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Tuesday, 18 November, 2003

Message from Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the 83rd Anniversary of National Day

The following is the translation of the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 83rd Anniversary of National Day.

All the national people

Today is the 83rd Anniversary of National Day, the day on which the national movement for Myanmar independence struggle was launched. The day the national movement went into action will ever be chronicled in Myanmar history of independence struggle.

Myanmar people with a high standard of culture and literature have never yielded to any foreign aggression in the course of history, but have always repulsed it courageously in order to uplift national prestige and integrity. In Myanmar history, although the national sovereignty was lost, Myanmar national races had been able to restore it after regaining independence based on the love of the nation, patriotism and Union Spirit. History bears witness to this fact.

The government has been implementing education promotion programmes designed to contribute to the prevalence of peace and tranquillity and development of the nation in the basic education sector and higher education sector since 1998. A 30-year long-term national education promotion plan has been laid down and is being implemented in the education sector, the medical science sector and the science and technology sector since the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

Under the national education promotion programme,

opportunities for learning have been opened up to all the children throughout the nation thanks to the full participation of parents and wellwishers in the school enrolment programme for all school-age children. Nowadays, over 7.64 million students are pursuing education at 40,121 basic education schools. Extended programmes for adult literacy and promoting the reading skills of neo-literates are being implemented in the states and divisions.

In the higher education sector also, more doctorate courses as well as those designed to meet regional needs under the arrangement of human resource development centres are being conducted for the emergence of highly qualified human resources. In addition, more universities and colleges complete with electronic equipment have been opened across the nation after designating the 24-development zones. At present, some 900,000 trainees are pursuing education at 154 universities and colleges; and 299 doctorate holders have been turned out.

With the advancement in science and technology, it is necessary to develop human resources capable of overcoming the challenges posed by the socio-economic life of the 21st century and to inculcate Union Spirit and patriotism in the children from the basic education level so that there will emerge the new generation youths who are capable of successfully discharging the duties for perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State.

Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State is the lifeblood of the State and the entire people. To build a modern and developed democratic nation, the State, fully joining hands with the entire people, has laid

down the seven-point future policy programme of the State based on the four political objectives in accord with the national policies—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

For the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation, stability and tranquillity of the State, strengthening the economy of the State and the people and promotion of the national education standards are of vital importance for the emergence of discipline-flourishing democratic practices in conformity with the historical traditions of the Union that has always stood united, and cultural traditions and national character preserved and enhanced generation after generation. Furthermore, seven-point future policy programme of the State laid down for the emergence of the new enduring state constitution and new, modern, developed democratic nation must be unitedly implemented with patriotism, nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit by the State and the entire national people.

Therefore, I would like to urge all the national people in all seriousness to exert efforts with full national strength in accord with the objectives of the 83rd Anniversary of National Day:

- (a) Keeping national spirit alive and dynamic and uplift of national prestige and integrity
- (b) Uplift of national education
- (c) Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State
- (d) Success of seven-point future policy programme of the State. — MNA



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 receives Military Attache of Indonesia to Myanmar Col Amiruddin Usman who had completed his tour of duty and new Military Attache Col Yayat Hidayat at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinthta. —MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Indonesian Military Attaches

YANGON, 17 NOV — 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 received Indonesian Military Attache' to the Union of Myanmar Col Amiruddin Usman who had completed his tour of duty and new Military Attache' Col Yayat Hidayat at Zeyathiri Beikman,

Konmyinthta this morning.

Present at the call together with Vice-Senior General Maung Aye were Military Adviser to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein.

MNA

Defence Services C-in-C's shield soccer commences

YANGON, 17 NOV — The 42nd Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) soccer tournament was opened this afternoon at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna).

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman of the Defence Services Sports and Physical Education Administrative

Committee Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered a speech and opened the tournament. Afterwards, the Yangon Command Team played against the South-West Command Team and the match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Among the spectators were Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers, officials of the Ministry of Sports and guests. —MNA

HAILING THE 83rd ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL DAY

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 18 November, 2003

Successful realization of National Day objectives, a big step towards a genuine democracy

Today, the 10th waning of Tazaungmone, 1365 ME, is the 83rd anniversary of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar. It was on this historic day 83 years ago that the national movement was launched which inflamed the nationalistic spirit of Myanmar people and eventually led to the regaining of sovereignty and independence.

We Myanmar are a people with a high standard of culture. They have never taken any foreign aggression lying down but always courageously repulsed it. A study of how the National Day emerged shows the steadfastness of their national spirit and their love for the nation. All the national races of the Union, always embracing the national spirit, have lived together through thick and thin for ages.

The national movement was born out of Myanmar people's sufferings from various kinds of oppression — political, economic and social — by the colonialists during their occupation of the entire nation after three aggressive wars. The harder the colonialists tried to break down the national spirit of Myanmar people, the stronger it became. The immediate cause that ignited the national movement was the enactment by the colonialists of the University Act designed to contribute to and prolong their rule. University students were totally against the Act and demanded a better university education system. Moreover, national schools were opened across Myanmar with the purpose of implementing the national educational objectives and the day the national movement was launched was designated as the National Day and the movement went into Myanmar history.

The National Day is observed every year with full national essence so that the entire national people will always remember and value it. The objectives for the observance of this year's National Day are:

- Keeping the national spirit alive and dynamic and uplift of national prestige and integrity
- Uplift of national education
- Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State
- Success of seven-point future policy programme of the State

We believe that the successful realization of the objectives of this year's National Day will surely contribute a lot to the emergence of a genuine democracy. Therefore, on this auspicious occasion, we would like to call on the national brethren of the Union to try their utmost so that the objectives will fully materialize.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo honours outstanding students, artistes

YANGON, 17 Nov — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended ceremony to present prizes to outstanding students, to present teaching/learning aids and to honour prize-winners of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions in Maw-lamyine on 15 November. Also present were Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Myo Hla, officials, schoolheads and teachers, trainees of the institutes of nursing in Mawlamyine, outstanding students and their parents, social organization members and invited guests.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Maj-Gen Thura

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presents an award to an outstanding student at Mon State's prize-presentation ceremony for 2002-2003 academic year. — MNA

Myint Aung made speeches. Afterwards, Deputy Director-General of No 1 Basic Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U C Thuang Za Tuan reported on tasks for promoting education standard of students in Mon State.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented prizes to six distinction winners Ma Zin Mar Naing who ranked fourth in the whole Myanmar for

2002-2003 academic year and Min Soe Ko Lwin who ranked sixth and five distinction winner Maung Thaw Zin Oo who ranked eighth and 17 teachers who taught them. The commander presented prizes to Mudon, Thanbyuzayat and Mawlamyine townships and BEHS-8, BEHS-9 and BEHS-6 in Mawlamyine that got the highest pass rates in Mon State and six distinction winners. Other officials also presented prizes to outstanding students. The commander presented teaching/learning aids for basic education schools.

Officials concerned also presented prizes to 10 gold medalists, 13 silver medalists and 10 bronze medalists in the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan pay respects to retired teachers. — MNA

No 1 BEHS, Monywa, holds respect paying ceremony

YANGON, 17 Nov — No 1 Basic Education High School, Monywa, held respect paying and prize presentation ceremony yesterday.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha

Aye, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, and old students paid respects to retired teachers and presented gifts.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented gifts to the current teachers of the school. Outstanding students and

winner students of the Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions were awarded by the commander and the ministers.

A total of K 14,253 million were donated by the wellwishers for the two-storey building which is under construction in the school.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye also contributed K 500,000 to the fund for the respect paying ceremony.

Soon was offered to 200 monks at the school. Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented offertories to the monks.

MNA

Prevention of chemical effect on health and women clarified

YANGON, 17 Nov — Jointly-organized by the Department of Health under the Ministry of Health, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and World Health Organization, Prevention of Chemical Effects on Health and

the Women Sector were clarified at the hall of the MMCWA's building at the corner of Thanthuma Street and Parami Road in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for

Health Dr Mya Oo, Directors-General, Directors and officials of the department under the ministry, President of the MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, honorary patrons Daw Khin Than Nwe, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win,

Vice-President of the MMCWA Dr Kyi Soe and Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and executives, Yangon Division MMCWA Head of Health Department Dr Hla Myint and committee members, officials of the WHO, Presidents of Township

MMCWA in Yangon Division and guests.

First, President of the MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe made a speech on the 'Prevention of Chemical Effects on Health and the Women Sector'.

Next, Deputy Minister

for Health Dr Mya Oo made a speech on 'Prevention of Chemical Effects on Health and the Women Sector'.

Afterwards, Dr Phone Myint of the Department of Health gave a talk on 'Prevention of Chemical Effects on Health and the Women Sector' for women workers and their families and Director Dr Wai Lo Be Li Tun, 'Global chemical safety by the year 2020'.

