

Reforms relating to various areas such as political, economic and social sectors have to be undertaken simultaneously in building a modern, developed country

National objectives, national policy and plans laid down are based not only on country's history but also on practical nationalistic ideologies

Senior General Than Shwe addresses AGM 2007 of USDA



Senior General Than Shwe delivers a speech at Annual General Meeting 2007 of Union Solidarity and Development Association. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov — *The following is the full text of the translation of the speech delivered by Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe at the fourth day session of the Annual General Meeting 2007 of USDA held at the University of Veterinary Science on Yezin University Campus today.*

On this occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, I would like to extend my warm felicitations to all the members of the Association.

Building a peaceful developed and discipline-flourishing democratic country is the noble national goal unani-

mously adopted by all patriotic citizens.

In the past 14 years the Union Solidarity and Development Association has been harmoniously taking part in the process of building a new nation which is our national goal.

The process of building the new nation is a noble and vital process involving the whole nation. The Union Solidarity and Development Association was founded with the aim to give assistance in organizing the active and conscientious participation of the whole populace.

Ever since the founding of the Association, trainings have been continuously held for youth members to effectively carry out the cause of the people in their respective regions with higher efficiency.

(See page 8)



USDA AGM releases Statement (1/2007)

NAY PYI TAW 16 Nov—The Annual General Meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association has been held since 12 November at the University of Veterinary Science on Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University Campus.

During the AGM, USDA Central Executive Committee and secretaries of State/Division USDAs held a meeting at the university on 13 November.

After the AGM, the attendees unanimously supported the announcement and reached an agreement to release it. The AGM (2007) released the Statement (1/2007) today.

The full context of the statement is as follow:—

(See page 6)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 17 November, 2007

Towards emergence of strong jade and gem market

The 2007 Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium began on 14 November at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon and the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, and local and foreign gem merchants viewed gems and jade at the venues in earnest.

The government has been taking all the necessary steps for the development of gem industry. As a result, Myanmar gems are in high demand in the international market, thereby contributing a lot to the development of national economy.

The gems miners and gem entrepreneurs are to take systematic measures in order not to cause environmental degradation and to ensure work site safely at the designated mining blocks. In the meantime, they are to put on sale their gems and jewelry at the gems emporia staged by the State. The gem entrepreneurs are to make more profits by selling value-added finished items rather than selling the uncut jade and gems.

At a time when the government is fulfilling all the necessary requirements for the development of gem industry all the private companies are to make concerted efforts for the emergence of a strong gem market.

12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology commences

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov—The 12th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology hosted by Myanmar was opened at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay this morning.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw attended the meeting. Minister for Science and Technology UThaung delivered an opening speech.

Also present at the

meeting were Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors and high-ranking officials from ASEAN countries, representatives from ASEAN Secretariat, departmental heads, rectors from Technological Universities and guests.

The commander and the attendees posed for a documentary photo.

Later, the 12th

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology continued at 10.30 am at Amarapura Hall of the Hotel.

In the evening, Minister U Thaung hosted a dinner in honour of ASEAN ministers at the hotel.

The 54th ASEAN Science and Technology Ministerial committee Meeting and subcommittee meetings were held at the same venue from 11 to 15 November.

MNA

People's Desire

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

Home Affairs Minister receives Japanese Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov— Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received Japanese Ambassador Mr Yasuaki Nogawa at the ministry, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department, Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi of Myanmar Police Force, Director-General U Aung Saw Win of Bureau of Special Investigation, Director-General U Zaw Win of



Myanmar Correctional Department and Head of Office U Nay Myo. MNA

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo receives Japanese Ambassador Mr Yasuaki Nogawa. — MNA

Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium attracts 3,491 merchants

YANGON, 16 Nov— The Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2007 went on at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, today.

Now, 3491 gem merchants — 2205 from 1571 companies of 14 foreign countries and 1286 from 491 local

companies — are visiting the emporium.

From 9 am to 5 pm today, the merchants examined pearl lots and gem lots displayed at the gem mart and jade lots at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township. More local and foreign merchants are expected to arrive here.

From this morning to evening, 207 pearl lots were sold through tender and competitive bidding system.

On 18 November, 231 gem lots will be on sale through tender and competitive bidding system at the gem mart.

From 9 am to 5 pm on 17 November, jade lots will be sold through tender, and the remaining jade lots will be sold through tender and competitive bidding system till 26 November.

Secretary of the Central Committee for Organizing the Emporium Managing Director of



Gem merchants examine gem lots at Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium.

MNA

Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and CEC members visited the mart and fulfilled the requirements of the merchants.—MNA

Report says growing class gap divides Black Americans

ATLANTA, 15 Nov— Many Black Americans say the gap between middle- and working-class Blacks has grown so wide that it is no longer accurate to describe them as a single race, according to a new report.

The findings challenge a long-held assumption that the experience of Blacks in the United States, defined by slavery and segregation in the South as well as the civil rights movement, forged a coherent Black identity.

The survey by the non-partisan Pew Research Centre showed 61 per cent of those polled said the values of middle class and

poor Blacks had become more different while 31 per cent said more similar. The study did not define its terms to respondents.

A related question asked whether blacks “can still be thought of as a single race”. Fifty-three per cent said yes while 37 per cent said no.

With both questions small percentages declined to respond, saying they did not know or there was no change.

“Diversity means that it doesn’t necessarily make sense to think of Blacks as a collectivity,” said Scott Keeter, director of survey research at Pew.

A separate survey on

Tuesday said Black Americans are failing to climb the social ladder and, in an index of economic insecurity, found that 45 per cent born into the middle classes are now poorer than their parents.—MNA/Reuters

Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan on 14 Nov, 2007, called for more progress in the country’s research and development of jumbo aircraft.—XINHUA



Death toll of cyclone in Bangladesh rises to 163

DHAKA, 16 Nov — Unofficial death toll over cyclone in Bangladesh has risen to 163, private television channel Ntv reported on Friday.

But official television BTV Friday put the death toll at 57 without giving details.

The government related departments are working round the clock to collect the figure of casualties.

Cyclone Sidr ripped through the coastal zones of Bangladesh, leaving a

trail of devastation behind, southern residents said early Friday.

The storm caused by cyclone downed thousands of trees and damaged many houses in the coastal area.

The cyclone measured more powerful than what happened in 1991 that killed 140,000 people, a top weather official was quoted by private news agency *BDnews24* as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

WARSAW, 15 Nov— Prosecutors said on Wednesday they had charged seven Polish soldiers over the shooting to death of six Afghan civilians.

Prosecutor Karol Frankowski said the killings, which took place in August, were not accidental and did not happen in response to any life endangering situation.

Previously authorities had reported that the civilians were killed in an exchange of fire with Taliban insurgents but the prosecutor said the shooting in an Afghan village was not a response to any attack. “There wasn’t any situation or anything which could indicate a danger to their lives or to lives of any other soldiers,” Frankowski told a news conference.

Polish soldiers charged over Afghan killings

“Women and children were also victims of this shooting.”

He said that six of these soldiers could face from 12 years up to a life sentence in prison and one

of them up to 25 years. “Polish soldiers have violated the international law protecting civilians,” Frankowski told the news conference. He refused to answer whether the

soldiers had committed the crime deliberately but said the soldiers did not face any aggression from citizens of the village.

No trial date has yet been set.—MNA/Reuters

Report says nearly 36 mln US people go hungry in 2006

WASHINGTON, 16 Nov — The US recorded a hunger population of nearly 36 million last year, compared to 35.1 million in 2005, the Agriculture Department said on Wednesday.

The 35.5 million people, or 12.1 per cent of the total population, said that they did not have enough money or resources to get food for at

least some period during the year, according to the department’s annual hunger survey.

Among the hunger population, 11.1 million said that they had “very low food security”, meaning they had a substantial disruption in the amount of food they typically eat.

The survey also shows that single mothers

and their children were the most likely to suffer from hunger.

Kate Houston, deputy undersecretary for food, nutrition and consumer services said it is “encouraging” that the 2006 figure is not much different from 2005, but “but we know we have more work to do”.

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Suicide car bombing kills six, wounds 22 in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 Nov—A suicide car bomb struck a police convoy carrying a senior police officer in Iraq’s northern oil base of Kirkuk on Thursday, killing six people and wounding 22 others, a local police officer said.

“A suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into the convoy of Brigadier Khattab Omer while he heading to his work at about 7:30 am (0430 GMT) in the city of Kirkuk,” the city police chief Brigadier Burhan Wasif told *Xinhua* by telephone.

Omer was critically wounded and two of his bodyguards were killed by the blast, Wasif said.

The dead included four civilians, and 21 others were wounded, including policemen, he said.

Women and children were among the wounded people, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



Policemen inspect the scene of a bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, on 15 Nov, 2007.—XINHUA

USDA Patron Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at fourth day session of Annual General Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov — Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address at the fourth day session of the USDA Annual General Meeting 2007 at the convocation hall of University of Veterinary Science on Yezin University Campus, here, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Central Panel of Patrons of the USDA 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, SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, USDA CEC members, senior military officers, deputy ministers, directors-general and managing directors of the SPDC Office, the Government Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, departments and enterprises, chairmen and members



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo presents gift to Ma Nan Yuzana Hlaing of Hpa-an University. — MNA



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo gives gift to Ma Ei Kay Khaing Tun of Sangyoung BEHS No 2. — MNA

with the permission of the patron.

