

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends alms offering ceremony



Lt-Gen Myint Swe presents offertories to a Sayadaw at a ceremony to donate provisions to monasteries and nunneries. — MNA

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

YANGON, 20 Nov — Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) families and wellwishers donated provisions and funds to 21 monasteries and 4 nunneries at Maha Atula Saddhamma Ranthi Sasana Beikman on Kyaikkhauk Pagoda Road in Yangon South District, on 18 November.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony.

Present on the occasion were Presiding Sayadaws and senior nuns of monasteries and nunneries in Yangon South District, senior military officers, departmental heads, chairmen of district and township peace and development councils, members of religious and social organizations and donors.

First, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party received

the Five Precepts from State Ovadaçariya Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita U Jagara of Minnkyaung Monastery in Kyauktan.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence offered robes and offertories to State Ovadaçariya Minnkyaung Sayadaw. Senior military officers also offered alms to the members of the Sangha.

On behalf of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) families, three senior military officers of (Army, Navy and Air) offered provisions to Sayadaws and senior nuns.

Commissioner of Yangon Division General Administration Department U Hla Soe offered rice to Sayadaws donated by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and officials accepted a

total of K 17,544,111 donated by wellwishers. They also gave certificates of honour to the well-wishers.

Afterwards, Lt-Col Myo Naing of Yangon Command explained the purpose of the donation.

Member of State Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Gandavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Pandavabhivamsa of Maha Mizzimayon Pariyatti Monastery in Thanlyin delivered a sermon. The congregation shared the merits gained and the ceremony came to an end.

The donations including 300 bags of rice, 500 viss of oil, 2,400 viss of salt, 478 viss of chick pea, 795 boxes of salt, 1,460 boxes of traditional medicine and K 17,544,111 were presented to the monasteries and nunneries.

MNA

INSIDE

The arid zone situated in central Myanmar constitutes about 10 per cent of the total area of the nation. The Nine-District Greening Project was put into action in 1994 to regenerate the arid zone. Then, the project was expanded to cover as many as 13 districts.

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PERSPECTIVES

Weather Forecast for 21-11-2007

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas
Generally fair weather.

Yangon and neighbouring areas
Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (40%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Generally fair weather.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 21 November, 2007

Grow trees extensively for regional greening

The government conserves the nation's natural resources systematically. Now, it is nurturing more than 60,000 square miles of forest reserves and protected natural forests for sustainable progress of the forests across the nation.

So far, the government has established over one million square acres of forests including special teak plantations, tree plantations for commercial purpose, tree plantations for village firewood, tree plantations for producing industrial raw materials, and watershed tree plantations.

The arid zone situated in central Myanmar constitutes about 10 per cent of the total area of the nation. The Nine-District Greening Project was put into action in 1994 to regenerate the arid zone. Then, the project was expanded to cover as many as 13 districts.

Many dam clusters were built in the arid zone and local farmers come to grow crops extensively with the use of the water from the dams. So, that contributes towards the greening of the arid zone and anti-desertification.

Myanmar's natural resources play an important role in the drive for national development and economic growth. Thus, the natural resources are to be harnessed the most expeditiously.

The government is taking measures in a systematic way for environmental conservation and protecting forests. Therefore, local organizations and people should grow more and more trees and conserve the nation's forests that serve as an engine for the greening of the region concerned.



Sonboon and Vichitra of Bangkok, Thailand donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Yangon recently. Prof Dr Daw May Win Aung Khin, a member of executive committee of the Home, accepts the donation. — H

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

Minister meets Saman Corporation CEOs

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe received Representative/CEO Mr Kim Ham Seok of International Agricultural Development Institute, Myanmar (IADIM) and CEO Mr Lee Sung Min of Saman Corporation and Party of People Republic of Korea at Ministry of Transport here this morning. They also discussed to cooperate between two countries for development on the harbour and airport services. — MNA

Ambassador U Thein Lwin presents credentials

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Nov — U Thein Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Kim Yong Nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on 7 November 2007 in Pyongyang.

MNA

Families of NPE offer Kathina robes

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov — Under the patronage of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win, staff and families of News and Periodicals Enterprise held its 2nd Kathina robes offering ceremony at Shwe Inn Yeiktha Monastery in Sayasan Ward in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon on 16 November.

It was attended by Managing Director of NPE U Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Aye, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing, Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U



Managing Director of NPE U Soe Win and wife offer Kathina robes to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Aung Nyein, Deputy Director-General of Myanmar Radio and

Television U Thein Aung, guests, and service personnel.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa* and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw of the monastery Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Nemindha.

Afterwards, the

Managing Director and the congregation donated Kathina robes and alms to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

The Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained and day meals were offered to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

MNA

No longer want to be NLD members

14 members of Sagaing Township NLD quit

YANGON, 20 Nov — A total of 14 members of Sagaing Township National League for Democracy — U Htay Saung, U Thein Lwin, U Nyo Maung, U Htay Hlaing, U Than Win, U Kyaw Aye, U Thit Lwin, U Kan, U Hla Aung and U Myint Ngwe of Paukma Village, U Shwe Baw, U San Maung, U Mutu and U Chit Maung of Daungma Village — quit NLD of their own accord yesterday, sending their resignation letters to NLD Headquarters and local authorities.

In their letters sent to Sagaing Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-committee, they said that they no longer wanted to be members of NLD. That was why they quit the NLD of their own accord, they said. — MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Ahmadinejad calls for removing US dollar as oil trading currency

RIYADH, 19 Nov— Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said here on Sunday that it is necessary to replace US dollar with other major hard currencies in oil trading.

Ahmadinejad made the remarks at a news conference in the third summit of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries' (OPEC) in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

"There should be a credible and good currency to take over US dollar's role and to

serve oil trades," he said. Oil producing countries are not benefited much from the current oil prices, said he, attributing it to the devaluation of US dollar and the high taxation imposed by Western banks.

"The money had come to a handful of super-rich capitalist," he said, calling for the establishment of a specialized bank named "OPEC bank" to safeguard the interest of OPEC member states in the oil trading.

Hugo Chavez, Vene-

zuelan President, firstly put forward the idea of "OPEC bank" in the summit's opening speech on Saturday, saying that OPEC can make research of new resources and seek more cooperation to reduce the climate changes.

Regarding the Gulf situation, Ahmadinejad ruled out the possibility of a new war in the region, saying that if any power did it, it would commit huge mistakes and would be unable to manage the war.

MNA/Xinhua

British Prime Minister's support rate plummets

LONDON, 19 Nov—The support rate for British Prime Minister Gordon Brown fell greatly with ruling Labour slipping further behind the Conservatives.

The latest YouGov poll on some 2,000 voters found Labour Party is trailing David Cameron's opposition party by six points, which has doubled

last month's margin, the Sky news reported on Sunday.

Brown's individual standing declined due to sustained criticism of his 11th-hour decision against calling an autumn election and heightened consumer fears about the economy and house prices.

Brown's personal

support rate has fallen from its height of 48 per cent in the summer to 30 per cent last month.

Some 60 per cent thought he was doing a good job last month compared to 29 per cent who said he was doing badly. Now only 33 per cent believed he is doing a good job.

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Chavez says "empire of dollar is crashing"

TEHERAN, 20 Nov — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Monday the "empire of the dollar is crashing", a day after his country and anti-US ally Iran advocated action over the weakening US currency during an OPEC summit in Riyadh.

Chavez, who on Saturday said oil prices

could double to 200 US dollars per barrel if the United States attacks Iran over its disputed atomic ambitions, spoke to reporters after talks with his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Teheran.

The two leaders agreed to set up a joint Iranian-Venezuelan bank and also signed deals to

boost cooperation in the oil, petrochemical and industry sectors, Iranian media reported without giving details about the accords. Ahmadinejad — whose country is under banking and other international sanctions over its nuclear programme — on Sunday called the US dollar a "worthless piece of paper" and Chavez took a similar line on Monday.

"Soon we will not talk about dollars because the dollar is falling in value and the empire of the dollar is crashing," Chavez said in comments translated into Farsi from Spanish.

"Naturally, by the crash of the dollar, America's empire will crash," Chavez said at a joint news conference with Ahmadinejad.

MNA/Reuters



A girl holds a giant sweet potato harvested from a farm in Tangyin County, Central China's Henan Province, on 18 Nov, 2007. This root vegetable weighs more than 10 kilograms, surprising local villagers. — INTERNET



Storm survivors stand on the banks of the river Paira in Mirzaganj, Bangladesh, on 18 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET

Bangladesh storm toll over 3,000, millions suffer

DHAKA, 20 Nov — Four days after super cyclone Sidr killed more than 3,000 people in Bangladesh, rescuers struggled on Monday to reach isolated areas along the country's devastated coast and give aid to millions of survivors.

"The tragedy unfolds as we walk through one after

another devastated village," said relief worker Mohammad Selim in Bagerhat, one of the worst-hit areas. "Often it looks like we are in a valley of death." The confirmed death toll from the cyclone reached 3,113 by Monday, while 3,322 are injured and 1,063 missing, Lieutenant-Colonel Main

Ullah Chowdhury told reporters in Dhaka.

He said two C-130 aircraft of the US Marine Corp arrived in Dhaka on Sunday night with medical supplies.

Media reports said the death toll had already crossed 3,500, and was likely to rise sharply.

MNA/Reuters

Afghan police destroy four heroin labs

KABUL, 19 Nov— Afghanistan's Special Counter-Narcotic police have destroyed four heroin labs and more than five tons of contraband in

eastern Nangarhar Province, a statement of Afghan Interior Ministry said.

"Personnel of Counter-Narcotics Force in their efforts against illicit drug raided Achin District late Thursday and destroyed four heroin labs besides confiscating more than five tons of contraband

including 44 kilos of heroin and 3,550 kilos of ammonium chloride used in manufacturing the drug," said the statement released on late Saturday.

