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Fullmoon Day of Taboung 1366 ME

Thursday, 24 March 2005



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing donate alms to a Sayadaw at the ceremony to offer 'soon' to State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and State Central Working Committee of the Sangha. — MNA

The Tatmadaw, born of the people



Discharging duties to raise the standard of living of the people and serving the interest of the people include national development tasks, national construction tasks and the tasks for development of border areas and national races. These are the essence and duties of the patriotic Tatmadaw. Hence, the Tatmadaw must represent the entire mass of the people. Must serve the interest of the entire mass of the people. Our Tatmadaw, born of the people must be for the people.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and
Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
 (From address at the parade of Golden Jubilee Armed Forces Day)

INSIDE

Crushing the insurgencies that sparked soon after the independence, the Myanma Tatmadaw for the first time safeguarded and maintained the independence, which was on the brink of being lost.

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MYINT THU YEIN

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer 'soon' to Sayadaws of State Ovadaçariya and eminent Sayadaws

YANGON, 23 March — Under the auspices of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, the State Peace and Development Council and families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) offered 'soon' to State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and title recipient Sayadaws at Tatmadaw Dhammayon on Arzani Road in Bahan Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were title recipi-

ent nuns, 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 and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, the

(See page 6)



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing taking Five Precepts from Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 24 March, 2005

Fullmoon Day of Taboung

Tabaung, the last month of the Myanmar lunar calendar, which roughly corresponds with March, is a period at the end of the cold season and at the beginning of the hot season. Therefore, it is hot in the daytime and cool at night.

Today, the fullmoon day of Taboung, is a day of significance. It is one of the occasions set aside for doing meritorious deeds, especially offering of alms and provisions to Buddhist monks. Myanmar people are well known for their generosity and it is their lovely custom to make donations and do good deeds on days of religious significance.

On this day, as is customary, lay Buddhists here in this country as well as in other lands where the teachings of Lord Buddha thrive, offer the four essentials of the basic needs of the monks — the monastery, robes, food and medicine for sustenance — so that they may be able to conveniently practise, propagate and perpetuate the *Sasana*.

It is on this day that hundreds of monks receive provisions donated by thousands of the laity. Here, it is to be noticed the term "receive" means the act of receiving the offerings that enables the Buddhist faithful to do such offering.

The relationship between the donor and the recipient is unique, for, without the recipient, there can be no donor and vice versa. It must, of necessity, apply to all donors and recipients, for those who are involved in the propagation of a faith are committed to their mission. If the monks had to go around in search of alms food or provisions all the time, the effectiveness of their mission would be diminished or they may not be fully capable of carrying it out.

That is the reason why the laity, individually or in groups or as organizations or government departments, organize alms offering ceremonies so that those in missionary service may enable the donors to donate and thus gain merit. The government organizes some of these alms-offering ceremonies almost always and also subsidises missions and homes for the aged and the needy.

Religious titles are usually presented to Sayadaws, nuns and lay persons on a grand scale on the Kaba Aye Hillock on the fullmoon day of Taboung. It is indeed a remarkable contribution towards propagation and promotion of the Buddha *Sasana*. We wish all the citizens to pay serious attention to making donations, keeping precepts, dispensing *metta* and practising meditation.

**နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ**

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည်ကိုစွဲရပ်မှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

- ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လအတွက် နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) ၂၇-၃-၂၀၀၅ ရက်နေ့
- ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဧပြီလအတွက် (၁၀-၄-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့
- နှင့်
- (၂၄-၄-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့

All this needs to be known

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

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

**Chief of Armed Forces
Training inspects hostels of
parade columns**

YANGON, 23 March—Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the hostels of parade columns and their drills this afternoon.

The Leading Committee chairman arrived at the



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects hostels of Bandoola and Hsinbyushin columns.— MNA

Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) in Mingaladon, where Bandoola Column is being put up. He was welcomed there by Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Director of Supply and Transport Maj-Gen Than Htay, Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun, and officials of the parade work group.

Column Commander Col Khin Maung Oo reported on accommodation of Tatmadaw members company-wise, welfare services and supply of rations for them. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win provided necessary assistance for the column.

He also inspected hostels and messes of the companies of the Bandoola Column representing mili-

MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 23 March— The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Professor/ Head of Medical Department Dr Daw Khin May Ohn of Institute of Medicine-2 of the Medical Science Department under the Ministry of Health as Rector of Institute of Nursing (Yangon) of the same ministry on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties. — MNA

tary commands, LIDs and directorates.