Patron of USDA Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address.

presented gifts to the 1st to 10th positioned students in the science combination at the matriculation exam for 2007: Ma Khin Myat Noe Tun of Dagon BEHS No 1 who stood first in the entire nation and Yangon Division; Ma Phyu Phyu Khin of Latha BEHS No 2, second in the entire nation; Ma Wutyi Nanda Maung of Pathein BEHS No 6, third in the entire nation and first in Ayeyawady Division; Maung Maung Khaing of Pyay BEHS No 1 fourth in the entire nation and first in Bago Division (West); Ma Inzali Moe Moe Kyaw of Kamayut Institute of Education Practising High School, fourth in the entire nation; Maung Zaw Win Htet of Pazundaung BEHS No 4, fifth in the entire nation; Ma Yati Maung Maung Myint of Bahan BEHS No 2, sixth in the entire nation; Maung Kyi Hla Win of Kamayut BEHS No 2 and Maung Soe Myat Hein of Dagon BEHS No 1, seventh in the entire nation; Maung Myat Htet of Kamayut Institute of Education Practising High School, eighth in the entire nation; Ma Yin Nwe Aye of Mingaladon BEHS No 2, ninth in the entire nation; Ma Theingi Shwe Sin of Mandalay BEHS No 16, 10th in the entire nation and first in Mandalay Division; Ma Nilar Aye Tun of Kamayut Institute of Education Practising High School, Ma Yi Mon Tun of Kamayut BEHS No 2 and Ma Pwint Yi Cho of Latha BEHS No 2, 10th in the entire nation.

(See page 5)



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo presents gift to Ma Shwe Zin Chit of Dawbon BEHS No 1. — MNA

of the Central Committee and subcommittees for organizing the conference, chairmen, vice-chairmen and secretaries of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon, Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Construction Entrepreneur Association and Myanmar Fishery Federation, representatives of USDAs at different levels, outstanding youths and guests.

Executive Daw Nan Hwam Nwam Kham of Muse Township USDA of Shan State (North) acted as MC together with Joint Secretary Daw May Cherry Lwin of Zigon Township USDA of Bago Division (West) as co-MC.

The MC announced opening of the conference



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo presents gift to Maung Zaw Win Htet of Pazundaung BEHS No 4. — MNA

(The speech of Senior General Than Shwe is reported separately.)

USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo gives gift to Ma Wutyi Nanda Maung of Pathein BEHS No 6. — MNA



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo hands gift to Ma Myat Theingi Tun of Thandwe BEHS No 1. — MNA

USDA Patron Senior General Than Shwe...

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The secretary-general also presented gifts to 1st to 10th positioned students in the arts combination at the matriculation exam for 2007: Maung Kyaw Zin Win of Myaungmya BEHS No 4 who stood first in the entire nation and first in Ayeyawady Division; Maung Win Myat Thu of Thauggyi Village BEHS Mung of Kyonpyaw Township, second in the entire nation; Khun Aung Naing Oo of Myaungmya BEHS No 4, third in the entire nation; Ma Myat Theingi Tun of Thandwe BEHS No 1, fourth in the entire nation and first in Rakhine State; Ma Wai Mon Soe of Kanma BEHS, fifth in the entire nation and first in Magway Division; Maung Myint Win Aung of Monywa, sixth in the entire nation and first in Sagaing Division; Ma Nweni Htay of Kyonmange BEHS, seventh in the entire nation; Ma Le Le Naing of Thandwe, eighth in the entire nation; Maung Htet Myat Ko Ko of Ahtaung Village BEHS of Kyonpyaw Township, eighth in the entire nation; Ma Yu Yu Maw of Wazi BEHS of Pakokku Township, ninth in the entire nation and Maung Pyae Son of Yenatha BEHS of Kanma Township, 10th in the entire nation.

He also awarded gifts to 1st positioned



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo presents gift to Maung Soe Min Win of Inpawkhon BEHS. — MNA

students in the optional science at the matriculation exam for 2007. They were Ma Naw May Thaw Htoo Shein of Loikaw BEHS No 2, Maung Myint Paing Bo of Hpa-an BEHS No 1, Maung Steven Bwe Kyin Lyan of Falam BEHS No 1, Maung Myint Myat Han of Monywa BEHS No 3, Ma Yin Min Thon of Myeik BEHS No 1, Ma Thanda Aung of Bago BEHS No 2, Ma Wai Mon Oo of Magway BEHS No 1, Ma Wint Wah Thin of Mawlamyine BEHS No 3, Ma Thet Htar Ein of Sittway BEHS No 2, Ma Swe Thet Hnin of Lashio BEHS No 4 and Maung Aung Phyto Wai of Kengtung BEHS No 2.

The secretary-general gave gifts to Maung Thant of Nanmekhon BEHS of Kayah State, Maung Saw Kalo Saw Do of Thandaunggyi BEHS, Maung Myo Min Tun of Thayetchaung Township, Ma Zay Mar Lin of Nyaungbintha BEHS of Bago Division (East), Maung Khin Maung Htay of Ngaphulay BEHS Branch of Thayawady Township, Maung Myo Min Zaw of PhaungdawU Affiliated BEHS of Aungmyethazan Township, Maung Nyi Nyi Aye of Chaungzon Township, Ma Chan Nyein Thu of Kyimyindine BEHS No 5, Maung Soe Min Win of Inpawkhon BEHS of Nyaungshwe Township and Ma Soe Thiri Nwe of Lashio Township who stood first in the optional arts at the matriculation



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo awards gift to Maung Myat Htet of Kamayut Institute of Education Practising High School. — MNA

examination.

The secretary-general also presented gifts to Maung Aung Kyaw Naing who secured one gold medal in the U-14 Asian Youth Tennis Championship, Maung Kyaw Zin Thit who won one gold medal in the 4th Asian Youth Wushu Championship and Ma Thet Thet Naing who bagged one gold medal in the 4th



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo gives gift to Ma Soe Thiri Nwe of Lashio. — MNA

Asian Youth Wushu Championship.

He also presented gifts to 2007 outstanding Red Cross members Maung Aung Naing Tun of Taunggyi Red Cross Brigade and Ma Su Wai Lwin of Einme Township Red Cross Brigade, 2007 outstanding Auxiliary Fire Brigade members Company Commander



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo awards gift to Ma Pwint Yi Cho of Latha BEHS No 2. — MNA



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo presents gift to Ma Thet Htar Ein of Sittway BEHS No 2. — MNA

Khin Maung Cho of Sagaing Division Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Sergeant Khin Thanda Thein of Thakayta Township Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

He gave gifts to the students who won five and above gold medals in the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. They were Ma Saw Yu Maw of Dagon BEHS No 1, Ma Su Myat Darli of Dagon BEHS No 1, Ma Yadana Lin of Kyimyindine BEHS No 1, Maung Nan Lwin of Seikkyi-khanaungto BEHS, Maung Kaung Myat Wai of North Okkalapa BEHS No 1, Ma Shwe Sin Chit of Dawbon BEHS No 1 and Ma Zarni Nan Lwin of Thongwa BEHS No 1.

The secretary-general presented gifts to first prize winners in the various contests. They were Ma Yamin Sandi Seint of Insein BEHS No 2 in the basic level extempore talks contest, Ma May Myat Hmu Aung of Bago BEHS No 1 in the basic level essay contest, Ma Htut Myat Noe Aung, Ma Ei Wathan Zaw, Ma Ei Kay Khaing Tun, Ma Aye Chan Moe and Ma Wint Wah Win Thaug of Sangyoung BEHS No 2 in the basic education level round-table discussion contest; Maung Aung Phone Myint of University of Foreign Languages (Yangon) in the higher level extempore talks contest, Maung Tun Tun Oo of Mandalay University in the higher level essay contest, Maung Saw Htoo Myat Tun Win, Maung Saw Win Htet Win, Ma Naw Wah Wah Shee, Ma Nan Yuzana Hlaing and Ma Naw Lwin Lwin Naing of Hpa-an University in the higher level round-table discussion contest.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party cordially greeted the representatives of States and Divisions. — MNA



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo presents gift to Sgt Khin Thanda Thein of Thakayta Township Auxiliary Fire Brigade. — MNA

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USDA Annual General Meeting Statement (1/2007)

(16 November 2007)

1. The Union Solidarity and Development Association Annual General Meeting was successfully held in Nay Pyi Taw from 12 to 16 November, 2007, in accordance with its planned objectives.
2. (506) delegates from various States and Divisions representing the 24 million USDA members attended the meeting.
3. The meeting laid down future work plans of the Association in order to work together with the entire people in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, in accordance with the aspiration of the entire people.
4. The transition from an old system of a bygone era to a new system in the modern era must be in a smooth and evolutionary manner. The process of building a new nation is a domestic matter which is to be implemented together only by the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, the true forces of the nation.
5. A new democratic nation can be built only if peace prevails. The unrests and violence which disrupt peace and stability can slow down the building of a new democratic nation. The Association will protect the nation from any destructive act and biased interference and will cooperate in the constructive efforts in building a new democratic nation.
6. The meeting on behalf of its 24 million members unanimously decided as follows:—
 - (a) To accept Our Three Main Causes as the national duty;
 - (b) To participate in drafting a new constitution in accordance with the basic principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention;
 - (c) To actively cooperate with the entire people for the success of the seven-step political process;
 - (d) To ward off patriotically any destructive act that will disturb the building of a new nation;
 - (e) To ward hand in hand with the people towards the smooth transition to a genuinely developed and disciplined new democratic nation.
- (7) The Association strongly believes that the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation will definitely be reached.

Union Solidarity and Development Association

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Shan State (North) Special Region (7) Palaung Nationalities Group

Letter No. Pa La Nga Pha / Phwint Phy-1 / 2007

Date: 15 November 2007

Announcement

Shan State (North) Special Region (7) Palaung Nationalities Group returned to the legal fold on 2 May 1991 when it came to understand the government's benevolent attitude and support the government's constructive activities. On 29 April 2005, we unconditionally exchanged arms for peace. Now, political awareness has been raised among Palaung nationalities, and we are strongly equipped with Union Spirit.