In the statement, the ministry stressed that the government is determined to eradicate opium poppy in the war-torn country.

MNA/Xinhua



Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (R) shakes hands with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas during their meeting in Jerusalem, on 19 Nov.— INTERNET

Thai social violence on rising trend

BANGKOK, 19 Nov— A Thai health official said on Sunday that signs of violence in Thai society are on a rising trend with 3,086 persons having died violently and 216,037 people being wounded in 2006.

Prat Boonyawongvirot, permanent secretary of the Public Health Ministry, was quoted by the official *Thai News Agency* as saying that compared to statistics in 2002, the number of people killed and wounded last year rose 20 per cent and 30 per cent respectively.

He said that in 2006 men suffered critical injuries at a rate between six to seven times more often than women, with the majority of them as young men, aged between 15-29.

Some 35 per cent of the attacks were domestic, taking place inside homes,

and 29 per cent took place on the street.

Most of the victims were either stabbed or shot, said the permanent secretary, adding most of the attackers were either the husband or other family members in the family, and alcoholic drinks and narcotics were

implicated in most of the incidents.

Such disturbances in the social fabric have caused significant losses to Thailand's economy and society, with an economic cost estimated at as much as 36.69 billion baht (1.11 billion US dollars) annually. —MNA/Xinhua

US-led troops kill 23 militants in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Nov — US-led forces have killed 23 militants during weapons searches in southern Afghanistan while two coalition soldiers and their interpreter died in a bomb blast, the foreign forces said on Saturday.

As rebel casualties mount, there are scant signs their insurgency to topple the pro-Western

Afghan Government and eject foreign forces is weakening, but instead there have been more clashes this year compared to 2006 and spread over a wider area.

Coalition forces searched compounds in the Garmser District of Helmand Province looking for weapons.

"Several armed militants threatening coalition

forces were engaged and killed during the course of this operation," a US military statement said.

Another 11 suspects were detained, it said.

Afghan troops killed more than 10 Taliban fighters in the Zherai District of the southern province of Kandahar on Saturday, the provincial police chief said.

MNA/Reuters



Baton Rouge firefighters continue fighting a fire Monday, Nov 19, 2007 at the Mirage Villa Apartments in Bat.

INTERNET

Stranded tourists evacuated from mountain resort in S-W China

KUNMING, 19 Nov— More than 100 tourists stranded by a snowstorm at a mountain resort in Deqin County in south-west China's Yunnan Province, were evacuated on Sunday when the road was reopened, a local government source said.

The tourists, mainly from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong Province, were left stranded on Wednesday when heavy snow started to fall in the Bamang Snow Mountain area, a major part of the Shangri-La scenic district under administration of the Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture.

The combination of snow and strong wind triggered landslides, cutting off the only road linking Deqin with other counties in the prefecture.

The snow, 40 centi-

metres deep on average, continued to fall until Friday morning and cut off power and communications in the area.

During their time in Deqin, the tourists were provided with sufficient food and clothing by the local tourism authority,

said Adain, director of the local tourism bureau, who goes by a single name.

When traffic reopened on Sunday morning, most of those evacuated went home by bus while a few stayed behind to enjoy the snow. No casualties were reported. —MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi police and soldiers display assorted arms and munitions recovered in Diwaniya, 180 km (110 miles) south of Baghdad, on 19 Nov, 2007.

Iranian-made weapons were among a large cache of arms and ammunition found during operations in a Shi'ite militia stronghold south of Baghdad, the Iraqi army said on Monday.— INTERNET

Saudi Arabia gas pipeline fire kills 28

RIYADH, 19 Nov— Twenty-eight people were killed when a fire broke out in a gas pipeline near the Hawiyah gas plant in Saudi Arabia overnight, Saudi Aramco said on Sunday.

The state oil company said in a statement the fire was caused by a gas leak in the pipeline around 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the natural gas liquids plant, but has since been brought under control.

The death toll includes five Aramco employees.

Western diplomats said most of the dead appeared to be Asian workers along with at least one Lebanese national. They said no Western victims had been identified. "It appears to be an accident rather than an act of sabotage," one diplomat said.

Aramco is undertaking projects to boost output at the natural gas liquids recovery plant in Hawiyah.

The Hawiyah programme will produce 310,000 barrels of ethane and NGL products by 2008, through the plant and an expansion of the Juaymah gas fractionation plant near Ras Tanura.

The project will provide petrochemical feedstock to the industrial cities of Jubail and Yanbu in the kingdom, the world's largest oil exporter.

Aramco sources said the fire was unlikely to cause serious delays to the Hawiyah project, as it broke out some distance away in the Haradh-Othmaniya area.

MNA/Reuters

(from page 16)

Shan State National Army, Brigade-6

Announcement

Letter No. 01/6-htoo/2007

Date: 15 November 2007

After realizing the genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw Government, the Shan State National Army (Brigade-6) returned to the legal fold on 11 June 1995 to serve the interests of the race and religion of the Shan nationals and build unity among the national races. It unconditionally exchanged arms for peace on 23 July 2005. It joining hands with the Tatmadaw Government is undertaking regional development tasks with might and main supporting the Tatmadaw Government.

Our nationals believed in Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the National Solidarity and Perpetuation of the Sovereignty after keeping political outlooks and awareness dynamic.

The Shan State National Army, Brigade-6 hereby declares that it will participate in the implementation of smooth transition to democracy with the developments of the State without forming alliance and cooperating with any person or party.

Brigade-6

Shan State National Army

Announcement of Tamoenye/Lonhtang/Shaukhaw People's Militia (Local)

Letter No. 01, Ta Ma Nya-La Hta-Ra Hta, 2007

Date: 15 November, 2007

Tamoenye/Lonhtang/Shaukhaw People's Militia (Local) was formed in Kutkai Township, Shan State (North), on 13-10-1972 to ensure security and the rule of law and to carry out regional development work under the leadership of the Tatmadaw.

In the past, we worked together with the Tatmadaw to put an end to the internal insurgency and to ensure community peace in the region. Upholding 'Our Three Main National Causes', we are still working with Union Spirit for security and regional development according to the guidelines laid down by the government.

Now, the meetings are being held between Minister U Aung Kyi, appointed as Minister for Relations, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi with a view to forging national reconsolidation and we welcome these meetings.

The 12 November 2007 statement by the National League for Democracy implies that it would represent the wishes and interests of political parties, political forces and national races and it was their duty. In reality, it is against our wishes and therefore we do not accept it.

We announce that we will work in cooperation for successful realization of the seven-step Road Map under the leadership of the Tatmadaw Government. We hereby announce that we Militia (local) groups will continue to take part in implementing the State's seven-step Road Map under the leadership of with the Tatmadaw government.

Tamoenye Militia (Local) Group Lonhtang Militia (Local) Group Shaukhaw Militia (Local) Group

Panhsay Militia (Local) Group, Namhkam

Announcement

Letter No. 1001/Pa Hsa/2007

Date: 15 November 2007

Panhsay Militia (Local) Group in Namhkam Township, Shan State (North), was set up as an organization on 21 May 1975 to combat insurgents. Later, it was reorganized as the anti-insurgent organization. Then, it was reconstituted as Panhsay Militia (Local) on 29 October 2001.

Our group joined the Tatmadaw and fought against insurgents inside and outside the country in the past. Now, with the leadership of the Tatmadaw, it is taking cooperative measures in the drive for the regional development and security of Panhsay.

Our group totally opposes one of the points in the statement the National League for Democracy released on 12 November 2007 that it represented the affairs of all national races.

With the leadership of the Tatmadaw, Leshaw national race and other national races residing in Panhsay upholding Our Three Main National Causes, we hereby announce that we will steadfastly participate in the drive for realization of the seven-step of Road Map.

Panhsay Militia (Local) Group

Shan State (North) Kunlong Township Special Force

Announcement

Latter No 2007-8/07

Date 14th November 2007

With the aim of contributing to restoration of law and order in the State, Kunlong Township Special Force was organized in 1975 under the name of Thaka-sa-pha (14) and the force was reorganized as the Special Force comprising 106 members on 14th April, 1989. Since then, the Special Force, joining hands with the Tatmadaw (Armed forces), has participated in regional development tasks and has been safeguarding the area.

Myanmar is home to 135 national races. Kunlong Township Special Force believes that all ethnic groups are to uphold Our Three Main National Causes. The statement released by the National League for Democracy and broadcast by foreign media said that it is NLD's duty to give serious considerations to the interests of the ethnic groups, and it does not comply with the desire of Kunlong Township Special Force.

We hereby announce that we will steadfastly continue our efforts for successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map under the leadership of the Tatmadaw.

**Special Force
Kunlong Township**

Magway Division USDA will constantly participate in the drive for equitable development, peace and stability and seven-step Road Map



**Executive of Magway Division USDA
U Kyaw Thu Oo. — MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov— The Annual General Meeting 2007 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held on the campus of University of Veterinary Science, here, from 12 to 16 November.

On the first day session, Executive U Kyaw Thu Oo of Magway Division USDA reported on accomplishment of the tasks of the USDA in a year.

In his report, he said that the realization of ongoing seven-step Road Map of the State is the most peaceful path to the national reconsolidation and democracy for the emergence of a new modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in the future.

The first step of holding the National Convention completed successfully. The State

Constitution to shape a new democratic nation will emerge very soon based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that have been laid down by the National Convention.

A ceremony to support and welcome the National Convention and State Constitution was held at the new airport of Magway on 7 October 2007 and over 110,000 people from respective townships of Magway Division attended it and denounced the protests that undermined the peace and stability of the State.

At a time when our country is improving in the political field, economic and social fields, internal and external destructive elements and foreign radio stations instigated workers, farmers, student and the public as well as young monks to create unrest in the country like "1988" disturbance. However, some 304,306 from 25 townships of Magway Division favouring and supporting peace, stability, development and nation-building endeavours expressed their desire denouncing destructive acts and protests.

