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When we were united our country stood in grandeur

If we look back at the history of Myanmar, we will see that when we were united our country stood in such a grandeur as the First Myanmar Empire, Second Myanmar Empire and Third Myanmar Empire. Therefore when the imperialists were governing the country they fostered disunity to disintegrate our national solidarity.

Senior General Than Shwe
 Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
 Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
 (From the address delivered at the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects dress rehearsal of parade columns at Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected dress rehearsal of parade columns that will take part in the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade for 2009 at the Parade Ground here this morning.

Together with member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the SPDC Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air)

(See page 5)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects dress rehearsal of parade columns that will take part in the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.—MNA



Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 24 March, 2009

Build more roads and bridges for development of national economy

According to geographical features, Myanmar is blessed with rivers and creeks mountain ranges, ravines, gorges, plains and hilly regions. And such natural barriers can now be overcome through the might of the government and the people with the emergence of a large number of roads and bridges, thereby enabling one to travel easily from one place to another.

In the past, Ayeyawady Division had to rely solely on waterways. At present, with the emergence of a large number of roads and bridges marked progress has been made in economic, trade and social sectors of the division.

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day a ceremony to open Ngawun Bridge (Myogwin) in Ingapu Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Division, was held on 21 March. With the birth of the new bridge, vehicles with 60 tons of load can easily run from and to Hinthada, Ingapu, Myanaung, Kyangin and Laymyethna townships.

Making better use of the new bridge, one can have easy access to Pathein through Kwinkauk-Ngathaingyoung-Yekyi road, to An-Sittway through Betye-Okshitpin road and to Monywa through Padan-Kazunma.

Ngawun Bridge (Myogwin) is the 45th of its kind in Ayeyawady Division, and the 220th of its kind in the nation whose length is 180 feet and above.

As Ayeyawady is rich in land and water resources, paddy, green gram, pulses and beans, edible oil crops can thrive in it. In the meantime, fish and prawn breeding and livestock breeding in the division are ongoing and improving.

At a time when the government is engaged in building more roads and bridges for better transport it is incumbent upon the local authorities and the people to try their best for development of national economy.

General Manager Mr. Jack Haung of Fida International Pte. Ltd explains facts about the new products.—MNA



People's Desire

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

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspects Yeywa Hydropower Project



Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence looks into Yeywa Hydropower Project.—MNA

NAYPYITAW, 23 March — Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence inspected Yeywa hydropower project on 20 March.

During the tour of inspection, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint presented gifts to foreign technicians and cordially greeted the workers at the project. He visited the project and inspected the work site.

The construction of the main dam, the intake channel, spillway and diversion tunnel of the project are nearing completion.

Before the tour of inspection, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace

and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, went to Pyawbwe Textile Factory under Myanma Textile Industries of Ministry of Industry-1 on 20 March and met with employees of the factory.

During the tour of Kyaukse in the afternoon, they inspected the construction of district-to-district linking roads.

They also inspected Kyaukse-Pyaukseipin-Yeywa Road which is under construction by the Public Works. A superintending engineer reported to them on upgrading the road and progress of works. The distance of the newly constructed Pyaukseipin-Yeywa Road is shorter than the old one.—MNA

KMD introduces ProLink LCD monitors

YANGON, 23 March — KMD Sales & Service Centre introduced quality and inexpensive ProLink LCD monitors as the sole agent in Myanmar at the Traders Hotel on 21 March.

At the introducing ceremony KMD Computer Group Chairman and CEO U Thaug Tin extended greetings and General Manager Mr. Jack Haung and Senior Sales Manager Mr. Samuel Han of Fida International Pte Ltd explained ProLink products.

Next, Mr. Jack Haung presented certificates recognizing

KMD Sales & Service Centre as authorized distributor and authorized service centre. ProLink brand computers and accessories have been produced and distributed since 1991 at reasonable prices. It was awarded ISO 9001 Quality Certificate in 1999.

ProLink LCD monitors will be distributed with 3 years parts & service warranty (LCD panel – 1 year parts warranty), and lucky draw programmes will also be held.

KMD Sales & Service Centre will distribute ProLink LCD monitors, computers and accessories as the sole agent in Myanmar. For detailed information, contact the office of KMD at No. 550-552, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township (Ph: 204071, 245180, 384109, 503511, 503522).—MNA

MoU on conducting of proficiency courses signed



Myanmar Forest Product and Timber Merchants Association and CVT sign MoU on conducting of proficiency courses.—UMFCCI

YANGON, 23 March — Jointly organized by the Myanmar Forest Product and Timber Merchants Association and Centre for Vocational Training (CVT), a ceremony to sign Memorandum of Understanding on conducting proficiency courses was held at the Wood Based Technical Training School of the association on Pinlon Street in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 21 March morning.

Chairman of the association U Sein Lwin extended greetings. Director of CVT Daw Yin Yin Aye explained the salient points of the CVT training school and In-Charge of Furniture Maker Training U Zaw Min Htut clarified facts about the training.

This was followed by the signing ceremony.

The ceremony came to an end with the concluding remarks by the chairman of the association.—MNA

Venezuela's Chavez calls Obama 'ignorant'



In this photo released by Miraflores Press Office, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez delivers a speech at the Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, on 21 March, 2009.—INTERNET

CARACAS, 23 March—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday called President Barack Obama “ignorant,” saying he has a lot to learn about Latin America.

The socialist leader said he had been

ready to name a new ambassador in Washington when Obama took office, but put that on hold after the new US president accused him of “exporting terrorism” and being an obstacle to progress in the region.

“At least one could say, ‘poor ignorant person,’” Chavez said on his weekly television and radio programme, adding that Obama “should read a little bit so that he learns about ... the reality of Latin America.” US National Security Council spokesman Mike Hammer declined to comment on Chavez’s statements.

Chavez’s relations with Washington grew increasingly strained under former President George W Bush. The Venezuelan president expelled the US ambassador and withdrew his envoy from Washington in September. Top diplomats have yet to be restored at either embassy.

Internet



An Afghan man looks at the site of a suicide car bomb blast in Khost Province on 21 March, 2009.—INTERNET

US Afghan plan must have ‘exit strategy’

WASHINGTON, 23 March— US President Barack Obama said the United States must have an “exit strategy” in Afghanistan even as it expands its military, diplomatic and economic fight against a Taliban insurgency.

“What we’re looking for is a comprehensive strategy,” Obama said in

an interview aired Sunday on CBS television’s 60 Minutes show. “There’s got to be an exit strategy,” he said. “There’s got to be a sense that this is not a perpetual drift.” Obama’s comments come as he prepares to roll out a new strategy for Afghanistan, against a backdrop of rising insurgent violence that has questioned the vi-

ability of a seven-year-old US-led effort to create a functioning democracy. Obama said a decision last month to send 17,000 more US troops to Afghanistan — largely to head off a spike in violence before elections in August — was the most difficult he has had to make since taking office.

Internet



Canadian soldier Master Corporal Graham Ridley (R) from the 2nd Combat Engineer regiment of the NATO-led coalition checks the ground for IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device) in the Taliban stronghold of Zhari district in Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan on 19 March, 2009.

