

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 342

3rd Waxing of Hnaung Tagu 1365 ME

Tuesday, 23 March, 2004



The Tatmadaw has to keep abreast of the times

Our principal duty is national defence as well as national peace and tranquillity. In order to discharge the duty of national defence fully and effectively, the Tatmadaw has to be built up so that it stands as a capable Tatmadaw forever. Building a modern Tatmadaw forms a vital part of our great tasks of endeavouring for all round development of our nation. With the development of political and economic capabilities of the nation, the Tatmadaw, tasked with the defence of our society, also has to keep abreast of the times.

Senior General Than Shwe

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address at the parade of the 57th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Pakistan

YANGON, 22 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23 March 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. — MNA

Paunglin Dam (support dam to Ngamoeyeik Reservoir) opened to irrigate farmland in Hlegu Township and supply water to Yangon

YANGON, 22 March — Paunglin Dam (support dam to Ngamoeyeik Reservoir) was commissioned into service in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, this morning, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of the division, district and township PDCs, staff of Yangon Division Irrigation Department, members of social organizations, teachers and students, farmers and local people totalling over 5,000.

First, the prime minister made an address. In his address, he said the opening of the Paunglin Dam will benefit a lot not only Hlegu Township but also the other townships in Yangon Division as it will be able to irrigate a vast area of farmland in Hlegu Township and between Hlegu Township and the City of Yangon and supply drinking water to the people living in Yangon.

The Union of Myanmar being an agricultural country rich in land and water resources, the government is taking various steps through modern technologies to make the best use of these resources in the long-term interests of posterity.

As agriculture is the main industry of rural people, majority of the population, and the main pillar of the national economy, the government is convinced that promoting the agricultural sector will not only strengthen the economy of the State but also raise the living standard of the people.

(See page 14)

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

**59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day
commemorative
special features on pages 7, 8 and 9.**

Paunglin Dam in Hlegu

Township, Yangon,

Division. — MNA



INSIDE

Perspectives

Let's work in concert
with Government for
noble cause
(Page 2)

Article

The Tatmadaw:
that the people love
(Pages 8+9)

Circulation

22,591

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 23 March, 2004

Let's work in concert with Government for noble cause

State-level officials, including the Head of State himself, from time to time tour all the regions across the Union so as to make a first-hand study of national development endeavours and render necessary assistance there and then.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on 19 March visited Shan State (North) and attended the opening of a modern stadium in Muse. Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to the construction site of the Thanlwin bridge (Tarpa), which is to link Kutkai, Tamoenye, Monesi and Tarpa on the west bank of the Thanlwin river and Tarpa, Laukkai, Kongyan and Tashwehtan, and fulfilled the requirements.

In his meeting on 19 March with members of Kutkai Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townselders at the Union Hall in Kutkai, the Prime Minister said that the more roads linking regions across the Union emerge, the more frequent the contacts among national brethren and the closer their friendship will be. As a result, he added, national unity will become stronger and the Union will last so long as the world exists.

The Tarpa bridge being constructed across the Thanlwin river is very important for the emergence of a road important not only for Kutkai but also for the entire Shan State (North). As transport plays a crucial role in developing a region, the bridge is being built with great difficulty and with the use of enormous amount of foreign exchange. In the past, due to the lack of regional peace and stability, transport in Shan State (North) was not good and, as a result, the flow of goods was slow and the region lagged behind in development. But now, the region has been peaceful and stable for about 15 years and so transport has become smooth and easy and trade and industry has developed. Not only the roads running from north to south and from east to west in Shan State (North) and Shan State (South) but also the ones linking Shan State (North) and Shan State (South) are being constructed.

The State Peace and Development Council has been working flat out for all-round development of the Union as well as for the emergence of a peaceful and developed democratic nation by implementing the seven-point future policy programme of the State. As all this is being done in the long-term interests of the Union and the people living in it, we would like to call upon all the national brethren to actively and enthusiastically work in concert with the Government for a noble cause.

59th Anniversary

Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State's seven-point policy programme
- To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people's militia strategy
- To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people
- To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold 'Our Three Main National Causes'

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at a plantation of North-East Command. — MNA

All citizens responsible for making efforts for regional ...

(From page 16)

First, Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint made a speech. He said that measures are being taken for reclamation of land and cultivation of special high yield paddy in the region to meet the growing population; that 843 acres of irrigated land were put under paddy and the storage capacity of Humon Dam is 1,850 acre-feet of water and the dam can benefit only 120 acres of summer paddy. Hence, to cultivate 843 acres of paddy the dam is required to store about 5,000 acre-feet of water.

Cultivation of 120 acres of summer paddy was carried out by Lashio District Peace and Development Council, Myanmar Police Force and battalions and units in Lashio with the assistance of service personnel of Myanmar Agriculture Service and local farmers. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing made a speech. He said that the requirement of paddy for 2.3 million population in Shan

State (North) was 33.6 million baskets of paddy and only 27.6 million baskets of paddy were produced in 2002-2003. Therefore, it is targeted to produce 32.8 million baskets of paddy in 2003-2004 and it will constitute 97 per cent of self-sufficiency in rice.

He said that Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance which calls for extending sown acreage for extended cultivation of paddy, taking measures for boosting the per acre yield and minimizing loss and wastage. To ensure self-sufficiency in rice, modern cultivation methods are to be applied while special high yield paddy is to be cultivated in Shan State (North) where there is a restriction for extended cultivation of paddy due to geographical conditions, he stressed.

Next, the Prime Minister presented K 13.1 million for farmers who are engaged in highland cultivation in Shan State (North).

On behalf of the farmers, national race leader Pan

Say U Kyaw Myint and U Hsai Mon accepted the cash assistance.

Next, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung presented a dryer worth K 2 million donated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for Shan State (North) to member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe.

Later, Chairman of Central Development Co President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint presented K 2.5 million by Central Development Co and K 2.5 million by Diamond Star Co for production of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strains to Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing.

After that, Director of Five Ocean Co presented K 2 million for production of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strains to Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing.

On behalf of local farmers, national race leader Pan Say U Kyaw Myint spoke

words of thanks and the ceremony ended.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party inspected power tillers donated and broadcasting of fertilizer.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Kaukkwe Creek Dam construction project site in Lashio Township.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Director of Irrigation Department U Kyaw Win reported on arrangements for construction of the dam, aims, progress of work, benefit to achieve on completion of the project, and salient points of the project.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung gave supplementary reports.

Next, the Prime Minister gave instructions, saying that the most possible feasibility study is to be made for construction of a dam that will feed Humon Dam and the survey work is to be made as soon as possible.

(See page 11)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Kaukkwe Creek Dam Project in Lashio Township, northern Shan State. —MNA

Guerilla attack kills two US soldiers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 March—Guerillas fired a rocket at US troops in western Iraq, killing two soldiers, while in Baghdad rockets fired toward the US-led coalition headquarters Sunday killed two Iraqi civilians and injured a US soldier, US officials said.

The attack in Baghdad came a day after the first anniversary of the start of the war that ousted Saddam Hussein.

A 1st Infantry Division soldier was also killed Sunday in an apparent accident during a weapons firing exercise in Samarra, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Baghdad, Army spokeswoman Maj. Debra Stewart said. The incident was under investigation.

One of three rockets fired in Baghdad landed inside the coalition headquarters, but did not cause significant damage,

a US official said on condition of anonymity. The wounded soldier was hit by flying glass. Staff and journalists in the compound were instructed to take cover inside a bunker.

Two rockets landed outside the compound in the upscale neighbourhood of Mansour, killing two Iraqi civilians and wounding five, the official said. However, officials at the nearby Yarmouk Hospital said one person died and 10 were wounded. Residents said the rockets landed in a street, damaging several cars and shops.—*Internet*

ထိုက်တိုက်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း

Mortars hit US coalition HQ in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 March—Two mortar rounds landed in the headquarters compound of the US-led coalition Sunday, sending command staff to bunkers for safety inside the fortified complex in the centre of Iraq capital.

A third mortar round landed in a neighbourhood outside the compound, killing an Iraqi civilian and wounding 10 others.

The attack in Baghdad came a day after the first anniversary of the Iraq war amid a spike in attacks on coalition forces throughout the country.

US officials said Sunday that insurgents fired a rocket overnight at American troops near Fallujah in western Iraq, killing two soldiers. The attack also wounded five soldiers and a sailor.

It was not immediately clear whether there were any casualties from the mortar attack on the US command compound.

The round that landed in the upscale neighbourhood of Mansour outside the compound damaged cars and shops. Officials at the nearby Yarmouk Hospital said one civilian was killed in the attack and 10 were wounded.

Internet



Iraqi onlookers gather around a damaged car in central Baghdad where a projectile exploded. Up to two people were killed and several wounded as the US coalition headquarters in Baghdad came under rocket attack, pushing Iraq into its second year of occupation amid a rising wave of violence.—INTERNET

Anti-war protesters march in London on Iraq war anniversary

LONDON, 22 March — More than 25,000 anti-war protesters took to the streets of London on Saturday to mark the first anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq, demanding an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq.

Braving strong winds and rain, the protesters marched from Hyde Park through central London, shouting anti-war slogans to air their anger at British Prime Minister Tony Blair and US President George Bush who launched the war a year ago.

Anti-war campaigners inflated a model of a Trident missile, accompanied by activists dressed up as weapons inspectors.

The demonstration culminated in a rally in Trafal-

gar Square where speakers including London Mayor Ken Livingstone and Glasgow MP George Galloway addressed the crowd.

"Just because they call themselves the international community, that doesn't mean their actions are right," Galloway said. He urged voters to turn the June 10 European elections into a referendum on Tony Blair's future.

Between speeches, the crowd took part in a minute

silence and thousands of black balloons were released in memory of those killed in the Iraq conflict, as well as the victims of the terrorist attack on Madrid.

The anti-war event has been backed by the Stop the War Coalition, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Muslim Association of Britain, which organized a million-strong demonstration in London against the impending war a year ago.