In building a new modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, it needs such basic requirements as peace, stability, strong economy, and national education. Now, Magway Division has increased its sown acreage to 2.9 million, built 36 dams and 23 water pumping stations. In addition, the division raises cultivation capacity every year. Rice sufficiency in the division is 96.9 per cent now. Some 1,323,046 physic nut plants have been grown in 25 townships of the division.

There are 2141 industries in the division. Yenanchaung and Pakokku industrial zones have been established. Some 874 industries and factories with the investment of over K 7,178 million are run and three-

wheeled motorbikes exported.

There are 3875 basic education schools and 795 post-primary schools with over 620,000 students. Over 52,000 students are attending 14 universities and colleges with peace of mind. With 62 hospitals, a traditional medicine hospital and 18 traditional medicine treatment centres, the division is improving health care services.

The division has now witnessed 1808 miles of motor road, 500 miles of railroad and 408 bridges of over 180 feet. Magway Division USDA provided free medical treatment to a total of 4918 eye patients spending K 8.93 million in Minbu, Natmauk and Yenangyoung townships. A total of 1541 bottles of blood were donated to 1231 patients. Rice, edible oil and clothes worth K 2.482 million were donated to the flood victims in Pakokku, Yenangyoung and Chauk townships. Refreshments, medicines and personal goods worth K 650,000 were provided to the inmates in Thayet Prison.

The rural telephone lines have been extended to 270 from 110 in the division and 53 Satellite Terminals have been set up in the remote villages and regions. The division association spent over K 16.9 million on transportation, over K 189.4 million on supplying water, over K 29.7 million on education, over K 13.9 million on health and over K 16.8 million on supplying rural power in the implementations of rural development tasks.

All in all, Magway Division USDA will constantly participate in the drive of equitable development, peace and stability and the seven-step Road Map through Union spirit, patriotic spirit, national spirit.

MNA

For clean water supply, Division USDA sinks 33 artesian wells, eight tube-wells and digs 26 lakes together with local people



**Joint Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA
U Myo Myint. — MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov— Joint Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA U Myo Myint in his presentation said that the association sponsored courses on national culture and morals for over 900,000 youths. It also conducted vocational training course, efficiency promoting course, sports training and music course for

over 1 million youths at 4,790 venues.

Likewise, it conducted DLD (Diploma for Leadership Development) course and relevant courses, held the 13th Communal Kathina robes offering ceremony at Maha Vissudhayon Kyaungtaik and donated over K 6.5 million. Furthermore, it donated provisions and medicines to monasteries in Mandalay Division and offered meals worth K 15.8 million to members of the Sangha.

In an effort to ensure rural development, Mandalay Division constructed eight earth roads with a length of 131 miles and four gravel roads with a length of 61 miles. And it constructed four small bridges.

For clean water supply, USDA sank 33 artesian wells, eight tube-wells and dug 26 lakes together with local people. In cooperation with social organizations and departments, it took part in school enrollment activities which realized achievement by 96.60 per cent.

At the same time, it upgraded 49 schools spending over K 70 million with the help of social organizations, it donated furniture worth over K 93.9 million to basic education schools. And it donated K 11 million towards the funds of Myingyan Degree College, K 10 million towards the funds of Myingyan GTI, K 2.5 million for

Meiktila Education College and Nursing College.

Together with the Information and Public Relations Department, it opened 5,448 rural libraries in 5,743 villages. To keep pace with changes and developments, it opened Public Access Centre (PAC) for youths.

In the health sector, it opened three rural health care centres and upgraded the old ones. And it opened "Amara Clinic" in Mandalay and donated K 10 million for construction of a dispensary in Zagyan village, Myingyan Township. It disbursed loans of K 435.2 million to farmers under the programme of USDA Headquarters. Under the guidance of the Head of State, it grew over 13 million of physic nut as a national task.

To impart knowledge to local people, it published weekly Nanmyint journal, Shwe Mandalay journal, Mantaungyeik journal and Myanada journal. Since its birth, Mandalay Division USDA has been carrying out social and religious tasks in the interest of the people in the division.

In conclusion, he gave a pledge that members of Mandalay Division USDA will continue to exert strenuous efforts for success of its objectives and future work programmes under the leadership of the association. —MNA

Together with its congenial organizations, USDA visited prisons and quarries, attended to needs of inmates



**Executive of Mon State USDA
Daw Thiri Myo.** — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov—Executive of Mon State USDA Daw Thiri Myo in her presentation said

that Mon State USDA actively took part in social welfare tasks while providing aid to victims of disasters. From September 2006 to August 2007, it provided over K 8.5 million and in kind to strong wind victims, K 75,000 and kinds to flood victims and K 609,600 and in kind to fire victims. Having formed a blood donor association, it donated 2,096 bottles of blood.

In cooperation with specialists, it provided free medical treatment to elderly persons and rural people and conducted health educative talks.

It sponsored free medical treatment 15 times provided to 581 patients and costing K 430,000 in medical expenses.

In providing clean water supply in rural regions, it sank 13 artesian wells in Mawlamyine, Thanbyuzayat, Kyaikmaraw and Mudon Townships. In the education sector, it donated 620 bags of cement and 733 sheets of corrugated iron for schools, furniture,

textbooks and exercise books, five sets of computers, two printers and stationery. Moreover, Region In-Charge the minister also donated furniture worth over K 28 million to ten townships. It also donated K 2.7 million to the Education College and K 2.7 million to the Nurses Training School.

In supplying the electricity to rural areas, it implemented a hydel power station at a cost of K 15 million in Kwanhla Village, Mudon Township.

Together with its congenial organizations, USDA visited prisons and quarries where it attended to the needs of inmates. It visited those places five times and donated personal items and medicines worth over K 720,000.

In conclusion, she said Mon State USDA with Union Spirit will do its best in the drive for all-round development under the leadership of the State and supervision of its patron.

MNA

Rakhine State USDA provides K 34-million-worth relief to disaster victims, K 1.9-million-worth aids to inmates in jails in Rakhine State



**Executive of An Township USDA
Daw Tin Tin Khine.** — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Nov — Annual General Meeting 2007 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at the Veterinary Science University in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin, here, from 12 to 16 November. Daw Tin Tin Khine, Executive Member of An Township USDA of Rakhine, reported on tasks carried out in a year.

She said the government is building a peaceful, developed and discipline flourishing democratic country. In doing so, the government laid down the seven-step Road Map. The National Convention, which was the first step of the Road Map, was successfully

completed, and the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles were also laid down at the convention. A rally to support the National Convention and the constitution was successfully conducted at Dhanyawady Sport Ground in Sittway on 12 October with active participation of over 70,000 residents.

In addition, Rakhine national races had denounced the recent protest in the country.

USDA has sent its youth members to foreign countries so that they can gain experiences and can maintain friendly relations with international youths. So far, 21 members of Rakhine State USDA have been sent abroad.

Regarding the social and cultural sector, members of Rakhine State USDA took part in social welfare tasks including religious activities and also contributed cash to social welfare tasks.

As regards the health sector, over 15,000 members participated in vaccination activities and provided free health care services to people in the State.

Rakhine State USDA also conducted Rakhine cultural courses and contest of English proficiency and extempore talks, and members of the association also took part in traditional cultural performing arts competitions, respect paying ceremony to aged persons and Rakhine traditional new year festival.

Rakhine State USDA had provided relief aid worth over K 34 million to disaster victims in the region and medicines, clothes and aids worth about

K 1.9 million to inmates in the jails in Rakhine State.

Regarding the education sector, Rakhine State USDA provided cash to 36 needy students at higher education level and upgraded 12 schools at a cost of over K 2.46 million and provided cash to 1,366 basic education students and school uniforms and stationery worth over K 450,000 to school-age children.

The association donated prescribed textbooks to students in 10 townships in the State.

Regarding the health sector, 10 clinics were set up in rural areas at a cost of over K 28.3 million. As part of efforts for supplying drinking water to the people, 11 lakes were dug at a cost of over K 5.6 million in the state. Moreover, the association provided K 2.43 million to responsible officials to upgrade seven lakes in the state.

As part of power supply to rural areas, Rakhine State USDA had established 32 paddy husk-fuelled power stations in 32 villages in the state.

Regarding the transportation sector, members of Rakhine State USDA participated in construction of the 5.7-mile long earth road and seven wooden bridges in the state.

The association also played a role in establishing the self-reliant libraries and donated periodicals, journals and magazines to Information and Public Relations Department. Besides, Rakhine State also conducted the library courses to turn out librarians.

MNA



Joint Secretary-General of USDA U Zaw Min.
MNA



Secretariat Member of USDA U Tin Htut.
MNA

Delegates of states and divisions discuss findings...

(from page 16)

It is required to sharpen the abilities of the members in order to achieve the Association's future plans, and to conduct more training courses at state/division, district and township levels for human resource development.

The Association took part in national level celebrations such as the 59th Anniversary Independence Day commemorative ceremony, the 60th Anniversary Union Day commemorative ceremony, and the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, and successfully organized the mass rallies to support the National Convention and upcoming constitution from 29 September to 15 October 2007.

The associations at different levels are required to cooperate and coordinate in harmony to complete administrative tasks. In the 14 years, the Association's work efficiency has become brilliant.

The Administration Department has been formed with five divisions and 176 staff.

The Association engaged in social welfare service. So, members should not do any activities that can tarnish its image, and should work in an honest way.

She suggested that rules and regulations the Association has set up should be explained to the members and train them to handle cases in accordance with rules and regulations.

State/division USDAs should model themselves on the ways the Central Level Association is applying to minimize the expenses in the financial sector.