Lectures on 'Prevention of Chemical Effects on Health and the Women Sector' will be given to members of the MMCWA at the MMCWA's building on 19 and 20 November.

MNA



MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gives talks on prevention of chemical effects on health and the women's sector. — MNA

Blair pays price for supporting Iraq war

LONDON, 17 Nov—President Bush's state visit to Britain this week, conceived as a display of trans-Atlantic unity, may simply remind Prime Minister Tony Blair of the price he is paying for supporting the war in Iraq.

Blair's approval rating has slumped since committing British troops to the US-led war. Some of his own lawmakers accuse him of being Bush's "poodle," and recent polls suggest a majority of Britons disapprove of their "special relationship" with the United States.

Opponents of the war hope to bring out tens of thousands of demonstrators to march against Bush's visit, which begins Tuesday night.

"It is a disgrace that Tony Blair is once again ignoring public opinion to entertain his friend at our expense," reads a campaign leaflet printed by the Stop the War Coalition, which has or-

ganized a Thursday march through central London.

The timing of Bush's visit, planned 17 months ago, is difficult for Blair.

The past year has been dominated by international affairs, and national elections may be held in 18 months, so the prime minister wants to concentrate on his domestic agenda and calm the unrest sparked in his governing Labour Party by the war.

His recent public appearances have been dominated by visits to schools, hospitals and down-at-the-heel public housing complexes.

In this context, Bush's "arrival is

about as appropriate as the appearance of a stripper at a wedding," The Guardian newspaper said in a Saturday editorial.

Bush is aware of Blair's predicament and heaped praise on him in a round of interviews this week. He also seemed to counter criticism that Blair simply took orders from Washington.

Britain has been Washington's most solid ally in the war against terrorism.

But the prime minister's decision to back the Iraq war, despite widespread opposition among the public and in the Labour Party, has cost him dearly. For the first time in his six years in office, he appears vulnerable.—Internet

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Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee (right) poses with his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Naji Otri at the historic city of Palmayra near Damascus in Syria.—INTERNET

India, Syria urge "large role" for UN in Iraq

DAMASCUS, 17 Nov—India and Syria want the United Nations to play a major role in Iraq where the priority must be to restore security, said a joint statement to mark the departure of Indian premier Atal Behari Vajpayee.

The two countries said it was "vital that the Iraqi people take charge of their own destiny", and for the United Nations to "play a large role in the economic and political reconstruction of Iraq".

"Strengthening security in Iraq, building infrastructure and establishing a government representing all groups of people are priorities in this country," the statement added.

India and Syria also called for the "implementation of a just, global and lasting peace in the Middle East," with Vajpayee stressing "India's support for the Palestinian and Syrian causes".

The two countries urged "effective cooperation in the struggle against international terrorism," adding that terror must not be linked to one religion in particular.

Vajpayee also announced that a 25-million-dollar loan will be granted to Syria to develop bilateral trade, the statement added.

On Saturday, Syria and India signed bilateral accords on technology, industry, culture and education.

The Indian prime minister left Syria on Sunday at the end of a week-long three-nation tour that also took in Russia and Tajikistan.—Internet

Purported Saddam tape urges Iraqis to fight US

BAGHDAD, 17 Nov—An Arab television network broadcast a purported audio tape by fugitive dictator Saddam Hussein on Sunday exhorting Iraqis to wage war against occupying forces and warning of more deaths for US-led troops.

In the northern city of Mosul, US soldiers retrieved wreckage and bodies after two Black Hawk helicopters collided and crashed under fire on Saturday, killing 17 soldiers in the bloodiest single incident for US forces since they invaded Iraq.

Another five US soldiers were wounded in Mosul on Sunday when a roadside bomb was detonated as their convoy passed.

"An improvised explosive device went off and there was small arms fire," said Specialist Joshua Hutcheson, spokesman for the 101st Airborne Division. "Our soldiers responded but we had five wounded in action."

Facing a mounting casualty toll in Iraq, Washington has moved to speed the transfer of sovereignty to Iraqis in the hope of pacifying resentment toward the occupation, and the US Army has adopted new tougher targets to strike back at guerillas.

The purported Saddam tape, broadcast by Dubai-based Al Arabiya television, urged Iraqis to drive out occupying troops. "Fighting them...is a legitimate, patriotic and humanitarian duty and the occupiers have no choice but to leave our country...as cursed losers," it said.

It was the first time in two months that a tape purportedly recorded by Saddam has been broadcast. The former Iraqi leader is still missing.—Internet

Wide areas of the Iraqi capital without electric power

BAGHDAD, 17 Nov—Wide areas of the Iraqi capital lost electric power early Monday, but the reason for the outage was unclear.

Power went off around midnight local time and was still off nearly four hours later. The US compound and some major buildings were illuminated with generators.

A US military spokesman said the coalition press center was operating on generator power as well, but he could not say what caused the outage.—Internet



A TV frame grab taken from Dubai's Al-Arabiya television during the airing of a speech purported to be that of former president Saddam Hussein addressing the Iraqi people on the occasion of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan.—INTERNET

Britain warns of trade war unless US lifts steel tariffs

LONDON, 17 Nov—British Trade and Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt warned Sunday of a trans-Atlantic trade war unless the United States lifts its steel tariffs, ahead of a state visit by the US President George W Bush to Britain next week.

Hewitt told the British Broadcasting Corporation that "it is time for them (the US tariffs on steel) to go because if they don't go by the first week in December we will be into a trade war with European retaliations against American imports".

The World Trade Organization ruled last week that the high tariffs on foreign steel, imposed by US President George W Bush last year, were in violation of international fair-trade rules and illegal.

The United States is subject to stiff retaliatory sanctions from trade partners, with fears brewing of a full-scale trade war.

Hewitt said Bush must recognize that ruling and act quickly to prevent European Union retaliations by removing the tariffs.

MNA/Xinhua

British security forces on higher alert

LONDON, 17 Nov—Britain moved its security services to a heightened state of alert on Saturday following warnings of a possible al-Qaeda attack received just days ahead of a visit by US President George W Bush, the BBC said.

The BBC reported that the alert status was raised from "substantial" to "severe general" — the second highest state of alert — but that it was unconnected to the President's visit. It said there was no intelligence of a specific attack or target. Britain's Home Office declined to comment on any aspect of the BBC report, saying: "We would never discuss threat levels."

A security source confirmed the BBC report to Reuters. Scotland Yard is mobilizing for a massive policing operation for Bush's visit to London, where 5,000 officers will be on duty during his stay, including all London's armed units. Bush is scheduled to arrive in Britain on Wednesday for an official state visit with Queen Elizabeth and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, his closest ally during the war on Iraq.—MNA/Reuters

UN supports debt reduction for Group of Rio

SANTA CRUZ (Bolivia), 17 Nov—The United Nations supports the demand of the Group of Rio for international financial organizations to diminish their debt burden.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed this view to Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo, whose country is the pro tempore secretary of the group, during a meeting on Friday night in the eastern Bolivian city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra at the 13th Ibero-American Summit. Toledo told the Press Saturday that Annan expressed the UN solidarity with the group in search for innovative mechanisms to reduce the burden of the foreign debt and increase investments, which would drive the growth in the group's member countries.—MNA/Xinhua

Mexico, Uruguay sign free trade agreement

SANTA CRUZ (Bolivia), 17 Nov—Mexico and Uruguay signed a free trade agreement (FTA) here on Saturday, the first between a member of the South American Common Market (Mercosur) and a country of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The agreement was signed by Mexican President Vicente Fox and his Uruguayan counterpart Jorge Batlle on the sidelines of the 13th Latin American-Iberian Summit.—MNA/Xinhua

Iraqis doubt transition plan will end US control

BAGHDAD, 17 Nov— Baghdad residents responded sceptically on Sunday to US plans for a faster political handover in postwar Iraq, saying any government would be under America's thumb as long as US forces remain.

The blueprint was unveiled on Saturday by Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council, but there were no illusions it was home-grown and plenty of doubt over what it could achieve.

"It's a plan drawn up by the American Government," taxi-driver Mohammed Karim, 32, said. "The Governing Council achieved nothing for the Iraqi people, so nobody will recognize the next government either," he said.

"Everything is in the hands of the occupation forces and the Iraqi people refuse all kinds of occupation."

The ambitious plan, agreed by the council and Iraq's US administrator Paul Bremer, calls for a sovereign government to be in place by the end of June, formally ending the occupation

— though US officials say troops will stay anyway.

"It won't make any difference," Saad Jawad, a political science professor at Baghdad University, told *Reuters*. "This is not the Governing Council's plan. It's Bremer's plan. 'Again they will be picking people according to the taste of the Americans, people who will comply with them,'" he said.

A sampling of opinions on the streets of Baghdad suggests few Iraqis believe an end to the occupation is in sight.