MNA/Xinhua

About 10,000 demonstrators march in Paris against Iraq war

PARIS, 22 March—About 10,000 people demonstrated here on Saturday afternoon on the first anniversary of the US-led war against Iraq.

The objective of the march is to "say no to wars, terrorist attacks and violence against the people," its organizers say.

The demonstrators marched from the Square of Bastille to the Square of Chatelet, under the banner writing "All for peace and justice, democracy and law."

Some slogans against American President George W Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Israeli Premier Ariel Sharon, former Spanish Prime Minister

Jose Maria Aznar, French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy and Russian President Vladimir Putin were heard in the procession.

Demonstrators demanded the pullout of the occupation forces from Iraq and the power transfer to Iraqi people. Apart from Paris, anti-war rallies were also staged in other French cities of Marseille, Lyon and Toulouse.

MNA/Xinhua

Thousands of Greeks stage peace march to US Embassy

ATHENS, 22 March—Thousands of demonstrators staged a peace march to the US Embassy in Athens on Saturday as worldwide anti-war protests take place on the first anniversary of the US-led war to Iraq.

Marchers condemned the continuing presence of foreign troops in Iraq.

Protesters called for closure of a NATO base in Souda, Crete, and asked the government to keep Greek troops on home soil.

Protesters also demanded the govern-

ment to keep NATO out of security arrangements for the Athens Olympics in August.

Security was tightened around the US Embassy and on the route of the march. No incidents were reported, police said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi Ministry investigates leaked 30 billion ID old bank notes

BAGHDAD, 22 March — The Iraqi Ministry of Finance is investigating how 30 billion Iraqi dinars (ID) of the old bank notes had leaked into the treasury of Baghdad and other governorates during the exchange period that ended on February 15, newspaper *Azzaman* said Saturday.

This sum of money, which is considered the largest in the history of the Iraqi banking system since it was founded in 1947, was discovered by an inspection committee formed by the ministry to check the accountings of the treasury, said the local newspaper. Since the sanctions imposed in July 1990, four trillion Iraqi dinars of bank notes have been printed in Iraq.

A committee from the Ministry of Interior is also conducting investigation in other accounts relating to money laundering of stolen money, mostly from Iraqi banks in the postwar chaos period of looting and robbery, said sources who preferred not to be named.

Committees from the Ministry of Finance turned to a number of cashiers, who are suspected to be involved in letting through and changing large amounts of money of the old bank notes, locally called Saddam's dinar, with the bank note sarcastically called by Iraqis Bremer's dinar.

The inspection committees also caught a number of bank employees involved in receiving millions of dinars under the name of branches in the south of Iraq and according to certificates entitling them to do so.—*MNA/Xinhua*



A US Army soldier escorts as other forces defuse a roadside bomb in the Baghdad suburb of Al Mashtal on 20 March, 2004.—INTERNET

Senior pilot training for civil flights initiated in N-E China

HARBIN, 22 March —The prestigious Harbin Polytechnical University (HPU) signed an agreement with pilot training companies on Friday to provide a senior training programme for civil pilots.

The programme is first of its kind in China to offer bachelor's degree.

Qualified trainees will receive a bachelor's degree and be eligible to serve airline companies, said Zhao Chunxi, senior official with HPU's school of automation.

The programme was jointly founded by HPU, China International Cargo Aviation Co Ltd and Harbin International Fly Dragon Training Company.

The programme will initially recruit about 30 trainees this year among college graduates and third-year undergraduates, Zhao said. He added that HPU will provide balanced courses and excellent facilities for the trainees.

So far, China has some 10 pilot training companies but all their bachelor degree programmes are carried out in overseas countries, said Wu Jianhua, assistant general manager of the Fly Dragon company.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Helicopter down near Falluja, says report

BAGHDAD, 22 March—An American helicopter was downed south of the flashpoint Iraqi city of Falluja, west of Baghdad, witnesses said.

The downing occurred Friday near Amariya, south of Fallujah, said Brig-Gen Mark Kimmitt, the US military's deputy director of operations.

"Both pilots were recovered without injury and forces secured the crash site and completed recovery efforts," Kimmitt said.

Guerrilla attacks have brought down several helicopters in Iraq since the US-led

invasion a year ago.

Last November two Black Hawk helicopters collided and crashed in the northern city of Mosul after coming under fire, killing 17 US soldiers.

It was the bloodiest single incident for American forces since major combat was declared over on May 1.

Internet



A demonstrator is restrained as police make a mass arrest during an anti-war protest in San Francisco, on 20 March, 2004. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world rallied against the US presence in Iraq on the first anniversary of the war.—INTERNET

China issues new rules on public welfare foundations

BEIJING, 22 March — China has issued new regulations on the administration of public welfare foundations, hoping to encourage more wealthy people to commit to public welfare and thus foster new foundations, a senior official said.

"We still need more foundations to participate in public welfare as we have inadequate non-profit organizations to meet the demand," Jiang Li, Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs, told a news conference.

China had registered 1,200 foundations committed to public welfare by making use of the assets donated by individuals or organizations by the end of 2003, according to statistics released by the ministry Friday.

The regulations, which will take effect as of June 1, have for the first time divided foundations into two types: publicly-funded foundations, which could raise funds from the public, and non-publicly-funded foundations, which are not allowed

to raise funds from the public.

Jiang said such divisions were to mobilize more people to participate in charitable activities and help utilize to the maximum the public's social resources, especially those wealthy groups.

"More standardized social welfare activities by foundations will help China resolve the problem of the widening gap between the rich and the poor," she said.

She said the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation are still discussing the specific preferential tax policies for those individual or enterprise donors.

Meanwhile, overseas foundations win the go-ahead to establish representative of-

fices on the Chinese Mainland but are not allowed to solicit or receive donations on the Chinese Mainland, according to the new regulations. "We have to protect the limited charity resources by regulating the publicly-funded foundations on a certain scale," Jiang said, adding such restrictions will not hinder overseas donors' enthusiasm.

The national publicly-funded foundations are required to raise at least eight million yuan (about 964,000 US dollars) before registration while individuals and enterprises hoping to establish non-publicly-funded foundations are required to donate at least two million yuan (241,000 US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand, Laos sign number of agreements

BANGKOK, 22 March — Thailand and Laos signed a number of agreements at an unofficial joint Thai-Lao Cabinet meeting which was held in a northeastern province of Ubon Ratchathani of Thailand on Saturday, the Thai News Agency reported Sunday.

They included a treaty on criminal extradition and co-operation in executing criminal sentences, an agreement on the framework of economic development cooperation between the two sisters' countries, an agreement on educational cooperation, and

an agreement on the funding of a project to build a railway connecting the two countries.

The joint Thai-Lao Cabinet meeting was followed by a meeting between Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his Laotian counterpart Bounngang

Vorachit in Jampasak Saturday morning. The two countries' leaders had a talk about bilateral cooperation in various areas, including security, trade and investment, and social issues, the agency reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore court sentences Australian to death

SINGAPORE, 22 March — A Singapore court on Saturday sentenced a 23-year-old Australian to death for trafficking in heroin, an Australian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said.

Nguyen Tuong Van was arrested at the city state's Changi Airport in December 2002 while en route from Cambodia to Melbourne. He

was later charged with smuggling almost 400 grammes of heroin taped to his back and hidden in luggage.

Court documents said

Van was born in a Thai refugee camp, and his ethnic-Vietnamese family emigrated to Australia soon after his birth.—MNA/Reuters

စက်မှုဦးနှောင်း ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Akron Marine killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 March—US Marine Cpl Andrew D Brownfield, 24, of Akron died Thursday of wounds from a mortar attack at Al Asad Air Base in Iraq, the Department of Defence said.

Brownfield became the first battlefield death from Akron since the war began one year ago.

Five mortar rounds were fired in the attack that killed Brownfield, a 1999 North High School graduate, said Marine Maj. Steve White, casualty officer at the Akron Marine Reserve Centre on Dan Street.

Brownfield was in a vehicle at the air base at the time, White said. Three other Marines were wounded.

The base is about 135 miles west-northwest of Baghdad.

Brownfield had been in Iraq for about a month. Full story at Akron Beacon Journal.

Internet

LatAm demonstrates on first anniversary of Iraqi war

BRASILIA, 22 March — Thousands of protesters across the Latin American countries went to the streets on Saturday and demonstrated against the occupation of Iraq by the US-led forces since March 20, 2003.

The demonstrations were a result of coordinated efforts of the 4th World Social Forum held at Numbai, India to commemorate the first anniversary of the war.

In Sao Paulo, the biggest city of Brazil, several social and political groups, including the State Committee against the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas), the Workers Central Union and the Landless Workers Movement organized a large scale demonstration.

The demonstrators stationed in front of the city's Art Museum for 14 hours before marching on through the central Paulista Avenue.

Thousands of Chileans went to the Italy square and

marched through the Bernardo O'Higgins boulevard to the government headquarters of the Currency Palace in the Constitution Square.

While demanding an end to the occupation of Iraq, the demonstrators also voiced solidarity with the victims of the March 11 train bombings in Madrid, the capital city of Spain.

Gladys Martin, President of the Communist Party, one of the rally's organizers, described the US Government as the "number one terrorist of the world".

Greenpeace, an ecological organization, also staged a protest outside the US Embassy, where they put 200 petunia flowers as a symbol

of peace.

Greenpeace representative to Chile Gonzalo Villarino said the US-led campaign lacked justification, adding that the occupation of Iraq was "illegal, illicit and immoral".

Some 10,000 Cubans took on Saturday to the streets of the Cueto locality, 700 kilometres east of the capital Havana, demanding that the US forces withdraw from Iraq immediately.

The protesters defended Iraq's right to independence and expressed their support for and sympathy with the Spaniards who have suffered immensely in the series of train bombings, which killed 202 people and wounded over 1,400. —MNA/Xinhua

S Africans protest US military invasion of Iraq

JOHANNESBURG, 22 March — About 1,000 anti-war South Africans gathered in the Library Gardens in Johannesburg on Saturday in protest against US military invasion of Iraq.