INTERNET

Ten militants killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 March—NATO says its troops have killed 10 militants, including a senior commander in southern Afghanistan.

NATO said on Monday its troops targeted the compound of insurgent leader Maulawi Hassan in Helmand Province. He and nine associates were killed.

The attack took place Saturday.

NATO says Hassan was a senior militant figure in northern Helmand.

Two NATO soldiers and a contractor were killed Sunday in the same region.

Internet

Netanyahu brings on 2nd coalition partner

JERUSALEM, 23 March—The ultra-Orthodox Jewish Shas Party says it has reached a coalition deal with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, bringing him closer to forming his government.

Shas initialed an agreement with Netanyahu’s Likud Party early on Monday. Last week, Netanyahu initialed a deal with the ultranationalist Yisrael Beiteinu. So far he has reached agreements with parties that hold 53 of parliament’s 120 seats.

Netanyahu is also trying to bring in other religious parties and the dovish, 13-seat Labour, headed by Defence Minister Ehud Barak.

Labour is to vote on Tuesday whether to join the government. Netanyahu has also tried to bring in Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni’s Kadima Party.

However, she has declined because he hasn’t stated a commitment to negotiating the establishment of a Palestinian state.—*Internet*

NATO soldier killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 March —A soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed in Afghanistan’s southern trouble region, a statement of the alliance released here Sunday said.

“An International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service member died of wounds after a hostile incident in southern Afghanistan today,” the statement added.

“Our thoughts and support are with the family, friends and comrades of this soldier today,” said Brigadier-General Richard Blanchette, ISAF Spokesperson in the statement.

However, the statement did not identify the nationality of the victim, adding it is ISAF policy not to release the nationality of any casualty prior to the relevant national authority doing so.

Internet

Michigan 15-year-old dies after police Taser him

BAY CITY, 23 March— Police in Michigan say a 15-year-old boy has died after being Tasered by officers who were trying to break up a fight.

Police didn’t release his name and say state police are investigating.

A Bay City police news release says officers answered a report of an early morning fight on Sunday. The statement says two males were arguing in an apartment, and one of them “attempted to fight the officers.”

Police say officers Tasered him, and his reaction led them to immediately call for emergency medical help. He was pronounced dead at Bay Regional Medical Center.

Deputy Chief Thomas Pletzke tells WNEM-TV police placed one officer on administrative leave.—*Internet*

A policeman runs behind a protester during a peace activists action aimed at entering NATO Headquarters in Brussels on 21 March, 2009.

INTERNET



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: Message on World TB Day 24 March 2009

The steps being taken around the world to stop tuberculosis (TB) are having an impact. Today, the epidemic is continuing its decline. But the rate of decline is far too slow, and TB still takes a life every 20 seconds. Millions of people are benefiting from treatment through coordinated national efforts, but millions more are still missing out. Unless we accelerate action, the numbers of those falling ill will continue to grow.

Together, we need to help prevent infection, find all people who are ill far earlier and provide treatment for all. We have a Stop TB Strategy that can do this and a Global Plan to Stop TB that sets the course, but our efforts are falling short.

We must redouble our efforts to fight multidrug-resistant (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR-TB) forms of TB. We must also continue to fight the TB/HIV co-epidemic.

I welcome the commitment of governments, multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations and members of the corporate, academic and research communities working to halt and reverse the spread of the disease and stay on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

In this time of economic crisis, we must protect investments in global health, particularly to protect the most vulnerable. Global cooperation in fighting tuberculosis, and all the Millennium Development Goals, must be essential to our task ahead.

As we look to the future, we need to build and expand our partnerships to deliver the solutions we know work today. We also need to innovate so we can prevent disease, save lives and enable communities to thrive.

UNIC

Russia submits proposal to Bangladesh on setting up nuclear power plant

DHAKA, 23 March — Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Gennady P Trotsenko on Sunday submitted a formal proposal to Bangladesh's State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman for setting up a nuclear power plant to meet the country's growing demand for energy, private news agency UNB reported.

Talking to reporters here Sunday after meeting with the state minister, the ambassador was quoted as saying Russia is making endeavours to assist Bangladesh to construct a nuclear plant to meet the energy needs in the south Asian country.

He said a Russian team of experts would soon come here to discuss this issue with the concerned authorities.

The state minister told reporters that they would study the proposal and hold further discussions on it with the Russian expert team.

Internet



People climb up the Pyramid of the Sun located in the ruins of the pre-Hispanic city of Teotihuacan, 60km (37 miles) north of Mexico City, on 21 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Lebanon should be wary of foreign powers, armed groups

BEIRUT, 23 March— Former Lebanese President Amin Gemayel said Sunday that Lebanon should be wary of foreign interventions and domestic armed groups on the road of rehabilitation, local Naharnet website reported.

"Sovereignty can not be completed as long as some want to give a part of it to Iran, Syria or the Palestinians," Gemayel said in a conference gathering his Phalange party leaders in the eastern sub-

urb of Beirut.

Hinting at the Shiite Hezbollah-led opposition, Gemayel said "I dare say we are in a period of rehabilitation."

His remarks came prior to a campaign for the general election scheduled for 7 June in which his son, Sami Gemayel, is running.

Earlier in the day, Sami Gemayel told the Voice of Lebanon radio that there is a party in Lebanon that owns arms other than the Lebanese

army and enjoys foreign connections, referring to Hezbollah's armed forces.

Amin Gemayel, a Christian leader from the ruling coalition, served as the country's president from 1982 to 1988.

He lost his parliamentary seat to a candidate from Christian opposition leader Michel Aoun's bloc in 2007.

His another son Pierre Gemayel, then a member of parliament, was assassinated in 2006.

Internet

Cargo plane crashes at Japan's Narita airport

TOKYO, 23 March — A Federal Express Corp cargo plane crashed and burst into flames early Monday at Narita International Airport, east of Tokyo, said reports from Narita, Chiba Prefecture, citing airport and police officials.

The pilot and the co-pilot aboard, both US citizens in their 50s and 40s, were confirmed dead after being rescued from the crashed plane at around 8:00 am and taken to the Japanese Red Cross hospital, hospital officials said.

The MD-11 plane, a cargo flight from Guangzhou, crash landed on Runway A at about 6:50 am (2150 GMT) when there were strong winds of up to 72 km per hour, which whipped the plane back up and made its left wing hit the ground.

Internet



Photo taken on 23 March, 2009 shows the crash site of a cargo plane at the Narita International Airport, east of Tokyo, capital of Japan. A Federal Express Corp cargo plane crashed and burst into flames early Monday at the Narita International Airport, reports from Narita, Chiba Prefecture, cited airport and police officials as saying. —XINHUA

17 killed in plane crash in Montana

WASHINGTON, 23 March—The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said 17 people were killed in a plane crash near Bert Mooney Airport in Butte, Montana on Sunday.

Mike Fergus, a spokesman for FAA regional office, in Washington state covering the area including Montana, told reporters that preliminary reports indicate many of the victims are children and there are no known fatalities on the ground.

"We think that it was probably a ski trip for the kids," Fergus said.

The single-engine Pilatus PC12 plane departed from Oroville, Calif at about 11 am Pacific time (1800 GMT). Fergus said the pilot had filed a flight plan showing a final destination of Bozeman, but he had canceled his flight plan at some point and headed for Butte.