At the National Convention, representatives of national races constituted the largest number in holding discussions in the delegate group of political parties, the delegate group of representatives-elect, the delegate group of peasants, and the delegate group of workers. In like manner, the majority of the representatives are national races in the national races delegate group. And we were part of the delegate group of national races. Similarly, national races were the majority in the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia and the delegate group of State service personnel. In the delegate group of other invited persons, the delegate group of peace groups who have returned to the legal fold, and the group of experts, the largest number of representatives were national races.

More than 1000 representatives from 325 townships across the nation represented the desire of national races, held discussions comprehensively and cordially and made decisions at the National Convention. So, we believe that the National Convention is only national forum where affairs of national races joined in the discussed.

We, members of Shan State (North) Special Region (7) Palaung Nationalities Group, support the State Peace and Development Council's appointment of the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution comprising national legal experts under Notification No 2/2007 dated 18 October 2007.

We consider holding talks between Minister for Relations U Aung Kyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to be positive measure.

The statement released in Singapore on 8 November on behalf of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi by Mr Gambari features some points that imply that they are responsible for the stances and interests of political forces and all ethnic groups. We hereby announce that they did so without seeking the opinion of national races and the people.

The strength of the said party's representatives-elect is now less than 100 due to the fact that the party has lost public support, many of the members have resigned from the party with no trust and respect between superiors and subordinates, and it got involved in many cases that were improper for a political party.

The statement is against our stance. So, the Palaung Nationalities Group hereby announces that we will never follow the instructions of any person or party. And we will constantly take part under the leadership of the Tatmadaw in the drive for ensuring national development and transition to genuine and discipline-flourishing democracy.

**Shan State (North) Special Region (7)
Palaung Nationalities Group**

Homein Region Development and Welfare Group (Headquarters) Homein

Letter No. 15/Hta-hta (Ha-ma)/07

Date: 14 November 2007

Announcement

Homein Region Development and Welfare Group made peace with the government on 6-1-1996 and since then, it has been performing regional development work. We attended the National Convention and cordially discussed the affairs of the national races including that of ours and the drawing of an enduring constitution for the emergence of a genuine, discipline-flourishing democracy.

At the NC, we held discussions highlighting the national interest and national unity. Therefore, the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles the NC delegates laid down not only reflect the wishes of all the national people but also prove the national unity. The government formed the 54-member Commission for Drafting State Constitution on 18-10-2007. So, the nation has been in a position to steadfastly continue implementing the seven-step Road Map.

As the good conditions like national reconsolidation and democratic transition are prevailing in the nation, we believe that the meeting between U Aung Kyi, appointed as Minister for Relations, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is a vehicle for achieving national reconsolidation between the government and her only.

However, it is found that the recent statement Mr Gambari issued on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's behalf carries some points implying that she would represent the national races. The statement is found to be illegal as it has been issued according to a person's wish. So, we hereby categorically announce that we do not accept her offer.

We also announce that we only support the emergence of a constitution that will be written based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the NC and that we will steadfastly continue participating in implementing the seven-step Road Map.

Homein Region Development and Welfare Group
(See page 7)

Senior General Than Shwe hosts dinner in honour of representatives to USDA Annual General Meeting, outstanding youths

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2007 in the entire nation, outstanding students of states and divisions who stood first position at the matriculation examination 2007, students who won gold medals at sports, outstanding members of Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, prize winners at USDA Central Level contests, students who won five gold medals and above at Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, chairmen of social and economic associations and officials concerned, artistes and vocalists.

Also present at the dinner were Members of the Central Penal of Patrons of USDA 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, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers, the Attorney-

General, the Auditor-General, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the secretary-general of USDA, joint secretary-general and CEC members, members of the National Convention Convening Commission deputy ministers, senior military officers, director-generals and managing directors of the SPDC Office, the Government Office, departments and enterprises, chairmen of the central committee and subcommittee for organizing the USDA Annual Conference 2007 and officials, secretaries of state and division USDAs, regional coordinators of USDA Headquarters, representatives of USDAs at different levels, outstanding youths and students and journalists.

Before and during the dinner, artistes entertained variety songs to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan Modern Music Band.

MNA

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Phayagon Special Region Peace Group Announcement

Date: 14th November 2007

The Phayagon Special Region Peace Group has abandoned the armed struggle line of KNU and unconditionally exchanged arms for peace. Therefore, we participated in the National Convention to secure rights of national races legally. The fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down at the National Convention have guaranteed to give national races the legislative power, executive power and judiciary power that were not enjoyed in the past. Laying down the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles at the National Convention proved that the national reconsolidation had been realized.

National legal experts are included in the 54-member Commission for Drafting the State Constitution and it shows that national races also get an opportunity to participate in writing the draft constitution. As the third step of the Seven-Step Road Map has been taken, we believe that efforts for implementing the other steps will continue to be made.

However, while implementing the seven-step Road Map, Mr Gambari released a statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her behalf. We believe that according to the statement, the point implying that she will represent the national races is ignoring the national races' desire that was expressed at the National Convention. In the interests of the country, we do not need to favour the interests of a person or a party. We must consider the interests of over 50 million people.

Hence, we, the Phayagon Special Region Peace Group, announce that we do not accept the act that harms the basic principles approved unanimously by delegates of eight delegate groups including national races and we will continue to fully cooperate with the government to implement the seven-step Road Map.

Phayagon Special Region Peace Group

Kayan New Land Party Peaceful Association Announcement

Letter No 6494 Ka La Hta 03/165/2007

Date 14th November 2007

The Kayah State Special Region-3 made peace with the government on 26 July 1994 and has undertaken regional development tasks. We attended the National Convention and held discussions with other delegates to the National Convention for laying down the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles.

We have learnt that Mr Gambari released a statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her behalf on 8 November in Singapore.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is said to be interested in the affairs of the national races. However, we upholding the interests of the Union have already held discussions and made decisions on wishes of the national races in the National Convention.

Out of the eight delegate groups, the number of the representatives of national races constituted the largest. So, the National Convention is a forum of all national races. Therefore, we support the new constitution to be drafted by the Commission for Drafting State Constitution according to the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles.

Kayan New Land Party Peaceful Association

Kayah State Kayinni National Peace and Development Party (KNPDP) Announcement

Letter No. Admin (3)/ Ka Pa Hsa (048)

Date: 14th November 2007

Kayinni National Peace and Development Party (KNPDP) made peace with the Government on 23-7-1999. Our party attended the National Convention and participated in the discussions on affairs of national races together with other delegates.

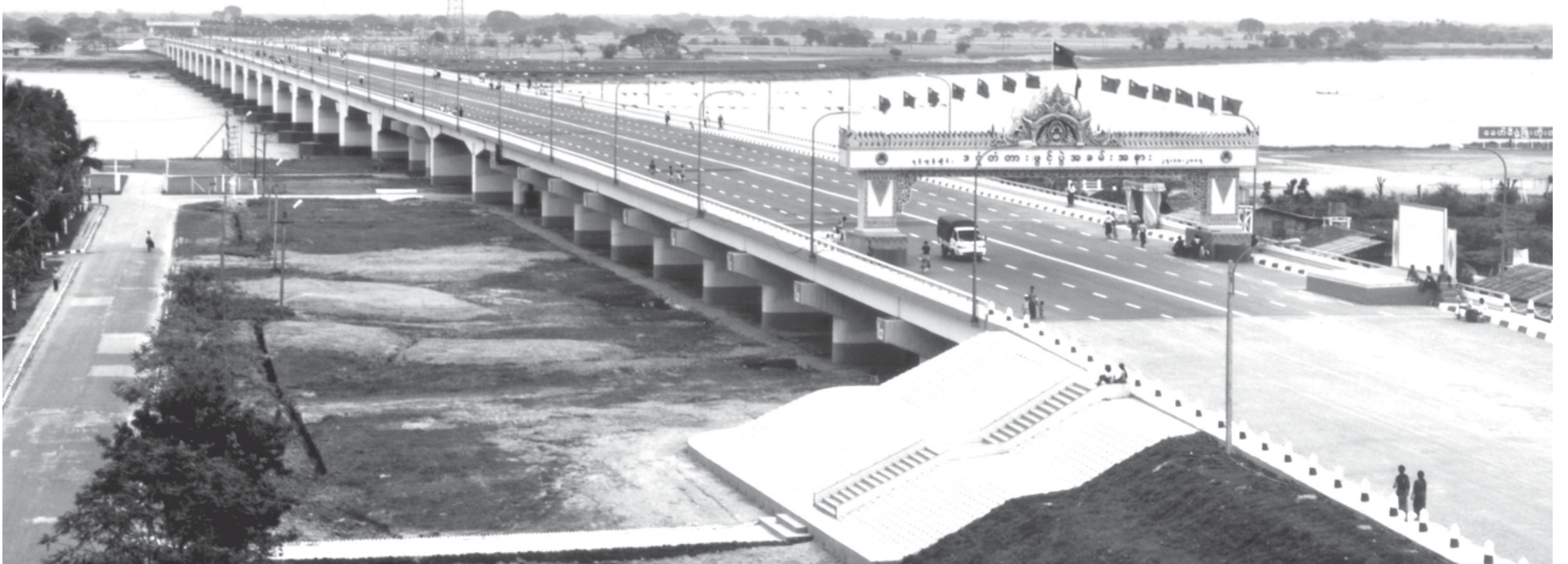
The entire people support the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that emerged through the discussions based on the their desires and objective conditions.

We support the formation of the Commission for Drafting State Constitution comprising national legal experts by the Government under the Announcement No 2/2007 on 18-10-2007.

While implementing the State's seven-step Road Map with added momentum, we are undertaking development of the State and our region with our aims and own stand. Hence, our party is not a follower of any party.

Therefore, we hereby announce that we cannot accept any offers that can harm the already-adopted fundamental principles and detailed basic principles, and we will steadfastly continue joining hands with the government in the realization of the seven-step Road Map.

Kayinni National Peace and Development Party (KNPDP)



The Dagon Bridge, which was put into commission on 27 October 2007.