Holding higher banners reading "No blood for oil" and "Bush get out of Iraq," they were joining demonstrators around the world protesting against the invasion of Iraq, on the one year anniversary of the invasion of that country by US and British coalition forces.

Under the banner of the Anti-War Coalition, the protesters marched to the Anglo-American building where speakers said US

companies were no longer welcome in South Africa.

They said they were tired of the Americans telling them what to eat, what to drink and "how we should wash our faces". From here the protesters

proceeded to Workers' Library Complex in Newtown where there was a festival, including an exhibition of photographs and representations of wars and occupations.

MNA/Xinhua

About 350 people protest war against Iraq in Prague

PRAGUE, 22 March—About 300 people carrying posters with anti-war slogans gathered Saturday at Prague's Wenceslas Square to protest the war against Iraq on its anniversary.

After several speeches, representatives from the American, Arab and Czech communities started a protest march towards the US Embassy.

MNA/Xinhua



Beyonce, left, is congratulated by Kelly Rowland as she accepts the 2004 Sammy Davis Jr Award for "Entertainer of the Year," Female at the Soul Train Music Awards, on Saturday night, 20 March, 2004, in Los Angeles.

INTERNET

Annan says Iraq more dangerous due to guerilla attacks

CAIRO, 22 March — Terrorism has emerged in Iraq since the US-led invasion a year ago, making the country more dangerous and complicating the situation, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in remarks published on Saturday.

Annan's comments came as protesters planned anti-war demonstrations around the world on Saturday, the first anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq.

Asked whether he thought the US-led war had led to terrorism in Iraq, Annan said:

"I do not know which side is responsible for the terrorism there," he told the pan-Arab daily newspaper *al-Hayat*.

"This terrorism was not there in Iraq a year ago but now it has broken out...with suicide attacks, car bombs and roadside bombs taking people's lives. From that point of view the situation has become more complicated and dangerous," he said.

Annan said on Thursday he would send a UN political team to Iraq "as soon as practicable" to advise Baghdad on a transitional gov-

ernment as well as elections early next year.

He told *al-Hayat* he was sure the world body's staff would become a target of attacks in Iraq but the organization would do what it could to protect its people.

"We have to be vigilant and guard our staff and guarantee their safety. We are going to Iraq amidst great danger but we have to be as vigilant as possible. We are worried that we will become targets. There is no doubt about that," he said.

The United Nations pulled its international staff out of Iraq in late October after the organization's offices were bombed on August 19. Twenty-three staff and visitors, including the head of the mission, Sergio Vieira de Mello, were killed.

MNA/Reuters

Casablanca bomb suspect detained in Belgium

BRUSSELS, 22 March — Belgian police have detained a suspect wanted in Morocco in connection with the 2003 bombings in Casablanca that killed 45 people, the federal prosecutor's office said on Friday.

Police detained the Moroccan man along with "less than 10" other suspects after conducting a series of morning raids at private homes in Brussels, Antwerp and Tongres, the office said.

"One of the people detained is... the subject of an international warrant delivered by the Moroccan authorities following the attack in Casablanca," it said.

A series of suicide bombings in the Moroccan city last year killed 45 people, including 12 suicide bombers.

MNA/Reuters

British politician accepts Iraq libel damages

LONDON, 22 March — A British politician accepted libel damages from an American newspaper on Friday over a story which alleged he took 10 million US dollars to support former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Galloway, one of Britain's most outspoken anti-war campaigners, sued the *Christian Science Monitor* over an article headlined "Newly found Iraqi files raise heat on British MP" (member of Parliament).

The April 2003 story cited documents given to a journalist by an Iraqi general which purported to show Galloway had received payments in return for his "courageous and daring stands against the enemies of Iraq".

Galloway's lawyer Mark Bateman accepted a formal apology during a brief hearing at the High Court in London on Friday.

"The allegations... that (he) opposed the UN-imposed sanctions on Iraq and, thereafter, the recent conflict in Iraq, because he had

been paid by the Iraqi regime, are false and without foundation," Bateman told the court.

He said the *Monitor*, which is available to readers in Britain on the Internet, now accepted there was no truth in the allegations and had paid the MP substantial, undisclosed damages.

Galloway was expelled from British Prime Minister Tony Blair's ruling Labour Party last October after branding Blair and US President George W Bush "wolves".

The daily newspaper, founded in 1908, is owned and published by the First Church of Christ, *Scientist*, based in Boston, Massachusetts.

The church said it "deeply regretted" publishing the article.

MNA/Reuters

သားငါးယ့်မြို့ ပြည်အကျိုး

Britain's presence in Iraq cannot be justified

LONDON, 22 March — A fitting way to mark the anniversary of the Iraq war would be to drive a stake through the doctrine of preemptive strike and bury it where it cannot be disinterred to justify another unilateral military adventure, a former British Cabinet minister has said.

In his article published in Friday's *The Independent* newspaper, Robin Cook, former foreign secretary who resigned before the war over Iraq a year ago, said, "Iraq has proved beyond any reasonable doubt that intelligence cannot provide evidence reliable enough to justify war on such a speculative basis."

Noting that the British Government has no plans to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, Cook said any retrospective examination would inevitably draw attention to questions that they find increasingly difficult to answer, such as why they ever believed Saddam was a threat since he turns out to have had no weapons

of mass destruction.

Referring the desperate need to justify Britain's presence in Iraq, Cook said, "The conversion of Iraq into an extended battlefield between the West and al-Qaeda is a measure of the failure of our policy, not a justification for invasion."

"The invasion of Iraq has made the world more vulnerable to a heightened threat from al-Qaeda, which is precisely what our intelligence agencies warned the government on the eve of war," he said. "It was our occupation that gave al-Qaeda the motivation to target Iraq and the incompetence of our plans after

Saddam that offered them the open door through which they entered it."

The former foreign secretary said, "Our own experience in Northern Ireland has demonstrated that the only way to diminish the threat from terrorism is to isolate the terrorist and to deny them any sympathy from their own public. The invasion of Iraq has handed the terrorists a whole new weapon to deploy on the Arab street."

"The great irony is that invading Iraq is precisely what al-Qaeda wanted us to do, because it served their agenda of polarizing the West and the Islamic world."

MNA/Xinhua



Dutch troops patrolling the southern Iraq city of Samawa on 20 March, 2004.

INTERNET

Thousands protest in NY to mark 1st anniversary of Iraq war

NEW YORK, 22 March — Thousands of anti-war demonstrators marched through the streets of New York Saturday on the first anniversary of the Iraq war, calling for an end to the occupation of the country.

Protesters gathered in midtown Manhattan for an anti-war rally before they set off on a two-hour march through the centre of the city to protest the Bush Administration's Iraq policy. Under the banner "The World Still Says No to War," dozens of protesters took the floor to slam US President George W Bush's decision to rush US troops into the war and asked to bring the soldiers home.

A member of the anti-war group "Military Families Speak Out" who lost his son in Iraq said: "Bush lied, who died? My son. Bring our children home now!" Another high school student from Virginia demanded that the Bush Administration spend more on schools and education when a considerable number of teachers do not have enough textbooks for their students. "Money on books and schools, not on war!" she chanted.

Carrying signs that read "Occupation in Iraq wrong," "Stop Madcowboy Disease," and "Not One More Delay, Not One More Death, Not One More Deception," demonstrators marched through New York streets,

chanting anti-war slogans. Some carried mock coffins, others had paper cranes in hand that symbolize peace.

"I'm upset with the president for just about everything," said one protester. "His war in Iraq that goes on and on and kills people, what he's done to our economy and what he's doing to our future."

According to United For Peace and Justice, one of the anti-war groups that organized the event, it wanted to send a message to the Bush Administration that peace-loving people do not want this war.

"The March 20 protests come after months of revelations vindicating the anti-war movement's position that waging war on Iraq was unnecessary and unjustified. Mounting evidence indicates that Iraq posed no imminent threat to the United States and that Bush Administration's justifications for its preemptive strike were deliberately exaggerated or false," the group said in a Press release.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi man, Haidar Samir, who lost an arm and an eye in the first air strikes of the US and British invasion last year, revisits the area where the attacks took place in central Baghdad on 17 March, 2004.—INTERNET

Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion

US helicopters crashed or shot down in Iraq

After making accusations, US and allies troops invaded Iraq using excessive force. Since the end of major combat in Iraq was declared on 1 May, at least 18 military helicopters have crashed or been shot down in Iraq, killing a total of 64 US soldiers.



Iraqi men run towards the wreckage of US helicopter which crashed near Fallujah on 9-12-2003.



A US army OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter hovers above southern Baghdad. Two American soldiers died as a US helicopter crashed into a river on 25-2-2004.



A US Army Apache sits in a field without its rotors near Fallujah on 13 January, 2004. A US Apache helicopter that crashed west of Baghdad may have been shot down by Iraqi guerillas, a US military spokesman said.



A map of Iraq showing the site of the US helicopter crash in which 17 American troops were killed.

US soldiers speak from their hospital beds about the downing of their Chinook helicopter on 2-11-2003.



US soldiers patrol along the Euphrates River near the Iraqi town of Haditha during a search operation for a downed US military helicopter which crashed into the river on 25 Feb, 2004, killing two crew members. With the latest crash, the US military has lost 18 helicopters since the occupation began, most to hostile fire, with a total of 64 Americans killed in the crashes.