On arrival at Mingaladon Station where Hsinbyushin Column is being put up, he heard reports by Brig-Gen Ye Chit Pe on management matters for the companies; Column Commander Col Khin Aung Myint, on accommodation of the companies; Column Medical Officer Lt-Col Khin Nu Nu Khin, on health care services for the columns. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions and provided assistance.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win proceeded to Ayeyawady Naval Region Command where the Nawade Column is practising drills. He cordially conversed with the Tatmadaw members and viewed the drills. Parade Column Commander Captain Aung Zaw Win reported on accommodation of the companies, health care concerns, and welfare services for them. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions to the officials.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win also inspected the shops for welfare of the companies. — MNA

Cash donated to parade company of MRCS

YANGON, 23 March — Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint donated cash to the parade company representing Myanmar Red Cross Society at Aung San Column at the local bat-



Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo presents K 1.5 million to the parade company representing Myanmar Red Cross Society.— MNA

talion in South Okkalapa Township yesterday afternoon.

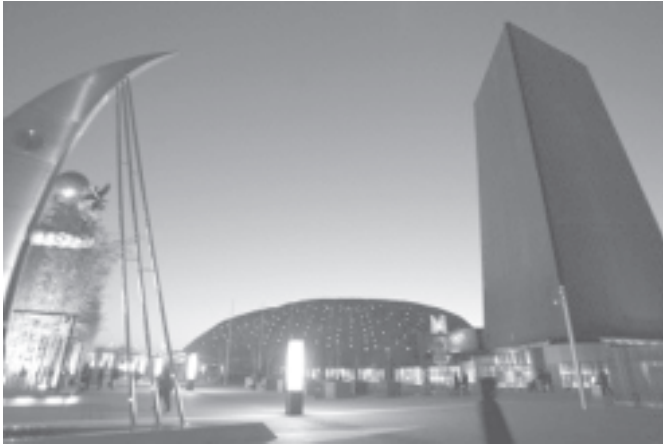
At the ceremony, Ministers Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Dr Kyaw Myint donated K 1.5 million each for the parade company representing Myanmar Red Cross Society through Secretary of the MRCS Dr Tun Sein and Executive Director Col U Aung Than (Retd).

Next, Dr Tun Sein expressed thanks.

MNA

60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- To exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks
- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes
- To build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw



Japan's Pavilion Nagakute (C) and Nagoya City Pavilion 'Earth Tower' (R) at the Aichi Expo 2005 in Nagakute on 23 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Chinese Vice-Premier stresses continuous increase of farmers income

BEIJING, 23 March — Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu on Monday asked government agencies nationwide to ensure smooth operation of spring plowing in an effort to achieve continuous growth in farmer's incomes and grain production.

At a national teleconference on spring plowing, Hui said "Though China's agriculture has seen a favourable turn in grain production and an increase of farmer's income during the past year, it remains an onerous task for us to maintain the momentum."

Hui urged relevant departments to ensure timely delivery of subsi-

dies for buying fine seeds and farm tools and direct subsidies for grain production, and to make public the minimum purchasing price of crops that are in short supply.

To achieve these goals, China will step up efforts in checking the price increase of chemical fertilizer, improve supervision over farming materials, and also promote water-saving irrigation technologies, Hui said.

At the beginning of 2005, the Chinese authorities jointly released the year's "No 1 Document," which worked out 27 de-

tailed, substantial measures to ensure financial, administrative and technological support to the agricultural sector, including tax exemption and reduction.

Figures from the National Bureau of Statistics show that in 2004, the per capita annual income for Chinese farmers was 2,936 yuan (about 354 US dollars), up 6.8 per cent over the previous year, a record growth rate since 1997. The grain output reached 469.5 billion kilos, up 9 per cent over the previous year.

MNA/Xinhua

China, Congo agree to further economic, trade cooperation

BEIJING, 22 March — China and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on Monday agreed to expand economic and political cooperation to maintain their "long-term stable friendship".

Chinese President Hu Jintao, in his talks with visiting DRC President Josef Kabila, said China supports the DRC's peace process and economic reconstruction and is willing to improve exchanges and cooperation at all levels and in all fields to promote relations between the two countries.

China and the DRC established full diplomatic ties in 1972. Hu said the relations between the two

sides have developed steadily with increasing mutual trust in politics, effective cooperation in economic and social sectors and mutual understanding and support in international affairs.

Hu said China and the DRC are highly complementary in economy, and following the advancement of peace processes and the economic reconstruction of the DRC, a new opportunity for fur-

ther trade and economic cooperation between the two countries has been ushered in.

He suggested the two countries focus on cooperation in human resources development, agriculture and infrastructure construction, promising that China will continue to encourage Chinese companies to invest in the DRC and join the DRC's economic reconstruction.