Reforms relating to various areas such...

(from page 1)

With regard to the organization of the Association, 15,327 village and ward organizations, 320 township organizations, 66 district organizations and 17 state and division organizations have been formed.

Twenty-nine million young members have already taken training courses from village to headquarters level. During 2006-2007, altogether 3.1 million youth have been trained by the Association. The Association has given training

Soon after we regained freedom from the colonialists, there had been conflicts and disunity in the country because of ideological extremists instead of collective efforts for national development. The divide and rule policy of the colonialists for over a hundred years resulted in disunity and mutual suspicion among our national brethren. The armed insurgencies had caused loss of life and property of the people. The economic and social standards of the people deteriorated.

tating the deteriorating general condition of the country.

When we took responsibilities of the state there were full of calamities in the country such as lawless disturbances, transportation disruptions and public insecurity due to lawless atrocities. We had to take prioritized measures to eliminate all these and to bring about condition for peaceful livelihood of the people and smooth transportation. At the same time, we have undertaken political, economic and administrative reforms in

accordance with the will of the people. The one-party political system and socialist economic system were abolished, and we have exerted relentless efforts to establish a multi-party system with market economic system suitable for our country.

In general, the government had to take a wide-ranging, sophisticated and difficult responsibility for the requirements of the country and to take reform measures for long-term interest of the country. Therefore, our Tatmadaw Government cannot be simply seen as caretaker government to maintain

law and order but to be viewed in a comprehensive manner a transitional government of historical necessity which is undertaking a state transformation.

The road that we have been treading since 1988 till today was not a road of roses. It was a rough road with internal and foreign political machinations, disturbances and obstacles that we had to overcome. We had to tread this path with genuine patriotism and with the spirit of sacrifice for the country and the people.

The people understood that "peace and tranquillity is needed in the country, and everybody needs to strive for their food, clothing and shelter in peace." With this understanding, the people have participated conscientiously and willingly in the efforts for the stability of the state, com-

munity peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. As all are aware, the mutual trust, understanding and cooperation among the state, the people and the Tatmadaw have resulted in the prevalence of law and order in all urban and rural areas.

In the same way we have emphasized national unity and have realized it practically. A total of 17 armed groups who have come to understand and realize the Government's pure and venerable goodwill have returned to, one by one, the legal fold, and are presently joining hands with the Government for the development of their areas. National reconciliation has now reached a breadth and solidity that has never been achieved before under any previous age or time.

(See page 9)

Tatmadaw Government cannot be simply seen as caretaker government to maintain law and order but to be viewed in a comprehensive manner a transitional government of historical necessity which is undertaking a state transformation.

to an average of 2 million youth annually.

Our country has a fine national tradition. For thousands of years our people have lived with our own culture and civilization as citizens of a sovereign nation.

During 19th Century, we had lost our national sovereignty and fell into servitude due to colonialism. We were able to stand as a sovereign state through the true patriotic spirit and the power of unity of all the nationalities.

Until today, we can still witness the malicious attempts of the colonialists to divide and control our country.

Our Tatmadaw which has never betrayed the national cause has always safeguarded the country whenever any danger affecting the interest of the people and the state arises.

Today's Tatmadaw Government came into being in September 1988 as the government of historical necessity with a view to rehabili-



Farmers scattering fertilizers on thriving paddy field in Thammadaw Village, Patheingyi Township.



The three-storey main building of Lashio Technological University.

Reforms relating to various areas such...

(from page 8)

Nearly all the areas in which the national race groups reside are now enjoying the favourable results of peace and stability. These favourable results were not achieved easily: they came about only after the overcoming of many difficulties. We must also continue to struggle for a certain extent of time to preserve this for the future. In doing so, it is essential for us to carry out the task in the spirit of loyalty and a sense of duty in the interest of the union without any self-interest.

As we have achieved peace and stability in the country and national reconsolidation, we could also emphasize the development of the State's economy and social development. We laid down special development plans to build the economic foundations which were actually needed, the basic fundamentals for human resources and long life and health, and have consistently realized them with high aspirations. Everybody knows that these special development plans are those of the 24 special development regions, the development plan for the border areas, and the rural areas development project.

The State economy is still based upon agriculture. The main occupation of the majority of the people who live in rural areas is also agriculture. The State is assisting and encouraging agricultural productivity. The

Tatmadaw Government has built 204 dams, 305 river-pumping projects, and 7,569 wells and 1,023 tanks to fulfill one of the basic requirements for agriculture, irrigation. In 1988 irrigated area was 1.487 million acres but now increased up to 4.9 million acres. The cultivation capacity in 1988 was only 121 per cent, but now it is 161.8 per cent. Since 1988-89, when there were only 11.81 million acres of paddy acreage and 630 million baskets, we laid down as our first plan the production of 800 million baskets, as our second plan the production of 1,000 million baskets, and the production of 1500 million baskets through step by step plans, and we would realize our objectives. Now we are producing more than twice as much as in 1988. We have laid down plans to produce 2,000 million baskets and are working hard to achieve this. If we look at the production of beans and pulses, from being able to produce only 370,000 tons from an acreage of 1.8 million, we now produce 4,500,000 tons from a sown acreage of 9.89 million. We are now the largest exporter of beans and pulses in Southeast Asia. The acreage of oilseeds too has been expanded from 5 million to 7.4 million. This has become a crop with a good potential for production. In the next 4 years we will be able to grow enough for sufficiency. We are now ready to amply feed a grow-

As for the higher education sector, the number of the institutions increased from 32 to 156 and 53 colleges have been upgraded to universities. The number of university students rose from 130,000 in the past, to 520,000 at present, increasing 300,000. Since 1988 till date, 1,360,000 university students have been graduated. Post graduate courses were also successfully completed. With the spread of educational opportunities all over the nation, literacy rate also increased to 94.75 % from 79%.

ing population.

In the industrial sector we have opened 18 industrial zones and assisted private industries to progress. From 1988 when there were 624 Government factories and 35,000 private factories, we now have 791 Government factories and 101,000 private factories. In the industrial sector we have a yearly 25 per cent growth rate and have achieved an eightfold growth in industrial production.

Just as the number of Agricultural Workers has increased due to advancement in the Agricultural Sector, so too the number of industrial workers has increased as industry has progressed. From 10,400,000 agricultural workers we now have about 22,900,000. From 1,700,000 factory workers we now have about 5,000,000. From 3,800,000 service workers we now have 7,600,000. If we look at the overall picture from a total of over 16 million workers we have advanced to 35.5 million workers. There are many opportunities to work.

Just as the good transportation network assists the people in their social and economic endeavours, it is also the basic infrastructure for interaction and travel among the

national brethren which creates national unity.

We have built a network of National Highways connecting the East, West, North and South of the country, connecting the various States and Divisions, City roads, roads connecting cities to villages, roads connecting villages to each other, and development areas, in every nook and corner of the nation. In 1988 there were only just over 21,000 miles of tarred, concrete, paved, surface-hardened and dirt roads, but now there are over 70,764 miles.

We are upgrading the existing rail tracks and building new railway lines to the states and divisions which do not have rail access. We have already constructed the new railroad across Pontaung-Ponnyar mountain range from

Pakokku-Kyaw to Gangaw-Kalay. At the same time we have also extended the existing railroad of Pathein-Hinthada-Kyangin up to Pakokku in connection to Mandalay. The railroad up to Bhamo from Mandalay-Katha is also being constructed. Moreover, ground survey works are being conducted to extend the railroad from Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Namhsan, passing over Shan Plateau up to Kengtung. Since 1988 we have built 1,304 miles of new rail tracks and 319 railway stations.

With the new roads and rail tracks we had to build bridges across creeks and rivers. In 1988 there were only 5 major bridges over the main rivers of our country, which were the Ayeyawady, Sittoung, Chindwin and Thanlwin, but

now we have built 17 new major bridges. In addition to the Ministry of Construction, other ministries have built 235 bridges over 180 feet in length and also 36 rail bridges.

In the Air Transport sector we have allowed private air companies to operate. We have built the necessary new airports, and upgraded existing ones. From 21 airfields with runways over 5,000 feet we have increased the number to 38, and upgraded 28 ports.

In the Water Transport sector too from a total of 13 berths suitable for international sea freighters we have now built 28 berths which can handle container freight and 3 berths for internal container traffic or a total of 31 container berths.

(See page 10)



1200-HP diesel engine manufactured by Myanma Railways.



The (300)-bed hospital in PyinOoLwin.

Reforms relating to various areas such...

(from page 9)

Furthermore, the communications sector has also advanced a lot. There are now 886 exchange centres and 930,000 fixed phone compared to 245 and 67,000 in 1988. Not only in major cities such as Yangon and Mandalay but in 32 towns of some States and Divisions as well over 510,000 mobile phones are currently being used. Rural areas are connected through 232 microwave stations having 110 links. Tasks can be now fulfilled in a fast and reliable manner since fax, e-mail and internet are now being in use.

In the electric power sector, which is vital for factories and workshops as well as for the raising of living standards of people ministries have been established—Ministry of No 1 Electric Power for the construction and generation and Ministry of No 2 Electric Power for supply and distribution of electricity.

At present, 1616 megawatts is produced compared to only 568 megawatts in the past. On completion, the 23 hydroelectric power projects which are currently under construction, there will have an increase of 11,000 megawatts. Although hydroelectric power projects are long-term, the government is striving hard to fulfill the needs of the populace within the shortest period. To ensure a smooth supply and distri-

bution of electricity, extremely high voltage transmission lines have been erected or expanded.

Efforts have also been made for the expansion of oil and gas production. While offshore production is under operation, onshore production is also undertaken with technical cooperation.

In the education sector, 6,806 new basic education schools have been opened and the member has reached at 40,553. As 6,261 post-primary schools are opened, the number of basic education students increased to 7,800,000 from 5,200,000 having an increase of 2,600,000.