US helicopters crashed or shot down in Iraq

Date	Location	Type of helicopter	Casualty	
			US	UK
20-3-2003	Kuwait border	Sea Knight	4	8
23-3-2003	-	Apache	-	-
9-5-2003	Samara	Black Hawk	3	-
19-5-2003	Hillah	Sea Knight	4	-
12-6-2003	Western Iraq	Apache	-	-
25-10-2003	North of Iraq	Black Hawk	-	-
2-11-2003	Near Fallujah	Chinook	16	-
7-11-2003	Near Tikrit	Black Hawk	4	-
15-11-2003	Mosul	Black Hawk	17	-
9-12-2003	Near Fallujah	OH-58 Kiowa	-	-
10-12-2003	Near Mosul	Apache	-	-
2-1-2004	Near Fallujah	OH-58 Kiowa	1	-
8-1-2004	Near Fallujah	Black Hawk	9	-
13-1-2004	Near Habaniah	Apache	-	-
23-1-2004	Qaiyara	OH-58 Kiowa	2	-
25-1-2004	Mosul	Kiowa	2	-
25-2-2004	Haditha	Kiowa	2	-
19-3-2004	Fallujah	Unknown	-	-
	Total	18	64	8

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

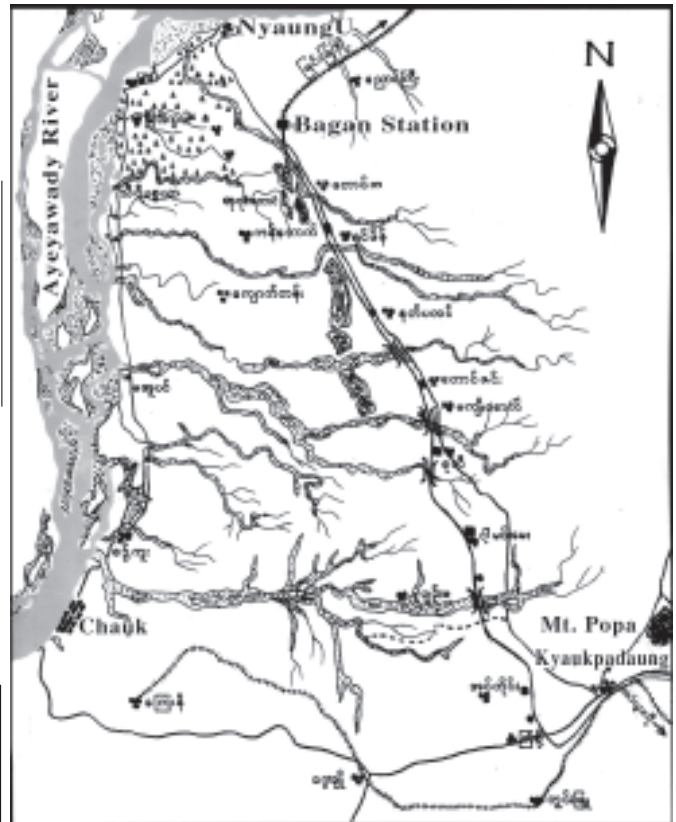
Tatmadaw always striving for development of the nation in the interests of the people



Tatmadaw members from No 33 Light Infantry Division contributing towards the Bagan-Kyaukpadaung Railroad Project in co-operation with the people.



Tatmadaw members from No 33 LID carry out land preparations for the Bagan-Kyaukpadaung Railroad Project.



The map of the Bagan-Kyaukpadaung Railroad Project site.



**The Tatmadaw,
endeavouring to meet
the aim with strong
determination**

**Bagan-Kyaukpadaung Railroad
Project jointly implemented by
the Tatmadaw and the people**



Tatmadaw members making endeavours with might and main in implementing the Bagan-Kyaukpadaung Railroad Project.

Sr.	Subject	Quantity
1.	Land preparation	
	Earth	711503.03 pits
2.	Laying railway line	
	79 lbs (39 feet long)	8821
	Sleeper	31324
	Paving rock (1x2")	31397.20 pits
3.	Railway station and halt station	8
4	Bridge	
	Above 100 feet	4
	Under 100 feet	102
5.	Railroad (total length)	29.92 miles

The Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) in perpetual service of the people



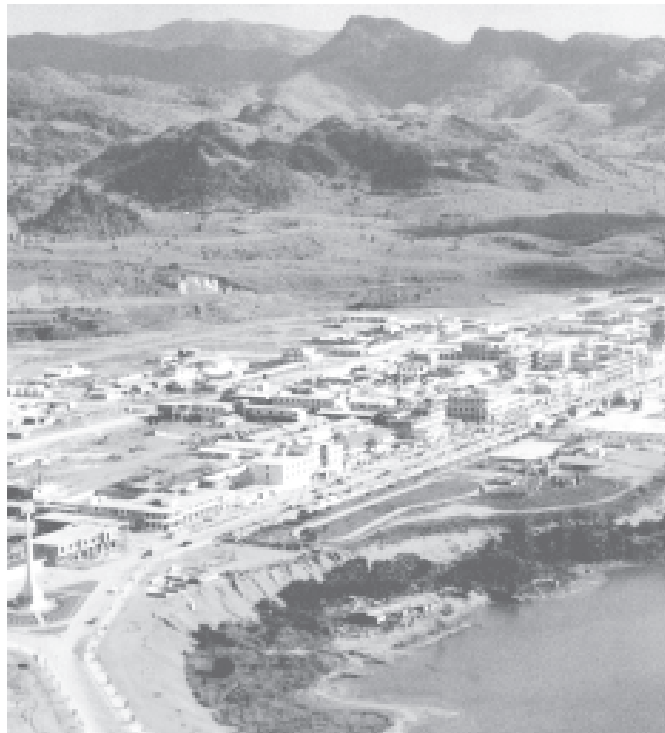
The Tatmadaw, which has taken over the duties of the State since 18 September 1988 to address the national situation, is continuously carrying out the national development tasks. It has been striving to ensure peace and stability of the nation, the

legal fold, the peace and stability is prevailing in the whole nation. Peace and stability of the nation and the socio-economic development are sound foundations for the emergence of democracy. The State has already laid down the seven-point

and DVB — are broadcasting the slanders invented by the neo-colonialists and their lackeys — the destructive elements from inside and outside the nation — who are turning a blind eye to the objective conditions of the nation and who are under the influence of the negative views.

In summary, their slanderous accusations say that the Tatmadaw is destroying democracy and violating human rights; that there is a political impasse in Myanmar; that there exists forced labour in the country; that because of the economic hardships, the young women are falling into prostitution to earn their living; and that Myanmar is producing and trafficking a large amount of narcotic drugs.

As the Tatmadaw is achieving success in serving



Flourishing Laukkai is included in the many areas standing proof to the objective developments of Myanmar.

The Tatmadaw that the people love

rule of law, and development of the socio-economy.

At present, Myanmar is achieving an unprecedented peace. As the 17 armed groups have returned to the

future policy programme for the nation, and the entire people of the nation have unanimously approved it.

However, foreign radio stations — BBC, VOA, RFA

the people's interest, the neo-colonialists and some radio stations, which are jealous of the success, branding the Tatmadaw Government "a military junta", and floating slanders to discredit it.

The Tatmadaw has saved the nation from the danger of losing independence in 1988 and continued to discharge the State duties. But it has been governing the nations in accord with the existing laws, bylaws and rules and regulations. Although some quarters have branded the Tatmadaw a military junta, it has never used the martial law. Because of the sinister schemes of the colonialists, some tourists are afraid to visit Myanmar.

But when they actually visit the country they find that their previous views on Myanmar are totally against the objective conditions, as they are warmly welcomed and treated by the State and the people.

Actually, the reason behind the sinister plots of the neo-colonialists and their

to upholding Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of the national solidarity; and perpetuation of the sovereignty — in accord with the national duty.

The Tatmadaw sacrificed human lives, blood and sweat to restore independ-

ence. The independence was not regained easily. Thus, for no reason, the Tatmadaw will not let independence lose again. The Tatmadaw will continue to safeguard the independence together with the people at the risk to the lives of its members. The Tatmadaw was born of the people, and has been formed with the good sons of the people. The Tatmadaw will always serve the interest of the people. It is not a mercenary armed forces. It is not a stooge of any nation or any organization. It will dutifully carry out its three main tasks in accord with its 12 fine traditions and 10 strengths.

Sitthi Nanda

lackeys is to enable their minions to grab power and put Myanmar under their influence. It is obvious that the global neo-colonialists are interfering the affairs of other countries, with democracy and human rights as an excuse. The international news events are answering the question "Do the countries and their peoples really enjoy peace and stability, democracy and human rights because of the interferences and intrusions of the neo-colonialists and their stooges?"

In this regard, the Tatmadaw endeavours to end the anarchy and unrest in 1988 and to take over the duties of the State amounted

to upholding Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of the national solidarity; and perpetuation of the sovereignty — in accord with the national duty.

At present, the neo-colonialists and their lackeys are trying to drive a wedge to

cause disagreement between the Tatmadaw and the people. They put some radio stations under their domain to broadcast slanderous reports against the Tatmadaw. They are trying to organize the international community to ostracize Myanmar and in to drop recognition of her in the UN.

They try to deceive the international community and the peoples of the world to have a wrong view on Myanmar. The neo-colonialists and their lackeys tried hard to prevent ASEAN from accepting Myanmar as a member. They have been trying to withdraw all foreign investment and businesses from Myanmar and to bar the new investments and companies from coming into the nation. They created fabrications to scare away tourists from visiting Myanmar. They try to prevent international organizations from holding conferences or seminars in Myanmar and to discredit the nation. The worst is that some powers of the world are applying pressure to impose economic sanctions on Myanmar to cause economic hardships.

(See page 9)



Realizing the truth, the people, who were misled by the fabrication of some foreign radio stations to run away from the nation, come back into the embrace of the mother land. They are warmly welcomed by the people.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day



(from page 8)

However, the governments, the leaders, the entrepreneurs and media persons of the neighbouring countries, the regional countries and the major powers, who are in favour of the Myanmar's interest, are saying that sanctions and pres-

objective conditions.

The radio stations have also floated fabrications to interfere in the affairs of the nations.

The attitudes of the leaders of foreign countries who understand the efforts of the Government and the people to install democracy

was extending international relations in other sectors; that the ASEAN leaders believed that positive changes would further flourish in Myanmar if the practice of constructive policy towards Myanmar continued.

Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Thaksin heartily

some other Asian and European countries to meet and discuss the programme with Myanmar representative. A so-called member of the parliament of the west bloc country branded the Thai Prime Minister an agent of Myanmar Military Government, saying that as the agent fee, he alleged, the Prime Minister got the permission to extend his business in Myanmar.

The Thai Prime Minister responded his accusations, saying that Thailand's help for the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar is not for any self-interest, but just for the responsibility it had as a neighbour and a regional country.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Poem

Sacrificing, daring Myanmar citizen

If truly Myanmar
Does not relish eating food that is other's
Does not eat well, is not satiated
If comfort and avarice do not rise
If others mistreat us
Without justice, intrude and challenge
Not to have them take even an inch of land
We'll rise and crush and expel them.
If truly Myanmar
His lake, his monastery, his river, his water
His homeland, his kin shall not be spoken of
Badly and jealously
Decisively
Shall not be spoken against, with malice
And if spoken of with mal-intent,
We'll let not even a word be spoken, will retort
For the sake of the truth we will strive.
This water, this land, our abode
Born of this land, our kith and kin
Proudly achieve bravely
With all the sentiments for victory
Our nation will be victorious
Entire nationals with hands held tight
Will not become anyone's slave ever
Must be stalwart patriotic Myanmar.

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)



The Tatmadaw and people collectively eradicate the danger of narcotic drugs. A ceremony to destroy narcotic drugs in progress.

ures will further delay the process of democracy in Myanmar and to sink the people deeper into poverty. The friendly quarters are asking whether the sanctions and punishments are meant for the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar or for a minion to gain power. Help and co-operation should be rendered for the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar, they also said in expressing their attitude.

The tourists, and academics and organizations of the economic, education, health and cultural sectors, who have visited Myanmar, are compiling and publishing books and articles on the peace, stability and progress of Myanmar. But the foreign radio stations, BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB, are always silent concerning the nation's

in the nation and their nation-building endeavours, are sincere and constructive. During the first informal ASEAN leaders' meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 30 November 1996, former Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr Mahathia bin Mohammad discussed Myanmar's membership to the Association.

He said that the ASEAN's extension of positive relations with Myanmar had helped extend her international relations; that anyone who said that positive relationship was not beneficial to Myanmar did not see the truth. He also said that Myanmar's condition at present was much different from that of the past; that Myanmar had already opened the door for foreign investment and trade; that it

welcomed the seven-point future policy programme of Myanmar. He even invited government representatives of ASEAN countries and

Some politicians of the west, who were not satisfied with the report of the UN Special Envoy, Mr Razali Ismail, presented on

Myanmar, criticized him and demanded his resignation. But in reality, those acts are the attitude of the global neo-colonialists who are afraid to see the world understand the actual political, economic and social conditions of Myanmar.

The nation's objective conditions stand proof to the fact that the Tatmadaw's tradition and dignity of endeavouring for the flourishing democracy in Myanmar amounts

to serving the interest of the nation and her people.

Thus, any slander of the neo-colonialists, their lackeys and radio stations cannot cover up the endeavours of the Tatmadaw.

The record of the Tatmadaw which has always stood by the people throughout the successive eras of history also shines. And it will continue to stand as the one loved by the people.

(Translation: TMT)



Tourists knowing the objective conditions of Myanmar are visiting the country again and again.

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Pakistan

YANGON, 22 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23 March 2004, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to His Excellency Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents offertories to President Nayaka of Ponnayamamazay Kyaungtaik Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa, who received Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title presented by the State Peace and Development Council. — MNA



Prime Minister attends ceremony to honour Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa

YANGON, 22 March — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, arrived in Nyaungdon Township on 21 March. They were welcomed at the border of the township by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials.

The Prime Minister went to Yadanazaw Tazaung in

Ponnayamamazay Kyaungtaik in Nyaungdon Township. He attended a ceremony to honour President Nayaka of Ponnayamamazay Kyaungtaik Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa who received Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title presented by the State Peace and Development Council.

Present were member Sayadaws led by Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Thayet Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddham-

majotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara, members of the Sangha led by Vice-Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Nijodhayaon Sarthintaik Sayadaw, nuns, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, departmental officials, wellwishers and disciples.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara. The Prime Minister sup-

plicated on religious matters. In his supplication, he said he was glad to pay obeisance to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

He learnt that the Sayadaw became a member of Central Working Committee of the Sangha according to the resolution of the First Plenary meeting of the Sangha in 1980 and is serving religious duties at the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities in Yangon and Mandalay and International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University.

The Prime Minister presented offertories to Sayadaws Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa and Bhaddanta Kesara.

The commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and wellwishers presented offertories to the members of the Sangha. Sayadaw of Yangon Division Abbot Training School Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kovida praised the virtues of the Sayadaw.

Joint Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Kalaywa Tawya Presiding

Nayaka Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa delivered a sermon. The Prime Minister and party offered "soon" to the members of the Sangha.

Next, the Prime Minister inspected construction of an embankment with stones to protect Nyaungdon from erosion and tasks for beautifying the river bank. Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing reported on tasks being undertaken. The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements. He arrived back here the morning.

MNA



Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses coordination meeting on collection of road and bridge tolls. — MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Pakistan

YANGON, 22 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23 March 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to His Excellency Mian Kurshid Mehmood Kasuri, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. — MNA

Armed Forces Day Exhibition to be held

YANGON, 22 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Exhibition will be held on a grand scale free of charge from 26 March to 4 April at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here.

At the exhibition booths of ministries, the office of the Commander-in-Chief

(Navy), the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Ministry of Defence and commands, the booth on twelve State's objectives, booth on nation-building of various ministries, booths of Yangon and Mandalay City Development Committees, and other booths will be put on display.

MNA

Coord Meeting on collection of road, bridge tolls held

YANGON, 22 March — Coordination meeting on collection of road and bridge tolls was held at the Assembly Hall of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction here this afternoon with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. It was attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Trans-

port Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Ministers for Construction U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials.

In his address, the Secretary-2 said bridges have been constructed in the nation by the Public Works of the Ministry of Construction, Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation and Quartermaster-General Office. Among them, there are 72 toll bridges of the Ministry of Construction and

collection of tolls of the 34 bridges are being carried out by the supervisory of the ministry and 38 are under competitive bidding system.

Similarly, there are 10 toll bridges built by Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation. The bridge tolls will be paid through competitive bidding system only as of 2004-2005 fiscal year, he said. He also urged the officials concerned to make efforts to implement the tasks relating to the competitive bidding system according to rules and regulations. Afterwards, Deputy

Minister for Construction U Tint Swe and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min briefed on collection of tolls of the bridges built by the ministries and preparations for bridge toll collecting system which will be implemented in 2004-2005 fiscal year. Next, representatives of the commands also reported on collection of bridge tolls being carried out by the commands and those present took part in the discussion. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Secretary-2.

MNA

Quiz on knowledge at Armed Forces Day Exhibition

YANGON, 22 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition will be held from 26 March to 4 April at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here.

At the National-Build-

ing booth of the exhibition, quiz on knowledge will be staged. Any one who visits the exhibition may participate in the quiz which will be held daily at 12 noon, and handsome prizes will be presented to winners at 2 pm, it is learnt. — MNA

Works of Armed Forces Day Commemorative literary and art competition to be displayed

YANGON, 22 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative literary and art competition works will be displayed at the Defence Services Museum from 26 March to 4 April

from 9 am to 5 pm daily. To catch the interest of visitors, works of literary and art competition — photos, paintings, sculptures, etc — will be displayed. Anyone can visit the exhibition. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents power-tillers and K 13.1 million to highland cultivation farmers. — MNA

All citizens responsible for ...

(from page 2)

Next, the Prime Minister inspected the site for construction of Kaukkwe Creek Dam. After that, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the 1,000-acre highland model plantations of the command and inspected a 200,000-gallon tank and construction of the pump station. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected samples of Pezinningon, sunflower, maize, peanut and paddy displayed at the briefing hall.

Lt-Col Nay Lin Aung, Staff Officer (Grade I) of North-East Command, reported on cultivation of Hsinshweli monsoon paddy, Hsinshadana paddy, groundnut, pigeon pea, sunflower, honey orange and coffee under the 1,000-acre model highland farming programme. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing then presented additional reports.

After hearing the reports, General Khin Nyunt gave instructions on making efforts to organize local farmers into the cultivation of ten major crops. General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to So So Pyay Pyay brick factory, where they viewed the functional process of making bricks.

General Khin Nyunt met with local authorities, social organizations, leaders of national races, entrepreneurs and townselders at the town hall in Lashio. At the get-together, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported on measures being taken for regional development, the location of the region, the population, counter-narcotics activities, economic growth, border trade, land allotment, agricultural tasks, condition of rice sufficiency, production of hybrid paddy seeds, mineral undertakings, transportation tasks, Shweli hydel power station project, and education and health campaigns.

Giving instructions after hearing the reports, General Khin Nyunt said as he met with local authorities, departmental officials, leaders of national races, social organizations and townselders, he would explain the noteworthy facts related to the conditions of the State.

General Khin Nyunt said that he, together with local authorities, ministers and departmental heads, arrived at Shan State (North) yesterday with the aim of encouraging the steps being taken for regional development and attended to the requirements.

Yesterday morning, General Khin Nyunt said, he attended a ceremony to open a modern sport ground in Muse, one of border towns in Shan State (North), adding that he also went round the development projects in the region and inspected them, meeting departmental officials, leaders of national races, entrepreneurs and townselders, giving necessary instructions to them and fulfilling the requirements.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt also said that he went to the construction site of a steel-framed suspension bridge on Thanlwin river in Tarpa village on Kutkai-Tamoenye-Monesi-Tarpa-Tashwehtan-Laukkai motor road that will be the short cut to Kokang from Lashio and Kutkai and coordinated the requirements for construction works. The Prime Minister continued to say that regional stability, economic growth and the creation of human resources capable of developing the region are three essentials to regional prosperity of a particular nation. Apart from those three essentials, spiritual development should be cultivated as it strengthens the nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit, the Prime Minister stressed.