Hu also expressed China's appreciation for DRC's consistent adherence to the one-China policy. Kabila said his government would firmly abide by the one-China policy. He expressed support for China's anti-secession law passed by the Chinese National People's Congress, saying that he hoped China would achieve national reunification soon. Kabila said China is a dependable friend, and his government welcomes Chinese companies to join DRC's economic reconstruction.—MNA/Xinhua

China, South Korea initiate joint study on feasibility of FTA

BEIJING, 22 March — China and South Korea have initiated the non-government joint study on the feasibility of free trade agreement (FTA), announced Wang Mengkui, director of the Development Research Centre of the State Council (DRC) here on Monday.

Wang Mengkui and Kyung Tae Lee, president of the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), signed a memorandum for joint study Sunday in Beijing.

In 2004, China and South Korea reached a consensus to develop nongovernment joint study on the feasibility of the FTA and designated DRC and KIEP for the project.

MNA/Xinhua

Total of US troops killed in Iraq reaches 1,523

WASHINGTON, 22 March—As of Tuesday, 22 March, 2005, at least 1,523 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,162 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,385 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,053 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 11,442 US service members have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released Tuesday.

Internet



Tea workers in India seen on 23 March, 2005. Indian scientists said they have developed a 'tea pill' which can be carried in the pocket to be chewed when desired for the same refreshing effect as a freshly-brewed cuppa.—INTERNET

World Meteorological Day...

(from page 16)

Meteorology and Hydrology, ambassadors, coordinator of UNDP, resident representatives of UN Agencies, delegates of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), India, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology and guests.

Next, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address. He said: It gives me great pleasure to deliver the address today in commemoration of the World Meteorological Day, celebrating the Convention that created the World Meteorological Organisation in 1950, of which Myanmar is proud to be one of the earliest signatory states.

As Myanmar is an agricultural country, the

development, which can be dependent not only on favourable weather and climatic conditions, but also on having access to predictions that will help prepare for adverse weather conditions.

Myanmar is fortunate in being blessed for the most part with favourable weather and geographical formations which allow not only for the presence of a diverse flora and fauna but also for the cultivation of a wide variety of crops. Another blessing is an abundant fresh water supply for agriculture and irrigation, various uses in the daily lives of people, as well as for industries.

Due to its geographical location in the Bay of Bengal, Myanmar is af-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win views booth to mark World Meteorological Day at the central hall of MICT Park.— MNA

as well as other meteorological services worldwide,

Early Warning System. With determination and

dred bridges across rivers large and small, making

transportation smooth and effective. This in turn contributes significantly to the development of the country's economy.

The people living in the border areas have not been forgotten either. Crop substitution projects have been carried out while schools and hospitals have been built and roads and communications upgraded, helping to raise the standard of living of the local populace. A separate Ministry of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs has been established primarily to oversee the implementation of developmental projects in the border areas.

However, there is always the potential that disastrous natural events can wipe out what we have worked so hard to achieve. Neighbouring countries have to cooperate closely with each (See page 5)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for documentary photo with winners of contests in commemorating World Meteorological Day.— MNA

people have always lived with changes in the weather and climate, depending on their observations to decide when to plant and when to harvest their crops. Advances in technology, which have brought about more sophisticated weather forecasts, have proved to be a boon for farmers, giving them accurate information and enabling them to plan their planting cycles accordingly.

This is in keeping with the WMO theme for this commemoration weather, climate, water and sustainable development which recognises the valuable contributions of meteorology, hydrology and related geophysical sciences to the progress of mankind. One important factor in talking about progress of mankind is sustainable de-

veloped by the Southwest monsoon that brings much needed rain to give a bountiful harvest and water resources to generate electricity. At the same time, there is also the threat of storms bringing extreme amounts of rain which can cause floods especially along the Chindwin and Ayeyawady rivers. Occasional cyclones bring about strong winds and heavy rains which can claim loss of lives and property.

Humans are helpless against the forces of nature and the destruction they can bring about but knowing what might be coming can help them to prepare and take precautions to minimise the damage that can be caused. The Myanmar Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, in collaboration with the WMO

continuously monitors climatic conditions in order to issue timely warnings and bulletins towards this end.

This past year has seen unprecedented damage caused by nature worldwide, culminating in the disastrous Tsunami of 26th December, which struck coastlines around the Indian Ocean, tragically bringing about great loss of lives and property, changing the configuration of the land as well as the seabed and from which affected countries are still struggling to recover. Myanmar is lucky to have escaped with only 61 lives being lost and relatively little property damage. Calls for some sort of protection against such destruction in the future have resulted in arrangements being made to establish a Regional Tsunami

commitment for financial and technical support from the International Community and Agencies such as the WMO, UNDP, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, and ASEAN Subcommittee on Meteorology and Geophysics, it is hoped that in the future, natural disasters on the scale of the 2004 Tsunami will not wreak havoc of such a magnitude.