"I don't think the American forces will withdraw from Iraq even if they establish a government," said Hassan al-Garbawi, 42, owner of an electrical goods shop.

"They just want to get rid of the troubles," he said, referring to guerrilla

attacks that have killed at least 160 US troops since Washington declared major combat in Iraq over on May 1.

"The next government will be guided according to what America wants. The whole process is aimed at protecting Israel. Iraq has now become a permanent American base," Garbawi said.

Under the new plan, caucuses in each of Iraq's 18 provinces will select a national assembly in a population-weighted vote. That assembly will pick the transitional government, which will replace the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority.

Samar Abdul-Satar, 51, said the transitional government would have no more legitimacy than the Governing Council.—*MNA/Reuters*

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Britons dubious about Bush ahead of state visit

LONDON, 17 Nov— More than one in three Britons think George W Bush is stupid and a majority branded the US President a threat to world peace, opinion poll results published on Sunday showed.

With widespread demonstrations being planned by protesters, British Prime Minister Tony Blair conceded that some opponents of US policy in Iraq "are rubbing their hands at the scope for embarrassing him".

"But I believe passionately there could not be a better moment for him to come to the UK than now," he wrote in Britain's leading Sunday tabloid, *The News of the World*.

"Despite the doubters, I am convinced the visit of President Bush this week is in the best interests of this country and the world."

Bush is due to arrive in London on Tuesday, and start his three-day state visit the next day. It will be the first state visit by an American president since Ronald Reagan in 1982.

MNA/Reuters

France urges quicker handover of power in Iraq

PARIS, 17 Nov— French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin has said power should be handed over to a provisional Iraqi government by the end of the year, calling a mid-2004 timetable favoured by the United States too slow.

"My view is that it is too late. We need to move faster. This is an extremely urgent situation," Villepin said in an interview that will appear in the Monday edition of French daily *La Croix*.

On Saturday, Iraqi officials announced an agreement with the United States under which a sovereign Iraqi government would take over power from US occupying authorities by the end of June 2004.

In recent months, the French have irked American officials by urging a quick transfer of sovereignty without saying how it would work.

Villepin proposed creating an assembly

composed of members of existing bodies within Iraq and other "forces" that would elect a government by the end of the year.

"In Baghdad we already have a temporary Governing Council, a constitutional committee, a council of ministers. Each counts 25 members," Villepin said in the interview, a copy of which was given to *Reuters* ahead of publication.

"We could, for example, bring these people together, add other forces and create a representative assembly that would elect a transitional government of about 15 members. All of this could be done by the end of the year." — *MNA/Reuters*



The soldiers of US Army's 4th Infantry Division (Task Force Ironhorse) patrol the area in Saddam Hussein's hometown, outside Tikrit, north of Baghdad, on 15 Nov, 2003.—INTERNET

Rich, poor states split before Internet summit

GENEVA, 17 Nov— Developed and developing nations were wide apart on Saturday on managing the Internet and closing the digital divide between rich and poor at the end of what was meant as a final meeting before a world summit.

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), to be held in Geneva on December 10-12, was first proposed in 1998 at the height of the Internet boom, but two years of preparatory negotiations have failed to resolve many of the outstanding issues.

"There are still challenges. The differences have not been resolved," said one United Nations official after a week of talks ended late on Friday.

A further previously unscheduled session has been called for December 5-6 in a bid to clear the way for 60 heads of state and government, including German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, to agree a declaration of principles and a plan of action.

Initially conceived as a way to help poorer coun-

tries to make better use of the Internet, and through it perhaps leap-frog some stages to economic development, the summit has since broadened to embrace many facets of the information society, including questions of Press freedom and Net management.

Some developing states such as Brazil and India would like to see greater national or even supranational involvement in administering the Net, while many rich states are happy to see it left to the private sector.

"Developing countries will argue generally that governments do need to be involved, that it cannot simply be the private sector, and the private sector in some industrialized countries, to take the lead in how the Internet is governed," said Pierre Gagne, executive secretary of the WSIS organizing secretariat.

MNA/Reuters

Italian soldier wounded in Iraq dies in Kuwait

KUWAIT, 17 Nov— An Italian soldier badly wounded in a recent suicide bombing in southern Iraq died on Saturday in a Kuwait hospital after his parents gave approval for his life-support system to be turned off, the Italian Embassy said.

An embassy official told *Reuters* in Kuwait City the death of Corporal Pietro Petrucci at al-Sabah hospital brings to 19 the number of Italians killed in last Wednesday's attack — 17 soldiers and two civilians.

"He died this morning; they switched off the machine this morning," the diplomat said. "His parents gave the permission as he arrived here in bad condition."

Petrucci's injuries were mainly to his head, he added.

The embassy official said he believed Petrucci's body will be flown home on Sunday while most of the dead Italians will arrive on Saturday in Italy. Some of the wounded have already arrived there, he said.

The bombing in the Carabinieri police base in the city of Nassiriya, which also killed nine Iraqis, was Italy's worst military slaughter since World War II.

MNA/Reuters



India has emerged as a beauty pageant superpower of sorts. This has spawned a plethora of "beauty pageant schools" around the country.—INTERNET

Tanzanians die of malaria every five minutes

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 17 Nov— A statistics from Tanzanian Health Ministry disclosed on Sunday that malaria has caused Tanzanians dead in every five minutes in the country. The statistics was issued on Sunday in an inauguration of malaria campaign, organized by International Care Organization.

The statistic also showed that 20 per cent of the deaths in pregnant women and children under five years old in the country are caused by malaria.

MNA/Xinhua

Bodies of Italians killed in Iraq return home

ROME, 17 Nov— The bodies of 18 Italians killed in Iraq in Italy's worst military slaughter since World War II returned home on Saturday to the tears of family members and the salutes of soldiers.

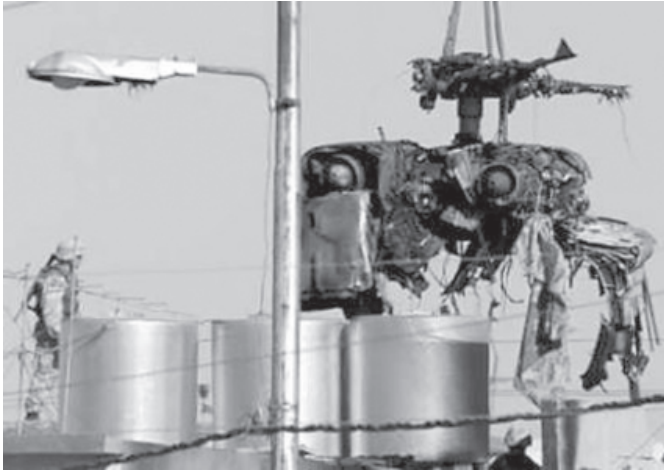
As a lone bugler played the "Last Post", the coffins draped with the red, white and green Italian flag were taken off a green military transport plane in evening drizzle at Ciampino Airport.

A priest blessed the wooden coffins with holy water as comrades carried them past grieving family members and a military guard of honour. Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and other ministers of state were also at the airport. As family members prayed, the coffins were placed into 18 black hearses for the drive into Rome.

"They paid the highest price for trying to build peace," Ruggiero Olla, who lost his son Silvio in the blast, told *Reuters*. "We hope Iraq will find peace from our pain. They really need it."

MNA/Reuters

IRAQ UNDER US OCCUPATION



US soldiers clear wreckage from a destroyed Black Hawk helicopter in Mosul, on 16 November, 2003. Soldiers retrieved bodies and wreckage from two Black Hawks which came down under fire yesterday, killing at least 17 soldiers. The heaviest US loss of life in a single incident since the invasion of Iraq in March came just hours after Washington set the country on a swifter passage to self-rule in a bid to calm Iraqi anger at occupation.—INTERNET



US military police officers block the traffic as others dismantle an Improvised Explosive Device in the Tunis neighbourhood, north of Baghdad after an explosive device blew up against a US armoured vehicle.—INTERNET



US soldiers make their way through a traffic jam after an explosion was heard in Baghdad on 16 November.—INTERNET



Iraqis watch from a distance as US Army soldiers remove debris of a US Army Black Hawk helicopter, on Sunday, 16 Nov, 2003, after it crashed into a residential area in Mosul, northern Iraq, late Saturday. A military spokesman said the two helicopters that collided and crashed belonged to the 101st Airborne Division, which controls northern Iraq. At least 17 US Army soldiers were killed.—INTERNET



US troops in full alert Sunday to respond to intensified resistance of Iraqi guerillas in Baghdad.—INTERNET



Iraqi policemen demonstrate in front of a police station against delays in paying their salaries at Saaddoun street in the centre of Baghdad on 16 November.
INTERNET

No evidence Saddam transferred weapons

WASHINGTON, 17 Nov — The CIA has found no evidence that toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein tried to transfer chemical or biological weapons of mass destruction to al-Qaeda or other groups, the *Washington Post* reported on Sunday, citing a military and intelligence expert.