As for the higher education sector, the number of the institutions increased from 32 to 156 and 53 colleges have been upgraded to universities. The number of university students rose from 130,000 in the past, to 520,000 at present, increasing 300,000. Since 1988 till date, 1,360,000 university students have been graduated. Post graduate courses were also successfully completed. With the spread of educational opportunities all over the nation, literacy rate also increased to 94.75 % from 79%.

In the health sector, it revealed that 208 new hospitals were built, reaching to 839. A total of 167 hospitals were upgraded and expanded. Needed modern health care and medical equip-

ment were also provided by the government.

Institute of Medicine, Institute of Dental Medicine, Pharmaceutical Institute, Para Medics Institute, Nursing Institute, Basic Health Institute, 16 Traditional Medicine Institutes were opened graduating medicinal personnel. Life expectancy rose due to development of health care.

Although the border areas where brethren of our national races reside were unstable regions, since 1988, efforts to gain peace based on national reconsolidation succeeded. Those regions that have lagged behind in prevalence of peace and tranquillity fostered significant development with regard to requirement such as road transport, agriculture, livestock breeding, educa-

tion, health, etc.

Central Committee for the Progress of Border Areas and National Races was formed where I myself chaired and implemented its tasks. Physical development as well as national solidarity are nurtured owing to implementing with goodwill.

The government is placing emphasis on the development of rural areas. Projects are being implemented for fulfilling basic necessities such as road transport, economy, education, health and clean water for drinking and cultivation. You have also participated actively in projects for lighting rural areas, including 5 basic programmes for the development of rural areas which should be further enhanced.

The government has also given emphasis

to uplift the living standards, New satellite town such as Shwepyitha, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (South), Shwepaukkan Myothit, Shwenantha Myothit, Waibagi Myothit, Dagon Myothit (East), Hline-thaya were established adjacent to Yangon Municipal Area. Settlements have also been set-up for squatters. Modern housing projects have been implemented for replacing buildings which are not in conformity with city standards. Roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, gardens and playgrounds, markets as well as religious buildings were constructed in accordance with city standards. In Yangon Municipal Area, permanent dwellings have been completed for altogether one million people. Similarly, above 300,000 people have been allocated in Mandalay. 210 townships have been expanded in various States and Divisions and altogether 2,000,000 have been located. In our time, we have successfully made arrangements for a population of more than 3,300,000 to live in own houses.

Reforms relating to various areas such as political, economic and social sectors have to be undertaken simultaneously in building a modern, de-

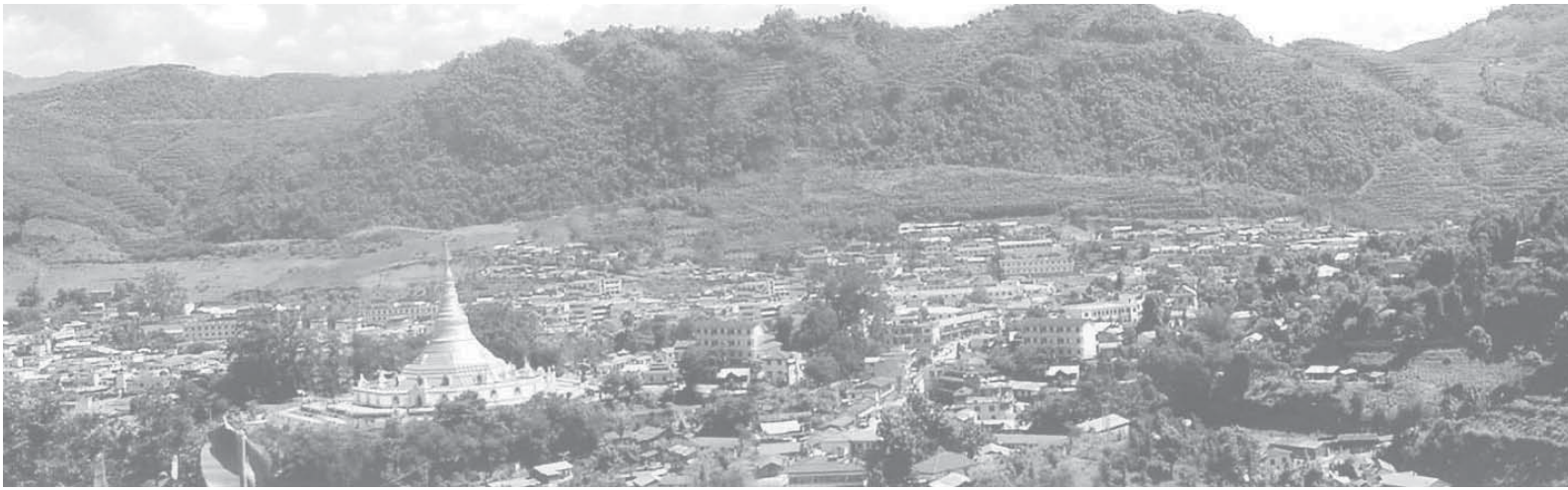
veloped country. In doing so, government alone could not take sole responsibility. It is a truth that all citizens should collectively and equally participate in good faith and with understanding. Thus, I would like to reiterate that the Union Solidarity and Development Association was established for activation for better understanding, wide and dynamic participation. With the country's historical turnaround where we were compelled to take the State's responsibilities with the support of the various national races, our strong beliefs and convictions are required in order to have a right track in implementing our resolute objectives.

We have set the national goal to establish a peaceful, modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic state. We have also laid down the national policy of "Our Three Main National Causes" indisputable by all nationals. We have also chosen and laid down the objectives in our march for the successful implementation of the national goals. The twelve national objectives are the practical plans for our endeavours in nation building process.

(See page 11)



Well No 35 in Nyaungdon Oil Field.



Panoramic view of progress of Pangsang (a) Pankham in Shan State.

implement the third step of the Seven-Step Road Map towards democracy.

The Annual Meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association provides the opportunity to exchange experiences, hold discussions, and adopt plans and activities for the upcoming year which not only bring about the progress of the association but also for the development of the State and its people.

Therefore, we strongly urge all of you to try your best for the successful implementation of the future plans and activities adopted by the Annual Meeting.

We also urge to safeguard and promote the peace and stability and development infrastructure of the State which the State and the people are currently enjoying.

I would like to urge all of you that with genuine patriotism and self-sacrificing valor, we will be able to overcome the difficulties and obstacles in our endeavours in carrying out the State and National interest.

I urge all of you to join hands with the people in carrying out the Seven-Step Road Map in building a new State.

In conclusion, I would further like to urge to join hands with the national people in implementation of the smooth transition of a peaceful, modern, developed, disciplined flourishing democratic state aspired by the people. —MNA

Reforms relating to various areas such...

(from page 10)

The national objectives, national policy and plans laid down are based not only on our country's history but also on our practical nationalistic ideologies. Ideologies and practicality are complementary to each other. Impractical indoctrination and implementation would be meaningless and likewise implementation without ideologies would be like "Building castle in the air". We will be more successful in building a new State if there were less indifference and harmony in ideology and practicality, policy and implementation and in leadership and obedience.

You must bear in mind the national interests with dedication and steadfastness in your efforts in organizing and

in carrying out regional developments. If our beliefs and convictions of the national interest are jeopardized you must defend with self-sacrificing valor. The self-sacrificing valor is based on patriotism. We will be able to overcome any obstacles or difficulties if we have a true belief in patriotic and self-sacrificing spirit. The over 24 million members of the organization should not only be quantitative but also qualitative since they are to be the model citizens contributing to the welfare of the State.

Prevalence of Peace and Stability of the State, economic might of the people and State and Human Resources Development are essential requirements in building a new State. While understanding these

A total of 17 armed groups who have come to understand and realize Government's pure and venerable goodwill have returned to, one by one, the legal fold, and are presently joining hands with the Government for the development of their areas. National Reconsolidation has now reached a breadth and solidity that has never been achieved before under any previous age or time.

requirements, we have declared a Seven-Step Road Map towards a democratic State. The Seven-Step Road Map is the only means to smooth transition towards a new State.

Now, the convening of the National Convention which is the first and crucial step of the Seven-Step Road Map was successfully convened on 3 September 2007. The convention was able to lay down the fundamental principles and detailed basic

principles to be enshrined in the new State Constitution. National Convention was successfully convened despite the difficulties during its long session. It was a national success, as over 1000 representatives from eight strata held plenary discussions in adopting fundamental principles for the future of the State and its people. This success paved the way for a strong footing in our march towards a new State.

We will notice

that there are differences in history, tradition, culture and geopolitical background of each country in building a democratic State, implementation should be based on the requirements beneficial to the State and its people. All of you along with the people of various states and divisions have held mass rallies unanimously in support of the National Convention and the upcoming new State Constitution. It is also learnt that the citizens of all walks of life from wards and quarters have held mass rallies denouncing destructive acts that hampers the peace and stability and development of the State. Now, we have started to

The State is assisting and encouraging agricultural productivity. The Tatmadaw Government has built 204 dams, 305 river-pumping projects, and 7569 wells and 1023 tanks to fulfill one of the basic requirements for agriculture, irrigation. In 1988 irrigated area was 1.487 million acres but now increased up to 4.9 million acres.



The Marle Nattaung Dam in Singu, Mandalay Division.

Chinese Special Envoy meets SPDC's Spokes Authoritative Team



State Peace and Development Council's Spokes Authoritative Team holds a meeting with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Wang Yi, Special Envoy of PRC Government. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov—The Special Envoy of the Government of the People's Republic of China, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Wang

Yi visited Myanmar from 14 to 16 November. He had a meeting with the State Peace and Development Council's Spokes Authoritative

Team, comprising of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Labour U

Aung Kyi. At the meeting, the two sides had a frank and in-depth exchange of views on issues of common interest. Both sides spoke highly of the progress of mutually beneficial cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and other areas in recent years. Both sides expressed their willingness to make joint efforts in developing Sino-Myanmar traditional "Pauk-Phaw" friendship, deepening mutually beneficial cooperation and advancing bilateral ties for the benefit of the two peoples.

