduce heart risk

JERUSALEM, 24 Oct— Israeli researchers have found that certain kinds of nuts are good for one's health and are able to help reducing the risk of heart attacks, the *Jerusalem Post* reported Wednesday.

Walnuts, peanuts, macadamia nuts, pistachios, almonds, hazelnuts, brazil nuts, cashews and pecans will all do the trick — if eaten in moderation, the report said.

The findings were first published in an article, written by Dr. Nir Barak with the Rabin Medical Centre and Dr. Yatzhel Brenner with the Meir Hospital, in the latest issue of the Hebrew-language *Internal Medicine Review*.

These nuts contain flavonoids, arginine, Vitamin E, copper, fibre, and folic acid, all of which promote healthy hearts, the researchers said.

They concluded that including 30 grammes of the nuts in a daily diet can reduce the levels of dangerous fats in the blood.

Previous researches had not investigated different types of nuts, only "nuts in general", the report said.

The combined studies involved tens of thousands of men and women aged 34 to 84, it added. — MNA/Xinhua



An Indian girl lights a Deepawali lamp on the eve of the Hindu festival of 'Diwali', the festival of lights, in Ahmedabad the main city of the western Indian state of Gujarat late on 23 October, 2003. Hindus in India and around the world light lamps in their homes during Diwali to symbolize the victory of good over evil.—INTERNET

Yang Liwei instills more national self-confidence

BEIJING, 24 Oct—China's first manned space flight has given the nation a new sense of self confidence and served as an inspiration to younger generations, social commentators believe.

Astronaut Yang Liwei, 38, became an instant national hero after his solo orbit of the earth in the *Shenzhou-V* space capsule this month and his name was even registered as brand and Internet domain names. "Yang's 21-hour space journey showed that our country has begun to 'fly', 54 years after Chairman Mao Zedong, the founder of New China, declared the Chinese people had 'stood up'," said one e-mail on the xinhuanet.com web site.

"Yang Liwei is a first-rate individual who displayed the great work of Chinese scientists in space," said Yu Guoming, a professor of Peo-

ple's University of China.

Yang, who notched up 1,350 flying hours as a fighter pilot, underwent five years of rigid physical, psychological and technical training and eventually completing more than 200 operations in his space flight. "I regard Mr. Yang as a hero," said Yu.

In his opinion, the space flight was a success for Yang and a collective achievement of all the scientists and technologists related to the programme, which indicated the comprehensive capability of China's economy, technology, national defence and its rallying force.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Marseille send dossier on Barthez to French federation

MARSEILLE (France), 24 Oct—Olympique Marseille, hoping to persuade FIFA to allow the loan of Fabien Barthez from Manchester United, have sent a "serious and solid" dossier on the matter to the French football federation.

The France keeper was presented to the Press on Thursday and has already trained with the Marseille reserves but he requires FIFA permission to move to Marseille outside the transfer window, which reopens in January.

"We have this morning sent a request that Fabien be allowed to play for OM which relies on extremely serious and solid arguments," said Marseille president Christophe Bouchet.

This request has been sent to the French federation which will send it to FIFA, world soccer's ruling body, if it agrees with it. The French league has already said there are no legal reasons why the transfer should not be allowed.

Bouchet gave no details about the contents of the dossier. Barthez is number three keeper at United and needs to play first team soccer to guarantee his place in France's Euro 2004 team.

News of Barthez' possible arrival at Marseille has coincided with league and Champions League defeats for his former team, with whom he won the European Cup in 1993. —MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Luis Figo, centre, is congratulated by his teammates David Beckham, left, and Zinedine Zidane after scoring a goal against Partizan of Belgrade during their Champions League group F soccer match in Madrid, Spain on 22 October, 2003. —INTERNET

Raul header gives Real third straight win

MADRID, 24 Oct—A ghosted header from Raul proved just enough to give below-par Real Madrid a 1-0 victory over Partizan Belgrade on Wednesday and keep the nine-times European Cup winners top of Group F with maximum points from three games.

Real struggled to make headway in a drab first half at the Bernabeu but claimed the lead when Raul got the faintest of touches to a powerful Luis Figo header seven minutes before the break.

