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Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Hungary

YANGON, 20 Aug — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ferenc Madl, President of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary which falls on 20 August 2005. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe greets Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific. — 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

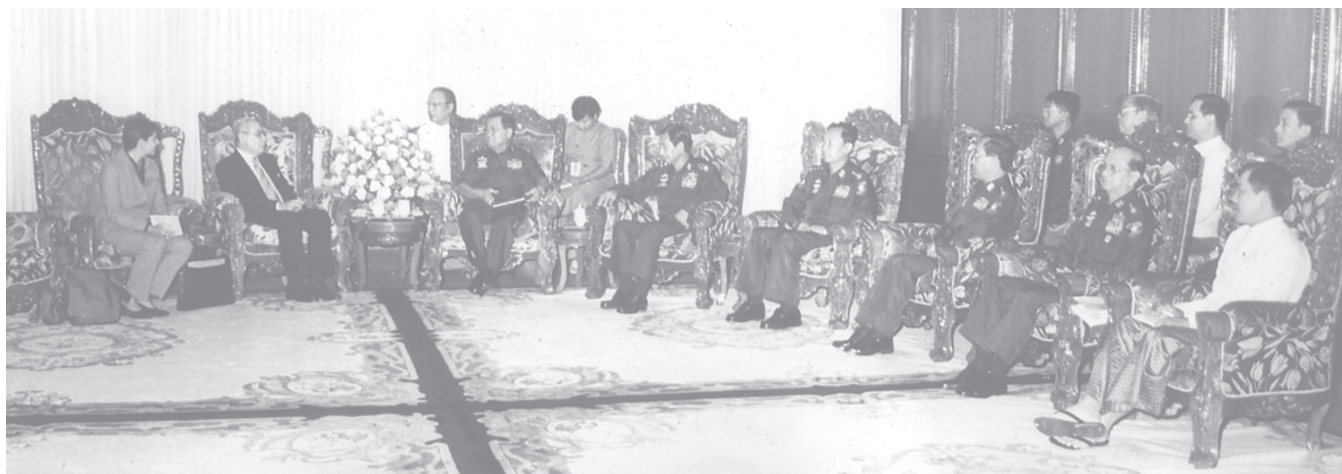
Senior General Than Shwe receives Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General

YANGON, 19 Aug — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific at the Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road, here, at 10 am today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and

Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

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Senior General Than Shwe receives Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 20 August, 2005

Work for development and increased production of agriculture sector

Myanmar being an agricultural country, agriculture is the main industry of most of the people and the agriculture sector is the main pillar of the national economy. This being so, the government has been spending a lot on water supply projects not only for the development of agriculture but also for the greening of dry zones. As a result, the production of the agriculture sector has been on the increase and the dry zones have become lush and green.

During his tour of Mandalay Division, Prime Minister General Soe Win attended the meeting on the greening of the Meiktila plain and water supply for agricultural purpose and took part in the discussion. At the discussion, the Prime Minister said that Water Resources Utilization Department and Irrigation Department were systematically implementing the plan for greening the Meiktila plain and the plan for supplying water for agricultural purpose, that related ministries and local people are co-operating with these departments and that special care should be taken to ensure the success of these plans as they could promote the interests of the people.

The State Peace and Development Council has placed special emphasis on water supply projects for drinking and agricultural purposes in Magway and Sagaing Divisions and at the same time is giving priority to the construction of the Zawgyi (Myogyi) Dam and other water supply projects in Mandalay Division. As the government is building dams and river water pumping stations in Mandalay Division, more than 800,000 acres of farmland will be put under monsoon paddy and 200,000 acres of farmland under summer paddy this year.

In Mandalay Division, more than 539,000 acres of farmland can be irrigated during the year 2005-2006 and efforts are being made to be able to irrigate up to 555,000 acres in the year 2006-2007. The Zawgyi (Myogyi) Dam is being built to be able to supply more water to the Meiktila plain for the cultivation of crops and for the greening of environment. The Kenghkam Dam to be built in Yaksawk Township in Shan State (South) will be a support dam for the Zawgyi Dam.