Internet

Around 2:30 pm local time (2030 GMT), the plane crashed in a cemetery about 150 meters from the airport while at-

tempting to land and caught fire.

An eyewitness to the crash told local newspaper the *Montana Standard* the plane was doing steep angle turns and then went into a nose dive. "All of a sudden the pilot lost control and went into a nose dive," said Kenny Gulick. "He couldn't pull out in time and crashed into the trees of the cemetery."

Internet



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects dress...

(from page 1)

Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Organizing Management Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, members of the Leading Committee and senior military officers, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye at 6 a.m arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground where the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day would be held.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the drill of members of Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society, Anawratha Column led by Column Commander Col Than Win, Kyansittha Column



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects the drill of Tatmadawmen from seven columns, members of Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society.—MNA

led by Column Commander Col Yan Myo Aung, Bayintnaung Column led by Column Commander Col Min Thein Tint, Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander Col Than Aung, Hsinbyushin Column led by Column Commander Col Nay Win, Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Col Khin Maung Htwe, Myawady Column led by Column Commander Col Kyaw Thant Naing under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Tun Nay Lin and Parade Adjutant Lt-Col Soe Moe Kyaw.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected



Tatmadaw members from seven columns, MPF members, members of Myanmar Fire Brigade and Red Cross Society of the parade companies and gave necessary instructions to officials and left there at 8.20 a.m.
MNA

**Armed Forces Day
Parade columns
marching in
Nay Pyi Taw
Parade Ground.**

MNA

Rapid progress due to concerted efforts...

(from page 16)

—to successfully build the future nation by learning to take lessons from history and to always reinvigorate patriotism and Union Spirit.

After that, General Thura Shwe Mann gave concluding remarks and the meeting came to a close.

Finally, the General and party cordially greeted departmental personnel, members and the social organizations and townsenders and inspected the development situations of Pathein.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party left Pathein by helicopter and arrived at Myaungmya at 11 am and met with townsenders, departmental officials and members of the social organizations.

First of all, Minister Col Thein Nyunt and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported on continued progress of Ayeyawady Division, emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and reinvigoration of Union Spirit.

Afterwards, General Thura Shwe Mann thanked and praised the people of Myaungmya for their generous help for the victims of Cyclone Nargis and said that Ayeyawady Division would become more developed with unity



Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann inspects Ma De dam project on Kamma.—MNA

and hard work of the local people. Then, the General cordially greeted townsenders and departmental personnel.

At the end of the meeting, the General and party viewed the sample insects, pests, high-yield paddy, rice and fertilizers displayed by Myanma Agriculture Service and farm implements manufactured by Myaungmya District Industrial Zone.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected the basic tennis training course being conducted at Myoma Sports Ground in Myaungmya and demonstration of skills by the local reserve fire brigade. After that, the General and party proceeded to Myaungmya Agricultural Institute, met and encouraged the youths made orphans by Cyclone Nargis and donated bags of rice, clothes and exercise books.

The General and party helicoptered to Yekyi and arrived there at 3 pm. First of all, Chairman of Max Myanmar Company U Zaw Zaw explained the

plan of donating a two-storey RC building to Myaungmya basic education middle school. The General raised the questions and took part in the discussion.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein pre-

sented a computer, Chairman of Max Myanmar Co U Zaw Zaw K 250 million for a two-storey building, Director U Ohn Kyaw of Max Myanmar Co 15000 CI sheets and balls for basic education schools in Yekyi Township to officials.

The General and party met departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at Yekyi Hall.

The General and party observed bamboo industry (Jade Elephant), bam-

boo materials, export rice, beans and pulses and rattan materials.

The General and party left Yekyi for Hinthada at 5 pm.

On 21 March, the General and party attended the opening ceremony of

It is important for the State, the people and the Tatmadaw to work harmoniously and cooperatively. This harmonious cooperation is a decisive factor for the nation.

Ngawun Bridge (Myogwin). They left Nyaungchaydauk for Kanyin Dam by helicopter.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on location of the dam and implementation of the project. He said the dam would be built with the aim of irrigating about 25,000 acres of farmland, preventing the farmland from floods and supplying power to nearby villages.

The General met the people from Maubin, Pathein, Myaungmya and Yekyi Townships.

He said he was pleased to see rapid changes in development affairs. Such progress has been made due to better transport in the division. motor roads were not developed in the region when he was the commander of the South West Command. Bo Myat Tun and Maubin Bridges were under construction. After necessary bridges had been built, roads to

The General and party inspected the implementation of Kanyin Dam. Small hydro turbines will be installed in the project. Such turbines were installed to supply power to nearby villages.

The General and party left the project site and arrived in Kyangin where they were welcomed by Col Han Nyunt of Kyangin Station and officials.

They went to Kyangin Cement Plant and they were conducted round the plant by officials.

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Maubin, Dedaye, Pyapon, Bogale, Myaungmya, Sarmalauk and Nyaungdon emerged. Later considerable progress has been made. This shows that better transport brings about development.

He said Hinthada and Maubin were designated as special development regions for full development of the division. Rapid development has been made as the government provided requirements for raising the standard of education and health, he said.

Cooperation of the people, assistance of the ministers and their earnest efforts helped develop the region, the General said rapid progress has been made due to the concerted efforts of the service personnel and the people under the guidance of the Head of State.

The whole Ayeyawady Division has developed and so do other states and divisions. Although the whole country has now developed more significantly than in the past, there are still weaknesses and imperfections. However, the State, on its part, is trying its utmost in collaboration with the people to become perfect and remedy those weaknesses.

Ayeyawady will see more progress as the honest and hardworking Ayeyawady people have worked together out of goodwill and patriotism in crushing insurgencies and in carrying out Nargis rehabilitation tasks. And these are the fine traditions of Ayeyawady.

(See page 7)



Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann looks into Kanyin dam project.—MNA



Rapid progress due to concerted efforts...

(from page 6)

The people were able to restore their businesses such as agriculture, fishery and salt-making and their operations have returned to normal though they had to suffer the natural disaster that they had never experienced. So it can be said that one who is shouldering his duties with goodwill is the one who is building a nation and loves that nation having the sense of duty-consciousness.

So, for the government, it needs to work hard for national development. For civil servants, they need to work dutifully. And for the people, they need to work hard. It is important for the State, the people and the Tatmadaw to work harmoniously and cooperatively. This harmonious cooperation is a decisive factor for the nation. Therefore, they are all to continue to work in nation-building tasks in accord with the State constitution approved by the entire people based on good traditions and experiences.

After that, the General helicoptered to Inma of Bago Division (West) and met with military officers and other ranks and their families at the hall of No 66 LID.

The government on its part needs to work hard ambitiously. The Tatmadaw on its part needs to serve the State and the people in a loyal manner. The people on their part need to work harmoniously with understanding and cooperation.

At 4 pm, the General and party arrived in Pyay and were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Vice-Chairman of Bago Division PDC Brig-Gen Sein Myint, Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe and departmental officials. At Khittara Yadana Hall of Pyay, the General met departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people.