Secretary U Myint Kyaing of Kawhmu Township USDA in Yangon Division submitted the findings of group-2 in the education, social and cultural sector. He said that it is heartening to note that the journals and Myanmar Gonyi Magazine compiled by the Education Group and published by the Headquarters represent the Association and feature the efforts the Patron and leaders are making in the interests of the nation, and the activities of members. As a result, members and the people have come to know the prevailing situations of the nation and exaggerated news stories certain foreign media have aired. He suggested that ways should be sought to distribute these journals and magazines to division and township offices in a shorter period, and Myanmar Gonyi Magazine be published bimonthly instead of quarterly. Another journal about international affairs should be published. The journals and magazines should carry religious chapters.

The Education Group's most important function is to publish a daily newspaper under the leadership of the Association. Daily newspapers play a key role in rebutting destructive elements' broadcasts designed to

attack the nation and the Association.

The Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and the International Telegraphs Organization have founded a rural communication centre at Phaunggyi, Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, to reduce the development gap between rural and urban areas and to improve the communication sector of the region. If the centre make progress, the communication services will be extended to state and division level. A region like Sagaing Division should be given priority in providing communication facilities.

Now, self-reliant village libraries are being opened extensively to raise the education standard of rural people. So far, more than 50,000 village libraries have been established across the nation. Nearly 20,000 of them have become fine buildings. Plans are under way to build libraries in the remaining villages.

Social welfare tasks should be carried out with the organizing outlook. State/division associations have contributed towards sanitation works and religious rites at pagodas, temples and monasteries from October 2006 to September 2007. He suggested that the Association has formed a free funeral service association and set up funds, and provide more micro finance for the farmers and more relief for natural disaster victims.

Emulating the success Minbu District USDA in Magway in giving free treatments to local people with eye complaints, other state and division associations should contribute towards giving free treatments to local people suffering diseases especially those in far-flung regions.

He suggested that the Association continue to organize the people by providing assistance to needy students in various states and divisions and to inmates in the jails, and contribute towards the sports, literacy and arts services.

In order to represent the entire people, the Association should sharpen the abilities of the members in the organizing sector.

In conclusion, he urged the members to carry out social and cultural tasks actively with national outlook, nationalistic spirit, and patriotic spirit.

Secretary of Papun Township USDA of Kayin State U Saw Win Htein in his presentation on the findings at the discussion on economic sector said that the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation is the ultimate goal of the State. The State, the Tatmadaw and the people are making relentless efforts for realization of that objective. Consequently, marked progress has been made in all spheres of the nation.

In practicing market-oriented economic system, the government has laid down and is implementing the four economic objectives while striving for the emergence of joint ventures, cooperatives and public companies. Permits were granted to domestic and foreign investments

for development of private sector. In line with one of the economic objectives which calls for the initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples, the State-run businesses were sold and rent to national entrepreneurs. The government has laid down and is implementing the 30-year long-term plan from 2001 to 2031 for development of national economy.

Being agro-based nation, priority is being given to development of agriculture. In the process, 204 dams and reservoirs were built across the nation along with 298 river water pumping stations. The sown acreage increased to 46.34 million from 23.8 million in 1988. The paddy production increased to 1477 million baskets of paddy in 2007 from over 630 million baskets of paddy in 1988. And Myanmar has become a leading exporter of pulses and beans among ASEAN nations.

In building a modern and developed nation, emphasis is being placed on development of the industrial sector. Regarding this, altogether 22 industrial zones were set up. At present, there are a total of 800 State-run factories and about 80,000 private mills and workshops. Therefore, the number of factories and mills has increased significantly when compared with that of 1988 in which there were only 624 State-run factories and 35,000 private mills and workshops.

For better transport, more motor roads, village-to-village roads, village-to-town roads, railroads and bridges were built and the old ones upgraded. In the same way, more jetties and airports were built. The number of airport increased to 38 from 21 and that of jetty increased to 24 from 13 in 1988. The number of the 180 feet and above bridges increased to 426 from 198 in 1988. In the communication sector, more telephones, telegraphs, and communication devices of international level emerged.

For improvement of the living standard of people, power consumption increased to over 5,000 unit million from 1518 unit million in 1988 and that of hydel power station increased to 36 from 14 in 1988.

At a time when efforts are being made for economic development, imposition of sanctions on the nation bears only evil consequences that directly have impact on the people. Hence, it would be better for some foreign nations to provide aids to the nation rather than imposing economic sanctions on her.

For rural development, the 24 special development zones and the five rural development tasks are being implemented to bring about equitable development across the nation. Being a member of UN, Myanmar has further strengthened cooperation with the international community as well as with ASEAN and countries in the region. But some big nations and their lackeys criticized Myanmar saying that Myanmar people have to struggle daily for fulfilling their food, clothing and shelter needs. The accusation is totally contrary to the prevailing situation of the nation.

Myanmar has enjoyed unprecedented achievement in all sectors. At a time when process of transition to democracy is on-going, those who are eager to grasp the State power through short cut incited unrest and violence on the pretext of the fuel price hike. Actually, fuel price in the nation is not high when compared with that of other nations.

Now I would like to report on the USDA's participation in the endeavours for national economic development. The Association operates its economic ventures with its own funds and human resources and in accordance with the four economic objectives laid down by the State.

The USDA Central Executive Committee saves the income of its businesses in banks as funds for the Headquarters, state/division organizational work, human resources development, public relations and information and communication networks. This indicates the farsightedness of the CEC.

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Delegates of states and divisions discuss findings...

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During the monsoon paddy cultivation season, the USDA Headquarters disburses agricultural loans to farmers who constitute the majority of USDA membership. The loans amounted to 2,000 million in 2006 and 3,000 million in 2007. Thus, the Association has attracted the interest and commanded



Daw Thazin Aung of Magway Division.

the trust of rural people. And it is heartening to note that disbursements will be increased in the future not only for paddy but also for other crops.

As the Headquarters is doing its bit to boost national economy, so are the associations at different levels working for regional economic development by establishing farms, taking measures for increased agricultural production and taking part in the construction of dams and bridges.

As Myanmar is rich in aquatic and terrestrial resources, the associations at different levels will have to be mainly engaged in such industries as agriculture and livestock breeding. In addition to paddy, beans and pulses, green tea, coffee and pepper should be grown on a manageable scale.

There can be no political development without economic development and vice versa. Therefore, efforts will have to be made for parallel development of the economic and political sectors.

The seven-step Road Map is now being implemented for the emergence of a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accordance with

the wishes of the Union nationals, prevailing conditions of the nation and international developments.

Working for the perpetuation of national policies and successful realization of the seven-step Road Map is working for the promotion of national interests.

With its membership now reaching more than 24 million (almost 50 per cent of the population), the Union Solidarity and Development Association



U Myint Kyaing of Yangon Division.

is a national organization that is in oneness with the people.

In conclusion, I would like to call on all members of the Association to translate into reality the economic objectives laid down by the Annual General Meeting (2007) in order that social and economic status of the entire nation will be enhanced, he said.

In his report on successful implementation of national policies, Maubin Township USDA Secretary U Than Tun said that the national goal of the entire national people is to build a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In doing so, upholding 'Our Three Main National Causes' and cooperation between the government, the people and the Tatmadaw is the most fundamental requirement.

As evil legacies of the past have been erased, the entire nation is enjoying peace, stability and development and the seven-step Road Map is being implemented.

The National

Convention, the first step of the seven-step Road Map, has been successfully completed. And plans are under way to draft a constitution based on the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the NC. The entire people including USDA members will participate in the process.

It is very important to uphold Our Three Main National Causes and the youth members are required to safeguard them.

In retrospect, the strength of the young people played a main role in building the First, Second and Third Myanmar Empires. Likewise, the history of Myanmar's independence struggles also manifested the strength of the youth.



U Saw Win Htein of Kayin State.

At present also, the strength of over eight million youth members of USDA will be enlisted in building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Myanmar is a nation formed with seven states and seven divisions dwelt by various national races having freedom of religion and preserving their own traditions and cultures.

The safeguarding of the Union is so important. If national unity broke up, the Union would break up and consequently, independence and sovereignty would be lost. This is why national unity is essential. National legacies such as sovereignty and executive, legislative and judicial powers must be kept in the hands of the people.

According to the Head of State, if sovereignty and independence is taken for granted casually, it might be lost in a snap of time.

But to regain it calls for much time and great sacrifices. This is why all the youth members are to know the importance of the duty of safeguarding sovereignty.

The 24.5 million-strong USDA includes eight young members. They are six million students, one million farmers, one million young workers and over 0.2 million technocrats and young businessmen.

During the period underreport, over 3 million young members were trained by opening training courses, workshops and seminars.

The future of the State relies on the improvement of qualifications and skills of the young people. Therefore, measures are being taken for training the young people to be equipped with good leadership and high skills. To enable the young members to be fit themselves and gain



U Than Tun of Ayeyawady Division.

regional knowledge, exchange visit programmes were carried out and a lot of seminars were held. In addition, e-libraries and youth websites have been established.

During the period of 14 years, the young USDA members have been participating in serving the interests of the State and the people in terms of quality or quantity. It is known to all that they are also taking part in the nation-building tasks. As Myanmar is a geographically strategic nation sandwiched between two big nations, she is faced with interference of some powers wanting to dominate Asia as well as the entire world. They are trying to harm peace and stability and national unity

of Myanmar through various wicked ways including media on various pretexts such as religion, ism, economy and racism.

In last September, there occurred disturbances. But the number involved did not even account a thousand and very small if compared with 54 million population. The mass rallies were held across the nation in support of the National Convention and the forthcoming constitution. More than 1.5 million people participated in the rallies in 263 towns and cities. They supported the seven-step Road Map and condemned destructive elements. The number of axe-handles is so small that it cannot compare with the USDA with over 24.5 million members, MWAF with over 3 million, MMCWA with over 5 million, MRC with over 2 million and MWVO with over 150,000.