We would like to call on all the regional authorities and local people to cooperate with the government in all the measures being taken to develop the agriculture sector and to increase the agricultural production.

New waterways under Bo Myat Tun Bridge (Nyaungdon)

YANGON, 19 Aug—The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems today announced that the waterway between piers Nos 10 and 11 of Bo Myat Tun Bridge (Nyaungdon) will be designated for vessels sailing upstream and waterway between piers Nos 11 and 12 for those sailing downstream.

The changes will come into effect on 22 August 2005.

The clearance of new waterways is 110 metres wide and 17 metres high. A green triangle mark is stuck at the entrance, and a red cross mark represents no entry for vessels.

Vessel are to pass through the entrance one by one.

MNA

People's Desire

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

Minister for Transport meets with agents of ocean-going vessel lines



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe meets with agents of ocean-going vessel lines.—TRANSPORT

YANGON, 19 Aug — A meeting between the Ministry of Transport and agents of ocean-going vessel lines in Myanmar was held at the Ministry of Transport, here, this afternoon.

Present were Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, departmental heads, officers of Department of Marine Administration and agents of ocean-going vessel lines in Myanmar.

In his speech, the minister urged the ocean-

going vessel lines companies to follow laws, rules and regulations promulgated by the State. More job opportunities are to be sought for qualified sailors. And, it is necessary to supervise earning of foreign exchange for the State without loss and waste.

On behalf of the agents, three persons reported on matters related to their tasks.

Later, Deputy Minister U Pe Than gave a supplementary report to the Minister.

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Minister visits Vocational Training Centre for Women

YANGON, 19 Aug—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, together with officials from the Social Welfare Department and the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, inspected the Vocational Training Centre for the Women on Natmauk Road in Bahan Township this morning.

He inspected the lecture hall and spoke words of encouragement to the trainees.

The minister also inspected the tailoring hall, hostels, messing hall, training hall, weaving workshop, and laundry services. —MNA



Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspects trainees at Women's Vocational Training Centre for Women.—SWD

Entries invited to World Teachers Day commemorative article contest

YANGON, 19 Aug — As a gesture of hailing World Teachers Day which falls on 5 October 2005, the article contests at the higher education level, the basic education high level, the basic education middle level and the basic education primary level will be held.

Faculty members of

universities and colleges and retired teachers may take part in the higher education level contest, and basic education school heads, senior assistant teachers, JATs, PATs and retired teachers at respective level contests.

Township Education Officers and officers may participate in the basic

education high level contest.

The title of the contest is 'Pyinnyaywa-ei zathsaya'. The entry must be between 3,000 and 4,000 words on only one side of paper.

The name of the contestant, qualification, rank, school, and address must be written on the back of the manuscript.

The entrants are to send their own created works with brief biography and three licence size colour photos to Director U Thauang Shwe (Training/Local), Education Planning and Training Department, 123, Natmauk Road, Bahan Township, not later than 16 September.

MNA

Russia, China open first joint military exercises

BEIJING, 18 Aug—China and Russia began eight days of war games on Thursday aimed at boosting cooperation between the former adversaries and sending a message to the United States about their growing influence in the region.

The first-ever joint military exercises between the giant neighbours, who share a 2,700-mile border, also present a commercial opportunity for Russia, China's biggest supplier of arms and weapons technology, to flog its wares, analysts say. "The main target is the United States. Both sides want to improve their position for bargaining in terms of security, politics and economics," said Jin Canrong, a professor of international relations at the People's University of China.

Both countries say "Peace Mission 2005", which involves 10,000 troops and Army, Navy and Air Force exercises, is aimed at building ties between their militaries and analysts say it is

not targeted at any third country.