The Myanmar side said that it firmly pursues the one China policy; regards Taiwan as an inseparable part of China; and opposes all separatist activities for "Taiwan Independence". The Myanmar side briefed the Special Envoy on current political situation in Myanmar, and reaffirmed that they will, according to the desire of the Myanmar people as a whole, take positive and pragmatic measures to accelerate the "Seven-Step Road Map". At the same time, they assured the Chinese side that they will

continue to make every effort for the maintenance of stability, economic development, flourishing of democracy and the improvement of the people's livelihood.

The Chinese side on its part, reaffirmed its principled position on Myanmar. China supports the efforts made by the government and people of Myanmar to achieve political reconsolidation and improve their people's livelihood, and hopes that Myanmar will be able to resolve the current issues through coordination so as to speed up the democratization process. He continued to say that China, meanwhile, will continue to support the mediation efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and his Special Adviser Mr Gambari, and hopes that the international community will provide positive and constructive assistance to Myanmar in accordance with the norms of international relations. It is China's sincere hope that political stability, economic development and tranquillity would be achieved in Myanmar, he said. — MNA

Contests for the disabled on 26-30 Nov

YANGON, 16 Nov—As a gesture of hailing International Day for the Disabled, which falls on 3 December, contests for the disabled will be held here from 26 to 30 November.

Wickerwork contest for the blind will be conducted at Khawechan School for the Blind, in Mayangon Township,

singing contest for the blind at Kyemyindine School for the Blind at No 132, Panpin Kyee Street in Kyemyindine Township, and tailoring contest for the physically disabled and the deaf at the School for the Adult Disable of Social Welfare Department at No 65 on Kyaik Waing Pagoda

Road in Mayangon Township.

Those wishing to participate in the contests may contact the respective schools by 21 November. The prize-winners will be awarded at the International Business Centre (IBC) on 3 December.

MNA

State Dept official, brother linked to Blackwater

WASHINGTON, 15 Nov — The State Department's top investigator recused himself on Wednesday from probes into the Blackwater security firm after discovering — during a break in a congressional hearing that his brother was connected with the company.

Howard Krongard, who began a hearing of Representative Henry Waxman's government oversight committee by denying the "ugly rumours" that his brother "Buzzy" was linked to Blackwater, returned after a recess to say he had just contacted his brother and learned he had attended a Blackwater advisory board meeting.

"I had not been aware of that. And I want to state on the record right now that I hereby recuse myself

from any matters having to do with Blackwater," Krongard, who acts as an independent internal investigator for the State Department, told the panel.

Waxman's committee is examining allegations by current and former officials in Krongard's office that he thwarted probes into waste, fraud and abuse in Iraq, including alleged arms smuggling by Blackwater, which protects US diplomats and other State

Department officials in Iraq.

In September, the private security contractor denied it was involved in illegally shipping automatic weapons and military goods to Iraq after a report that federal officials were investigating.

Republicans belittled Waxman's investigation, saying the only thing he might pin on Krongard was an abrasive management style.

MNA/Reuters

China opens for proposal on east China Sea issue

BEIJING, 15 Nov — China said on Tuesday it held an "open attitude" for proposal that would help resolve the East China Sea issue. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao made the remarks at a regular Press conference when answering a question concerning the 11th consultation between China and Japan on oil and gas

exploration in the East China Sea to be held in Tokyo on Wednesday.

Hu Zhengyue, director general of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, and Kenichiro Sasae, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, will attend the consultation, according to Liu.

He said China attached great importance to the consultation and would continue to push it forward with a positive and pragmatic attitude.

"We hope Japan will make the same effort to promote the consultation," he said, adding that only joint efforts from the two countries could help in reaching an agreement.

MNA/Xinhua

Ukraine denies receiving planes of CIA at its air bases

KIEV, 16 Nov— The Ukrainian Defence Ministry rejected state-ments by some western politicians that planes of the CIA landed at a Ukrainian air base on Wednesday. "Ukraine's air bases have never received planes of the CIA," Andriy Lysenko, head of the Press service of the Defence Ministry, told reporters in Kiev.

"Statements on the matter are absolutely ungrounded, incompetent and look simply absurd," he said. Reports surfaced in Western media on Wednesday that Giovanni Claudio Fava, the Euro-pean MP investigating the secret operations of the CIA in Europe, said that CIA aircraft landed at an air base in Ukraine.

MNA/Xinhua

Large number of children suffer diabetes in EU nations

STRASBOURG, 16 Nov— More than 31 million European Union citizens are affected per year by diabetes, with 70,000 children suffering Type I diabetes, European Parliament President Hans-Gert Poettering said on Wednesday.

He said this in statement in Strasbourg, France after receiving diabetes sufferers and representatives of international bodies dedicated to fighting diabetes.

“Today the European Parliament is marking World Diabetes Day by drawing attention to the particular challenge of diabetes in children and adolescents in the EU.”

“We want to contribute to raising awareness about

this disease which affects over 31 million EU citizens per year.

Of particular concern are the 70,000 children under 14 who develop Type I diabetes annually,” Poettering noted.

Today is the first World Diabetes Day, which was

officially recognized by the United Nations, according to a EP news release.

Poettering welcomed Diabetes Youth Representatives from 16 EU member states to the European Parliament.

“Parliament is hosting

young people, experts and other stakeholders in Strasbourg,” he said in the statement.

He urged the EU to “assist those dealing with this disease which affects young people in all of our member states”.

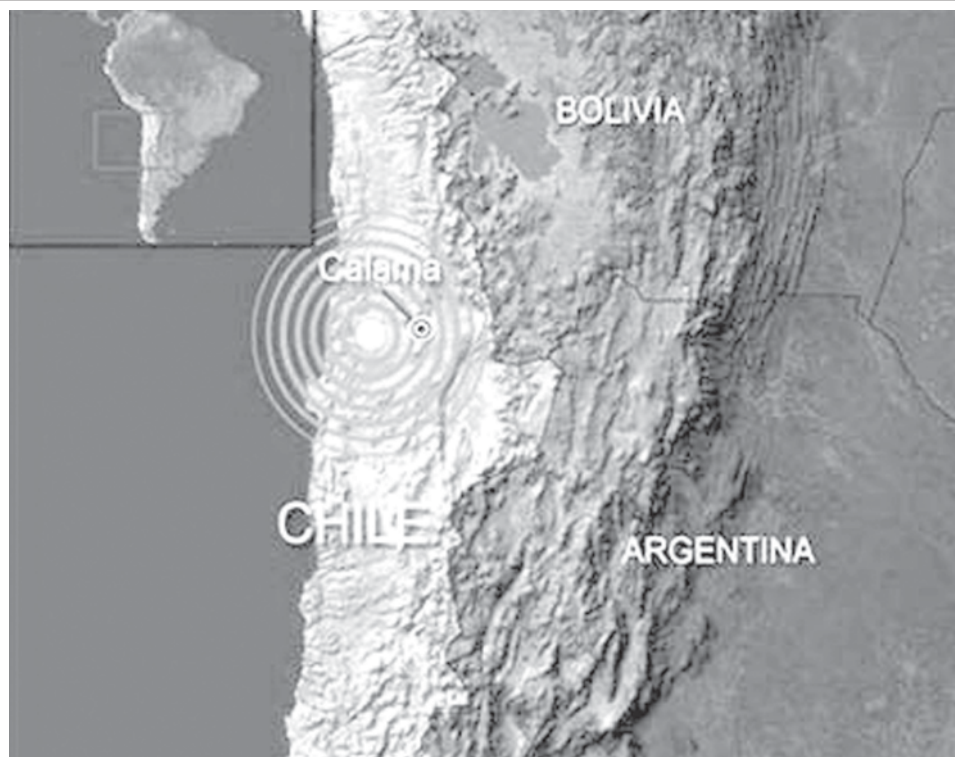
MNA/Xinhua

Cyprus, Turkmenistan set up diplomatic ties

NICOSIA, 16 Nov — Cyprus announced on Wednesday that it has set up diplomatic relations with Turkmenistan.

The two countries’ permanent representatives to the United Nations signed a document on Tuesday in New York for the establishment of diplomatic relations, said an official statement released here.

The two ambassadors expressed their satisfaction with their countries’ decision to reinforce bilateral ties and friendly relations with the forging of diplomatic relations. — MNA/Xinhua



A strong earthquake measuring 7.7 Magnitude rocked northern Chile on Wednesday but no casualties have been reported so far. — XINHUA

Two new earthquakes jolt Chile

SANTIAGO, 16 Nov — Northern Chile was banged on Thursday by two new earthquakes, the first a 6.2 Richter-Scale quake and the second a stronger 6.8 Richter-Scale quake, Chile’s University Seismic Institute reported on Thursday.

The aftershocks came one day after the country was struck by a 7.7 magnitude temblor that killed two people and left thousands homeless.

The Institute said that the first occurred at 12:03 local time (15:03 GMT) and the second 10 minutes later.

On Thursday, President Michelle Bachelet’s life was endangered while she was at the site of Wednesday’s 7.7 Richter-Scale quake.

The strong replicas surprised the Chilean President in northern Chilean city of Tocopilla on Thursday when she was visiting the affected regions, Chile’s Emergency National Office (Onemi) reported on Thursday, although it has not reported damages nor victims for Thursday’s two quakes. — MNA/Xinhua

Armed men abduct Iranian engineer in Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 Nov— Unknown armed men have abducted an Iranian engineer in Afghanistan’s western Herat Province, local police said Wednesday.