All the young people will know that unscrupulous foreign journalists and mediemen are fabricating news about Myanmar ignoring its prevailing conditions. So it is duty of all the people to guard against any act to



U Soe Win of Yangon Division.

harm Our Three Main National Causes.

All in all, all the young members are to participate in successfully carrying out national policies and implementing the seven-step Road Map.

Then, Dagon Myothit (North) Township USDA Secretary U Soe Win reported findings by Group 5 at the seminar that focused on organizational sector to enable the people to support the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention.

He said now is the time when people are

participating in the government's endeavours for the emergence of a peaceful, modern developed, discipline flourishing and democratic nation. Each and every nation in the world has a constitution to see to national, economic and social systems. It is called State Constitution. In a transition from an old system to a new one, the constitution must be enduring and in tune with modern systems. Looking back to the previous constitutions, the 1947 Constitution was drawn hastily in order to be free from the colonial bondage before regaining independence, and it had to be approved by the Constitutional Hultaw. The Revolutionary Council (Tatmadaw) took over State power on 2 March 1962 as the nation is on the brink of collapse. Consequently, the 1947 Constitution became defunct.

The 1974 Constitution was drawn only after Myanmar had regained her independence. The constitution was drawn after holding a referendum. As this constitution was also incommensurate with the prevailing conditions of 1988, it became defunct. The 1988 unrest had driven Myanmar into a state of losing her sovereignty and independence.



U Kaul Hlyan Htan of Chin State.

It is known to all that the Tatmadaw had to unavoidably take over the State duties in order to tackle the then situation of Myanmar.

In multi-party democracy transition, it is necessary to practise democracy properly and correctly. In doing so, the constitution is of utmost importance.

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In order to draw a constitution the coordination meeting for holding the National Convention attended by representatives from the State Peace and Development Council, leaders of political parties and independent representatives-elect, was held in June 1992. At the meeting, it was agreed to invite eight delegate groups.

The National Convention commenced on 9 January 1993. During the two weeks, the fundamental principles and the detailed basic principles were laid down.

All delegate groups were collectively and actively engaged in the meeting but NLD tried to seek a dialogue and walked out of the National Convention with the intention of grabbing power through short-cut. That was why the NC had to be adjourned on 31 March 1996.

However, the Tatmadaw government was able to overcome all hindrances, and publicly declared the seven-step Road Map of the State in August 2003 for the emergence of a new constitution.

As a first step of the Road Map, the National Convention was reconvened on 17 May 2004. Though the 1993 National Convention was held with a total of 702 delegates, the 2004 National Constitution was held with a total of 1088 delegates, reinforcing the national race delegates representing all the national people.

The National Convention was successfully completed on 3 September 2007 despite external and internal destructive elements. In addition, the National Convention had laid down the fundamental principles and the detailed basic principles. It was because of the cooperation of all the NC delegates, their self-sacrifices, their nationalistic spirit, and concerted efforts with union spirit.

At the National Convention, over 1000 delegates from the eight NC delegate groups laid down the fundamental principles only after consulting again and over for the future of the State, concentrating on the past and the present conditions of Myanmar. Hence, it is clear that it has more essence. Good results are obtained, because all delegates took part in the convention concentrating the interests of the nation.

It can be seen that the fundamental principles and the detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention will guarantee all national brethren dwelling in Myanmar equal rights. After the successful completion of the National Convention on 3 September 2007, the mass rallies have been staged across the nation in support of the NC and the incoming constitution.

SPDC formed the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution on 18 October 2007 and this is the third of the seven-step Road Map. Therefore, all the people should realize the goodwill of the government.

Overall, the USDA members are to organize the people to know well and support the fundamental and detailed basic principles.

UMFCCI Vice-Presidents receive Chinese Delegation

YANGON, 20 Nov —The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin received a 12-member Chinese delegation at the office of the UMFCCI, here, on 13 November.

The delegation was led by Division Director Mr Gao Zhengwu of Department of Commerce, Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China.

At the meeting they discussed matters on promoting bilateral trade, border trade and banking services, and opening gem mart and holding wood exhibition in Myitkyina and Muse near Yunnan province for the convenience of Chinese entrepreneurs.

MNA

Firstly, I want to suggest that the 54-member Commission for Drafting the State Constitution should complete the constitution within a reasonable time.

Secondly, as part of efforts for successful holding of referendum, USDA should draw plans for holding ceremonies to clarify the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles so that people can understand these principles.

Thirdly, group discussions should be conducted first so that members of USDA can discuss fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down at the National Convention.

The association should explain about the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles to social organizations.

Social organizations are to meet with grassroot levels to clarify the basic principles.

Media groups are to organize the people via news and periodicals, radio, TV, movie and music to understand the constitution and to support it.

Union Solidarity and Development Association has participated in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation for 14 years.

Members of USDA accept that emergence of the State constitution is a national duty of the people and are committed to strive for success of the building a new nation, he concluded.

During the afternoon session of the third day of the USDA Annual General Meeting 2007, Secretariat Member of USDA U Aung Thuang presided over the meeting along with CEC members of USDA U Maung Maung Theimnand U Aung Thein Lin.

U Kaul Hlyan Htan, Secretary of Falam District USDA, discussed a sector of guarding against the destructive acts which pose danger to the stability and development of the State.

He said national races of Myanmar had guarded against the danger posed a threat to the sovereignty and the independence of the country.

Myanmar had to live under the colonial rule for over 100 years. The national races were united to fight invaders and to safeguard the independence of the country and could overcome the difficulties.

During the struggle for independence, national races had made sacrifices and faced obstacles with patriotic spirit. Myanmar has become a sovereign nation.

Not taking into account the higher military power of the invaders, national races fought back the invaders with the Patriotic Spirit and regained the independence of the country.

After regaining independence, the country had to

face the insurgency and armed attacks of multi-coloured insurgents. There were only 10 battalions in the Tatmadaw (Armed Forces). Members of the Tatmadaw equipped with the Patriotic Spirit could defeat all insurgencies. Due to their patriotic spirit, the people including students joined hands with the Tatmadaw to fight the insurgents.

Moreover, due to the interference of a foreign super power, Kuomintang forces also invaded Myanmar. A pilot of a fighter of Myanmar Air Force sacrificed his life for safeguarding the country in an aerial combat. Those who did not bear the interference of a super power joined the army.

In 1988, the Tatmadaw had to take the responsibility of the State due to anarchy which posed a threat to the sovereignty of the State. Since then, the Tatmadaw Government has made efforts for building a new nation. The government had overcome all obstacles and disturbances.

Some big powers have meddled in internal affairs of Myanmar on the pretext of democracy and human rights. They imposed economic sanctions against Myanmar and have supported anti-government groups and exaggerated news in an attempt to resort to unrest in the country. They accused Myanmar of posing a threat to regional security and put Myanmar issue to UN Security Council. They also provoked Buddhist monks into staging protests recently. We must prevent all destructive acts.

The seven-step Road Map was laid down to build a new nation. The people had conducted ceremonies to support the National Convention and the constitution at 17 places in states and divisions. Moreover, the people also conducted mass rallies to support the Road Map and to denounce the destructive acts across the country. It shows that the people will guard against any destructive acts posing a threat to the seven-step Road Map.

There are over 24 million members in the USDA and over 10 million in other social organizations. Minority want to do destructive acts while majority want to serve the interests of the country.

We believe that without Our Three Main National Causes and Twelve Objectives of the State, we cannot build a new nation. Therefore, we are committed to strive for the success of the seven-step Road Map. We will continue to step up our efforts for stability and development of the State and will guard against dangers posing a threat to development of the country, he concluded.

Afterwards, Joint-Secretary-General of USDA U Zaw Min discussed matters on organizational and management sector and Secretariat Member of USDA U Tin Htut on educational, social and cultural sector and the meeting ended. — MNA

1,705 jade lots sold within four days

YANGON, 20 Nov—Mid-year Gems Emporium 2007 continued at the Myanmar Convention Center on Mindhamma Road, Mayangon Township, here, this morning.



Merchants inspect jade lots at Mid-year Gems Emporium 2007.—MNA

Patron of Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint visited the emporium and cordially greeted the gem merchants.

Altogether 440 jade lots were sold through tender system today. So far 1705 jade lots have been sold from 17 November to today. Remaining jade lots will be sold up to 26 November.

A total of 3596 gem merchants from home and abroad are attending the sales. More gem merchants will arrive.

MNA

Huge jade ore discovered in north China

HOHHOT, 19 Nov— A rare jade mine has been discovered in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and experts are surprised by its huge reserve and high quality of the precious stone.

The jade ore, found in Dashedai in Urad Front Banner, Inner Mongolia, has an exposed part of nearly 30 million cubic metres, according to the local government.

The mine, discovered at an altitude of 1,815

metres, came into being about 1.8 billion to 2.4 billion years ago, according to geological and jewel experts.

The jade, which has been officially named "Shetai jade", is of high quality in terms of rigidity

and the size of the pieces, experts said.

The Urad Front Banner government is discussing how to develop the jade mine and is planning to build a 66-hectare processing centre.— *MNA/Xinhua*



Students of the Baghdad Music and Ballet school perform a dance during a ballet class in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, on 18 Nov, 2007. The school is the only one of its kind in Iraq, offering a formal education as well as specialist classes in music and ballet. — INTERNET



A view of the Eiffel Tower. A portion of the original staircase of the Eiffel Tower was sold for 180,000 euros (264,000 dollars) — 10 times the estimated price — at an auction in Paris on Monday. — INTERNET

International photographic art exhibition opens in E China

HANGZHOU, 19 Nov — An international photographic art exhibition opened on Saturday in Lishui, east China's Zhejiang Province, displaying hundreds of works from photographers both home and abroad.

Three hundred and sixty photographs were selected from a total 38,788 works from 103

countries and regions and exhibited at the 12th China International Photographic Art Exhibition, organizers said.