"Military cooperation is linked with political and economic cooperation as part of a bigger package," said Robert Karniol, Asia-Pacific editor for *Jane's Defence Weekly*. "It's not an adversarial posture." But with the drills also helping to "strengthen the capability of the two armed forces in jointly striking international terrorism, extremism and separatism", according to China's *Xinhua* news agency, they are likely to be viewed with concern by others in the region. The exercises are taking place in the Russian Pacific near Vladivostok and in the Chinese coastal province of Shandong and run through 25 August.—MNA/Reuters

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A harvester collects grapes at a farm in Cambodia's Battambang Province on 18 August, 2005.—INTERNET

ASEAN, dialogue partners conduct police affairs exchanges

BEIJING, 18 Aug—Capital police agencies from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China, Japan and South Korea are to enhance exchanges and cooperation in police affairs and various other unconventional public security fields in a bid to safeguard public security in the capital cities of concerned countries.

The information came from the Workshop on Policing Exchange and Cooperation among Capital Police Agencies from ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea, which opened in Beijing on Wednesday.

More than 80 major police officers from 10 ASEAN countries, China, Japan and South Korea met at the workshop and will exchange views and conduct face-to-face discussions on ways to enhance exchanges and cooperation in the coming three days. Meeting participants said they would offer suggestions for maintaining safety during the

2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

"The Olympic Games are a grand eye-catching event and Chinese police can cooperate with the police of other countries to secure safety during the games," said Han Jin-Hee, senior superintendent general of Seoul Metropolitan Police department of the South Korea. Han said the current workshop provides a good opportunity for South Korea and Chinese police to conduct exchanges and cooperation, suggesting the two sides should have more mutual visits in the future.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Minister says Aceh will not become federal state

JAKARTA, 18 Aug—Indonesia's Aceh Province will not become a federal state after the signing of the Helsinki peace accord by the government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), Communication and Information Minister Sofyan Djalil said here on Wednesday.

"No, Aceh won't become a federal state as feared by various quarters," Sofyan said before attending a Merdeka Palace function to mark Indonesian Independence Day.

The rejection of the agreement's contents by a number of parties was something normal in a democracy, *Antare* news agency quoted Sofyan, who was also one of the members of the Indonesian delegation to the Helsinki peace talks, as saying.

Sofyan said the things the government had agreed on with GAM were conform to the law on special autonomy for Aceh.

Earlier, Indonesia's second largest political party — the Democrats Party expressed hope that Aceh Province after the signing of the MoU would not become the embryo of a federalist or neo-separatist movement.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla said on Tuesday that those who worried that Aceh would become a federal state had failed to read and understand the law.

"A federal state is a figure of speech from those who haven't read and understood the law on special autonomy," Kalla said.—MNA/Xinhua

1,864 US soldiers killed in Iraq since beginning of war

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug—As of Thursday, 18 Aug, 2005, at least 1,864 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,447 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 14,021 US servicemen have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released Tuesday. The latest deaths reported by the military:

Four US soldiers were killed on Thursday by an explosive in Samarra, Iraq.

Internet

Putin calls for Iraq troop pullout timetable

MOSCOW, 18 Aug—Russian President Vladimir Putin called for a timetable for the withdrawal of foreign military forces from Iraq.

"We deem it necessary to work out a schedule for the staged withdrawal of foreign troops" in Iraq, Putin told reporters following talks with Jordan's King Abdullah II.

"Many Iraqis perceive these forces as occupying forces, and this is a reality that should be taken into account," the Russian leader said on Thursday. Putin also suggested an international conference on Iraq to be held by year's end.

"We consider that holding an international conference this year would give a new impulse to the normalization of the situation" in Iraq, the Russian leader told reporters.—Internet



A group of homeless Iraqis demand housing during a protest against the government for the sudden eviction from their homes, on 18 August, 2005, in Baghdad.—INTERNET

Guerillas shoot dead six Iraqi soldiers

KIRKUK (Iraq), 18 Aug—Six Iraqi soldiers were killed on Wednesday when guerillas fired automatic weapons at their car in northern Iraq, police said.

Police spokesman Yadgar Mohammed said the men were killed near the town of Hawija as they headed to their military base in the oil centre of Kirkuk.

Guerillas have killed thousands of Iraqi police and security forces in a bid to topple the US-backed Iraqi Government.

Iraqi forces are expected to eventually take over security from US troops, but many of them can barely protect themselves from guerillas.

MNA/Reuters