Speaking on the occasion, the General said peace and stability of the State is the ultimate desire of the entire people. And this desire is to be realized by the

Myanmar Forest Product and Timber Merchants Association to hold its 15th AGM

YANGON, 23 March—The 15th AGM of Myanmar Forest Product and Timber Merchants Association first cancelled for various reasons was postponed to 5 pm on 28 March at International Business Centre (I.B.C) on Pyay Road here and members are invited to attend it without fail.—MNA



Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd introducing new Follow Me & Secret Beauty Products.—MNA



Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann inspects Kyangin cement plant.—MNA

strength of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw. Therefore, the government on its part needs to work hard ambitiously. The Tatmadaw on its part needs to serve the State and the people in a loyal manner. The people on their part need to work harmoniously with understanding and cooperation.

The people of Pyay are urged to work for the development of the State by making good use of development infrastructures almost fully built by the government.

Later, Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Maj-Gen Aung Min reported on national and regional development tasks and functions of their respective ministries.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and party proceeded to Jotikayon Pali Tetkatho Monastery in Hsandaw Ward, Pyay where they paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Bhaddanta Kundalajoti.

After that, General Thura Shwe Mann presented offertories to the Sayadaws.

On 22 March morning, the General and party attended the opening of Okshitpin-Kanma railroad section and met with departmental personnel and local

people at Kamma Railway Station in Kamma.

On arrival at Maday Dam project at 11.15 am, the General and party were welcomed by Director-General of the Irrigation Department U Khin Zaw and departmental officials.

At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported to the General and party on location of the dam project, work being carried out, storage capacity of the dam upon completion, construction of spillway and irrigation system, supply of water to some summer paddy fields, steps being taken for installation of turbines at the dam for small scale hydel power plants, supply of water to 2000 acres of arable lands on completion of the project.

Next, Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe reported on measures being taken for meeting the target of growing monsoon and summer paddy in the region and regional self-sufficiency.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw reported on matters on ensuring extended cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy with the use of water from Maday Dam and introducing of triple cropping and others.

After hearing the reports, the General gave necessary instructions.

After inspecting the flowing of water into the dam, the General and party left the project by helicopter and arrived in Mindon.

Next, they looked into development of Mindon by car and met officials and attended to the needs.

Afterwards, General Thura Shwe Mann and party left Mindon by helicopter and arrived in Thayet at 1.30 pm.

First, they observed the development of Thayet by car.

At the Thayet Town Hall, the General and party met departmental officials, social organizations and local people.

At the meeting, General Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions on regional development, national development and steps taken for perpetual existence of the nation as a consolidated Union.

Next, Ministers Dr Chan Nyein, Col Thein Nyunt, Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Maj-Gen Aung Min and Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo who accompanied General Thura Shwe Mann reported on the requirements to be fulfilled for Magway Division.

After making the concluding remarks, General Thura Shwe Mann cordially greeted local people.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and party left Thayet by helicopter and arrived back here in the evening.—MNA

New Follow Me & Secret Beauty Products introduced

YANGON, 23 March—Ta-Fa Trading Co Ltd introduced new Follow Me & Secret Beauty Products in conjunction with the lucky draw programme at Chatrium Hotel, here, yesterday.

Managing Director U

Kyin Sein of the company, and Marketing Executive (Junior) Daw Htet Wai Yi Kyaw explained functions of the new product named Nutox Wrinkle Away Products Range.

Next, the best sale agents were honoured. Afterwards, those presented participated in the lucky draw programme.

Executive Director U Tun Kyi spoke words of thinks, and a lunch was served to those present.

Similar ceremony for sale agents of Upper Myanmar will be held at Hotel Mandalay in Mandalay on 25 March.

MNA



HAILING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

Development of health sector in the time of Tatmadaw Government

No.	Subject	1988	2008	Progress
1.	Construction and upgrading of hospitals	631	846	215
	- Hospitals under Ministry of Health	617	820	203
	- Hospitals under other ministries	14	26	12
2.	Traditional Medicine Hospital			
	- Traditional medicine hospital	2	14	12
	- Traditional medicine clinic	89	237	148
3.	Health Department			
	- Rural health clinic	1337	1481	144
	- Regional health units	64	86	22
4.	Medicine and health teaching institutions			
	- Universities	4	15	11
	- Training schools	21	43	22



General Hospital in Myeik, Taninthayi Division, built for providing medical care to local people.

Magway University of Medicine in Magway.



University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) built to fully provide medical care to the people.



University of Paramedical Science (Mandalay).



HAILING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

Three-coloured State Flag to be hoisted soon

Dr Shwe Pyi Soe (Myanmarsar Dept, Yangon University)

Yellow colour represents the fact that the State will see the Sasana further flourishing and the education standard of the nation improving significantly.

Green colour represents the fact that crops and grains and cattle will be abundant in the nation.

Red colour arouses the beholders to equip themselves with a sense of bravery.

They are three lines from the song "Illustrated in three colours". Everyone (every scholar), hearing that song, may consider the points representing the three colours.

While I was on duty as a visiting professor at Osaka University in Japan, my good lady Dr Htet Htet (Associate Professor, Myanmarsar Department, Mandalay University) and I, visiting Myanmarsar Professor Dr Tun Aung Kyaw of Tokyo University of Foreign Languages and wife Dr Mya Mya Win together cast votes in favour in advance for the State Constitution (draft) at the Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in Tokyo. I also happened to observe the draft, then.

It was very heartening to witness that Myanmar Ambassador U Hla Myint (Brig-Gen Hla Myint) and the military attaché, and embassy staff doing their bit in the duties for Myanmar citizens then in Japan to

be able to cast votes freely and fairly to approve the State Constitution, the lifeblood of the future of the motherland.

I cast vote in advance during my one-day stay in Tokyo. I happened to consider all the chapters of the constitution designed for a prosperous future of the mother country throughout my visit to Japan. We, four of us and some other Myanmar scholars were some time hindered from casting votes in advance by some members of anti-government groups, but we could vote for the constitution in the referendum for democratic transition that will go in the annals of the nation's history.

The thoughts evoked my memories of the expressions of the song "Illustrated in three colours".

Multiparty democracy general elections will be held on a grand scale in Myanmar in 2010.

In the near future, the nation will transform itself into a genuine democratic nation and will be able to hoist the new State Flag with a large white star in the centre with its point directing towards the sky with the yellow, green and red stripes in the background, portraying freedom and justice of the motherland.

The design of the new State Flag can be regarded as an omen of a promising future of the nation. The

yellow colour represents light along with brightness and justice. The green colour represents greening, prosperity, freshness and activeness. The red colour represents bravery, enthusiasm, dauntlessness, dynamism and decisive determination. When illustrated in combination, the three colours represent the point of safeguarding independence.

The combination of the three colours — yellow, green and red — illustrated on the State Flag represents an omen of perpetuity of the Union. The large white star illustrated in the heart of the State Flag represents the independent and active foreign policy of the nation. A star also represents leadership. The star is white colour, so it represents the innate nature of sincerity and honesty of Myanmar people. The only star represents the fact that the government will lead all national races steadfastly. The large white star that points straight up on the three colour stripes represents Union Spirit and national solidarity.