As you are fully aware, the Government of Myanmar is endeavouring its utmost for the all-round development of the country. The infrastructures necessary in every sector such as agriculture, transport, communication, education, and health are being constructed. The Government has built many miles of roads and well over a hun-



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe accepts GIS Softwares and K 900,000 for National Crisis Management Committee donated by U Zaw Naing, General Manager of Myanmar Credent Technology.— MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Japanese Foreign Deputy Minister

YANGON, 23 March—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win received Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Hitoshi Tanaka and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyittha at 7.45 am today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Thu and U

Maung Myint, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. The Japanese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and party were accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano.

MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Hitoshi Tanaka and party of Japan at Zeyathiri Beikman.—MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win greets Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Hitoshi Tanaka of Japan at Zeyathiri Beikman.

MNA



World Meteorological Day...

(from page 4)

other establishing modern monitoring facilities to have accurate weather forecasts and warning. We also have to be aware that mankind all over the world has also, by making uncontrolled use of natural resources, contributed towards conditions such as loss of forests and desertification leading to catastrophic floods and climate changes. All of us need to be vigilant in using conservation practices that lead to economic progress without denuding the environment.

I should also like to touch briefly on the conservation programmes being carried out in Myanmar. Due to scientific and systematic man-

agement of forests in the country on a sustainable basis for over a century, more than half of the country is still covered with forests and woodlands. Myanmar stands today as one of the most forest-covered countries in the Asia Pacific region.

The Myanmar Forest Law promulgated in 1992 covers every aspect of nature conservation ranging from preservation and protection of the environment and biodiversity, expansion of reserved forests and preservation of natural lands. In order to effectively conserve and protect our environment, the National Environment Policy was also laid down eleven years ago. The policy ensures harmony and balance between environment and develop-

ment, protection and replenishment of rare and endangered indigenous plants and animal species. It also calls for the preservation of pasture lands by integrating environmental considerations into the development process.

At present, 3,741 million acres of forests have been constituted as Reserved Forest and 5.83 million acres designated as Protected Areas. Due to agricultural expansion, shifting cultivation, urbanization and ever increasing domestic fuel consumption, about 37,050 acres of land is deforested. The Forest Department is making sure that the deforested areas are replenished with new trees by embarking on a reforestation programme since 1972. Plantations are being established at an annual rate of 74,130 acres according to this programme.

A five-year Bago Yoma Greening Project is being implemented, starting from 2004, with the aim of rehabilitating and conserving the area. A total of almost 200,000 acres of different types of plantation will be es-

tablished under this project.

Also for prevention of the environmental degradation of the Dry Zone in the central part of Myanmar, a 30-year integrated plan, covering the period of 2001-2002 to 2030-2031 was formulated. 269,230 acres of plantations have already been established and 1.1 million acres put under systematic protection in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Project.

As a result, the weather conditions of the region have changed to more favourable conditions, thus permitting the local people to expand the cultivation of crops in acreage as well as variety.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the private sector and in particular to Creedent Technology and Inforithm Maze, for sponsoring the WMO Day Commemoration this year with the intention of promoting awareness among the public as well as the Government departments.

I am happy to note the holding of contests in article and essay writing as a special event for the new generation. I am sure

that in working together, we can work towards our common goal of disaster preparedness, greening of the land to bring about better climatic conditions and making use of modern meteorological and hydrological services in agriculture as well as in the daily lives of the people.

Next, Director-General of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Dr San Hla Thaw read the message sent by Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organisation. Coordina-

tor of UNDP Mr Charles Petrie also spoke.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and the guests had documentary photos taken together with winners of article and essay contests in commemoration of the World Meteorological Day.

The Prime Minister cordially greeted those present and visited the booth opened in commemoration of the World Meteorological Day at the MICT Park. MNA



Director-General Dr San Hla Thaw of Hydrology and Meteorology Department.—MNA



UNDP Resident Coordinator Mr Charles Petrie.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than presents first prize to a winner in essay contest.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing...

(from page 1)

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command and wife, ministers and their wives, the Yangon Mayor, senior military officers and their wives, departmental heads and guests.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namó Tassa.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered requisites and alms to Chairman Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donated requisites and provisions to Secretary Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Nyaungdon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa.

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Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing donate 'soon' to Sayadaws at the 'soon' offering ceremony to members of State Ovadaçariya, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and State Central Working Committee of the Sangha.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San present alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donate eight requisites to a Sayadaw.—MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet offer eight requisites to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, donates eight requisites to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe present alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, presents alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing...