Details about the results of the weapons investigation were released in a report by Anthony Cordesman, a senior fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, based on briefings over the past two weeks in Iraq from David Kay, the CIA adviser who is directing the search for unconventional weapons in Iraq, the *Post* said.

The paper reported that after Kay's briefing Cordesman wrote: "No evidence of any Iraqi effort to transfer weapons of mass destruction or weapons to terrorists."

"Only possibility was Saddam's Fedayeen (his son's irregular force) and talk only," Cordesman wrote.

In an interim report in October, Kay said that no such weapons had been found in Iraq. Critics have said the White House may have exaggerated the threat Iraq posed in order to justify the war.

According to the *Post*, Cordesman, who visited several Iraqi cities from November 1

to 12, noted that Kay said Iraq "did order nuclear equipment from 1999 on, but no evidence (has turned up) of (a) new major facility to use it".

The *Post* report said although there was no evidence of chemical weapons production, Cordesman wrote that Kay said he had located biological work "under cover of new agricultural facility" that showed "advances in developing dry storable powder forms of botulinum toxin".

During his visit to Baghdad, Babel, Tikrit and Kirkuk, Cordesman met combat commanders and staff in high-threat areas, including Iraq's US administrator Paul Bremer.

Based on a briefing by Bremer, Cordesman said 95 per cent of the threat came from former Hussein loyalists while most foreign militants, who entered Iraq before the war, arrived from Syria, with some from Saudi Arabia and only "a few from Iran", according to the *Post* report. — MNA/Reuters

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Syria says no militants crossing its border to Iraq

DAMASCUS, 17 Nov — Syria denied on Saturday that foreign militants were crossing its border to fight US forces occupying Iraq.

Washington insists fighters are pouring in over the long desert border and is threatening economic and political sanctions unless Syria stops them.

"There is no infiltration from Syria and there are no factions in Syria that are trying to cross into Iraq," Syrian Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam said.

"The Iraqis are 25 million people. Do they need tens of infiltrators from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran or Turkey? This is part of a political campaign," he told reporters after a day-long meeting with a delegation of over 150 visiting Iraqi tribal leaders.

"The Syrian border is desert, 360 miles, so Syria is not required to place soldier by soldier to protect the border".

Iraqi tribal leaders, who back a peaceful end

to the US occupation in Iraq, also said militants were not infiltrating from Syria, which is on a US list of state sponsors of "terrorism".

The US Senate voted on Tuesday for sanctions on Syria, which the United States also accuses of aiding anti-Israeli militants and dominating neighbouring Lebanon, but left it up to President George Bush to waive the penalties if he deemed it in the national interest.

Khaddam said Syria had cooperated closely with the United States in its war against "terror" and that US accusations were aimed at helping Israel.

Syria remained open to dialogue with the United States despite the threat of sanctions, Khaddam added, dismissing the planned measures as having no effect on Syria's economy.

MNA/Reuters



Two US soldiers from the US Army's 4th Infantry Division's 299th Engineers Battalion look at a stockpile of Iraqi ammunition inside a bunker in Mazham, a village 12km north of the northern Iraqi town of Tikrit.

INTERNET

Critics of war in Iraq launch fierce attack on US policy

LONDON, 17 Nov — Critics of the Iraq war have mounted a fierce attack on US policy ahead of George W Bush's arrival in London, setting the scene for a stormy week of protest that could end in clashes between police and demonstrators in the capital.

Robin Cook, the former Commons leader and one-time foreign secretary who resigned from the cabinet in protest at the conflict, has called the US president's state visit "baffling" and led a chorus of dissent.

Clare Short, former international development secretary, has backed the anti-war protesters, saying the demonstrations will show Mr Bush that he has made "very

serious mistakes".

When Mr Bush and his wife Laura arrive at Heathrow tomorrow evening, they will be whisked to Buckingham Palace and kept en-closed in a "security bubble" designed to keep them clear of demonstrators and the threat of terrorist attack.

The security services are on their highest alert and huge concrete blocks have been put in place around key buildings

in London.

A You Gov poll in The Sunday Times showed Mr Bush was held in poor regard. Sixty per cent felt he was a threat to world peace and 37 per cent thought him "stupid". Glenda Jackson, Labour MP for Hampstead and Highgate and a fierce opponent of the conflict, told the BBC's Politics Show the visit was the "Dumb and Dumber show" — Internet

Blast heard in Baghdad, smoke near US compound

BAGHDAD, 17 Nov — An explosion was heard in central Baghdad on Saturday and smoke could be seen rising from an area close to the headquarters of Iraq's US-led administration, *Reuters* witnesses reported.

The blast happened at around 4:35 pm (1335 GMT) and shook doors and windows in the centre of the city.

A cloud of black smoke hung briefly in the

air after the blast. Two US helicopters circled the area near the compound, site of one of ousted leader Saddam Hussein's sprawling palaces.

A spokesman for the US 1st Armoured Division, which is responsible for security in the Iraqi capital, said its units had fired mortars at insurgents around the same time as the explosion was heard. — MNA/Reuters

Italian PM says too many rules for EU businesses

BRUSSELS, 17 Nov — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said here Friday that the enterprises in the European Union (EU) are having too many rules which restrict their growth and expansion. He made the remarks at a competitiveness meeting of EU enterprises.

He said that European enterprises were put in disadvantage by these rules when facing competition from outside. The excess of European regulations "invades the lives of companies and citizens," he said, adding that the weight of these "traps and snares" is even heavier with the decrease in the citizens' power and will to spend. Berlusconi said that the whole of European architecture needs streamlining if it really wants to face fierce competition from North America and Asia. — MNA/Xinhua

"Concorde's" nose fetches 470,250 euros in auction

PARIS, 17 Nov — The sleek needle-nose of the supersonic *Concorde* was sold to an anonymous buyer for 470,250 euros at an auction on Saturday, over 30 times the price it was expected to fetch, auctioneers Christie's said. Over two hundred *Concorde* souvenirs, from the plane's instruction manual to its engine, were up for grabs in the auction, which brought in a total of 3.29 million euros.

Christie's had expected to bring in a total of only about 250,000 euros from the sale, whose proceeds go to the Air France foundation, a charity for under-privileged children.

MNA/Reuters

Russian, US officials differ over bilateral ties

MOSCOW, 17 Nov — A senior Russian official Saturday acclaimed the "trust and mutually beneficial partnership" with the United States, but US ambassador argued that the strategic relationship is not so firm and reliable for the moment.

The Russian-US relations "are being brought to a qualitatively new level of trust and mutually beneficial partnership", Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said at a round-table discussion over the bilateral ties on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Ivanov stressed the necessity of working permanently to shield the relations from the influence of "spur-of-the-moment and opportunistic factors" and called for setting up mechanisms "that would make it possible to overcome disagreements and find solutions without detriment to bilateral relations".

The minister admitted that the two countries share "non-coincidence of interests and divergence in approaches" to some world problems, which would not be "instantly and completely erased" in the process of building up a new quality of ties.

Relations between the two countries

should be marked by "recognition of each other's interests, openness, predictability, and a readiness to search for reasonable compromises", he told the participants of the round table.

The minister cited "the fight against new threats, the strengthening of strategic stability, non-proliferation and the settlement of international conflicts" as the priority tasks for bilateral cooperation.

But US Ambassador to Russia Alexander Vershbow seemed less optimistic about the bilateral ties, pointing out that Moscow and Washington have not yet succeeded in establishing a firm and reliable partnership.

Speaking at the round table, Vershbow called on the two countries to openly express their disagreements and dissatisfactions, which "could be more useful than trying to persuade each other that one's opinion is the only right one".

MNA/Xinhua



A fourth rare Sumatran rhinoceros has died at a Malaysian breeding centre while the last remaining rhino is seriously ill — INTERNET



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the multimedia classroom at the basic education high school in Mindon. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win tours Magway...

(from page 16)

of Irrigation Department four miles from Gyobin Village to the west of Patheingyi Monywa Highway.

The main embankment of Maday Dam will be 1,900 feet in length and 125 feet in height. It will have two dykes and its water storage capacity will be 45,000 acre feet. The dam will benefit 4,000 acres of land.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the Patheingyi-Monywa Highway by car.

They arrived at Mezali Village in Mindon Township at 11.30 am. The Secretary-1 inspected dispensary being built by the villagers on self-reliance basis and fulfilled the needs.

They proceeded to Mindon and viewed round the development of the town.

At Mindon Township PDC, the Secretary-1 met with officials of the township, USDA members and members of social organizations.

Township PDC Chairman U Myint Soe and officials reported to the Secretary-1 and party on matters relating to education, health, economy and regional development programmes. Next, officials of the district and division and deputy

ministers made supplementary reports.