Each of the State flags of the world nations must remain in the same position whatever side they are viewed from. They must not turn sideways and must not stand upside down. A State flag must not lose its condition and position even if it is hoisted in any other position.

The new State Flag of the Union of Myanmar that will come into force with the new nation meets all the characters of the State flag of a world country. It can be said that the design of the new State Flag will represent a good omen of development.

Myanmar will see free and fair multiparty general elections to be held in a democratic way in 2010. Every citizen is under the duty to vote with the national concept in the 2010 elections. Now, the Tatmadaw is undertaking the process of democratic transition in compliance with the people's desire to build a modern, developed democratic nation through multiparty democracy general elections according to the State Constitution of the Union of Myanmar that has been approved with the votes of the entire people (nearly cent per cent). As a gesture of honouring the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, I wish the Head of State, senior military officers and servicemen, who are discharging the bounden duty with a sense of duty, a success in serving the national interests, and physical and mental well-being.

And I welcome the new democratic nation with good signs of progress that will come into existence following the general elections in 2010.

Translation: MS

I wish the Head of State, senior military officers and servicemen, who are discharging the bounden duty with a sense of duty, a success in serving the national interests, and physical and mental well-being.

Objectives of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. To work hard together with the people to accomplish the State's seven-step Road Map in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation
2. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy at risk to life
3. To crush, in cooperation with the people, internal and external subversive elements that are disrupting stability, peace and development of the nation
4. To build a strong and patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation

POEM

Noble hearts

- * In all seriousness
With love and conviction for nation
Tatmadaw sacrifices so many lives
That blood in streams
May form a sea
- * For the country
Tatmadawmen leave behind
Beloved wives, relatives forever
Fallen stars there are
May even fill an ocean to brim
- * National perpetuation
Always in Tatmadaw's mind
Ever place in fore
Our Three Main National Causes
In rooting out enemy
At risk to lives
Sacrificing everything
Nothing can be compared with flowers
Blooming in memory of fallen soldiers
- * Having trust in country
And for the people
Lives the Tatmadaw sacrifices
Comparable to a sea of blood
An ocean-full of fallen stars
And a pile of flowers so high
For the country and community they love
Sacrificing lives and limbs
Honouring them we
For their noble hearts

Soe Moe-Pathein (Trs)
Hailing the 64th Anniversary
Armed Forces Day

Universities will produce...

(from page 16)
and colleges, members of the social organizations, townsenders, teachers, students, guests and local people.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye, Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and Minister U Thaung formally opened new building of Technological University (Mawlamyine).

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Minister U Thaung, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, and Deputy Minister U Kyaw Soe planted trees and had documentary photographs taken together with national people and students.

Next, the Secretary-1 unveiled the stone plaque of the university.



Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo unveils the stone plaque of Technological University (Mawlamyine).—MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Minister U Thaung, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint sprinkled scented water on the stone plaque.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin

Aung Myint Oo delivered an address.

He said the government is now making efforts in every sector for the emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation and trying to produce highly educated persons who will serve the interest of the nation.

He said technological sector has greatly developed in the world and it effects change the society. This is why technological univer-

sities and computer universities are being established in the various regions to keep abreast of the developing technologies.

According to geographical conditions, Mon State is a focal place and a small Union where various national races reside in. It is necessary for Mon

State to gain better political, economic and social conditions as it borders a neighbouring country.

In the past, the people had to pass Thanlwin River, a natural barrier, by boat to get to Mawlamyine. The government built a rail-cum-road Thanlwin River

Rubber is mostly grown in Mon State. Mon State having favorable conditions plays an important part in the production of the State's agriculture sector.

With the aims of reducing the development gap between one region and another and ensuring

Mon State is well-known for its fertile land and water resources. Some 900,000 acres have been put under monsoon paddy and over 130,000 acres under summer paddy.



Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents prize to first prize winner in Essay Contest.—MNA



Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo grows a tree, marking the opening of new building of Technological University (Mawlamyine).—MNA

Crossing Bridge, the longest river in the country, in order to ensure smooth transport and develop trading, he said.

Mon State is well-known for its fertile land and water resources. Some 900,000 acres have been put under monsoon paddy and over 130,000 acres under summer paddy. Mon State with rice surpluses has a fine percentage in the regional rice security.

The cultivation of rubber, which is an industrial crop, has been extended to 400,000 acres so far.

equitable development in the country, the government has designated 24 development regions and is implementing the project.

In addition, the government has been implementing the border area development project and rural development project—totalling three projects. The government has opened a total of 158 universities across the country. A total of 700,000 students are now pursuing education at the respective universities.

(see page 11)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Thai Foreign Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March—Prime Minister General Thein Sein received the visiting goodwill delegation led by Thai Foreign Minister Mr Kasit Piromya at the meeting hall of Government Office at 10 a.m, today.

Present on the occasion together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General of State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, Director-General of Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of Protocol Department of Ministry of

Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Kyaw and Director-General U Kyaw Tin of Political Department and together with the Thai Minister was Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets Thai Foreign Minister Mr Kasit Piromya.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Thai goodwill delegation led by Foreign Minister Mr Kasit Piromya.—MNA

Universities will produce...

(from page 10)
Similarly, Mawlamyine University, Mawlamyine University of Computer Studies and University of Technology were established in Mon

resources in large quantities.

Hence, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance that two prime national forces are needed in building a new

them into value-added products.

All in all, the Secretary-1 urged faculty members to make efforts to produce outstanding educated persons and promote academic matters of the university.

Principal Dr Yan Aung Oo.

Next, he presented awards to Maung Win Thu Maung, who stood the whole Myanmar first in AGTI second year final exam; Maung Kyaw Thiha, Maung Tun Tun Lin and Ma Kyawt Kethwe, who stood first, second and third respectively in debate; and Maung Myo Lwin, Ma Yin Win Htet and Maung Paing Myo Zaw, who stood first, second and third respectively in essay contest.

First year civil engineering student Ma Kyawt Kethwe said that on behalf of the youths in

the region, she thanked the State for opening the technological university adding that they would try their best in the interest of the region and the State.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the computer room, language lab, drawing room, e-library, and Internet room and research booths.

The new university building opened today is 513 feet long, 213 feet wide. It is a three-storey building and of reinforce concrete type. It has 38 lecture halls, the principal's office, the room for students' affairs,

management room, accounts room and the convocation with 120 feet in length and 80 feet in width. Now the university has 774 first year students and 639 second year students for AGTI diploma 262 for bachelor of engineering and 37 students for master's degree. It has trained 11 master's degree holders, 646 master's degree holders, 1110 technological degree holders, 5035 AGTI diploma degree holders, 779 EGTI diploma holders and 329 students in basic technical training totalling 7910.—MNA



Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung officially open the new building of Technological University (Mawlamyine).—MNA

State. Various universities will produce technicians and educated persons on whom the state can rely. Today is knowledge age. Education may be able to bring about the sustainable development of a society. It is required to nurture qualified educated human

peaceful modern developed nation, one of which is the patriotic force to safeguard the independence, sovereignty and non-disintegration of the Union and another is human resources that can exploit natural resources and turn

Deputy Director-General Dr Daw Theingi of Technical and Vocational Education Department explained facts about Technological University (Mawlamyine). The Secretary-1 presented two sets of TV for the university to Acting



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects No.0194 filling station of Toungoo under Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section. (News reported)—MNA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TEGAP VOYNO (437)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOYNO (437) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SUPA BHUM VOYNO (130)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SUPA BHUM VOYNO (130) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MARE BALTICUM VOYNO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARE BALTICUM VOYNO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL LOGISTICS PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BEST PESCADORES VOYNO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BEST PESCADORES VOYNO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO., LTD**
Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

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Used in respect of:-Pharmaceutical preparation namely preparation for the treatment of immunological, oncological, neurological and cardiovascular diseases. (International Class 05)
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Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Thein Aung B.Sc,R.L.D.B.L Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel:254037 G.P.O Box:666
Yangon. 24 March 2009

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 27th March (Friday) 2009, being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Kidnapped

American rescued in western Colombia

BOGOTA, 23 March—Colombian police rescued on Sunday a kidnapped American in Cali, a city of western Colombia.