“Unidentified armed men kidnapped an Iranian railway engineer in Ghorian District of Herat Province on Tuesday afternoon,” Noor Khan Nikzad, spokesman of police in Herat, told Xinhua via phone.

The engineer was working with Iran railway network, said Nikzad, who however did not give more details.

Teheran had been planning to connect the Islamic Republic of Iran with Herat in west Afghanistan.

No official from Iran Embassy in Afghanistan or from Afghan Interior Ministry was immediately available to make comment.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese official granted Leadership Award for energy development

ROME, 15 Nov— A senior official from China’s Ministry of Science and Technology on Wednesday received an Excellency in Leadership Award for developing hydrogen energy.

Xu Jing, deputy director-general of the Department of Development and Planning from the ministry, was presented with the award at the World Energy Congress in Rome.

Xu was awarded for his vision and leadership in facilitating the transition to the hydrogen economy in China and China’s involvement in the global hydrogen and fuel cell community.

“This is the recognition of China’s achievements and efforts in developing hydrogen energy and other clean energy,” Xu told Xinhua after the awards

ceremony.

According to Xu, the Chinese Government has invested around 880 million RMB (about 118 million US dollars) in electric vehicles, half of which is dedicated to the development of hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles.

Together with Xu, Geir H Haarde, Prime Minister of Iceland, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for developing hydrogen energy.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Koreas to start cargo trains by year-end

SEOUL, 16 Nov — North and South Korea agreed on Thursday to set up their first regular freight train service over the heavily armed border in more than half a century.

South Korea has been pushing to restore rail links that had been cut by the 1950-1953 Korean War so

it could shuttle items to an industrial park it operates just north of the border where its companies use cheap North Korean labour and land to make goods.

The agreement to run regular freight trains later this year came at a meeting of prime

ministers from the two states, technically still at war, being held in Seoul, a South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman said.

“We are currently discussing the specific timing,” Kim Nam-sik told reporters without elaborating on what “regular” meant. — MNA/Reuters

A tropical fish meanders through the sea waters of Kurumba island in the Maldives, on 12 Nov, 2007.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Ronaldinho injury improves but still a doubt for Brazil

TERESOPOLIS, Brazil, 16 Nov— Ronaldinho's ankle injury has improved but he remains doubtful for Brazil's World Cup qualifier away to Peru on Sunday, team doctor Jose Luis Runco said on Thursday.

The Barcelona playmaker briefly took part in a practice game on Thursday but left the field early as planned. "The injury has improved, it has progressed but he still has some limitations," Runco told reporters. "He felt a certain amount of insecurity and discomfort in the ankle and it is exactly this which we are looking at." Runco said he continued to estimate Ronaldinho's chances of playing in Sunday's game in Lima at around 70 per cent. — MNA/Reuters

Zaragoza beaten by lowly Potentvedra in King's Cup

MADRID, 16 Nov — Primera Liga side Real Zaragoza slumped to an embarrassing 1-0 defeat at Third Division Potentvedra in the first leg of their King's Cup tie on Wednesday.

The 2006 finalists, who lifted the trophy in 2001 and 2004, were caught on the break when the Segunda B side's Argentine midfielder Victor scored 10 minutes from time in the last 32 round game.

At the start of the season, Zaragoza were tipped as a side to watch but they

have already been dumped out of the UEFA Cup and lie eighth in the league after an inconsistent start to their campaign.

The all-Primera Liga clash between Valladolid and Real Murcia finished 1-1 after Brazilian striker Fernando Baiano's goal just after the break was cancelled out by Valladolid midfielder Diego Camacho five minutes later.

Javier Camunas scored a late winner for Recreativo Huelva in a 1-0 away victory at Second

Brazil coach says I needed courage to make tough choices

TERESOPOLIS, Brazil, 16 Nov — Dunga, who has given Brazil a meaner streak since taking over as coach, said he simply had the courage to make the tough decisions that were necessary.

Players like Ronaldo and Adriano, criticized for being lethargic and off the pace, have been sidelined by the former captain who has imposed a strict code of discipline.

Ronaldo has not played at all under Dunga while Adriano has made only one appearance.

"I think my biggest virtue during this time was I did what had to be done, and which all Brazilians said had to be done," Dunga told reporters on Thursday as he continued preparations for Sunday's 2010 World Cup qualifier in Peru.

"A lot of people didn't have the courage to take these decisions and I'm here to take them, to think about the team."

Dunga took over after Brazil's lacklustre performance at last year's World Cup in Germany where they lost 1-0 to France in the quarter-finals.

Brazil have lost twice in 21 matches under Dunga and won the Copa America in Venezuela in

July despite the absence of Ronaldinho and Kaka, who asked to be rested.

They have also taken four points from their opening two matches in World Cup qualifying.

"The players know they're here to serve the team with pride, passion and happiness," said Dunga. "Everyone has his space, they all want to play, but the decision is the coach's."

Despite good results, Dunga has been criticized for Brazil's sometimes pragmatic style and he has a prickly relationship with the media.

"My failing is I think things have to be transparent and I don't like personal advantages," he said.

"I'm very frank and transparent. If I was more cynical, more politically correct, perhaps it would be better." — MNA/Reuters

Elvis helps Changchun seal first China title

SHENZHEN, 15 Nov — Honduran Elvis Scott scored twice as unfashionable Changchun became champions for the first time by demolishing Shenzhen 4-1 in the final round of Chinese Super League (CSL) matches on Wednesday.

China's Wang Dong and Brazilian forward Ronny also netted in the first half to help the Northern club clinch the title in only their second year in the top flight.

Beijing Guoan needed to beat defending champions Shandong Luneng and hope Changchun slipped up. A 1-0 win in the Chinese capital meant they finished second, one point adrift.

"We've been longing for the title for a long time, we're so excited," said Changchun and China midfielder Du Junyu after celebrating with about 1,000 fans who had made the long trip down from Jilin Province.

MNA/Reuters

Milan boss doubts Arsenal's Euro credentials

MILAN, 15 Nov — AC Milan boss Carlo Ancelotti doubts Arsenal have the necessary experience to win this season's Champions League.

The English Premier League side have made an impressive start to Europe's top club competition, qualifying for the knockout stage with two group games to spare.

"Arsenal play well and they are getting excellent results, but the Champions League is decided in spring," Ancelotti, who led Milan to victory in the competition last season and in 2003, told *La Gazzetta dello Sport* on Wednesday. Arsenal had lots of young, enthusiastic players but experience was crucial when the competition headed into its latter stages, he added.

"It's necessary to know how to handle the pressure and tension in the best way. I don't know if they are trained for this."

Ancelotti said his team were the second strongest in the Champions League behind Barcelona.

He added he had no problems with Ronaldo, who has recovered from a leg injury that has kept him out so far this season, despite some recent late shows at training that earned the Brazilian forward a fine.

"Otherwise, I'm happy with how Ronaldo has regained fitness," he said. "He has suffered and worked a lot. It's a sign that he wants to return to be important for Milan quickly". — MNA/Reuters



Huang Hsiao Chien from Chinese Taipei competes for women's Nangun at the 9th World Wushu Championships in Beijing, capital of China, on 15 Nov, 2007. —INTERNET

Hargreaves ruled out of England's friendly against Austria

LONDON, 16 Nov — Manchester United midfielder Owen Hargreaves has been ruled out of England's friendly against Austria on Friday. Hargreaves is being rested in the hope he recovers from tendinitis in time for England's European Championship qualifier against Croatia on November 21. The Football Association said on Wednesday that Hargreaves will return to Manchester for treatment. Hargreaves played in United's 2-0 win over Blackburn in the Premier League on Sunday but was substituted in the 76th minute. England will fail to qualify for Euro 2008 if Russia defeats Israel in a qualifier and Croatia avoids a loss against Macedonia on Saturday when England is idle. — MNA/Xinhua

Argentina tell fans to lower expectations for Bolivia tie

BUENOS AIRES, 16 Nov — Argentina's players asked their fans on Thursday to lower their expectations for Saturday's World Cup qualifier at home to Bolivia.

Argentina are the only team to have taken maximum points from their two opening games in the South American group while Bolivia let in five goals in their visit to Uruguay last month.

The Bolivians have one point, have yet to score and have lost all previous nine matches away to Argentina.

Midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme recalled that Argentina were criticized for failing to add to two first-half goals in their 2-0 win over Chile last month.

"The supporters are like that in Argentina ... it's never good enough," he told reporters.

"Against Chile, they said it would be difficult, then they complained that after going 2-0 ahead we stopped attacking."

Forward Carlos Tevez also played down thoughts of a big score.

"If we start thinking about scor-

ing a lot of goals, we're going down the wrong path," he said.

"The first thing we have to think about is playing a good game."

Striker Hernan Crespo added: "We can't think about scoring the third goal before we've scored the first."

Defender Nicolas Burdisso warned against underestimating the visitors. "We have to respect Bolivia, as with all other opponents."

"Bolivia have little to lose and much to win."

MNA/Reuters

Report says Chelsea to bid Ronaldinho with 60 million euros

MADRID, 16 Nov — Chelsea are ready to offer Barcelona 60 million euros for their midfielder Ronaldinho, *Catalan sports* daily Sport reported on Thursday.

The newspaper said Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich is "convinced that the signing of Ronaldinho would be magnificent from all points of view" and has made it a top priority for the next season.

Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon has discussed the English side's interest in the player with Barcelona officials on the sidelines of meetings of the G14, which represents 18 of Europe's top clubs, it said.

Ronaldinho has come under fire in the Spanish Press this season for some abject performances on the pitch and unprofessional behaviour off it. — MNA/Xinhua

China urges talks, not sanctions, to deal with Iran

BEIJING, 16 Nov — Iran has the right to a peaceful nuclear energy programme and is not seeking atomic weapons, China said on Thursday, while urging talks to resolve the dispute over Teheran's nuclear intentions.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Teheran earlier this week, during which the two countries vowed to boost ties.