The works focused on social life, folk customs, natural landscape, por-traits, advertisements, buildings and fashion.

During the exhibition, more than 6,000 photographs from interna-

tional photographic associations and countries such as the Netherlands, Italy, Spain and Australia, will also be displayed.

A photographic cultural festival will also be held during the event, which is sponsored by the China Photographers Association and the Lishui city government.

MNA/Xinhua

Guinea-Bissau stops 52 children being smuggled to Senegal

BISSAU, 19 Nov— Police in Guinea-Bissau have uncovered a child trafficking network which was preparing to send 52 children to Koranic schools in neighbouring Senegal, security officials in the West African country said on Friday.

Police found the children, aged between six and 11, during a search in the town of Bafata, 150 kilometres (90 miles) east of the capital Bissau, following a tip-off.

They were only able to catch one of the organizers as several others fled.

"A network of child traffickers which was preparing to smuggle 52 children to Koranic schools in Senegal was dismantled on Thursday at Bafata," a police official in Bissau told *Reuters*, asking not to be named. Koranic schools, known as Daaras, are

common in Senegal, a mostly Muslim former French colony and one of the most stable economies in West Africa.

As in most of the region, they practise a peaceful, tolerant form of Sufi Islam.

Many Daaras house children from impoverished families in neighbouring countries such as Guinea-Bissau, who send their offspring away in the hope they will receive a religious education and stand more chance of making money in Senegal.

MNA/Reuters

Ukraine mine blast kills 63, 37 missing

DONETSK, Ukraine, 19 Nov — A methane explosion ripped through a mine in Ukraine's Donbass coalfield on Sunday, killing at least 63 miners and leaving 37 missing in underground shafts engulfed by fire and smoke.

A trade union official said there was only a small chance the missing would be found alive after the blast more than 1,000 metres (3,300 feet) underground at Zasyadko mine in Donetsk.

The figures issued by Ukraine's Emergencies Ministry put the accident among the most serious since Ukraine won independence from Soviet rule in 1991.

Post-Soviet Ukraine's most deadly mining accident was in March 2000, when 80 miners were killed in an explosion at a coal mine near the eastern town of Luhansk.



Relatives read lists of victims of a methane explosion at a mine, in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk on 18 Nov, 2007. — INTERNET

Other industrial sectors in Ukraine have

also been plagued by accidents causing loss of life or damage. Relatives wept, and some women screamed uncontrollably, as officials read out lists of the dead at the mine headquarters.

"I've come here to collect my grandson," said one despondent woman in her sixties. "I accompanied him to work yesterday.

Now I want to take him home." Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich flew to Donetsk, his native region, to assess the latest of a long series of accidents in Donbass's outdated mines.

He said a fire was still burning unchecked several hours after the blast. — *MNA/Reuters*

ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (074)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (074) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.11.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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Indian company to build cement factory in Mozambique

MAPUTO, 19 Nov—The government of the southern Mozambican Province of Inhambane has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian company Aar Ess Exim Pvt Ltd, for the building of a cement factory in the locality of Pambara, Aim reported on Sunday. The factory, budgeted at more than 65 million US dollars, would be able to produce 1,000 tons a day, and would employ around 250 workers.

Construction is scheduled to begin next year, and the factory should start operating by late 2009.

According to the managing director of Aar Ess Exim, Rajendra Mishra, Indian technicians will shortly be visiting Inhambane to carry out the economic viability study.

Mishra said that the raw material (limestone) exists in abundance in Inhambane, and he was confident that there is a guaranteed market for the cement.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the provincial governor Francisco Itai Meque said that the cement factory is part of a package of Indian investment in the province. He said that Aar Ess Exim had decided to come to the province following negotiations that the local authorities had undertaken to seek solutions for the problems holding up Inhambane's development.

MNA/Xinhua

Indians dressed as "Soldiers of God" drink milk as they take a break during a procession in celebration of the 539th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikh Religion, in Manila on 18 Nov, 2007.—INTERNET



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Soe Win
Advocate
#0502 Level 5 Sakura Tower
Ph: 255055/255407
For Hilborne, Hawkin & Co.

China to have 12,000 kms of express rail lines by 2020

BEIJING, 19 Nov—China has started construction on 16 new express passenger rail projects and is expected to have 12,000 kilometres of express rail lines by 2020, the Ministry of Railways said on Sunday.

New express rail lines will link up provincial capitals and large and medium-sized cities, as well as cities in the booming Bohai Sea, Yangtze and Pearl River regions.

The construction of such lines is aimed to

substantially enhance the country's rail transport capacities, as stated in the country's mid and long-term plan on railway networks.

The 115-kilometre express rail line connecting Beijing and Tianjin would become the country's first that allows a maximum speed of 300 kilometres per hour. Track laying on the route started just days ago.

The line will be ready for operation in time for the 2008 Olympic Games in August, and will shorten

the journey between Tianjin and Beijing from 70 minutes at present to around 30 minutes, according to Liu Rong, director of the railway construction project.

China's State Council has also approved the feasibility report on the planned 1,318 kilometres high-speed railway linking Shanghai and Beijing after nearly 10 years of preparations. The project, if completed, will be the longest high-speed rail line in the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran warns US against damaging Iran-IAEA cooperation

TEHERAN, 19 Nov—Iran on Saturday warned the United States and some of its allies against damaging "productive cooperation" between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the official IRNA news agency reported.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Abbas Araqchi made the remarks in his meeting on Saturday with foreign ambassadors based in Teheran.

"Iran's nuclear case is moving in a correct course and the IAEA is the only legal body entitled to

follow up the issue," Araqchi said.

"Iran will continue its cooperation with the agency based on its commitments within the frameworks of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)," the Iranian official added.

Araqchi stressed that Teheran believed "there are only six questions which have remained unanswered" about its nuclear programme.

"Iran has so far answered three main questions about its peaceful nuclear activities, particularly those related to its P1 and P2 centrifuges

which were the same as the IAEA findings," he said. A report released on Thursday by IAEA chief Mohammed ElBaradei admitted that Iran has made some progress in revealing the extent of its nuclear programme but still refuses to halt its enrichment activities in defying UN resolutions.

The United States and some other Western countries have been alleging that Iran may try to develop atomic bombs under a civilian cover. But Teheran insists its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

MNA/Xinhua

At least 30 bodies found in Sunni area of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 19 Nov—The bodies of at least 30 people, including women and children, have been found in a mainly Sunni Arab area of Baghdad, police and government officials said on Saturday.

An "Awakening Council" of local leaders, which oversees neighbourhood policing, discovered at least 30 decomposing bodies in the Hay Asia area of Doura in southern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry official said.

The notoriously violent

neighbourhood of Doura has been a stronghold of Sunni Islamist al-Qaeda militants.

The bodies were moved to a mosque and then taken to a police station, the official said. He said they were found in several locations in and around houses.

A police source said the bodies, discovered on Friday, included at least three women and four children. It was difficult to identify them because they were badly decomposed, he said.

Mass graves have been found regularly in Iraq, often containing bodies of those kidnapped and killed by al-Qaeda and other insurgents.

Earlier this month, Iraqi soldiers found at least 30 bodies of men and women in two mass graves in a former al-Qaeda stronghold northwest of Baghdad.

MNA/Reuters

Drive safely



French chef Christian Falco has prepared the world's largest barbecue — spit-roasting a 550-kilo (1,213-pound) camel for 15 hours at a seaside Moroccan town south of Rabat.— INTERNET

ASEAN must integrate more to keep up with stronger economies

SINGAPORE, 18 Nov — ASEAN has to become more integrated and cohesive to keep up with large and stronger economies like China and India, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said here on Saturday.

At the opening ceremony of the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations)

business and investment summit, Lee said ASEAN, which is on its 40th birthday, is bringing forward the target date for realizing the Economic Community by five years, from 2015 to 2020.

“We have developed a blueprint with clear commitments, targets and timelines for implementation, to guide member countries towards the goal,” he said. A declaration of this blueprint is expected to be signed by the leaders at the summit next week.

Lee stressed that an integrated ASEAN will be better placed to strengthen relations with its key trading and investment partners, while ASEAN has been actively negoti-

ating free trade agreements (FTA) with its dialogue partners.

“Much progress has already been made. We have completed the Goods and Services chapters of the FTA with China, and are now working on the Investments chapter. We concluded the Goods chapter of the FTA with South Korea last year, and at the ASEAN-Korea Summit next week, both sides will be signing the Services chapter. With Japan, we have just reached a substantive conclusion in our FTA negotiations. At the same time, FTA negotiations with India, Australia and New Zealand, as well as the EU are underway,” he explained.—MNA/Xinhua

British councils urge speed-up flood defence spending

LONDON, 18 Nov— Spending on flood defences must be speeded up to avoid a repeat of this summer's breaches which cost the economy billions of pounds, councils said on Friday.

The government has pledged to increase spending from 650 million pounds in 2008/9 to 700 million pounds a year later, rising to 800 million pounds by 2010/11.

But the Local Government Association (LGA) said three years was “simply too long to wait”.

The association,

which represents councils in England and Wales, warned that a delay could cost more in the long term.

It made a series of recommendations in its submission to the Pitt

Review, including investment in flood defences and drainage systems, and incentives for householders to take flood precautions.

The Pitt Review was

set up by the government to look at the impact of the floods and how to reduce future risk, with an interim report expected at the end of the year.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesian Govt pledges \$ 3.3b for disadvantaged regions

JAKARTA, 18 Nov — The Indonesian Government will allocate some 30 trillion rupiah (3.3 billion US dollars) next year for the development of disadvantaged regions, a sharp increase from nine trillion rupiah in 2007, an

official said Friday.

State Minister for the Development of Disadvantaged Regions Lukman Edy said the fund was expected to cover the development of some 50,000 underdeveloped villages across the country through empowerment programmes.