The New York-born Cynthia Zuluaga, a 35-year-old victim, was saved in the district of Alameda, in south of Cali, by anti-kidnapping corps under the police force, Gustavo Adolfo Ricaurte, a police commander, said.

Zuluaga who has resident status in Colombia was held hostage on 6 Feb.

A 16-year-old suspect was detained during the operation, police said.

"The kidnappers demanded 1.5 billion Colombian pesos (some 629,000 US dollars) to release Zuluaga," Ricaurte said. "Zuluagais in good physical condition now."

According to police investigation, the kidnappers kept contact with illegal armed groups intending to exchange zuluaga for money.

Internet

Oil climbs above \$52 in Asia on stock market rally

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 March—Oil prices rose above \$52 a barrel Monday in Asia, boosted by stronger Asian stock markets amid plans by the US government to buy bad assets from banks to contain the financial crisis.

Benchmark crude for May delivery rose 45 cents to \$52.52 a barrel by midday in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract edged up 3 cents on Friday to settle at \$52.07, the first time crude ended the week above \$50 since last year.

Dealers said the rally, which was given an extra boost by the US Federal Reserve's decision to buy \$1.25 trillion of government bonds and mortgage-backed securities, continued Monday as Asian equity markets rose in anticipation of more good news.

But some cautioned the advance may not be sustainable as global oil demand remains weak.

"Oil pricing is driven by the financial rally. It's questionable whether \$50 is the new floor because the fundamental picture for oil has not changed. Demand remains weak in the near term and oil pricing may be vulnerable," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with consultancy Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

To get at the heart of the nation's financial crisis, US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is set later Monday to detail plans to remove a mountain of toxic assets weighing on banks' balance sheet.

Internet



A used car lot tries to attract customers in California. US President Barack Obama defended his budget plans Saturday, insisting that he remained committed to halving the deficit within four years despite new data showing it was bigger than expected.—INTERNET

Drive with care

5,000 TB cases occur in Western Pacific every day

MANILA, 23 March—With 5,000 daily infections in the Western Pacific, the regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday urged governments to strengthen their national health systems to prevent the further spread of tuberculosis (TB), especially in the wake of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). In a press release, the WHO said ef-

fective TB control has been hampered by weaknesses in health systems, such as chronic staff shortages, inadequate financial resources, poor laboratory capacity, low access to quality care, and flawed links between service providers in the public and private sectors.

WHO said the TB situation in the Western Pacific region is complicated by the spread of

multidrug-resistant TB, the patients of which are resistant to at least two of the best anti-TB drugs. It also takes much longer to treat, sometimes as long as two years, and is more expensive than treating ordinary TB. The treatment also causes more severe side-effects, such as liver malfunction and severe gastrointestinal problems, the organization added.—Xinhua



People are covered by confetti during carnival parade in Stavelot, about 150 kilometres east of Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 22 March, 2009. Carnival celebrations in Stavelot reached climax Sunday, while "Blanc Moussi" flogged crowds with pork bladders and threw confetti to them.—XINHUA



Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez (C front) visits the Palace Museum in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 March, 2009.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Venezuelan railway project with Chinese technology inaugurated

CARACAS, 23 March—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday inaugurated a railway construction project in central Venezuela that will be built with Chinese technology and funding.

Chavez inaugurated the construction work of the Llanos railway during his Sunday TV-radio programme "Alo, Presidente."

He said the project was financed by the Chinese-Venezuelan Strategic Fund, which was created on May 2008 to finance projects in energy, agriculture, transport sectors.

The cost of the project will surpass 800 million US dollars, the president said.

The railway of around 470 km long, will connect the towns of Tinaco, El Pao, Ortiz, Chaguaramas and Valle de la Pascua with the state of Anzoategui, northeast Venezuela. Constructed by Chinese and Italian companies, the railway line is part of the national railway system, which includes 15 lines totaling 13,600 km long.

The line is expected to start operation in middle 2012 with the highest train speed of 220 km per hour.

During the televised inauguration, Chavez talked with representatives from the Chinese and Italian companies and told them that the railway will render great help for the country's economic development.

Xinhua

Latin American countries normalize ties with Cuba

HAVANA, 23 March—Latin America has opened a new chapter in its ties with Cuba as Costa Rica reestablished ties and El Salvador intended to resume ties with the country.

Havana and San Jose agreed last week to resume diplomatic relations despite both sides have been caught by political disagreements on a number of issues in recent years.

"Today the world is completely different with what it was in those days," Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said on Wednesday. San Jose and Havana suspended ties on 9 Sept, 1961.

He said the diplomatic ties with Cuba were broken during the Cold War era, but the world has changed since then and the decision of restoring the ties is justifiable at this moment.

Cuba's Foreign Minis-

try said the decision is "in accord with its call for integrity and unity with the brotherly people of Latin America and the Caribbean."

In San Salvador, newly elected President Mauricio Funes said his government intended to restore ties with Cuba.

Xinhua

Vietnamese woman dies of suspected bird flu

HANOI, 23 March—A Vietnamese 26-year-old woman from Mekong Delta province of Soc Trang died with symptoms similar to bird flu patients, the local newspaper *Labor* reported on Monday.

The woman, named Ly Thi Hang, was admitted to the Bac Lieu general hospital on 16 March to treat symptoms of coughing, difficulty in breathing, and pneumonia, said Nguyen Minh Tung, head of the hospital's preventive health centre

Hang's condition worsened, and she died on 20 March, said Tung.

Xinhua



Workers produce the Chinese-made handsets "Spice" at a semi-hightech factory in Shenzhen, southern China's Guangdong province on December 2008. Wen Jiabao has urged businesses to focus on upgrading and innovation to help ride through the global financial crisis, state media has reported.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Watson fires Wigan's European challenge



Wigan's Ben Watson (2nd right) blocks the run from Hull's Deiberson Geovanni (2nd left) during their English Premiership football match at The JJB Stadium, in north-west England. Wigan boosted their bid for European football as Watson's late goal sealed a 1-0 win.—INTERNET

Steve Bruce's side moved into seventh place in the Premier League thanks to Watson's fine strike at the JJB Stadium and their dreams of continental action in the Europa League - next season's revamped UEFA Cup - are looking more realistic by the week.