The accomplishment of those four main factors is of vital importance in turning Myanmar into a peaceful, modern and developed nation. With this end in view, the Government is making all-out efforts to realize that goal. As the collapse of national unity after independence entailed distrust and conflicts among national brethren, all have witnessed that the State lagged behind in development as a result of the lack of stability.

Thus, from the time of assuming the responsibilities of the State, the Tatmadaw has been working hard with the conviction that the perpetual Union will not materi-

alize unless there prevail tranquillity and national solidarity and emerges robust economic growth in the country.

Far from neglecting the remote regions in border areas, constant efforts are also under way by laying down projects for development of national races residing in border areas.

The collective cooperation among the leaders of national races, national people in border areas and the Government has now seen the fruitful results of the projects for development of border areas. Furthermore, with the rising socio-economic life of the local people, the progress of border areas is becoming parallel with that of urban cities.

With the cooperation of national races living in border areas, the Government has been taking measures to put an end to the chronic cultivation and production of narcotic drugs in border areas, laying down the 15-year project for elimination of narcotic drugs. Success has been achieved in this drive owing to the cooperation of the leaders of national races, local authorities, and the public.

Under the New Destiny Project, seeds of poppy-substitute crops are handed to poppy growers directly. As a result, the poppy growers come to hand over poppy seeds giving up their poppy cultivation.

Therefore, the poppy yield survey team conducted the survey recently and acknowledged a considerable drop in production and cultivation of poppy in Myanmar. Now that poppy growers are coming to kick off poppy cultivation and pick up agricultural and livestock breeding work instead, the socio-economic life of the public become higher and higher.

Every government do their best for the good of its nation. Sadly, the lack of unity as well as party slips and armed revolts slowed the development pace of the Government although there has been a succession of governments.

Undeniable therefore is the increasing progress made day after day in the effort to realize the development of the State in the time of the

present Government. He said as is known to all the government is making endeavours in all sectors for national development and raising of living standard of the people with goodwill and the attitude to serve the good of the country.

He said the government has been serving the interest of the people as the parents gives loving kindness and goodwill towards their children and significant developments can be seen everywhere in the country. There are now factories, major roads and bridges, dams and reservoirs, modern buildings, new, splendid and magnificent universities and colleges, specialist hospitals and 300-bed hospitals in states and divisions, he said.

Major roads and bridges were built and are being built in the nation including Shan State for ensuring smooth and easy transport and better economy and trade. People can travel from Lashio to Mandalay and Muse anytime in a few hours, he added.

With the development of better transport, relations among the people has strengthened and economic and trade opportunities have increased. Significant development of socio-economic structures, strengthening of national solidarity and urban development have been made in all border areas including Shan State (South), he said.

He said people in border areas first enjoyed better results of such developments. He pointed out that all citizens are responsible for making efforts for regional peace and tranquillity, strengthening national solidarity and perpetuation of the Union.

He said national solidarity spirit and Union Spirit are souls for the Union of Myanmar made up of states and divisions which are small unions where national races live. He spoke of the need for all national people to understand the goodwill of the government that is making concerted efforts for harmonious development of the Union, better foundations for economic development and raising of living standard of the people with intention of strengthening national solidarity and propagating Union Spirit.

In response to the gratitude of the government, the national people are to implement the tasks for development of agriculture, livestock breeding, emergence of an industrialized nation, propagation of national solidarity spirit and Union Spirit and perpetuation of the Union.

The Prime Minister and party, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing arrived in Hsenwi at 12.30 pm.

They were welcomed by Brig-Gen Soe Oo of Hsenwi Station and military officers, local authorities and people.

The Prime Minister met members of Township Peace and Development Council,

departmental officials, members of social organizations, national race leaders, and townselders at the hall there.

Chairman of Hsenwi Township Peace and Development Council U Ye Kyaw Khaing reported on location and area, cultivation of paddy, efforts for boosting per acre yield, sufficiency of rice in the region, measures taken for regional development including education, health and communications and requirements.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and said he and party came to the region to fulfil the requirements for development of Hsenwi and to give instructions to officials concerned and townselders.

He said the government opened basic education schools for local people including youths to receive education and conducted Three "R" courses for adult illiterates. Moreover, the government opened women's vocational education training schools in border towns for young women.

He said social organizations such as Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association are carrying the tasks for development of education and health of the young women, increase of their income after learning vocational education and preservation of traditional culture and customs. He urged departmental officials and regional social organizations to actively take part in those tasks.

He said concerted efforts are to be made for regional and economic progress and effective implementation of the government's plans. There are development prospects in the region. Leadership and management of departmental officials play a vital role in regional development, strong economy and raising of living standard of the people.

He called for development of Hsenwi, a region close to border areas, on self-reliance basis under the leadership of departments concerned.

Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a TV, a VCR and a set of computer for Hsenwi BEHS to the township assistant education officer.

Next, the Prime Minister and party headed for Maha Kanbawza Monastery and paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandisena of Namhsat Monastery and members of the Sangha and presented offerings. They then paid homage to Buni Phatha Mudra Buddha Image. Via Lashio, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Nawngkhio where they were welcomed by members of Kyaukme District and Nawngkhio Township PDCs and officials. Next, at the township hall the Prime Minister met with council members, departmental officials,

social organizations, national race leaders and townselders. First, Kyaukme District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Soe Win reported on the location of the district and its population, land utilization, cultivation of crops in 2003-2004, cultivation of high yield Hsinshweli and Hsinshadana paddy, regional self-sufficiency of food and matters related to education and health.

Nawngkhio Township PDC Chairman U Ko Ko Lwin also reported on township's location and area, weather condition, land utilization, annual crops cultivation, regional food sufficiency, health, education, transport and communications and requirements. The Prime Minister then fulfilled the needs. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung and project director U Aung Nyunt reported on cultivation target of 100,000 acres of coffee, land reclamation, land allotments to private entrepreneurs and organizations for cultivation and distribution of coffee saplings. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions on successful implementation of projected works, assistance to be rendered to private entrepreneurs by departmental officials.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister spoke on the occasion, saying that he and his entourage arrived there to fulfill the requirements regarding the 100,000-acre coffee cultivation between Nawngkhio Township and Pyin Oo Lwin Township and development of Nawngkhio and Kyaukme District. We can see now the smooth transportation and development prospects in the district including Nawngkhio township. As there has been access to the villages of the township, measures have been taken to upgrade the roads, to extend BEHSs and to open rural health centres, he said.

That is why officials are to cooperatively make efforts with goodwill and diligence for the development of the regions. Now, high-ranking officials themselves are touring down to villages and undertaking the development works. So, township-level officials are needed to carry out their tasks with full sense of duty by making use of the assistance rendered. As Nawngkhio township, like other regions, is a place where various national races live, based on Union Spirit, all the national people are to actively cooperate in the development drive with departmental officials and social organizations, he added. Later, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt handed over a TV, a VCR and a set of computer for Nawngkhio BEHS to the schoolhead. Then, the Prime Minister and party went to Mandalay Airport and got back here in the evening.

MNA

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု

China values others' experiences in financial reform

BEIJING, 22 March— China hopes to learn from international experience in reforming its state-owned commercial banks, Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju said here Saturday.

Also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Huang told Sir John Bond, chairman of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. (HSBC) Group, that the reform in the banking sector is an important component of China's economic reform.

"An important part of China's economic reform is to accelerate the financial reform to realize a healthy development of the financial sector," Huang said.

China has launched the reform on two of its wholly state-owned commercial banks by introducing a joint-stock system. They are the Bank of China and the China Construction Bank.

The Chinese Government gave each of the two banks 22.5 billion US dollars late last year from its foreign exchange reserves to boost their balance sheets in preparation for stock market listing, ordering them to clean up their tattered loan books and improve lending practices to become internationally competitive banking firms.

The two banks, which are preparing for

overseas listing, were ordered to have all necessary elements of a standard joint-stock bank, for example, the general meeting of shareholders, board of directors and board of supervisors.

China has promised to open its banking business — in all places and all currencies — to foreign banks in 2006. However, China's major banks are still beleaguered by lack of corporate governance, high non-performing loan ratios and low capital adequacy ratio.

Huang said the objective of China's banking reform is to transform the wholly state-owned commercial banks into modern joint-stock commercial banks through improving corporate governance, transforming operation mechanism and strengthening exterior supervision.

"China hopes to learn from the success of world experiences in this regard," the Chinese Vice-Premier said.

In addition, Huang said China welcomes the HSBC and other financial institutions to come to China for investment and cooperation. It also encourages and supports their lawful operation in China. — MNA/Xinhua



“အမျိုးသမီးဘဝ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှု၊ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကြိုးပမ်း ဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအမျိုးသမီးရေးရာအဖွဲ့ချုပ်

ပြည်နယ်/တိုင်းအမျိုးသမီးရေးရာအဖွဲ့ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များ

စုံညီအစည်းအဝေး

ရန်ကုန်မြို့

၂၀-၂၉.၃.၀၄

WB expert says globalization boosts China's eco growth

BEIJING, 22 March— Increased globalization has brought the world vast investment space in China and thus boosted China's economic growth, said Deepak Bhattachali, chief economist of World Bank, Saturday.

Speaking at the pre-session of the China Development Forum's 2004 annual meeting, Bhattachali spoke highly of China's active involvement in the economic globalization and the consequent improvement of investment climate.

China has directly absorbed foreign investment of 50 billion US dollars in 2003. This can be attributed to

China's fast pace of keeping up with the economic globalization trend, said the economist. Globalization, to a large extent, ensured that

China's economy would develop in a balanced way by keeping pace with the world economy, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Officer of NeptuneLine (Singapore) and family present K 800,000 for construction of a three-storey hospital at Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. —NLM

HK holds conference on education

HONG KONG, 22 March—The first Principals' Conference was held Friday in Hong Kong to provide educational practitioners with a platform to exchange ideas and experiences on the issue.