The Secretary-1 fulfilled the needs as regards their reports and urged the officials to make collective efforts for development of Mindon Township, boosting agricultural production, raising education and health standard and rural development.

The Secretary-1 presented gifts for Township USDA, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Committee for Women's Affairs, Red Cross Society, Fire Brigade and War Veterans Organization.

After the ceremony, they left there for Mindon BEHS where they were welcomed by the headmaster, teachers and students.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected computer room, audio visual media room, audio room, arts room and e-Education Learning Centre. They also enjoyed the skill demonstration of students.

After giving instructions to teachers, the Secretary-1 presented exercise books for basic education schools in Mindon Township to Headmaster U Khin Maung Soe.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Mindon Township People's Hospital and inspected operation

theatre and wards.

Vice-Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win greeted the health staff and presented cash assistance for Mindon Township People's Hospital and Mezali Village dispensary to officials.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-1 and party left Mindon for Minbu and arrived there later in the afternoon. They were welcomed there by Commander of No 88 Light Infantry Division Col Aung Than Htut and officials.

In meeting with Chairman of Minbu District PDC Lt-Col Tin Maung Win, local authorities and officials at Minbu District PDC office, the Secretary-1 discussed matters relating to the government's endeavours for development of the State by laying down good foundations in political, economic and social sectors. He urged officials at different levels in Magway Division and local people to lend themselves to economic development of the State.

Together with Magway Division Education Officer U Aung Chein and officials, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, who accompanied

the Secretary-1, met with the headmaster and teachers of No 1 BEHS at the school.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo inspected buildings which are under construction at Minbu District People's Hospital.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Minhla Township and arrived there at night.

On 15 November, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at People's Hospital in Minhla Township. They visited patients there and inspected medical store and operation theatre and gave instructions.

The Secretary-1 and party went to Basic Education High School in Minhla where they were welcomed by Division and Township Education Officers, school heads, teachers and students.

Next, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party inspected language lab, computer room, audio visual room, e-learning centre, study room, art studio and domestic science room. The Secretary-1 watched musical skill demonstration of the students.

(See page 9)

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

83rd Anniversary National Day

10th Waning of Tazaungmon

1365 ME

18-11-2003

83rd Anniversary National Day Objectives

- * Keeping national spirit alive and dynamic and uplift of national prestige and integrity
- * Uplift of national education
- * Perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State
- * Success of seven-point future policy programme of the State

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



Four-storey school building at Pyay University in Bago Division (West). — MNA

Priority is being given to development of states and border areas including Rakhine State that lagged behind in development in successive eras

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attends opening of Sanepauk Bridge in An Township, Rakhine State

YANGON, 17 NOV—A ceremony to open Sanepauk Bridge built by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction on Yangon-Kyaukpyu road in An Township, Rakhine State was held at the pandal near the bridge this morning, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, local authorities, members of social organizations and cultural troupes, teachers and students and local people numbering over 6,000.

First, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than made a speech. He said that the State Peace and Development Council has been making strenuous efforts for all-round development to ensure the emergence of a new modern and developed nation. In the process, development projects have been laid down and are being implemented to bring about equitable and harmonious development across the nation.

Priority is being given to development of states and border areas including Rakhine State that lagged behind in development in successive eras for various reasons. Transport is of paramount importance for development of a region. With better transport, the socio-economic life of the people will improve. This being the case, there will be frequent contact among the national

forces, thereby contributing to further strengthening of the national unity.

Therefore, the government is placing emphasis on better transport in all the states and divisions.

Rakhine State with many rivers and creeks was of difficult access in the past and it had to rely only on waterways and airways. Although there were An mountain pass, Taungup mountain pass and Gwa-Ngathainggyaung Road, there were no motor roads to link them and the existing roads fell into ruin.

Therefore, upgrading of Yangon-Sittway road was launched as the special project out of the goodwill of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. At present, the Sittway-Ponnagyun-Kyauktaw-Mrauk U-Minbya-An Union highway has been successfully implemented, and as a result the

people of Rakhine State have now been able to travel from one place to another with peace of mind.

In addition, Yangon-Kyaukpyu Union Highway is being implemented in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. The Sanepauk Bridge opened today is a bridge on Taungup-Ma-ei-Kyaukpyu road section of the Yangon-Kyaukpyu Union Highway.

The Kaishay Bridge, the Tanlwe Bridge, Hsabyin Bridge, Lamu Bridge, Ma-ei Bridge and Kyaukgyipauk Bridge have been constructed out of 14 bridges with a length of over 180 feet to be constructed on Taungup-Ma-ei-Kyaukpyu road section. The Sanepauk Bridge opened today is the 7th of its kind on the road section.

Sustained efforts are being made to complete the remaining Londawpauk Bridge, Didokepauk Bridge, Thanthamagyi Bridge, Thanthamachay Bridge, Thazintan Bridge, Wanphike Bridge and Mingyau Bridge as soon as possible.

Therefore, the Yangon-Kyaukpyu Union Highway will take shape in the very near future. At the same time, people from Kyaukpyu and Yanbye will be able to have contact with those from other states and divisions. With better transport in the region, socio-economic life of the local people will improve, resulting in further consolidation of the national unity.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than thanked officials of Public Works who made relentless efforts in construction of Yangon-Kyaukpyu Union Highway as the people from Rakhine State will be soon able to travel from one place to another with the emergence of roads and bridges across the nation, and called on local authorities and local people to maintain the bridge for its durability.

Next, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than addresses the opening of Sanepauk Bridge in An, Rakhine State. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo speaks words of thanks at the opening of Sanepauk Bridge.

MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun addresses the opening of Sanepauk Bridge.

MNA

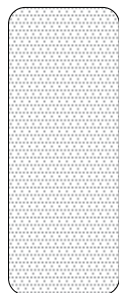


spoke. He said the Ministry of Construction is carrying out the task on transport sector, one of five rural development tasks. Without taking economic profits into consideration, the government implemented border regions and rural development tasks under the guidance of the Head of State. Ten major bridges and over 800 small bridges were constructed on the Yangon-Sittway Road with difficulty. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe him-

self formally opened the road on 5-2-2000.

He said the Sanepauk Bridge is on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road which is under construction. The bridge is the 164th of the facilities which are over 180 feet and above and it is the 26th one in Rakhine State, he said. Construction of the bridge started on 1-3-2001 and it was built at a cost of K 1,239 million plus US \$0.034 million.

(See page 10)



Newly-opened Sanepauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road, An Township, Rakhine State.

MNA



Members of social organizations seen at the opening of Sanepauk Bridge in An Township, Rakhine State. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win tours ...

(from page 7)

The Secretary-1 and party met Chairman of Minhla Township Peace and Development Council and members, departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Oo reported on efforts for local rice sufficiency, surplus of edible oil, measures undertaken for education, health and rural development and requirements for ensuring better transport.

The Secretary-1 then gave instructions. He presented cash to officials for the medical funds of Minhla Township People's Hospital and for installation of computers at basic education high schools in the township and gifts for USDA, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women's Affairs Work Committee, Red Cross and Fire Brigades and War Veterans Organization.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented teaching/learning aids to Headmistress Daw Nu Nu and exercise books for basic education schools in Minhla Township to Township Education Officer U Aung Lwin. He cordially greeted those present.

The Secretary-1 and party visited Minhla Fort built by King Mindon and Prince Kanaung and gave instructions on preservation of the fort without affecting its original style.

The Secretary-1 and party arrived at Malun and inspected erection of a statue, Beikman and Square of Naymyo Thura Yekhaung Agga Maha General Thadoe Maha Bandoola who sacrificed his life in anti-imperialist struggle.

The Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Sinbaungwe Township and greeted local people.

The Secretary-1 met the TEO, Headmistress and teachers at the BEHS in the township.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win makes a speech in meeting with officials at Minhla Township Peace and Development Council Office. — MNA

The TEO, Headmistress and teachers of the BEHS reported on teaching and requirements. The Secretary-1 urged the teachers to nurture the students to be educated. He presented cash for the funds and teaching aids to Headmistress Daw Nu Nu Yi and exercise books for basic education schools in Sinbaungwe Township to Township Education Officer Daw Thuang Yi.

The Secretary-1 and party met departmental officials, members of USDA and social organizations and townsenders.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Oo and officials reported on education, health, transport and development and requirements. The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements. He said he came there to fulfil the requirements of the township. Most of the service personnel in the township are local people and they are to work hard for regional development.

In meeting with officials of Mindon, Minbu and Minhla in Magway Division, he gave instructions on rice sufficiency, water supply, transformation of croplands into farmlands, boosting production, effective utilization of land and marine resources and cooperation for greening of the region.

Like other townships, Mindon, Minhla and Sinbaungwe Townships in Magway Division have developed in economy, education, health and transport sectors and people in the region

are doing their business peacefully and safely, he said.