That pledge is likely to irritate Western powers, who are pressuring China — a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council — to agree to tougher

sanctions on oil-producing Iran over its nuclear ambitions.

“Yang said China believes that Iran has the right to peaceful use of nuclear energy and appreciated Iran's reiteration that it does not have the intention to develop nuclear weapons,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a news conference.

China has consistently said that sanctions are not the way to resolve the dispute, but has also called on Iran to be more compromising in cooperating with Western powers and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

On Thursday, Liu repeated China's call to Iran to cooperate with the IAEA and to strengthen contact

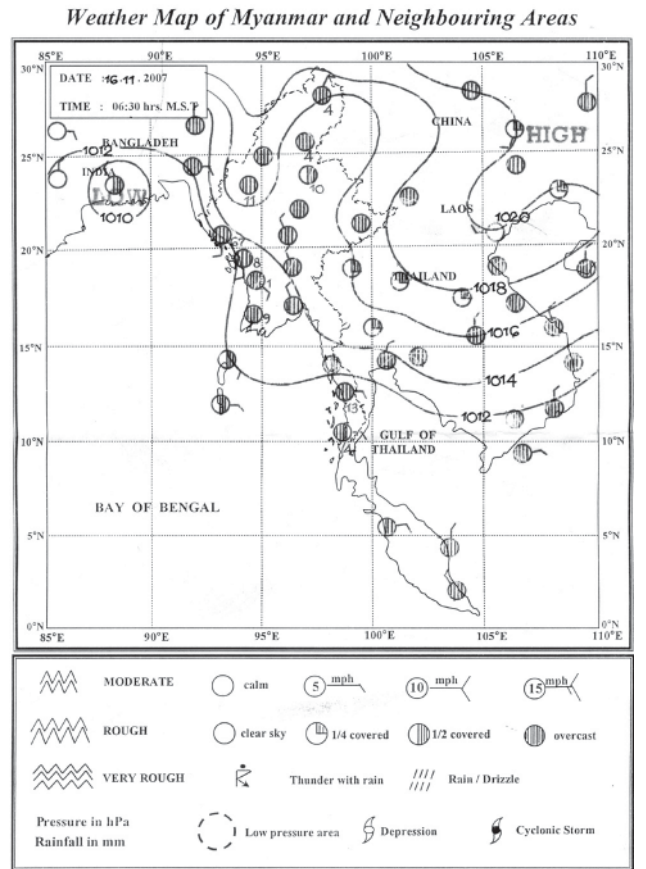
with the European Union.

Washington, which says Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons, has been pressing for tougher sanctions, but Liu would not comment directly on the US handling of the issue.

“Countries must deal with their differences based on mutual respect and equality and following the principle of international law,” he said.

“I believe the international community must decide the purpose of Iran's nuclear plans through peaceful negotiation.”

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Friday, 16 November, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin, Chin States and upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan State and lower Sagaing Division, isolated in Ayeyawady Division with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (4°C) to (5°C) below November average temperatures in upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) below November average temperatures in Kayah State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above November average temperatures in Shan and Mon States and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Maungtau (5.95) inches, Sittway (2.64) inches, Kyauktaw (1.85) inches and Kyaukpyu (1.02) inches. The significant night temperatures was Haka (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 15-11-2007 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 16-11-2007 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 16-11-2007 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 15-11-2007 was (7.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 16-11-2007 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.46) inches at Mingaladon, (140.83) inches at Kaba-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southeast at (17:30) hours MST on 15-11-2007.

Bay inference: The very severe cyclonic storm “SIDA” over the North Bay has moved to Northeast direction, has crossed the West Coast of Bangladesh near (BULDANA) at yesterday mid-night and reached inland. It is forecast to move northeast direction and weaken slowly over land. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea, North and East Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-11-2007: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be widespread in Kachin, Chin States and upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine States, scattered in lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Mon, Kayin States and Mandalay Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60) %.

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 17-11-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60) %.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-11-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-11-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60) %.

Weather outlook for third weekend November 2007: During the coming weekend, isolated rain or thundershowers are possible in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

Armoured piercing roadside bomb kills US soldier in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 16 Nov — An American soldier was killed and five other were wounded when a sophisticated armoured piercing roadside bomb exploded in Baghdad, the US military said on Thursday.

The Multi National Division - Baghdad soldiers were attacked by the explosively formed penetrator, or EFP on Wednesday in central Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

EFP, first developed during World

War II, is a special type of shaped charge designed to penetrate armour effectively.

US officials frequently accused Iran of providing Shiite militia in Iraq the weapons, including the EFP, which was denied by Iran.

The latest death brings the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to about 3,865 since the outbreak of the Iraq war in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua



Saturday, 17 November
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music -Morning star
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music -And the story goes
- 8:50 am National news
- 9:00 am Music -Hopelessly addicted
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music -O lover
- 1:30 pm News /Slogan
- 1:40 pm Music at your request -Swear it again
- 9:00 pm ASEAN news Exchange news from ASEAN member countries
- 9:20 pm Myanma culture...Dr Khin Maung Nyunt -Shwe Nandaw Monestery
- 9:30 pm Souvenirs -Love is a many splended thing
- 9:45 pm News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Saturday, 17 November
View on today

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am 5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:05 am 6. Musical programme
- 8:15 am 7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am 8. ဆွာချောင်းရေလှောင်တံ
- 8:30 am 9. International news
- 8:45 am 10. Grammar made easy
- 11:00 am 1. Martial song
- 11:25 am 2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am 3. Games for children

- 11:50 am 4. Round up of the week's TV local news
- 12:40 pm 5. “ကိုယ်ချင်းစာ” (ပြေတီဦး၊ ခင်စာခြည်ကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဦးခင်စော်)
- 1:10 pm 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 1:20 pm 7. (၄၄)ကြိမ်မြောက် ရုပ်ရှင်သက်ကြီးပုဇွန်ပွဲ အခမ်းအနား
- 1:30 pm 8. Dance of national races
- 1:45 pm 9. (၂၄)ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်မည့် မြန်မာအားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ
- 2:00 pm 10. Musical programme
- 2:15 pm 11. “ပေါင်ပေါ်ကျတံစိုး” (ရဲအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းနိုင်၊ ညီညီမင်းထက်၊ ဘုန်းလှိုင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ဝိုင်းစုခိုင်သိန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်မြင့်လွင်၊ မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
- 2:30 pm 12. အသွင်သဏ္ဍာန်တောက်သည့် သခင်ကန်ပေါက်တံစား
- 2:45 pm 13. International news
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm 2. Song for uphold national spirit
- 4:30 pm 3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခမောဒ အထူးပြု) (ရက္ခမောဒ)
- 4:45 pm 4. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 4:55 pm 5. မြန်မာ့လေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ
- 5:10 pm 6. Games for children
- 5:30 pm 7. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 6:00 pm 8. Evening news
- 6:30 pm 9. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 10. အလှူရှာမယ်လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်
- 7:00 pm 11. နောင်ချိမြို့နယ် ဆန္ဒမဲအဖွဲ့ သင်ကြားစက် စီမံကိန်း
- 7:05 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “နေပြည်တော်” (အပိုင်း-၈)
- 8:00 pm 13. News
- 14. International news
- 15. Weather report
- 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်စရာပျိုကညာ” (အပိုင်း-၂၁)
- 17. မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီးဦးဝိစိတ္တသာရာတိဝံသာ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ မေတ္တာဘာဝနာပွားများဖြင့် တရားတော်
- 18. The next day's programme

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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

Senior General Than Shwe hosts dinner in honour of representatives to USDA AGM, outstanding youths

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov — Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe hosted a dinner in honour of representatives of state/division/district/township USDAs and outstanding youths who attended the USDA Annual General Meeting 2007 at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, this evening.

The Senior General arrived at the dinner at 6.50 pm and warmly greeted by representatives of state/division/district/township USDAs, regional coordinators of USDA Headquarters, outstanding students who stood from 1st to 10th positions at the matriculation examination (See page 7)



Senior General Than Shwe greets outstanding youths to USDA Annual General Meeting 2007 at the dinner at Bayintnaung Yeiktha. — MNA

SSA Brigade-19, SSN SR-7 PNG, HRDWG, Phayagon SRPG, KNLPPA and KNPDP issue announcements

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov—Mr Gambari, the special adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General, released a statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her behalf in Singapore on 8 November.

Political parties and national race armed groups, which have returned to the legal fold, are releasing announcements to express their disagreement and objection to the points stipulated in the statement.

Among the announcements sent to the dailies, those of Shan State Army Brigade (19), Shan State (North) Special Region (7) Palaung Nationalities Group, Homein Region Development and Welfare Group, Phayagon Special Region Peace Group, Kayan New Land Party Peaceful Association and Kayinni National Peace and Development Party are as follows:—

**Shan State Army Brigade (19)
Announcement**

Letter No. 01/19 Htu/2007
Date: 15 November 2007

Brigade 19 of Shan State National Army realizing the goodwill of the Tatmadaw and supporting its endeavours returned to the legal fold on 11-6-1995. Hand in hand with the Tatmadaw, the Shan State Army has been able to carry out development tasks of its region with added momentum.

The regional development brought about political awareness among national races. Hence, it has abandoned the armed struggle line and exchanged arms for peace on 27-6-2005. Members of the Shan State Army attended the National Convention as delegates of the national race delegate group.

The Union of Myanmar is home to over 100 national races. The Shan State Army firmly believe that every national race needs to put in the fore Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty—for perpetual existence of the State.

The NLD meeting (12-11-2007) resolution quoted Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as saying that the desires of ethnic groups as NLD's responsibilities. We are against the resolution.

Therefore, we with Union Spirit hereby announce that we will actively participate in the drive for the realization of the seven-step Road Map under the leadership of the Tatmadaw.

Shan State Army
(See page 6)