The Principals' Conference, with the theme Breaking New Ground: Steering and Strategies, was jointly organized by the Hong Kong Institute of Education, the Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council and the Subsidized Primary Schools Council.

The conference aimed to provide a unique and distinguished opportunity for school principals and depu-

ties to focus on their issues of concern, exchange ideas and experiences, and voice out their perspectives.

President of Hong Kong Institute of Education Paul Morris expressed his view on education at the conference that school principals' abilities to improve schools and implement changes are greatly dependent on teachers.

He said that it is important to support and encour-

age the teaching profession and to find ways to attract people into the profession, and respect for the teaching profession is a value that is especially significant and relevant nowadays.

He also suggested that teacher educators, school personnel and members of the government should co-operate and take initiative to locate the source of problems, including school bullying, student suicide and the decreasing standard of students' language level, to create a better environment for school students to grow.

Renowned education practitioners, policy-makers and other educators were also invited to discuss issues related to educational reforms in a forum, highlight of the conference, and the organizers planned to summarize recommendations in the form of a statement and submit it to the government.

MNA/Xinhua



Model Anna Pabst poses with a medallion at the Nokia booth at the CeBIT 2004 in Hanover, northern Germany, on 19 March, 2004. Digital images can be loaded on the piece of jewelry. The fair runs up to 24 March, 2004. —INTERNET

China donates fireworks to Ghana

NAIROBI, 22 March — China donated 221 cartons of fireworks to Ghana for the West African country's National Day celebrations and other activities, Ghana News Agency reported Saturday.

Zhang Keyuan, Chinese Ambassador to Ghana, who presented the fireworks to Ghanaian Minister of Information Nana Akomea in Accra Friday, said, "The fireworks were not to be used for war, but to celebrate political stability, economic development and peace in Ghana."

He said that the friendship and cooperation between China and Ghana dated back to 1964 and that his country deemed Ghana as a "good old

friend". The ambassador explained that China invented gunpowder some thousand years ago and its fireworks were for celebrations of achievements and not for destruction.

Akomea commended China for its continued assistance to Ghana in the various sectors of national development, saying: "We also see such assistance as from a brother to a brother."

MNA/Xinhua

Kenya signs deal to boost flower exports to EU

NAIROBI, 22 March — Kenya on Friday finally signed a certification agreement with a Dutch firm to boost flower exports to the European Union (EU) under better prices.

The agreement was signed in Nairobi between the Kenya Flower Council (KFC) and a Dutch certification body, Milie Project Sterteelt. Speaking during the signing ceremony, KFC Chairman Erastus Mureithi said the Dutch firm would audit Kenyan farms on international environmental and social accountability standards.

Kenya is the second largest exporter of flowers to the European market after Netherlands, but this position faces a serious threat from non-tariff barriers being imposed by the EU.

According to KFC estimates, expenses of meeting the new EU conditions will go up by 50 per cent, further eroding the profit margin. — MNA/Xinhua

Dutch Queen mother Juliana dies aged 94

AMSTERDAM, 22 March— Queen mother Juliana, who reigned over the Netherlands for 32 years after World War II, died on Saturday morning at the palace in central Netherlands at the age of 94, the state information service said.

She died of a lung infection at 5.50 am (0450 GMT) in the Soestdijk palace where she had lived most of her life, the information service said. Juliana is the mother of reigning Queen Beatrix and it is her birthday, on April 30, that is still celebrated as the Dutch Queen's Day holiday.

The shy and soft-spoken Juliana ascended to the throne in 1948 and soon captured hearts both at home and abroad as she strove to bring the royal family closer to the people.

The "bicycling monarch" shopped at her local supermarket and sent her children to

state school. Her popularity prompted the labour party to drop its demand to turn the country into a republic.

Juliana Louise Emma Marie Wilhelmina was born in The Hague, the only child of Queen Wilhelmina and Prince Hendrik.

Juliana was not seen in public in recent years. Her health had worsened after breaking her hip in a fall at a friend's house in April 1998. She suffered some loss of memory and was "confused". Since then she has needed round-the-clock medical care.

MNA/Reuters

Paunglin Dam...

(from page 1)

Various measures are being taken to ensure sufficient water supply for agricultural purpose as it is the sine qua non for the development of the agricultural sector. As a result, dams, reservoirs, sluice gates and river water pumping stations have mushroomed the length and breadth of the nation.

The number of dams and reservoirs built by the present government, including the Paunglin dam opened today, has now reached 158 and the government has spent nearly K 70,000 million on them. All these dams and reservoirs are now irrigating more than 21 million acres of farmland. Therefore, it can be said that they are benefiting the State and all the rural people, including the farmers.

The present government is building dams not only for the purpose of irrigating farmland but they are being constructed for generating electricity, for greening the environment in the dry zones, for regulating the weather and for preventing floods and inflow of sea water. As a result, the irrigation facilities have become an engine of agricultural development. Moreover, they will provide adequate supply of food for the public, thereby raising their economic and social status.

Ngamoyeik Reservoir, nation's pride, is the first as well as the biggest one built in 1995 in the time of the present Government with the use of a small number of machinery and with the skills of Myanmar engineers alone. Huge dams including Thaphanseik Dam in Sagaing Division have now emerged. Ngamoyeik Reservoir, the most vital facility for Yangon City, not only benefits over 70,000 acres of farmland between Hlegu Township and Yangon City but also supplies nearly 90 million gallons of water a day to the people living in Yangon.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe provided guidance to establish agriculture and poultry farming zones in the vicinity of Yangon City for the people of Yangon. Ngamoyeik Reservoir supplies irrigation water to the zones being undertaken in line with the guidance of the Head of State.

To improve the country,

the supply of electricity and irrigation water is of paramount importance for undertaking industries on a broader scale. Therefore, electricity-generating dams such as Paunglaung, Yeywa, Mone creek hydel power station projects, Shweli, Shwekyin and Kengtawng hydel power station projects as well as Khapaung, Pyu, Yenwe and Kun hydel power station projects are being implemented at a cost of a great sum of money to generate electricity. A total of 28 hydel power station projects was implemented after 1988. If 12 projects out of those under implementation are completed, there will be somewhat sufficient supply of electricity in the country.

There have been provided a total of 158 irrigation facilities including Thaphanseik Dam to enable the rural people to carry out their farm work all the year round with the irrigation water.

The Head of State also gave guidance on the drive to keep the areas 30 miles radius of Yangon City lush and pleasant all the year round. To make more effective the water supply system of Ngamoyeik Reservoir, Paunglin dam (Support Dam to Ngamoyeik) was opened today successfully. The dam opened today will be able to store water starting from coming rainy season and serve the interest of the people in Yangon.

Therefore, Paunglin reservoir and recently-com-

pleted Mahuya reservoir will help supply water to Ngamoyeik Reservoir, ensuring an adequate supply of irrigation water to Hlegu Township and Thanlyin Township.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin. — MNA

pleted Mahuya reservoir will help supply water to Ngamoyeik Reservoir, ensuring an adequate supply of irrigation water to Hlegu Township and Thanlyin Township.

The rural farmers enjoying the fruitful results of Ngamoyeik Reservoir should strive on their part for the success of agricultural

tion of the seven-point roadmap, to promote agricultural products as that the country can stand proud amid the international community, and to do their bit in stabilizing the nation and raising the socio-economic life of the public.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin made a

speech. He said that the government is giving priority to availability of water for agricultural purpose and dams and reservoirs were constructed and river water

ties, officials concerned and staff of Irrigation Department who contributed their shares in construction of the dam at a cost of K 467 million.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered a speech on the occasion.

A local from Hlegu Township thanked the government for construction of the dams.

The Prime Minister presented gifts for service personnel who participated in the construction of the dam through Director U Kyaw Thein of Yangon Division Irrigation Department and Assistant Director (Mechanical) U Than Win. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally unveiled the stone inscription of the dam. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin formally opened the dam.

The Prime Minister posed for souvenir photos with service personnel and students in front of the archway. He cordially greeted those present

He thanked local authori-



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Paunglin Dam (Support dam to Ngamoyeik Reservoir). — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents fruit basket to Deputy General Manager Mr Yoshizu and officials of Kansai Company of Japan. (News page 16) — MNA



National Convention Convening Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung addresses the committee meeting. (News page 15) — MNA

on the occasion. The Prime Minister inspected the tower of the main dam and construction of conduit pipe.

Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin explained storage of water in Ngamoyeik Reservoir and Paunglin Dam.

Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win reported on data of the dam. The Prime Minister said Ngamoyeik Reservoir and other related dams would be useful in supply of water to cultivable lands and to Yangon. The Prime Minister and party inspected storage of water in the Ngamoyeik Dam. They went to herbal garden of Myanmar Agriculture Service in Hlegu Township and inspected 258 kinds of herbal plants.

The Prime Minister inspected herbal plantation that can cure six major diseases. He also inspected 79 kinds of herbal plants of Myanmar Farms Enterprise.

They went to the briefing hall of Ngamoyeik Reservoir where Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin reported on history of water supply to Yangon and water supply project. Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on supply of water from Ngamoyeik Reservoir and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe on cultivation of summer paddy and storage of water in the reservoir. The Prime Minister then gave instructions. They arrived back here in the afternoon.