(from page 6)

Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, also presented provisions to Joint-Secretary Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Aungmyebonsan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa; General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, alms to Vice-Chairman Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dawei Gawthitayama Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arçinnabhivamsa; Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, donations to State Ovadaçariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Nyaungdon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhana; and Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, offertories to State Ovadaçariya Abhidhaja Maga Rattha Guru Abhidhaja

Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Mandalay Maha Withokdayon Taikthit Sayadaw Bhaddanta Agghiya.

Next, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Yangon Command Commander, the ministers and senior military officers offered alms to the Sayadaws.

The Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon and Senior General Than Shwe and wife and party poured water as an act of sharing merits gained.

The ceremony ended with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu.

After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party donated 'soon' to members of the Sangha. —MNA

Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

POEM:

Chronicle of 60th Anniversary

- * **Want to retell, not a folk
Real episode, it is history
Anti-fascist Resistance, written in blood
Sacrificed lives, for the people
Continually decided and avowed
National spirit is Patriotism alive.**
- * **Independence, built with blood
To refer to history write on stone pillar
The emergence, building of the Tatmadaw
Start of the journey, March 27th
The auspicious date, when it was born
Among the people, it stood strong
Sparkling pride, on red background
Bright white star, together with the people.**
- * **Glancing back over sixty years
The Tatmadaw has worked for
And taken up heritage
Incessantly, entrusting lives
Making sacrifices to ward off
Internal and external dangers
This noble journey is
Strong pillar etched in stone.**

Hein Htet Soe (Trs)

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Manipura Multi-purpose Dam Project in Kalay Township

YANGON, 23 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence met with military personnel and families and departmental personnel at the regional battalion in Kalay, after observing the town development on 21 March.

Accompanied by Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station and officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the progress in implementing the Government Computer College Construction Project. The principal of the college explained academic matters and strength of teaching staff and students. Lt-Gen Ye Myint made arrangements for earlier completion of the project.

The three-storey main hall of the college of the Ministry of Science and Technology will be 513-

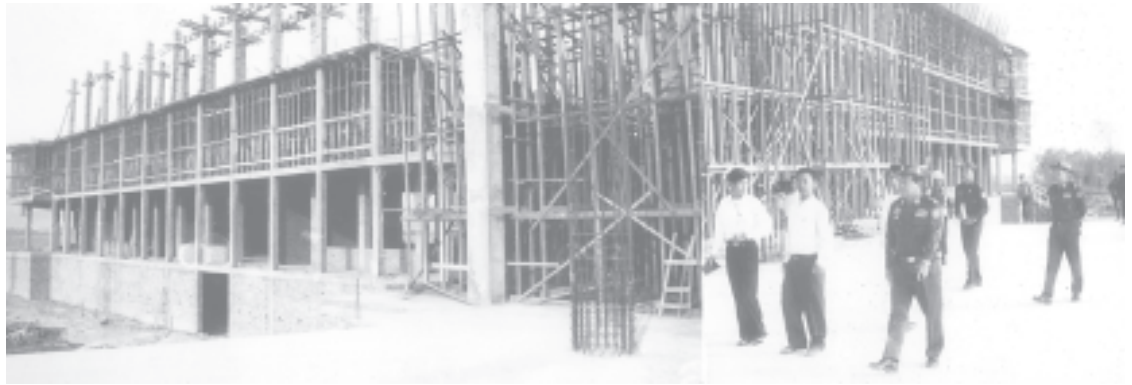
foot by 358-foot and 42 feet high. It can house 3,000 students. Construction work has completed up to 43.30 per cent.

At the Manipura Multi-purpose Dam Project in Kalay Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard a report

ground works of the project. The earth core rock fill dam is 2,600 feet long and 525 feet high. Its storage capacity will be 1.26 acre-feet. It will have an outflow tunnel and another tunnel to run turbines to generate 2,680 million

and lower regions of Kalewa. It will irrigate 50,000 acres of crops.

On arrival at Kabani rail-cum-road bridge, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the duration of the facility and water course of the Manipura River. In Kalay,



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of the main building at Government Technological College (Kalay).—MNA

on salient points of the project presented by officials. He also inspected

kilowatt hours annually. The dam will prevent flooding of Myittha plain

he met with officials, members of social organizations and townselders. At the

meeting, he fulfilled the requirements of the town development work. He also

met with Tatmadaw members and families.

MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than oversees progress of Ngwehsaung Town, construction of hotels

YANGON, 23 March — Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, member of the State Peace and Development Council, arrived at the office of Ngwehsaung

General Administration Department of Patheingyi District on 21 March morning. Accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development

Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials, social organization members and

local people.

At Ngwehsaung Police Station, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions to officials.