“Around 70 per cent of underdeveloped villages don't have basic supporting infrastructure.

People live in isolated areas without access to electricity, clean water and irrigation,” Lukman was quoted by the national Antara news agency as saying in the East Kalimantan capital of Samarinda.

He said the empowerment programme involved local people in all stages areas of the development process; from planning to building.

He said each village would be allocated a fund of up to 250 million rupiah (27,000 dollars) and the residents would be allowed to decide how they would use the money to

develop their area.

The 2007 programme covered around 15,000 villages.

Indonesia has some 73,000 under developed villages with as many as 35,000 in the eastern part of the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Forensic workers stand near debris of a helicopter that crashed in Ensenada in Mexico's state of Baja California on 14 Nov, 2007.
INTERNET



At least 21 wounded in Cairo shopping mall fire

CAIRO, 19 Nov— At least 21 people were wounded in a fire broke out Sunday afternoon at a shopping mall in the Egyptian capital of Cairo, the official MENA news agency reported.

The people injured by the fire at the City Stars shopping mall were admitted to hospitals and some of them were later discharged in stable condition, an official of a local administration director Mohammed Kamel was quoted as saying.

The fire at the shopping mall in the Cairo suburb of Nasr City occurred at about local time 3:30 pm (1330 GMT) Sunday, an official of the fire department told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Fire fighters put out the fire that started on the 5th floor which accommodates the food court and cinema theatres in the evening.

The City Stars is a compound building, including three international hotels, a shopping and entertainment centre, a medical center as well as office and residential towers. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Ecuador coach Suarez quits after World Cup qualifying defeat

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 Nov — Ecuador coach Luis Fernando Suarez resigned on Saturday after his side suffered a humiliating 5-1 loss to Paraguay in a World Cup qualifier in Asuncion.

The defeat, the second in a row in which they have conceded five goals, left them bottom of the South American group with no points from three games.

"There are times when, in spite of all the effort, one cannot find what one is looking for and, thinking in the well-being of the Ecuador team, I have taken the irreversible decision to resign," said Suarez, who led Ecuador

to the second round at last year's World Cup. Suarez, the first coaching victim of the qualifiers, took over from compatriot Hernan Dario Gomez in August 2004 following the Copa America and led his team to the 2006 World Cup finals.—MNA/Xinhua

Knowles/Nestor take doubles' title at Masters Cup

SHANGHAI, 20 Nov — Mark Knowles from Bahamas and Daniel Nestor from Canada clinched the doubles' title at the Masters Cup as they defeated US Open champions Simon Aspelin from Sweden and Julian Knowle of Austria 6-2, 6-3 in the final.

It was their ninth appearance at the circuit finale and their third appearance in the final. Last year they finished runners-up to Bjorkman/Mirnyi. The victory also marked Nestor's 50th career doubles title, Knowles' 47th.

"We played a great match. Everything was clicking today, good serves and returns. Pretty much the way you want to end a season," said Nestor. "I don't know what more to say. We played unbelievable. It's, you know, a huge win for us. It's been a very good year."

MNA/Xinhua

Sierra Leone moves on in World Cup qualifier

LAGOS, 20 Nov — Sierra Leone sealed its place in the 2010 World Cup draw after drawing 0-0 with Guinea Bissau, local media reported. The Leone Stars claimed a 1-0 aggregate victory over Guinea Bissau, which means Sierra Leone will join Djibouti, Madagascar and 45 other African nations in the hat for the qualifying draw for the Africa's first ever World Cup. The draw will take place in Durban on 25 November.

Djibouti qualified for the main draw

by beating Somalia 1-0 in their preliminary qualifier on Friday.

Djibouti is ranked 200th in the world, seven places below its opponents.

Madagascar confirmed its place in the qualifying draw for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa with a 4-0 victory over the Comoros Islands. The scopions won the tie 10-2 on aggregate. World Cup qualifying doubles as the selection campaign for the Nations Cup in 2010, which is to take place in Angola.—MNA/Xinhua

Britain to support India's 2020 bid

NEW DELHI, 20 Nov — Britain will support India's bid for the 2020 Olympic Games, London mayor Ken Livingstone told a conference on Monday.

Livingstone, Sebastian Coe, head of 2012 London Olympic Games body, and Chelsea football club's chief executive Peter Kenyon are part of a high-powered delegation in the country aimed at developing cultural, business and sporting links between London and India.

Indian Olympic association president Suresh Kalmadi announced in April his intention to start work on the bid for the 2020 Olympics after staging the 2010 Commonwealth Games. The effort to host world class sporting events would enhance the opportunity for Delhi and London to develop a relationship and strengthen social, cultural and economical bonding, Livingstone told the conference, according to a statement released by the organizers.—MNA/Reuters

Four Asian nations through to 2010 World Cup qualifying

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Nov — Singapore, Syria, Thailand and Turkmenistan have qualified for the third round of the 2010 World Cup qualifying campaign on Sunday. They join 11 Asian teams who have already qualified for the third round along with the top seeds from the region, namely Australia, Japan, South Korea, Iran and Saudi Arabia who received byes. Singapore held hosts

Tajikistan in Dushanbe 1-1 to move into the next round with a 3-1 aggregate victory while Thailand, who were held 1-1 in the first leg, defeated Yemen 1-0 at home to complete a 2-1 aggregate win.

Syria, who thrashed Indonesia away 4-1 in the first leg, continued their brilliant performance at home, winning the second leg 7-0 in Damascus. Striker Ziad Chabo scored a hat-trick for the West Asians' 11-1 aggregate win, netting in 38th, 43rd and 86th minutes. Raja Rafe scored a brace in the 59th and 90th minutes. Ali Dyab (74) and Jihad Al Hussein (79) contributed a goal apiece in this big victory for Syria.

MNA/Xinhua

Morelia, Cruz Azul reach Mexican quarterfinals

MEXICO CITY, 20 Nov — Cruz Azul and Morelia completed the line-up for the Mexican championship quarterfinal ties by winning their repechage matches.

Cruz Azul hammered defending champions Pachuca 4-0 to win 6-0 on aggregate while Morelia went through 3-1 on aggregate, despite losing 1-0 to America.

Cruz Azul, already 2-0 ahead from the first leg, quickly increased their advantage when Argentine striker Cesar Delgado scored in the 13th minute.

Jared Borgetti snapped up a rebound for the sec-

ond in the 32nd minute and Uruguayan Richard Nunez scored twice in three minutes midway through the second half to set up a quarterfinal with Atlante.

The defeat avoided a possible fixture pile-up for

CONCACAF champions Pachuca, who take part in the Club World Cup in Japan next month. Enrique Estrada scored America's only goal three minutes before halftime against Morelia.—MNA/Reuters

Portugal striker Almeida out of Finland tie

LISBON, 20 Nov — Striker Hugo Almeida will miss Portugal's final Euro 2008 qualifier against Finland on Wednesday through injury. Benfica's Nuno Gomes is to replace Almeida in the team, the Portuguese Soccer Federation said on its official website (www.fpf.pt) on Monday. Almeida, who plays for Werder Bremen, scored the only goal in Saturday's 1-0 victory over Armenia but also injured his right thigh in the game.

Portugal host Finland in Porto knowing a draw will take them through to the finals.—MNA/Reuters

Peru striker Guerrero out of Ecuador match with fatigue

LIMA, 20 Nov — Peru striker Paolo Guerrero has been ruled out of Wednesday's World Cup qualifier in Ecuador with fatigue and illness, an official said on Monday.

The Hamburg SV striker was taken off at halftime during Sunday's 1-1 draw at home to Brazil, although coach Jose del Solar said at the time he had no obvious injury.

"Paolo Guerrero has been subjected to a medical evaluation and the information is that he cannot play Wednesday," Peruvian federation director Jose Mallqui told RPP radio. "He has symptoms of exhaustion, fatigue and the early stages of gastritis."

Peru will also be without the suspended Nolberto Solano, Juan Vargas and Paolo de la Haza.—MNA/Reuters

Russian offers Croatia incentives for beating England

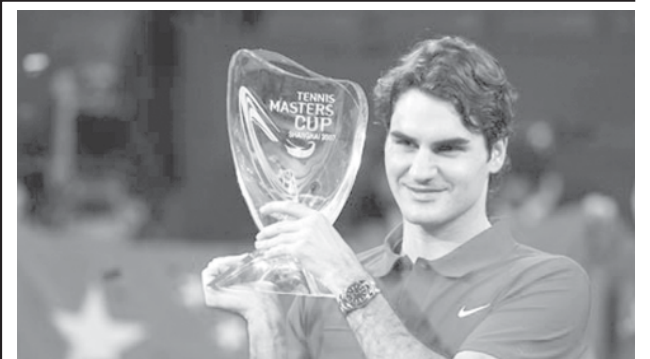
MOSCOW, 20 Nov — A Russian billionaire has offered incentives to Croatia for beating England in their final Euro 2008 Group E qualifier on Wednesday, a result that would give Russia a chance to reach the finals.

Spartak Moscow owner Leonid Fedun said he would donate four Mercedes cars to Croatia's best players if their team comes away with a win at Wembley.

Russia had been in the driving seat following last month's shock win over England in Moscow but lost the initiative after a 2-1 defeat by Israel in Tel Aviv on Saturday. They must now beat Andorra and hope England lose to Croatia.

Not many in Russia, however, believe that already-qualified Croatia, who lost 2-0 to Macedonia in Skopje on Saturday after securing their passage to Euro finals, have the ability to beat England at Wembley.

MNA/Reuters



Switzerland's Roger Federer holds up his trophy after beating David Ferrer of Spain in the final of 2007 ATP Tennis Masters Cup in Shanghai, east China, on 18 Nov, 2007. Federer beat Ferrer 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.—XINHUA

Crouch ready to lead line for England

WATFORD (England), 20 Nov — Peter Crouch is ready to lead England's attack as a lone striker if coach Steve McClaren decides to play it safe in Wednesday's crunch Euro 2008 qualifier with Croatia.