It was Raul's 45th goal in the Champions League and took him to within four of former Real Madrid forward Alfredo di Stefano's all-time European Cup record.

There was precious little else to note about a poor Real display in the opening period but a more positive approach from Partizan led to an entertaining second half.

Ivica Iliev and Ljubinko Drulovic both went close just after the break and the home defence had several more uncomfortable moments as the second half wore on.

Real also looked far more dangerous after the break and only brilliant goalkeeping from Djordje Pantich prevented them adding to their lead.

Pantich kept David Beckham out at his near post in the 65th minute and also pulled off sharp saves from Figo, Ronaldo and substitute Santiago Solari.

With Iker Casillas also in eye-catching form, there were no further goals and Real held on for a valuable win that leaves them all but certain of a place in the knock-out stages.

Partizan coach Lothar Matthaeus could be proud of his side's plucky display, and for

keeping Real down to one goal, but the Serbia & Montenegro champions have just a point from three matches.

Real are well used to visiting teams at the Bernabeu keeping 10 men behind the ball but they seemed at a loss as to how to break down the disciplined Partizan defence.

Zinedine Zidane made a couple of promising runs from midfield and Ronaldo was an intermittent menace in the Partizan box but otherwise Real had to rely on set-pieces.

With 10 minutes gone, Beckham floated over a free-kick for Roberto Carlos to crack just over.

Ronaldo's quick free kick created further problems with Raul beating his marker only to head wide.

Figo then skewed his shot wide from a good position after Ronaldo had teed up the Portuguese winger.

Almost inevitably, Real's opener came from a dead ball situation.

Beckham swung a corner out towards the penalty spot for Figo to head towards goal and Raul to supply the finishing touch.

Casillas was almost caught cold in the 47th minute, when he spilled a snap shot from Iliev, the Spanish keeper gathering gratefully at the second attempt.

A few minutes later, Drulovic almost levelled the scores, his first-time blast from 12 metres going just over. —MNA/Reuters

Stuttgart ease to victory over Panathinaikos

STUTTGART, 24 Oct—VfB Stuttgart earned their second win in three Champions League matches with a comfortable 2-0 victory over Panathinaikos in Group E on Wednesday.

The German side, second in the Bundesliga after nine games without defeat, opened the scoring in the 13th minute with a diving header by Hungary striker Imre Szabics.

Stuttgart, who beat Manchester United 2-1 in their previous Group E match, made it 2-0 some 12 minutes later with a close-range header by midfielder and captain Zvonimir Soldo.

Stuttgart raced forward from the kickoff and threatened when midfielder Horst Heldt hit the side netting from the edge of the box on 12 minutes.

Szabics put them in front seconds later and central defender Marcelo Bordon fired just wide from long range in the 21st minute before Soldo, the best player on the pitch, put Stuttgart firmly in control.

The second half was not as lively as Stuttgart dropped the pace but Panathinaikos failed to take advantage and only threatened once when a long-range drive by midfielder Angelos Basinas brought a superb save from Stuttgart goalkeeper Timo Hildebrand.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham set to miss**Real Madrid's league game**

MADRID, 24 Oct—David Beckham was almost certain to miss Real Madrid's next league game due to an injury, the Spanish club said on Thursday.

Beckham strained a right hamstring during training this week and aggravated the injury during Madrid's 1-0 Champions League home victory over Partizan Belgrade on Wednesday.

The club's doctor Alfonso del Corral told Real website that Beckham was "99 per cent likely" to miss Saturday's home game against Racing de Santander. —MNA/Xinhua

Afro-Asian Games not accorded official status by FIFA

HYDERABAD (India), 24 Oct—Hosts India beat Rwanda 3-1 in a game of the Afro-Asian Games soccer tournament which has not been accorded the official status by soccer's world governing body FIFA.

Soccer tournament began two days before the opening ceremony of the Afro-Asian Games scheduled on Friday. As Indian players celebrating their victory, the tournament itself has received several setbacks.

Several games have been rescheduled due to heavy rain and last-minute replacement. Only the game between India and Rwanda had been played.

According to Junji Ogura, FIFA's representative to the Afro-Asian Games, that the best teams from the two continents did not come to the games was part of the reason why FIFA would not accord official status to the games' soccer tournament.