He said Minbu has developed economically due to Ayeyawady River-crossing Magway Bridge. Development of townships, states and divisions lead to national development. Various regions in the states and divisions have now developed due to correct policy, guidance of the government, efforts of service personnel and cooperation of the people, he said.

He said the gap of living standard between one region and another is becoming less and less. Generally speaking, the entire Union is on the right development path. Economic, social and transport infrastructures built by the government are firm foundations for emergence of a modern developed nation. Efforts are to be made with greater momentum for more progress, employing these foundations, he added.

He said service personnel representing the government are the ones who are implementing the policy of the government practically. He spoke of the need to make continued efforts with diligence and dignity. Community welfare services are to be implemented in cooperation with local administrative bodies, he said.

Local administrative bodies especially peace and development councils at different levels are the organizations that closely take care of the people. Special care must be taken that their procedures and errors should not be a burden to the people, he

said. Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented cash assistance through officials to the trust funds of Sinbaungwe People's Hospital, and gifts to the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations. He also cordially met with those present on the occasion.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party went to the Sinbaungwe People's Hospital, where he inspected surgical rooms and medical store rooms, and comforted the patients receiving medical treatment.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at the basic education high school of Chaungkauk model village, Sinbaungwe Township, where he inspected teaching aids gathered for multimedia classrooms.

After hearing reports on requirements for construction of new school buildings, the Secretary-1 attended to the needs and presented teaching aids to the schoolhead.

Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung also presented a computer for multimedia classrooms to the schoolhead.

Later at Koepin model village of Sinbaungwe Township, the Secretary-1 and party inspected a two-storey school building under construction at the basic education middle school (branch) and gave necessary instructions.

In the evening, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Pyay in Bago Division. Yesterday morn-

ing, the Secretary-1 and party went to the Khittaya Industrial Zone, where he looked into the production of vehicle components ordered by No 2 Auto Manufacturing Factory (Htonbo) and that of Khittaya Wagon vehicles.

At the hall of the industrial zone, the Secretary-1 met with industrialists and heard reports on matters relating to the establishment of the industrial zone and its present condition, the production of vehicle parts, and assistance to be rendered for the development of the industrial zone.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 gave instructions, saying that the Government is giving encouragement and rendering assistance all the time to industrial progress of the private sector. Since the Khittaya Industrial Zone is located in the area close to factories under the Ministry of Industry-2 it has close business relations with them, the zone has a bag of chances to develop itself.

He added that with the cooperation becoming stronger and stronger between the government and private industrialists, there will no doubt be a rapid growth in Myanmar industrial sector.

After meeting with industrialists, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to the Government Technological College in Pyay. At the meeting hall of the college, the Secretary-1 heard reports on the strength of the college's faculty, courses conducted at the college, and the population of

students.

In response to the reports, the Secretary-1 said that industrial development is of necessity for the nation to be modern. Therefore, human resources crucial for industrial development are being nurtured and produced at universities, colleges and institutes.

He added that teachers themselves are competent in the fields of higher education and they also nurture the students to be well-rounded individuals the State can rely on.

Moreover, they should hold the view that they are nurturing those capable of working for the State in the future. He continued that the teachers therefore should not regard their noble duties as normal ones and strive for the State so as to be on a par with world nations in terms of development.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the computer room, the motor control lab and mechanical unit at the college.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party went to the Pyay 200-bed General Hospital. At the briefing hall of the hospital, he heard reports on the strength of the hospital staff, requirements for the staff quarters, and matters related to giving treatment to patients. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo also gave supplementary reports.

In response, the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions and looked into the construction of the two-storey building.

The Secretary-1 and party also went to the Pyay (See page 15)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the Ma Day dam project under construction west of the Patheingyi-Monywa Road. — MNA

Priority is being given to development...

(from page 8)

Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo also spoke on the occasion saying that people living in Rakhine State are now witnessing new Union Highways that stem from the main land. It is sure that with better transport in the state there will be development in economic, social, health, education sectors and harmonious development will be achieved in manufacturing and trade sectors, he noted.

Next, on behalf of local residents, Executive of Rakhine State USDA U Nan Aung Tun spoke words of thanks.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally

opened the bridge by cutting a ribbon. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and party had a documentary photo taken together with those present.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the stone inscriptions of the bridge and inspected the bridge.

With the length of 789 feet and 4 inches and 24 feet wide motor way, Sanepauk Bridge is built on Sanepauk Creek. It has 2 feet wide pedestrian lanes on both sides.

Its upper structure is of steel frame and lower structure is of reinforced concrete type. It can withstand 60-ton loads. Its clearance is 170 feet wide and 6 feet in height from the maximum water level. — MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the opening of the 42nd Tatmadaw (Army/Navy/Air) Soccer Tournament for the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. — PPRU



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address at the coordination meeting of the subcommittee. — MNA

59th Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary and Arts committee meets

YANGON, 17 NOV — First coordination meeting of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary and Arts Committee was held this afternoon at the meeting hall of the Defence Services Museum here.

Vice Chairmen of the committee Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear Admiral Soe Thein and Deputy Chief of Armed Forces Training Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe and committee members, senior military officers and departmental officials attended the meeting.

Rear-Admiral Soe Thein presided over the meeting. At the meeting, chairmen and

committee members of the work committees — literary and photo competition holding work committee, poem and art competition holding work committee, university, college, institute and basic education schools literary and art competition holding work committee, literary, art exhibition, accommodation and reception work committee, work committee for soldiers code of conduct, extempore talks, prize presentation and finance, TV Quiz work committee and computer quiz on Twelve objectives — reported on the respective work to be undertaken.

Next, those present discussed the tasks of the Literary and Arts Competition Organizing Committee.

MNA

Medical Specialties Conference to be held

YANGON, 17 NOV — The Myanmar Medical Association will hold its 11th Medical Specialties Conference at the hall of the association at No 249, Theinbyu Street, Mingala Taungnyut Township from 21 to 24 November.

The doctors who wish to attend the conference can register at the office of the association on 19, 20 and 21 November during office hours. — MNA

MNA

Subcommittee for observance of 56th Anniversary Independence Day meets

YANGON, 17 NOV — The Subcommittee for the hoisting of Yangon City Flag and the Saluting of State Flag on the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day 2004, held its first coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road here this afternoon.

Chairman of the Subcommittee, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address.

The commander called upon members of the subcommittee and work committees to make concerted efforts in holding the ceremony on a grand scale in accord with the objectives of the 56th Anniversary of Independence Day — "All the national people to collectively safeguard the national independence and ensure perpetuation of sovereignty"; "All the national people to be united to ensure non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity"; "All the

national people to strive for the emergence of an enduring State Constitution and for the building of a new, modern and developed nation"; and "All the national people to participate with full sense of Union Spirit and Patriotism in the successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap of the State".

Next, Members of work committees also reported on arrangements made by their respective work committees. Those present at the meeting also took part in discussions. — MNA

MNA

Earthquake report

YANGON, 17 NOV — An earthquake of strong intensity (7.3) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside of

Myanmar about 4770 miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 13 hours 23 min-

utes 54 seconds Myanmar Standard Time on 17 November, 2003.

MNA

Philippine guests meet UM FCCI General Secretary

YANGON, 17 NOV — A three-member delegation led by Economic Policy Adviser Mr Bruce J Tolentino of Office of the Prime Minister

Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC) of the Philippines met with General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of

Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Sein Win Hlaing and CEC members at the UM FCCI this afternoon.

MNA

MYSW course opened

YANGON, 17 NOV — With the sponsorship of Myanmar Computer Federation and Association for Overseas Scholarship, the Software Design and Development Engineer Examination Course

(MYSW) was opened at the MICT Park here today.

Present were Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force U Aung Myint, Vice-Chairman of MCF Dr Kyaw Thein, Chairman of Myanmar Com-

puter Scientists Association U Thang Tin, course instructors and trainees. The 6-week course supported by AOTS is being attended by 36 trainees.

MNA

Drug dealers sentenced

YANGON, 17 NOV — A combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and Tamu Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched suspect Htan Noe (a) Lan Htan Khan nearby Nanpalaw creek, Tamu Township on 23 May, 2003 and seized her together with five grams of heroin.

In connection with the case, action was taken against Htan Noe (a) Lan Htan Khan, son of U Hsan Lyan Mon of Myoma 11 Ward, Tamu, un-

der Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Tamu Police Station.

Tamu District Court on 29 September handed down on Htan Noe (a) Lan Htan Khan to five years' imprisonment under Section 15 and 13 years' imprisonment under Section 19 (A).

Similarly, the combined team searched suspect Anyi (a) Lun Kho Kim on Nantphalon road, Tamu Township on 10 July, 2003 and seized him with 0.8165

kilos of opium.

In connection with the case, action was taken against Anyi (a) Lun Kho Kim, son of U Maung Shwe of Nyaungnatgyi village, Tamu under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Tamu Police Station.