While Wigan look up, Hull's players are nervously glancing over their shoulders towards the relegation zone after a defeat which kept them just four points from safety,

Hull boss Phil Brown made five changes to the team beaten at Arsenal in the FA Cup in midweek as Matt Duke, Michael Turner, Kevin Kilbane, Bernard Mendy and Dean Marney returned.—INTERNET

Lyon stop rot and return to French summit

PARIS, 23 March—Lyon returned to the top of the French first division with a 2-0 home win over Sochaux on Sunday, their first victory after a three-game winless streak that had threatened to derail their title defence.

Marseille's 2-0 victory over Nantes on Saturday had taken them two points above Lyon at the Ligue 1 summit, but goals from Brazilian striker Ederson and midfielder Anthony Mounier at Stade Gerland set Lyon's bid for an eighth consecutive title back on track.

Injuries to Jean-Alain Boumsong and John Mensah, and the suspension of Cris, forced Lyon coach Claude Puel to field an unfamiliar centre-back pairing of Jeremy Toulalan and Mathieu Bodmer, but Ederson eased home fans' nerves when he struck the opening goal in the 13th minute.—INTERNET

Sharapova withdraws from Miami

PARIS, 23 March—Former world number one Maria Sharapova, who underwent surgery on her injured right shoulder last year, on Sunday pulled out of next week's Miami Masters.

The Russian pin-up had hoped to play singles for the first time in Florida since August last year and had warmed-up for a return by playing in doubles at the Indian Wells WTA event last week. But the 21-year-old, who missed the US Open and Beijing Olympics in 2008 as well as this year's Australian Open, has decided the shoulder needs more rest.—INTERNET



Former world number one Maria Sharapova

Gerrard warns United the pressure is on



Liverpool's English midfielder Steven Gerrard (L) celebrates with Spanish midfielder Albert Riera after scoring his third goal against Aston Villa during their English Premier League football match at Anfield in Liverpool. Liverpool won 5-0.—INTERNET

Liverpool now have just eight matches left but Gerrard has promised United that the Reds are just waiting for a chance to seize control of the title race.—INTERNET

City's Richards finds form to sink Sunderland

MANCHESTER, 23 March—Manchester City's Micah Richards finally recaptured the form that made him England's youngest ever defender as his goal clinched a 1-0 win over 10-man Sunderland on Sunday.

Richards has endured a

slump in form since making his international debut as a 17-year-old against Holland in November 2006.

He has been dropped at times by City boss Mark Hughes this season but produced a dominant display in defence and attack at Eastlands on Sunday.

After Sunderland had George McCartney sent off for a professional foul early in the first half, City should have cruised to victory.—INTERNET

Nadal wins Indian Wells ATP Masters title

INDIAN WELLS, 23 March—World number one Rafael Nadal crushed Scotland's Andy Murray 6-1, 6-2 to win the Indian Wells ATP Masters series title.

Nadal, the reigning Australian Open champion, defied difficult, windy conditions to capture the crown in the California desert for the second time, after triumphing here in 2007.

As in the women's final that preceded it, the men's championship match was played in swirling winds that had both players scrambling.—INTERNET

LIVERPOOL, 23 March—Steven Gerrard has warned Manchester United that Liverpool will take full advantage of any more slips from Sir Alex Ferguson's Premier League leaders.

Liverpool moved to within one point of United, who still

have a game in hand, with a thumping 5-0 victory over Aston Villa at Anfield on Sunday.

Following Rafael Benitez's side's 4-1 win at Old Trafford last weekend, United lost 2-0 at Fulham on Saturday and Liverpool's fine recent form has seen them move to within touching distance of Ferguson's team.

Liverpool now have just eight matches left but Gerrard has promised United that the Reds are just waiting for a chance to seize control of the title race.—INTERNET



Manchester City's Irish goalkeeper Shay Given (L) saves a shot from Sunderland's Trinidad and Tobago forward Kenwynne Jones (R) with help from City's English defender Nedum Onuoha (2) and City's Irish defender Richard Dunne (3) during the English Premier League football match at The City of Manchester Stadium. City won 1-0.—INTERNET

Ibrahimovic dazzles in Inter stroll



Inter Milan's Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic heads the ball against Reggina during their Italian Serie A football match at San Siro Stadium in Milan. Milan won 3-0.—INTERNET

ROME, 23 March—Zlatan Ibrahimovic starred as Inter Milan cruised to a 3-0 victory over rock-bottom Reggina at the San Siro to re-establish their seven-point lead at the top of Serie A on Sunday.

Second-placed Juventus had briefly reduced the arrears on Saturday with a highly-impressive 4-1 romp at Roma, but Jose Mourinho's men showed they were in no mood to concede any ground in the title race.

Meanwhile third-placed AC Milan were held to a 0-0 draw at Napoli, who have not won in 11 matches.

Two goals in the first 10 minutes effectively turned the top-versus-bottom clash into a non-contest, despite Inter playing with midfielder Esteban Cambiasso in a patchwork centre-back pairing due to injuries.—INTERNET

Guerrero double keeps Hamburg in title race

BERLIN, 23 March—eruvian striker Jose Guerrero netted both goals on Sunday to seal Hamburg's 2-1 win at Schalke 04 which keeps Martin Jol's side in the heart of the title race and just a point behind leaders Hertha Berlin. The three points in Gelsenkirchen leaves Hamburg fourth in the league, but level on 48 points with Bayern Munich and VfL Wolfsburg with the three clubs all just a point behind Hertha who were humbled 2-0 in Stuttgart on Saturday.

"I am proud of my team," said Hamburg coach Jol. "Schalke had nine days to prepare for this game, for us was it the 11th game in 33 days. I would not have expected this result - that was a one-off."—INTERNET

Zvonareva blows past Ivanovic for Indian Wells win

INDIAN WELLS, 23 March—Vera Zvonareva captured the biggest title of her career Sunday, downing former world number one Ana Ivanovic 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 to win the Indian Wells WTA title.

Russia's Zvonareva, the fourth seed, denied fifth-seeded Ivanovic a second straight title in the 4.5 million-dollar tournament, one of the elite premier mandatory events on the women's tour. The 24-year-old kept her cool in gusting winds that surged around stadium court at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, contributing to 46 unforced errors from Ivanovic.

Both players struggled with the wind, which interfered with their service tosses, stirred up occasional clouds of dust and forced a few rallies to be abandoned as debris was blown across the court.

INTERNET



Vera Zvonareva of Russia smiles and celebrates after winning match point over Ana Ivanovic of Serbia in the final of the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California. Zvonareva won the Indian Wells WTA title here Sunday, defeating Ivanovic 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 to deny the Serbian a second straight crown.—INTERNET

Japan says pirates fire on ship off Somalia

TOKYO, 23 March—Pirates fired on a Japanese cargo ship off the coast of Somalia and then escaped, the Japanese government said on Monday.

Masami Suekado, a Transportation Ministry official, said no one was injured in the attack, which occurred Sunday.

Suekado said pirates in two small vessels approached the ship and fired several shots before escaping. The ship, Jasmine Ace, was operated by Mitsui OSK Lines.