"Definitely, the best teams from the two continents are not here. Ideally, the best teams should have been in Hyderabad, but we understand that due to the previous commitments and as the top African players are currently doing duty for their clubs in Europe, the best teams were not available," said the Japanese, a member of FIFA's Executive Committee. —MNA/Reuters

Late Poborsky goal gives Sparta first win

PRAGUE, 24 Oct—Experienced midfielder Karel Poborsky pounced six minutes from time to give Sparta Prague a 2-1 victory over Turkey's Besiktas in Champions League Group G on Wednesday.

Poborsky volleyed home the winner in front of a sparse crowd to hand the Czech side their first win of the group phase.

Besiktas took the field a decidedly weakened team, with striker Ilhan Mansiz suspended and midfielder Tamer Metin out with an ankle injury. But the Turkish side looked the better of the two for the first 45 minutes, controlling the play for the most part and creating what few chances there were.

It was a tale of two halves for Sparta as the players shed their indifferent form in the second half and began to probe the three-man Besiktas rearguard.

Sparta finally broke the deadlock in the 58th minute when striker Libor Sionko found Lukas Zelenka on the left side of the penalty box. Zelenka slipped past the Besiktas defence and slotted the ball into the net to put the home side 1-0 up.

Their lead lasted only two minutes. Sparta keeper Jaromir Blazek clumsily brought down Sergen Yalcin and Spanish referee Manuel Enrique Mejuto Gonzalez immediately pointed to the penalty spot. —MNA/Reuters

Slick Porto outplay vulnerable Marseille

MARSEILLE, 24 Oct—Porto recovered after falling a goal behind to outplay a defensively vulnerable Olympique Marseille and win 3-2 in their Champions League clash at the Stade Velodrome on Wednesday.

Porto's deserved victory makes them favourites to take second place in Group F behind likely group winners Real Madrid, who beat Partizan Belgrade 1-0 at the Bernabeu, and piled the pressure on Marseille's controversial coach Alain Perrin whose tactics and preparation for the game appeared questionable.

In an open and attractive contest, Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba struck his fifth goal in the competition this season to put Marseille ahead after 24 minutes.

But Porto replied in style with goals from midfielder Maniche on 31 minutes and Brazilian Derlei four minutes later to take control and leave Marseille frustrated and disjointed as they toiled in vain for an equalizer.

Russian substitute Dmitri Alenitchev scored Porto's third with a simple tap-in to conclude a slick passing move in the 81st minute, eight minutes after he had come on.

However, Marseille, lifted by the pace of their own Russian substitute striker Dmitri Sytchev, rallied to pull one back when Steve Marlet headed in from a free kick with six

minutes of normal time remaining.

The victory was critical for Porto whose coach Jose Mourinho said he could not tolerate the idea of not winning what he believed to be a decisive contest for the runners-up place. After three matches, Real lead the table with nine points followed by Porto on four, Marseille with three and Partizan, whose defeat in Spain leaves them bottom with just one point.

It was Porto's first win on French soil in a European tie since the 1964-65 season when they won at Olympique Lyon.

But Perrin, under fire for failing to counter Porto's impressive five-man midfield and questioned about the wisdom of signing Manchester United goalkeeper Fabien Barthez in the run-up to such an important game, shrugged off his critics.

Marseille appeared to be nervous from the start. Porto made a high-tempo opening and quickly stretched the home defence with swift interchanges and passing moves, but it was Marseille who had the first chance when Drogba shot over after three minutes.

MNA/Reuters

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Republic of Kazakhstan

YANGON, 25 Oct — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Nursultan A Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan which falls on 25 October 2003. — MNA

Prime Minister addresses ASEAN Steering Committee Meeting No 2/2003

YANGON, 24 Oct—The ASEAN Steering Committee Meeting No 2/2003 was held at the meeting hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar here at 3 pm today, with an address by Chairman of the ASEAN Steering Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, ministers, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Judge Advocate-General, deputy ministers, the deputy auditor-general, members of the ASEAN Steering Committee, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and officials.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that the Myanmar delegation attended the 9th ASEAN Summit and Summits of the ASEAN Heads of State/Government and Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea

Cooperation. The Treaty included the basic principles to be followed in international relations, and will also contribute to forging peace in the region.