Tamu District Court on 29 September handed down on Anyi (a) Lun Kho Kim to five years' imprisonment under Section 15 and 13 years' imprisonment under Section 19 (A). — MNA

INTERNATIONAL FAIR 2003
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Organized by
MYANMAR ASEAN WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION (MAWFA)
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22-11-2003 10:00 a.m to 16:00 p.m Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel

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Myanmar PGA & Myanmar Golf Federation
President Cup
November 25 - 28, 2003
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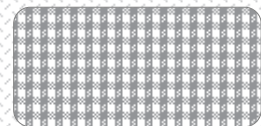
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Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country



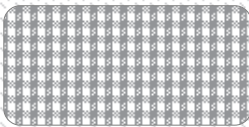
Myanmar people are advancing in the information and communication technology at a high speed. One of the nation's great leaps forward in the field of ICT is the opening of Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Yangon on 21 January 2002. The photo shows Myanmar ICT Park in Hline Township.

PHOTO: MNA



Modern buildings have emerged in the Capital Yangon in the time of the Tatmadaw government. The photo shows Pearl condominium built under joint sponsorship of Yangon City Development Committee and Asia Express (Yangon) Co.

PHOTO: MNA



Efforts are being made to upgrade Yangon city, the capital of Myanmar, to meet the standard of the capitals in the nations of the world. Strand Road of Yangon seen clean and pleasant after being upgraded into a six-lane facility.

PHOTO: MNA

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**Don't
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Malaysian Consul General's Office in Kathmandu soon to open

Kuala LUMPUR, 17 Nov — Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said Saturday the Malaysian Consul General's Office in Kathmandu would start operations at the end of this month.

He said the setting up of the office was necessary as the number of Nepali workers in this country was increasing and thus it would facilitate the issuance of visas or working passes to Nepali who planned to come to Malaysia.

"In the past, Nepali who intended to apply for Malaysian visas or working passes had to go to New Delhi (India)," he told reporters in Kota Tinggi, southern Malaysia.

Syed Hamid said the Malaysian Consul General's office in Nepal would have only a small number of staff specifically to handle applications for permits, visas and working passes. At present, an estimated 100,000 Nepali workers are in Malaysia and most of them

work around Kuala Lumpur as security guards, besides working in the manufacturing and plantation sectors.

When asked about the planned visits abroad by Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the minister said so far the Foreign Ministry had arranged for two visits beginning December 3.

Syed Hamid said that from Dec. 3 to 6, the Prime Minister is scheduled to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting in Nigeria. Thereafter, Badawi would attend the ASEAN-Japan Summit Meeting in Japan to commemorate the 30-year relationship between member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan.

MNA/Xinhua



Artists are busy polishing sand sculptures during a sand sculpture contest in Haikou, south China's Hainan Province, on 16 Nov. Sand sculpture artists from seven countries including China, the United States, Spain, Singapore are competing in the event. —INTERNET

Over 500 sickened in Hepatitis A outbreak in United States

WASHINGTON, 17 Nov — Three people died and more than 500 others have been infected in a Hepatitis A outbreak reportedly linked to a restaurant in the US state of Pennsylvania, health officials said Saturday.

Thousands of scared people have lined up for vaccinations since the biggest Hepatitis A outbreak in the United States was reported in early November, local media reported.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, based in Atlanta, said it has sent a team to Pennsylvania to help deal with the emergency and investigate the outbreak.

The outbreak was traced to a Mexican restaurant, Chi-Chi's, at the Beaver Valley Mall, about 25 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. Health investigators said they still do not know the source of the virus, but their investigation focused on scallops, or green onions, the restaurant used. —MNA/Xinhua

US health industry meets as obesity crisis looms

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 Nov — Americans, fatter and lazier than they have ever been, can reduce the risk of developing a debilitating illness simply by dropping a few pounds, occasionally breaking a sweat and kicking smokes. Though 125 million Americans — close to half the country's population — suffer from some preventable chronic condition, many of those could be avoided by simple changes in behaviour, according to the American Public Health Association, which opens its annual meeting in San Francisco on Sunday. "The prevalence of massive obesity has exploded in this country," says Richard Atkinson, president of the American Obesity Association. "The problem has gotten great enough and the consequences big enough that they can't be ignored." Until recently considered a cosmetic issue, obesity has become one of the nation's leading killers. Nearly 60 million Americans now meet the medical definition of obesity and more than 300,000 deaths annually are directly linked to obesity, according to the AOA. About 100 billion US dollars is spent annually treating obesity.

MNA/Reuters

India, Syria to sign nine agreements

DAMASCUS, 17 Nov — Giving an impetus to their bilateral ties, India and Syria will sign nine agreements ranging from agriculture to information technology during the three-day visit of Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who arrived here late Friday night.

The two countries have also agreed to upgrade the Joint Trade Committee to Joint Commission during the visit which marked the first substantive bilateral contact after President Bashar al-Assad came to power three years ago. They will also sign an agreement covering literary activities between India's literary body the Sahitya Academy and the Arab

Writers Union of Syria, putting the multifaceted bilateral ties on an even keel, official sources told PTI.

The wideranging agreements aim to lift the bilateral trade, currently at around 130 million US dollars, which is low compared to India's trade ties with the Gulf Arab states, though Syria's trade turnover with India is higher than its trade with

Egypt. Federal Commerce Minister Arun Jaitley will be the Co-Chairman of the Indo-Syrian Joint Commission while the Syrian side will be led by Minister of Education and Science and Technology Hani Murtada. The two countries also will form a Joint Business Council and captains of Indian industry will visit Syria early next year.

The agreement on IT may open the doors of opportunity for Indian IT majors here as Syria is on the threshold of an IT revolution after the technology-savvy President Bashar al-Assad came to

power.

In December 2001 some 60,000 people in Syria were connected to Internet and a study has said the number of Internet users next year would grow at an annual rate of 43 percent for the next five years.

Vajpayee and the Syrian President would also jointly inaugurate a Centre for Biotechnology in the Damascus University campus set up under collaboration with India. Syria has an ongoing training programme for its scientists in top biotechnology institutes in India.

MNA/PTI

Five killed, 52 injured in Yunnan Province earthquake

KUNMING, 17 Nov — The earthquake that hit southwest China's Yunnan Province has killed five and injured 52 others by 7 pm Saturday. Some 435 houses collapsed and 5,988 others were damaged by the quake in the populated villages of Zhaoyang District in Zhaotong City, said Vice-Mayor Suo Fei.

The quake did not cause any collapses in Ludian County but many houses were in danger, especially the school buildings, said acting county magistrate Yin Guiyou.

Rescue teams led by provincial official Li Weijun have rushed to the

area. All the injured have been given treatment.

Measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale, the quake jolted Ludian County and the nearby Zhaoyang District of Zhaotong City in southwest China's Yunnan Province at 2:49 a.m. Saturday, according to the

State Seismological Bureau.

The epicentre of the quake is located at 27.2 degrees North Latitude, 103.6 degrees East Longitude, some 255 kilometres north of the province's capital Kunming.

MNA/Xinhua



Ireland's Damian Foxall, left, and France's Karine Fauconnier, celebrate on the multihull 'Sergio Tacchini', in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, on 16 Nov, 2003. The team placed third in the 6th edition of the Transat Jacques Vabre, a double-handed sailing race across the Atlantic. —INTERNET

Central China province guards against "AIDS"/HIV

ZHENGZHOU, 17 Nov — Central China's Henan Province has recently taken a series of measures to contain the spread of AIDS/HIV. Many local people became AIDS victims through unsanitary blood selling.

Experts estimate that there are about 35,000 HIV carriers in the province. Since the first HIV carrier was found in Henan in March 1995, a total of 6,524 cases had been officially reported and 1,940 of whom now show AIDS symptoms.

The HIV victims in Henan are densely located in several areas which had seen unsanitary blood selling.

With years of efforts, Henan has effectively stopped transmission through blood and through pregnant women to their unborn babies. However, intravenous drug use and prostitution are still dangerous factors for the spread of HIV. In addition, lack of HIV knowledge makes people especially vulnerable to the virus.

As one of the regions with a large rural population in China, Henan is economically backward. The provin-

cial government has promised free treatment to farmer AIDS patients and those with financial problems. More efforts will also be made against illegal activities including drug trafficking and use, prostitution and blood selling.

The provincial government has called for better protection of HIV victims' legitimate rights and opposes social discrimination. A service network will be set up in Henan to provide medical help and care to HIV victims, said sources with the Henan provincial government.

Chinese central and local governments will invest 2.25 billion yuan (272 million US dollars) mainly to strengthen the blood testing stations in the central and western regions, Chinese Executive Deputy Health Minister Gao Qiang said recently.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Portugal unable to overcome 10-man Greece in friendly

AVEIRO (Portugal), 17 Nov—Portugal were held to a 1-1 draw by a determined Greece side in an international friendly on Saturday, as the home side were unable to capitalize on a man advantage for the last hour of the contest.