England only need a draw at Wembley to qualify for next year's finals with the Croatians from Group E.

That need, along with the injury absences of strike pair Wayne Rooney and Michael Owen, has led to speculation that McClaren will ditch England's usual two-man attack and deploy Crouch on his own, supported by a five-man midfield.

"I have done it before in big games for Liverpool and England and I have always managed to cope with the responsibility. I am sure I will do so again on Wednesday," he told reporters at England's team hotel.

Crouch was on target with a header from a David Beckham corner to score the winner in England's 1-0 friendly victory over Austria in Vienna on Friday and has now scored 13 goals in his 23 England appearances.—MNA/Reuters

Iran against any new UN sanction resolution

TEHRAN, 19 Nov—Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad-Ali Hosseini on Sunday warned against any new UN Security Council resolution against the country.

“Adoption of a new resolution goes contrary to the constructive and positive cooperation between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA),” Hosseini told a weekly

Press conference. He said if such a resolution is passed, “it will have adverse consequences on the implementation of bilateral agreements”. Hosseini also reiterated

that the Islamic Republic would continue its cooperation with the IAEA.

He said IAEA Director General Mohamed El-Baradei’s reports on the Iranian nuclear pro-

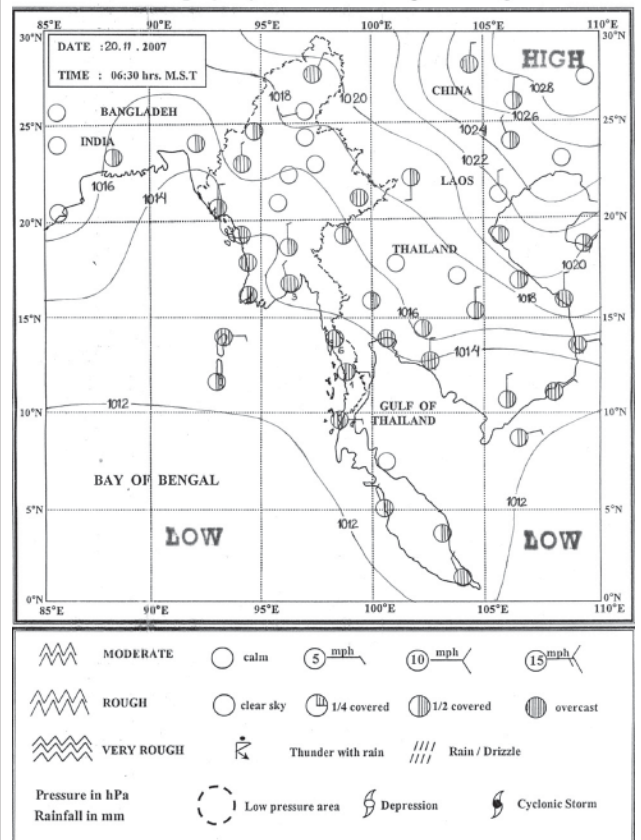
gramme, particularly the latest one on the P1 and P2 centrifuges, have confirmed that all positions taken by Iran in the past four years were “logical, correct and transparent”.

ElBaradei released a report on Thursday, admitting that Iran has made some progress in revealing the extent of its nuclear programme but still refuses to halt the enrichment activities, defying UN resolutions.

The United States and some other Western countries have been alleging that Iran may try to develop atomic bombs under a civilian cover. But Teheran insists its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 20 November, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kayah State and Yangon Division, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below November average temperatures in upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (6°C) below November average temperature in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above November average temperatures in Shan State, Rakhine and Kayah States, Bago Division, (5°C) above November average temperatures in Mon State and about November average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Co co Island (2.40) inches, Loikaw (0.59) inch and Dawei (0.23) inch. The significant night temperatures was Haka (0°C).

Maximum temperature on 19-11-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 20-11-2007 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 20-11-2007 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 19-11-2007 was (4.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 20-11-2007 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (0.11) inch at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) 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 Northeast at (08:30) hours MST on 19-11-2007.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the North and West Central Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 21-11-2007: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Mon and South Rakhine States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60)%.

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook look for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-11-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-11-2007: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40)%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-11-2007: Generally fair weather.

Heavy rain cause floods in northeastern Greece

ATHENS, 20 Nov — Authorities declared a state of emergency in parts of northeastern Greece on Sunday after heavy rain caused floods near the border with Turkey, forcing residents of several villages to evacuate their homes.

In the town of Komotini, residents evacuated their homes on Saturday after water filled the streets and flooded

their homes.

The Army sent in military trucks to evacuate those who stayed behind, and authorities declared a state of emergency in the town, where a river burst its banks trapping farm animals in their pens. Cars and farm vehicles were also immersed in water.

MNA/Reuters

Neighbours catch baby thrown from blaze in Japan

TOKYO, 20 Nov — A five-month-old baby was caught by neighbours after her mother threw her from the third floor window of a burning building in the western Japan city of Osaka on Monday, police said.

Baby Rion Morioka was uninjured in the fall but was being treated for smoke inhalation, as was her mother Miyuki, 24, *Kyodo News* agency said.

She and the baby’s father, sports instructor Junichi, 22, both jumped from the window, about seven metres (23 feet) above the ground, *Kyodo* said. Junichi suffered broken bones.

Neighbours had spread bedding on the ground and shouted to the couple to throw the baby down after the fire broke out, it said.

MNA/Reuters



Wednesday, 21 November
View on today

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်း ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မေတာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မေတာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ သဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- မြူးမြူးကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

8:00 am

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

- တံတားမြစ်ငယ်အသစ်သွယ် လူမှုစီးပွားကြွယ်

8:15 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Let's go

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-စတုတ္ထနှစ် (ဥပဒေပညာအထူးပြု) (ဥပဒေပညာ)

4:45 pm

- Song of national races

5:00 pm

- Classical song

5:15 pm

- “စင်စင်နှင့်ခြင်ကျား” (စင်စင်ဇော်မြင့်၊ လင်းလင်းဇော်မြင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်ရော်မောင်မောင်)

5:25 pm

- ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင် အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

5:35 pm

- ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်သောရွှေနေပြည်” (အပိုင်း-၃၁)

6:50 pm

- လွင်မိုးခရီးသွားနေသည့်

7:20 pm

- ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:45 pm

- The mirror images of musical oldies

8:00 pm

- News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. မြန်မာ့ဗီဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း “နောင်ကြိုးလေတစ်မျှင်” (မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ အိန္ဒြာကျော်စင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်ပြည့်ဝ(ပန်းဆောင်း))

19. The next day's programme

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People's Desire

- ★ **We favour stability.**
- ★ **We favour peace.**
- ★ **We oppose unrest and violence.**

Delegates of states and divisions discuss findings of sector-wise meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—The Annual General Meeting (2007) of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held for the third day at the University of Veterinary Science on Nay Pyi Taw Yezin University Campus on 15 November.

It was attended by USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo, Joint Secretary-General U Zaw Min, Secretariat members, CEC members, secretaries of state/division USDAs, and representatives of division, district and township USDAs.

Secretariat Member U Thein Zaw chaired the meeting together with CEC Members U Aung Min and Dr Chan Nyein.

There was an attendance of 506.

Executive Daw Thazin Aung of Aunglan Township USDA in Magway Division submitted the findings of group-1 concerning the organizing and administrative sector, saying that so far, 17 associations have been formed at state/division level, 66 at district level, 320 at township level, and

15,420 at ward/village level. The members of the Association has increased from 23.83 million last year to 24.59 million. This shows that the people have more trust in and reliance on the democratic process being implemented under the leadership of the Association. Between October 2006 and September 2007, CEC members made 1146 field trips. She suggested that more trips should be made to grassroots level.

(See page 8)

Kachin, Kayin delegate group of National Races, Shan State National Army-Brigade (6), Tamoenye/Lonhtang/Shaukhaw People's Militia, Panhsay People's Militia, Special Force in Kunlong Township, Shan State (North) issue announcements

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Nov—Mr Gambari, the special adviser to the UN Secretary-General, released the statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her behalf in Singapore on 8 November.

Political parties, national race armed groups, which had returned to legal fold and national race delegates from the states and divisions to the National Convention 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 Kachin and Kayin representatives from delegate group of National Races, Shan State National Army-Brigade (6), Tamoenye/Lonhtang/Shaukhaw People's Militia (Local) Group, Panhsay People's Militia, Shan State (North) Special Force in Kunlong Township, Shan State (North) are as follows:-

Announcement of national race delegates from Kachin State to National Convention

Date: 20 November 2007

We participated in the National Convention for the emergence of a new constitution and perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar.

We welcome the meetings of U Aung Kyi, who was assigned as Minister for Relations, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for national reconsolidation.

However, national race delegates from Kachin State object that some expressions in the statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi released in Singapore on 8 November 2007 through Mr Gambari, do not comply with our desire as we believe that we can solve our issues in the country.

We believe that those who write a constitution should understand characters and behaviour of people of a country completely, and we hereby announce that we support the Commission for Drafting the Constitution.

Delegates from Kachin State
Delegate group of National Races

Announcement of national race delegates from Kayin State to National Convention

Date: 20 November 2007

Mr Gambari, the special adviser to the UN Secretary-General, released the statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her behalf in Singapore on 8 November. In this regards, it is our suggestion that she should not do so, placing reliance on external elements.

We welcome and support the ongoing meeting between Minister for Relations U Aung Kyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for national reconsolidation.

Now, the implementation of the third step of the State's seven-step Road Map is in progress. And plans are under way to implement the remaining steps. We hereby announce that we are worried that outside pressure and blockages will have adverse effects on the process.

Delegates from Kayin State
Delegate group of National Races

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