Atsuko Nakajima, a spokesman for Mitsui OSK Lines, said 18 people — all from the Philippines — were aboard the ship, which was carrying a cargo of automobiles. Bullets broke windows and hit the ceiling of the bridge.

Suekado said the 13,000-ton cargo ship carried out evasive maneuvers and the pirates broke off their attack. The ship was heading toward Mombasa, in Kenya, when it was attacked.

Internet



Somali pirates.—INTERNET

Take Fire Preventive Measures



Tuesday, 24 March
View on today

- 7:00 am 1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am 5. နိုင်ငံ့စီးပွား အလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

- 8:05 am 6. Song of yesteryear
- 8:15 am 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am 8. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:45 am 9. International news
- 8:50 am 10. “မြို့ကြီးသားယဉ်ကျေးမှု” (လှမ်းထက်၊ ဖိုးချစ်၊ ဂုလဝင်း၊ နန်းဆုရတီဖိုး၊ စုချစ်ဇော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ—ဇော်လူထက်)
- 4:00 pm 1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm 2. Song of National Races
- 4:20 am 3. ကြားညှပ်သီးနှံဖရုံ

- 4:30 pm 4. The Mirror Image of the Musical Oldies
- 4:40 pm 5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု ဘေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ
- 4:50 pm 6. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 5:05 pm 7. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 5:15 pm 8. Musical Programme
- 5:30 am 9. “DOTS” (ဖိုးဖြူ၊ ကျော်ထူး၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ ကြူကြူသင်း) [ဒါရိုက်တာ—သိန်းဟန်(ဖိုးနုစံ)]

- 5:45 pm 10. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 6:00 pm 11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm 12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 13. “သစ္စာမော်ကွန်း” (ပထမပိုင်း) (သူထူးစံ၊ မင်းဟိတ်၊ သားညို၊ ဖြေတီဦး၊ နန္ဒာသက်မွန်မြင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ—ညိုမင်းလွင်)
- 8:00 pm 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. ပြည်သူ့အတွက်တပ်မတော် “ကျန်းမာရေးသိပ္ပံနှင့်နည်းပညာ”
- 18. “သစ္စာမော်ကွန်း” (စတင်သံပိုင်း) (သူထူးစံ၊ မင်းဟိတ်၊ သားညို၊ ဖြေတီဦး၊ နန္ဒာ သက်မွန်မြင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ—ညိုမင်းလွင်)

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (24.3.2009) (Tuesday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

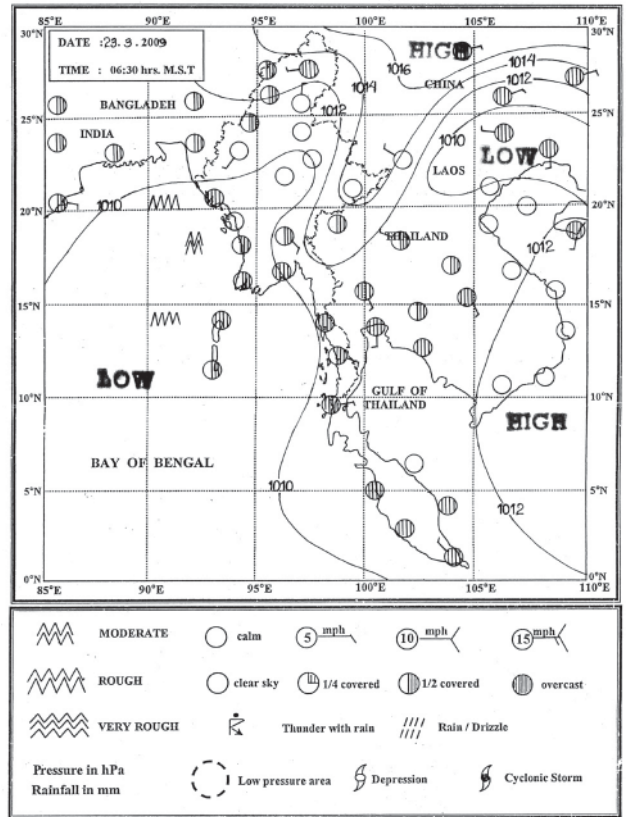
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * The National Museum (Part-II)
- * Versatile Toddy Palms
- * Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw (Industrial Sector and Electric Sector)
- * Science Fair (Part II)
- * Bamboo Parquet
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * The National Museum (Part-I)
- * Traditions of Ganan National
- * Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw (Health Sector and Education Sector)
- * Coconut Dolls
- * Science Fair (Part-I)
- * Benefits of Electric River Water Pumping Projects for Socio-economic Progress
- * Hukaung Valley Rattan Survey (Part-I)
- * Myanmar Modern Songs
- * The National Museum (Part-II)
- * Versatile Toddy Palms
- * Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw (Industrial Sector and Electric Sector)
- * Science Fair (Part-II)
- * A Wonderful Trip to Chaung Tha Beach
- * Thaunggyi: An Environmentally Sustainable City
- * Bamboo Parquet
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 23 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mon State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin, Chin, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, (3°C) below March average temperatures in Magway Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Thayawady (40°C) and Pakokku (39°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Meikhitla (0.24) inch and Kyeikkhami (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 22-3-2009 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 23-3-2009 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-3-2009 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 22-3-2009 was (9.0) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 23-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and 0.04 inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 22-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24th March 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Chin, Mon, Kayin States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-3-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-3-2009: Partly cloudy.



Rapid progress due to concerted efforts of service personnel, people under Head of State's guidance

General Thura Shwe Mann tours Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March—Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, on tour of Ayeyawady Division, met with division-, district- and township-level officials, members of the social organizations and town-sellers at Ayeyawady Hall

in Patheingyi at 7.30 am on 20 March.

At the meeting, General Thura Shwe Mann said that all the regions of the Union were obviously in the fast track to development as almost all infrastructures have been built and that it was necessary to continue building

a peaceful, modern and developed nation while maintaining the momentum of peace, tranquility and development.

Next, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt explained matters relating to devel-

opment of transport in the region, encouraging local people's enthusiasm and united efforts and emergence of a modern and developed nation.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that in building a modern and developed nation, it was necessary to expand the active serv-

ice of media, to maintain the good practice of helping one another in times of need – a lesson taught by Cyclone Nargis (See page 6)

Ayeyawady Division will see more progress as the honest and hardworking Ayeyawady people have worked together out of goodwill and patriotism.

Universities will produce technicians and educated persons on whom the State can rely

New building for Technological University (Mawlamyine) opened

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March—Hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day a new building for Technological University (Mawlamyine) was opened in Mawlamyine on 21 March, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen

Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present were Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Science and Technology

U Thaug, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Soe, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Zaw Min, Departmental heads, officials at state, district and township levels, rectors and principals of universities (See page 10)



New building of Technological University (Mawlamyine).—MNA

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

POEM

Noble hearts

* In all seriousness
With love and conviction for nation
Tatmadaw sacrifices so many lives
That blood in streams
May form a sea

Development of health sector in the time of Tatmadaw Government



Three-coloured State Flag to be hoisted soon

DR SHWE PYI SOE
(MYANMARSAR DEPT, YANGON UNIVERSITY)