Greece were reduced to 10 players after 30 minutes when midfielder Giorgos Karagounis was given a red card for using his hand to block a goal-bound effort from defender Jorge Andrade in the penalty area.

Antonios Nikopolidis produced a stunning double save from Luis Figo's subsequent spot kick before the visitors went on the stun the hosts early in the second half.

In the 47th minute, midfielder Vassilios Lakis headed home a cross from fellow halftime substitute Stylianos Venetidis to give Greece an unexpected lead.

However, Portugal striker Pauleta Resendes restored parity 13 minutes later when he rifled home a pass from winger Simao Sabrosa.

It was the first goal given up by the impressive Nikopolidis in 58 minutes of play. — MNA/Reuters



Spanish player Jose Antonio Reyes, centre, fights for the ball against Henning Berg, down, and Claus Lundekvam of Norway during a match for the first leg of their Euro 2004 playoff at Mestalla stadium in Valencia, Spain, on Saturday, 15 Nov, 2003.—INTERNET

Spain strike late for nervy win over Norway

VALENCIA, 17 Nov—Spain needed a late Henning Berg own goal to clinch a 2-1 win over Norway in an electrifying Euro 2004 playoff first leg on Saturday.

Inaki Saez' side still have plenty of work to do to reach the finals in Portugal, though, after a spectacular display from Norwegian goalkeeper Espen Johnsen left them with the slimmest of leads to take into the second leg in Oslo on Wednesday.

Norway took the lead in the 14th minute through Steffen Iversen, the man who scored their winner when the two sides met in Euro 2000, but Spain hit back with a Raul header seven minutes later.

Spain launched wave after wave of attack over the remainder of the game but were kept at bay until the 85th minute, when substitute Joaquin sent in a low cross from the right and Ruben Baraja slid in a shot that Berg deflected into his own net.

Johnsen then pulled off a quite incredible double save in injury-time to limit the damage to a 2-1 defeat and keep Norway handily placed with the second leg to come on home territory. Spain struggled to get past Norway's defensive wall early on, with only Fernando Torres going close when he flicked the ball wide in the 12th minute after a surging run from deep.

Raul then saw a half-chance cleared by

Berg before the home side were hit by a sucker punch from Norway in the 14th minute.

Iversen, who had shocked Spain with his goal in their opening game at the European Championship finals in 2000, struck right-footed from close in after Roar Strand had split the home defence with a header back into the box.

Spain, deflated by a goal that came completely against the run of play, were raised by a raucous 53,000 crowd at the Mestalla Stadium and soon hit back.

Jose Antonio Reyes struck a perfect free kick from out wide on the right for Raul to glance a header past Johnsen.

Reyes came tantalizingly close to putting Spain ahead three minutes later when he slid in to meet a cross from Joseba Etxeberria only for Johnsen to make a point-blank save. Flo then missed two chances to put Norway back in front, first latching on to a loose ball after a mistake from Michel Salgado to fire over and then taking Carlos Marchena's missed clearance and forcing a good save from Iker Casillas.

Spain raised their game again and threatened when Ruben Baraja struck a free kick wide, and again just before halftime when David Albelda grazed a post with his shot. — MNA/Reuters

Record-breaking France outplay Germany

BERLIN, 17 Nov—Two goals from David Trezeguet helped France to a spectacular 3-0 victory over Germany in a Euro 2004 warm-up on Saturday.

Thierry Henry put the visitors on course for a record 13th consecutive win by heading home a Bixente Lizarazu cross to open the scoring after 21 minutes.

The Arsenal forward then set up Trezeguet, who doubled the European champions' advantage 10 minutes into the second half.

The Juventus striker was on target again with eight minutes left, sealing France's highest win over Germany since a 6-3 victory at the 1958 World Cup in Sweden with a low drive.

France's previous best run of 12 wins in a row was spearheaded by Michel Platini from February to December 1984.

The current team, more than ever favourites to retain their European title in Portugal next year, have not lost or drawn since a 2-0 defeat by the Czech Republic in February at the Stade de France.

It was Germany's fourth successive defeat by France whom they have not beaten since 1987.

The home side, who struggled to qualify

for Euro 2004 and have failed to shine since their surprise run to last year's World Cup final, fought bravely for the first 30 minutes but then collapsed.

Inspired playmaking by Zinedine Zidane helped the visitors stamp their authority on the game but it was their quicksilver forwards who won the game.

After heading his side into the lead, Henry sprinted down the left side past Christian Woerns and addressed a perfect pass for Trezeguet to tap home from the centre of the box.

There was another moment of magic from Henry in the 72nd minute with a beautiful pass to Trezeguet, whose angled effort from inside the area went narrowly wide.

Zidane showed his class with a great pass which Trezeguet collected to put the final touch to an impressive display.

The three-time world and European champions failed to match the pace and skill of their visitors and paid the price for nervous defending. — MNA/Reuters

McFadden goal gives Scotland 1-0 win over Dutch

GLASGOW, 17 Nov—Scotland staked their claim to a place at Euro 2004 on Saturday after they upset the Netherlands 1-0 in the first leg of their playoff at Hampden Park.

Everton winger James McFadden fired Scotland's winner in the 22nd minute to give Berti Vogts' unfancied side a slender advantage going into next Wednesday's second leg at the Amsterdam Arena.

Scotland rode their luck as chances fell to Frank de Boer, Jaap Stam and Clarence Seedorf, but the Dutch strike pairing of Patrick Kluivert and Ruud van Nistelrooy failed to ignite. McFadden, 20, smacked home a deflected shot after working a neat one-two with 19-year-old Darren Fletcher, but the Scots had to weather intense Dutch pressure in the closing minutes to hold on to their win.

A late booking for defender Stam means he will be suspended for the second leg while Scotland midfielder Christian Dailly is also out after receiving a booking.

The Dutch always looked physically more imposing but a key feature of Scotland's play was the ability of their smaller players to unnerve their much-vaunted visitors.

Scotland may be a rated 750-1 outsiders with British bookmakers to win the European championship but never looked so as they tore into the Netherlands with gusto and no little skill.

Inter Milan's Andy van der Meyde was a constant danger but Scotland were also troubling the Dutch with McFadden and Manchester United teenager Fletcher tormenting the visitors in wide areas.

Scotland's youngsters combined superbly to open the scoring.

McFadden played a quick pass to Fletcher, whose backheeled return was slammed into the net by the ex-Motherwell forward via a deflection off Frank de Boer.

Hampden was awash with Scottish saltires as the home support celebrated but the Dutch could have levelled within minutes as Robert Douglas saved at close range from Stam's header while van der Meyde hammered over.

Scotland continued to live dangerously towards half-time.

Winger Marc Overmars may have won a penalty after tumbling in the box under pressure from Jackie McNamara while a de Boer header was only just cleared.

The pressure continued after half-time as van Nistelrooy's header was saved on 46 minutes, while Stam sent an effort just over with Scotland forced to hit on the counter attack.

But the goal would not come for a desperate Dutch side as Kluivert's cushioned header saw van der Meyde rattle the bar with a volley and the home side clung on.

It was Scotland's first competitive win against the Netherlands since a 3-2 victory at the 1978 World Cup finals.—MNA/Reuters



Scotland's James McFadden celebrates scoring against the Netherlands in their Euro 2004 playoff first leg match in Glasgow, Scotland, on 17 November, 2003. Scotland defeated the Netherlands 1-0.—INTERNET



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Wa national race leader U Pauk Yu Chan and party at the Tatmadaw Guest House on Inya Road. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives national race leaders

YANGON, 17 Nov — Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this afternoon received Wa national race leader U Pauk Yu Chan and party from special region-2 in Shan State (North) at the Tatmadaw Guest House on Inya Road here.

Also present were Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National

Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein and officials.

At the meeting, matters on health and education and work on extended cultivation of opium-substitute crops were discussed.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the Government Technological College in Pyaw. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win tours Magway and Bago Divisions

YANGON, 17 Nov — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win together with deputy ministers and officials of SPDC Office arrived at Affiliated Basic Education High School in Gyobin Village, Kanma Township, Thayet District, Magway Division, on 14 November. They

were welcomed there by Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Zaw Min, Chairman of Thayet District PDC Lt-Col Maung Maung San, officials, teachers, students, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected the two-storey building of the school which is under construction.

After hearing reports presented by the headmaster, teachers and officials on requirements for completion of the school building, the Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented teaching aids for the school to Headmaster U Khin Tun.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party inspected Ma Day Dam Project being implemented by Construction-2

(See page 7)

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

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Newly-opened Sanepauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaukphyu Road in Am Township, Rakhine State. (News on page 8) — MNA