In the hotel zone of Ngwehsaung Beach, Lt-

Gen Khin Maung Than oversaw progress in construction of buildings for Bay of Bengal Resort Hotel of Wood Land Co Ltd, Htoo Resort Hotel and Ngwehsaung Beach

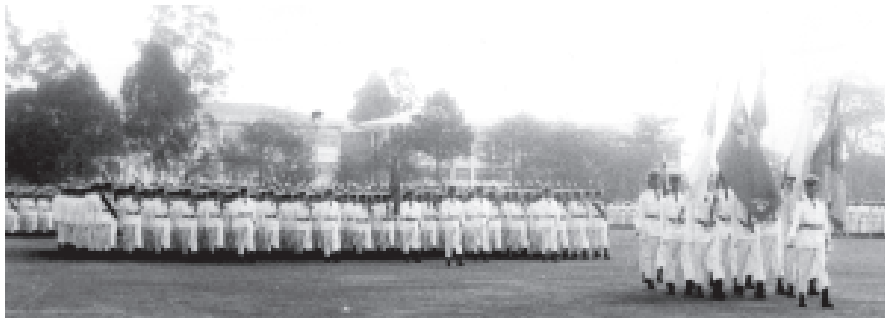
Hotel of Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Yuzana Resort Hotel.

The Ngwehsaung Hotel Zone is 380.44 acres. A total of 22 hotels have completed construction of 199 buildings comprising 699 rooms at which 1,467 visitors can be accommodated. And, 62 buildings are under construction to accommodate 398 visitors. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with hoteliers and heard reports on their requirements in tasks. In the afternoon, they inspected progress of Patheingyi-Ngwehsaung Road and proceeded to Chaungtha Beach along Seintaung-Jetka Road.



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than oversees progress in building Htoo Resort Hotel in Ngwehsaung on 21-3-2005.—MNA

MNA



The Tatmadaw that has safeguarded the independence

The important role the Tatmadaw played was manifested in the course of Myanmar independence struggle. In the vanguard of independence struggle was the Tatmadaw which was constituted with a diversity of national races, pledged to sacrifice even their lives rather than enjoy benefits and privileges, and was determined to restore independence at any cost. In the end, Myanmar regained her independence.

The Union of Myanmar became a sovereign and independent nation on 4 January 1948. It is not with ease that Myanmar regained her independence. Together with national patriots, the Tatmadaw comprising the offspring of the general public restored the independence at the cost of their lives, blood and sweat.

The dawn of independence was a time of especial importance to exert efforts on economic

Myint Thu Yein

growth for the country and the people, to prevent alien threats, to maintain internal stability and peace, and to enforce the rule of law. The AFPFL, which was then in power, was split up into groups. Disagreement that arose among political parties on account of personal cult, sectarianism and dogmatism resulted in the BCP going underground on 28 March 1948. On 10 July the same year, Yebawbyu

(PVO) separated from the AFPFL and went underground too. KNDO staged an armed revolt at the beginning of 1949.

At the time of upheavals in 1949, the situation worsened till the outbreak of internal strife as a direct consequence of the incapability of the government and the parliament to solve a magnitude of problems.

Under such circumstances, it was the Tatmadaw alone that

The country was in its worst condition in 1949 as 75 per cent of the country was in the hands of the multi-coloured insurgents. Even Yangon was near to fall into the hands of the insurgents. At that time, the word "Yangon Government" meant the government of the country. The Union was free from that condition as Myanmar Tatmadawmen loyal to the Union took risks to save the country. Though knowing that it is risky, the members of the Tatmadaw willingly gave up their lives for the country and the race. They safeguarded the hard-won independence with their lives.



Battleship May Yu of Myanmar Tatmadaw (Navy) which took part in crushing internal insurgency.

remained steadfast and saved the country that was on the brink of the abyss. Standing by the country and the people, the Myanmar Tatmadaw, which is ardently patriotic, prevented the country from disintegration and safeguarded it. The safeguarding of independence cost the Tatmadaw numerous lives of its members.

Insurgents staged armed revolts in Mandalay Division, Magway Division, Bago Division, Shan State, Kayah State, Ayeyawady Division, Rakhine State, Mon State and so on, and spread al-

insurgents approached Nattalin, where they engaged in severe fights with the Tatmadaw. Of them, Pho Tha Aung Overpass battle near Nattalin was more eminent.

It was at 7 pm on 19 August 1948. The Nattalin-stationed Myanmar Tatmadaw under the command of Major Aye Cho put up brave resistance from the overpass against the enemies whose strength greatly outnumbered its. The insurgents were prevented from advancing any further and forced to retreat after brilliant and adventurous resistance the Tatmadaw launched at risk to their



Myanmar Tatmadaw members enter Pyay to crush the enemy.

most the whole country.