Likewise, ASEAN member countries signed Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation with Japan and India, and with China at the summit held in Cambodia last year.

The economic agreements were aimed to establish free trade areas in ten years. The Republic of Korea also offered to hold discussions for signing such economic agreement. China, Japan, ROK and India enthusiastically joined hands with ASEAN nations to boost economic cooperation.

After signing the agreements, it is incumbent upon the member countries to implement them. In the process, the respective ministries play a key role. Therefore, the meeting was held to enable respective ministries to fully realize the tasks and arrangements.

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt makes a speech at the meeting 2/2003 of the ASEAN Steering Committee. — MNA

and ASEAN-India Summit held in Bali, Indonesia on 7 and 8 October, and signed agreements. Of the agreements signed, the Bali Concord II was the historic milestone for the ASEAN Summits. The Bali Concord II has been able to draw the long-term goals of ASEAN.

In addition, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and China issued Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. With the India, the ASEAN confirmed the Declaration on Cooperation in the Fight Against International Terrorism. It can be assumed that the ASEAN is meeting with success politically as China and India took part in the signing of the Treaty of Amity and

The Bali Concord II will serve the long-term interest of the countries in the region including Myanmar since it is mainly based on the three pillars — ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Social-Cultural Community.

The ASEAN Security Community is to establish a more secure and peaceful ASEAN region by handling problems among countries in the region peacefully and respecting sovereignty of one country by another without interfering in other's internal affairs and contribute towards peace through further cooperation among ASEAN nations.

The ASEAN Economic Community is to alleviate pov-

erty and bridge socio-economic gap with the emergence of the sole market and production area in ASEAN region facilitating free flow of commodities, services and investments. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community is to establish a peaceful society through exchange of culture, more contact and understanding among scholars and artistes, non-occurrence of contagious diseases, improvement of the education standard, and enhancement of the living standard of people from all walks of life, to be in conformity with ASEAN Vision 2020.

Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for Peace and
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Ceremony to mark 58th Anniversary United Nations Day held

YANGON, 24 Oct — A ceremony to mark 58th Anniversary United Nations Day was held at the Thabin hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw building on Pyay Road here this evening, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win.

It was also attended by wife of the Secretary-1 Daw Than Than Nwe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, ministers, the chief-justice, the attorney-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers and their wives, Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Myanmar Philippine Ambassador Mme Phoebe A Gomaz, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign missions in Yangon, Resident Co-ordinator of the United Nations System's Operational Activities for Development in Myanmar Mr Charles James Petrie, resident representatives and officials of UN agencies, departmental heads, delegates of Union Solidarity and Development Association, local and foreign journalists and guests.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win made a speech. He said: It is my pleasure to be with you to mark this auspicious

United Nations Day. The United Nations was born fifty eight years ago today. It was established in the aftermath of the terrible tragedy that was the Second World War. The United Nations Charter states that the UN was established to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Its purposes were defined as maintaining international peace and security and promoting development. Its principles are based on international law which enshrines equality of Member States, respect for sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs among others. The United Nations started in 1945 with a membership of 51 States. Today the United Nations has 191 Member States. Indeed there is no other international organization which is more universal, which represents the whole human family as the United Nations does.

In over half a century of its existence, the United Nations has faced many challenges and seized many opportunities for the good of humankind. Compared to 1945, the world today is profoundly different and complex. But as the key international forum for multilateralism, the role of the United Nations remains as important as ever. The United Nations will be as successful as its Member States make it.

Our institution was conceived for an international world; we now live in a global world. The latest world revolution has delivered information technology (IT) to us. The IT revolution has brought about profound globalization. The opportunities and challenges of globalization and a globalized village make the central role of the United Nations even more increasingly important.

For us, the United Nations continues to represent the best hope for humankind. In this age, the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of international cooperation and development make the role of the United Nations more important than ever. We firmly believe that the United Nations plays a pivotal role in the close link between peace and development. Peace and security in the world can only be secured by economic development of the whole human family. There can be no lasting peace without development. As the United Nations Secretary-General said on several occasions, "There are many things that the world's people can achieve, if we all work together".

World leaders greeted a new millennium with a firm reaffirmation of faith and commitment in the United
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