MNA

(၅၉)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ပြည့်

တပ်မတော်ခမ်သမိုင်းပြတိုက်

(ရွှေဝိသုသုဇာလမ်း)

(၂၆-၃-၂၀၀၄ မှ ၄-၄-၂၀၀၄)

(မည်သူမဆို အခမဲ့ဝင်ရောက် ကြည့်ရှုလေ့လာနိုင်ပါသည်)

Committee for holding plenary meeting of state and division organizations for women's affairs meets

YANGON, 22 March—The committee for holding the plenary meeting of state/division organizations for women's affairs, which will be organized by the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, held its preliminary coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Social Welfare Department on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

Present at the meeting were President of the

leading committee for the plenary meeting of state/division organizations for women's affairs and President of MWAFF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members of the leading committee, President of the working committee Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, Vice-Presidents Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, and members of the working committee, Adviser Daw Khin Than Nwe,

leaders of the working groups, and guests.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivered an opening speech at the meeting. Next, leaders of the working groups presented reports on measures being taken for the coming meeting, followed by a general round of discussions in which all those present took part. Later, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gave instructions.

MNA



President of MWAFF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe discusses holding of the plenary meeting of state/division organizations for women's affairs. — MNA

National Convention Convening Management Committee meets

YANGON, 22 March—The National Convention Convening Management Committee held a work coordination meeting at Pyidaungsu Hall in Kyaikkasan Grounds here this morning.

Present were Chairman of the Management Committee Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairmen Director of Supply and Transport Maj-Gen Than Htay and Deputy

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and members and sub-committee members.

First, Maj-Gen Lun Maung explained matters on National Convention Convening Management Committee. Next, the chairmen and officials of the respective sub-committees reported on measures taken sub-committees and future tasks.

In response to the reports, Chairman of the Management Committee Maj-Gen Lun Maung and the vice-chairmen fulfilled the requirements. This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman of the Management Committee Maj-Gen Lun Maung.

MNA

Weather, Climate and Water in the Information Age

Thein Tun

Today is the best moment to mention the brief history of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Myanmar working together to support the national development.

The First International Meteorological Congress was held in 1873. The international conference of directors of meteorological services held in Washington D.C., United States of America in 1947 adopted the convention and was signed by representatives of 31 countries. Myanmar was represented by Dr. Po E.

The convention entered into force on 23 March 1950. WMO became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1951.

Every year since 1961, we have celebrated the World Meteorological Day on 23 March to commemorate the coming into force of that day in 1950 of the convention creating the WMO as the successor to the IMO.

In the annual celebration of World Meteorological Day it is customary to select different theme each year. The theme for this year is "Weather, climate and water in the information age".

Indeed, weather, climate and water information are vital for most socio-economic activities. For example, weather and hydrological forecasts are used, among

others, to enhance agricultural production, manage water resources, combat desertification, ensure safe and efficient transportation, control pollution, schedule the production and distribution of electricity, support leisure activities and the insurance industry.

The information technology play a vital role in advancing meteorological, hydrological and related geophysical sciences that enable National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to contribute to socio-economic development and to the protection of the environment.

There is greater awareness of the sensitivity of the economy to weather, climate and water that influence virtually all human activities. Statistics over the last decade show that over 80 percent of all natural disasters are of meteorological or hydrological origin. In the 1950s, losses from all natural disasters, including the use of hydrometeorological origin, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, were estimated at US \$ 4 billion per year and in the 1990s at US \$ 40 billion.

More than 65 percent of those losses and nearly 90 percent of people killed were due to weather-, climate- and water-related disasters, with more than 280,000 deaths attributable to drought in the 1990s.

Due to major scientific

breakthroughs and technological developments in observing, telecommunications and computer capability, the NMHSs could forecast the occurrence of El Nino and La Nina and its associated impacts over a time-scale of a season to a year in advance, make improvement in the quality and accuracy of numerical weather prediction (NWP) and climate projections on a time-scale of decades. The progress in telecommunications and information technology make it possible to launch WMO's World Weather Watch (WWW) in 1963. Today, WMO coordinates the making of observations, using both traditional and state-of-the-art monitoring system, including automatic weather stations, weather radars, and meteorological operations, as well as research and development Satellites. Apart from monitoring the ocean through ships and buoys, WMO sponsors the deployment of more technologically advanced measurements, which contribute to improving the understanding of air-sea interactions and the provision of services for marine users.

Another benefit of the information age relates to the monitoring of the water cycle and water quality using up-to-date technologies and scientific developments. The observations of precipitations, stream flow and water level are now of-

ten transmitted by satellite relay to the central offices of National Hydrological Services or Water Agencies for processing. These new capabilities should place the National Hydrological services in good stead to address the challenges of growing water scarcity. Present estimates indicate that more than one billion people do not have ready access to safe drinking water.

As regards environmental protection, WMO's Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) monitors the chemical composition of the atmosphere including greenhouse gases, the ozone layer and ultraviolet radiation, as well as long-range transport of pollutants, aerosols, reactive gases and radioactive isotopes. WMO coordinates a global network of Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres to respond effectively to human-induced and other environmental emergencies including nuclear or chemical accidents.

As for severe tropical storms, forecasts and warnings involve satellite images for detection and tracking, computer models of the atmosphere-ocean system to predict their intensification or decay as well as their trajectory and up-to-date telecommunication facilities for dissemination to all categories of users. Steady improvements in predictions of tropical cyclones up to three days in advance, effective

dissemination of warnings and preparedness measures have led to a dramatic decrease in related deaths.

One of the six objectives of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) is to take precautionary measures against and to minimize the effects of natural disasters. Accordingly, DMH issues timely forecasts and warnings for floods, cyclonic storms, squalls, storm surges, strong winds, untimely rain and fog.

To provide efficient and effective services to the public, DMH has established full-time meteorological, hydrological, agrometeorological, seismological, upper air, radiosonde, radar stations and part-time climatological, hydrological and rain gauge stations throughout the whole country. Among them are 27 world weather watch stations which are part of a global network of the World Weather Watch (WWW) programme and the data from these stations implement the global monitoring of the atmosphere.

DMH nurtures its staff by organizing training courses, seminars and workshops. Some relevant candidates are sent abroad for further studies and others are selected to participate in international seminars and workshops on the related field organized by WMO and other international organizations to support safety building measures.

DMH is now providing B.Sc (Hons.) (Meteorology & Hydrology) classes of the Department of Physics and Mathematics of Dagon University and human resource development programme with the Department of Geography of Dagon University, Yangon Technological University, Defence Service Technological Academy.

DMH is also delivering lectures for the precaution and mitigation of meteorological, hydrological related and earthquake disasters at various natural disaster preparedness training courses in the country sponsored by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

For the purpose of protecting the environment, DMH has established greenhouse gas monitoring center, drought monitoring centre and acid deposition monitoring center.

The opportunities offered by the "Information Age" to meteorological, hydrological and related geophysical sciences should enable WMO and the NMHSs to address a growing number of challenges.

In conclusion, National Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Myanmar is in good shape to access and use the information provided under the umbrella of WMO in meeting effectively the environmental and developmental challenges of the 21st century.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses opening of Paunglin Reservoir in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division. (News page 1) — MNA

All citizens responsible for making efforts for regional peace and tranquillity, strengthening national solidarity and perpetuation of the Union

YANGON, 22 March— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, inspected regional development undertakings in Lashio, Shan State (North) on 20 March morning.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected Hsinshweli orange plantations grown on 2.75 acres of land by North-East Command in Lashio at 7.30 am.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected nurseries comprising 4,000 macademia saplings and 700,000 coffee saplings of North-East Command.

After that, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Hsinshweli hybrid paddy plantations of the command and looked into the research on production of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strains.

Afterwards, Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint reported on matters related to production of Hsinshweli paddy strains.

Commander Maj-Gen

Myint Hlaing gave a supplementary report.

After giving necessary instructions, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt viewed the research plantations.

Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Hsinshweli special high yield paddy plantations on Humon irrigated areas of Shan State (North) Police Force, where they were conducted round by officials concerned.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected Hsinshweli special high yield paddy plantations on Humon irrigated areas of No 902 Field Engineering Battalion.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at Mansu field in Humon Village-tract, Lashio.

Next, a ceremony to present Ahmo fertilizer for production of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strains was held in conjunction with the ceremony to present cash assistance to farmers who are engaged in highland cultivation at Hsinshweli farmer hall, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

(See page 2)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects power-tillers for highland cultivation farmers in Lashio, Northern Shan State. — MNA

Secretary-1 inspects Shwesayay hydro-electric power project site

YANGON, 22 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, and officials of the SPDC office, on 20 March afternoon arrived by helicopter at the site of Shwesayay Dam and hydro-electric

power project to be undertaken in Budalin Township, Sagaing Division. They were welcomed there by Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials. The Secretary-1 and party next looked into current conditions of the defile of

the river near Shwesayay Village, the project site.

At the briefing hall, Hydro-electric Power Department Director-General U Win Kyaw reported to the Secretary-1 on feasibility of hydel power resources, hydro-electric power projects implemented and being implemented, matters concerning the Chindwin-Ayeyawady all-round development project, measures to be taken for Shwesayay hydel power project and geological survey. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint reported on construction of Shwesayay Dam and supply of water for irrigation.

In response to the reports, the Secretary-1 said that the Irrigation Department and Hydro-electric Power Department are to cooperate in successfully undertaking the project. After that, the Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented a basket of fruit to Mr Yoshizu, assistant general manager of Kansai Co, and officials. The Secretary-1 then inspected the site chosen for the project.

The location of the

project is near Shwesayay Village in Budalin Township, 20 miles away from Monywa. According to the project, a gravel-filled dam, 3,280 feet long and 130 feet high, will be built at Shwesayay defile of the Chindwin. On completion, the project can generate 660 mega watt of electricity and benefit 150,000 acres of farmland.

In Sagaing Division, Zee Creek hydro-electric power project in Kalay Township, Lahe hydro-electric power project in Lahe Township, and Thaphanseik hydro-electric power project in Kyunhla Township have been implemented, and they are now generating 31.31 mega watt of electricity.

Along the Chindwin River valley, Homalin hydro-electric power project, Uru Creek hydro-electric power project, Batvar hydro-electric power project, Htamanthi hydro-electric power project, Mawlaik hydro-electric power project and Nay-risara hydro-electric power project will be implemented in addition to Shwesayay project.

MNA



*Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects Shwesayay Dam and hydro-electric power project. — MNA