Therefore, the Myanmar Tatmadaw consisting of army, navy and air force hand in hand with the national people crushed the insurgents.

Despite the true essence of independence being peace, pleasantness, justice, safety and prosperity, political parties disintegrated, engaged in power struggle and provoked uprisings in the light of independence. They came to commit random acts. In the central part of the country, the BCP that went underground at the end of March in 1948 and the PVO that followed suit in July the same year amalgamated and plotted even to seize Yangon.

In the mid-1948, the insurgents rose in revolts in the central regions such as Madaya, Myingyan, Pakokku, Chauk, Yenangyoung, Minbu and Magway. Later on, they came down to Yangon along Pyay-Yangon motor road. In the third week of August, the

lives in the interests of the country and the race. In that fight, Major Aye Cho was injured seriously, and he sacrificed his life for the country on 21 August. Like him, other members of the Tatmadaw sacrificed their lives for the country too.

At the beginning of 1949, the Tatmadaw was crushing the insurgents in battle fronts of Bago, DaikU and Thayawady. In a fight in the battle front of DaikU, the Tatmadaw's rear command was surrounded by insurgents. Not only could private Hla Thaug kill a number of insurgents in that fight but he also could cover his mates to enable them to retreat. He stayed behind alone to protect his troops and sacrificed his life for the country and the race. The fight claimed some 100 lives of officers and other ranks of the Tatmadaw.

The country was in its worst condition in 1949 as 75 per cent of the country was in the (See page 9)

The Tatmadaw that has safeguarded the independence

(from page 8)

rounded by insurgents. hands of the multi-coloured insurgents. Even Yangon was near to fall into the hands of the insurgents. At that time, the word "Yangon Government" meant the government of the country. The Union was free from that condition as Myanmar Tatmadawmen loyal to the Union took risks to save the country. Though knowing that it is risky, the members of the Tatmadaw willingly gave up their lives for the country and the race. They safeguarded the hard-won independence with their lives.

Thanks to the members of the Myanmar Tatmadaw

Insein and Thazi, the Tatmadaw retook Gyobingauk on 13 May 1949; Zigon and Nattalin on 14 May; Pyawbwe, Yamethin, Tatkon and TadaU on 22 May; Kyaukse, NyaungU, Chauk and Yenangyoung on 12 June; Thaton on 25 June; Thayawady on 13 July; Myingyan on 24 July; Lashio on 1 September; and Taunggyi on 21 November; and Htongyi village in December; and opened Yangon-Bago railroad.

Even in the post-independence period, the Myanmar Tatmadaw born of the independence struggle engaged in above-mentioned battles to safeguard the independence, sacrificing their lives, blood

and sweat. It proves the importance of the Tatmadaw in a country.

It also shows the Tatmadaw's patriotism, solidarity and selflessness. It is worth mentioning the strenuous performances of the Tatmadaw (Navy) in quelling the internal strife after the restoration of independence. May Yu and Inma, two war vessels of the Tatmadaw (Navy), provided canon fire in the fights the Tatmadaw (Army) launched on the battle ground of Insein. Moreover, the Tatmadaw (Navy) also bravely crushed the insurgencies in the delta region.

After launching combined attacks on the insurgents taking a strong hold of Pathein, war ves-

sels May Yu and Inma and battleships 1299, 1369 and 1478 recaptured the

taking risks, and possessing valour and courage that can overcome the difficulties.

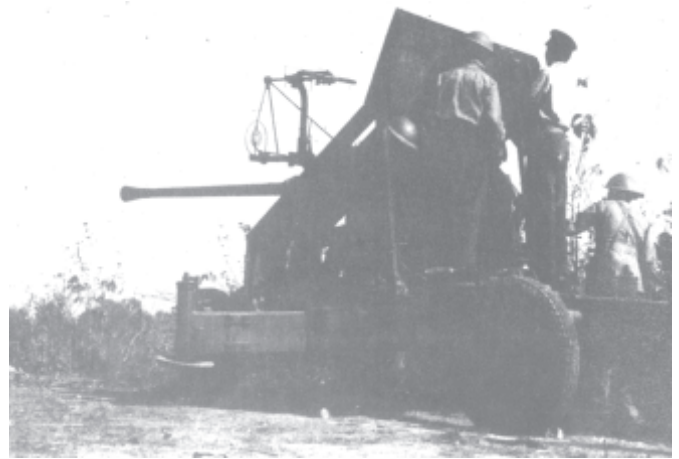
Similarly, the excellent performances of the Tatmadaw (Air) were much supportive for the land operations in quelling the insurgents.

Why was the independence on the verge of collapse even in

broken.

However, the Tatmadaw joined hands with the people and crushed all the obstacles after drawing public strength.

Crushing the insurgencies that sparked soon after the independence, the Myanmar Tatmadaw for the first time thus safeguarded and main-



An artillery battery in action to crush the enemy.



Armoured carriers of Myanmar Tatmadaw marching to crush the internal insurgency.

who safeguarded the national independence at risk to their lives, blood and sweat, the national people of Myanmar live in peace in the sovereign and independent country.

Provided the Tatmadaw could not quell in the nick of time the danger of the country's disintegration consequent upon the splits of the then party in power, Myanmar, an independent nation, would fall into the abyss again.

After crushing the insurgents in Pho Tha Aung Overpass, Wetkaw Bridge, Bago Pagoda,

Why was the independence on the verge of collapse even in its stage of infancy? The answer to the question is that it is because of those who were hatching schemes to break up the strength of the Tatmadaw as well as of self-seekers. After the restoration of independence, some parties that joined hands with the Tatmadaw during the independence struggle went underground on account of personal cult, sectarianism and dogmatism stemming from dissension. They broke up the Tatmadaw and threatened the independence. It is certain that the country will lose independence and relapse into alien subjugation soon after the Tatmadaw has been broken. However, the Tatmadaw joined hands with the people and crushed all the obstacles after drawing public strength.

town at the dawn of 1949. On 25 April the same year, war vessel Shwepazun and battleship 1456, which were on their way to Maubin to supply food rations and ammunition to the Tatmadawmen who were surrounded by insurgents there, came under fire with assorted arms. Though severely injured in his face, Lieutenant Tun Tin, captain of Shwepazun war vessel, counterattacked the insurgents brilliantly.

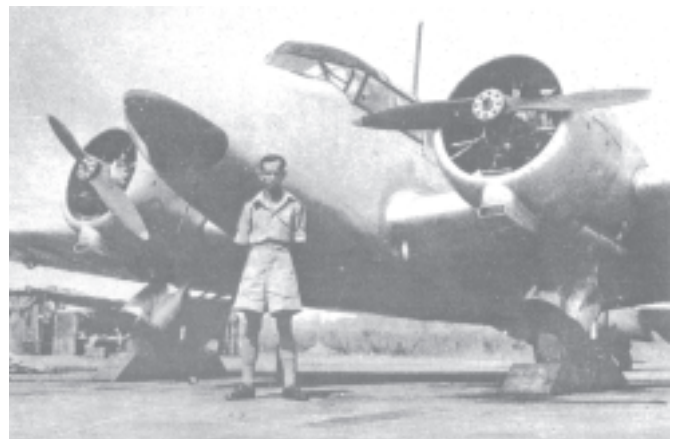
The victory the Tatmadaw (Navy) won is accounted for the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw such as serving the interest of the many rather than individuals, sacrificing and

its stage of infancy? The answer to the question is that it is because of those who were hatching schemes to break up the strength of the Tatmadaw as well as of self-seekers. After the restoration of independence, some parties that joined hands with the Tatmadaw during the independence struggle went underground on account of personal cult, sectarianism and dogmatism stemming from dissension. They broke up the Tatmadaw and threatened the independence. It is certain that the country will lose independence and relapse into alien subjugation soon after the Tatmadaw has been

tained the independence, which was on the brink of being lost.

In particular, the members of the Tatmadaw saved the motherland, which was close to losing its independence as a result of internal strife that arose soon after the restoration of independence, at a cost of numerous lives. Supposing the Tatmadaw was not equipped with the fine traditions such as good discipline and bravery, solidarity, efficiency, selflessness, high morale, endurance and perseverance, and did not thus risk their lives to defend the country, the independence of Myanmar would...

Translation: KTY



A fighter plane of Myanmar Tatmadaw (Air Force).

Proposals on detailed basic principles ...

(from page 16)

Committee members, chairmen of subcommittees and officials, representatives of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization and independent representatives, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan

Yan and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State Service Personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited delegates, delegates of 17 national race groups who exchanged arms for peace, and representative of other or-

mittee members, Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the subcommittees, representatives of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel and other invited delegates signed the attendance registers at the Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall for the National Convention delegates.

Member of the NCCWC U Law Hsin Kwam of the delegate group of representatives-elect pre-



NCCWC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs attendance registers. MNA

group of national races, U Kyi Tint of the delegate group of peasants, U Bo Thein of the delegate group of workers, Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) of the delegate group of intel-

lectuals and intelligentsia, Dr Manan Tu Ja of the delegate group of other invited persons. Director (Meeting) of the office of the National Convention Convening Work Committee U Than Aung acted as MC and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-MC.

First, the MC announced the validity of the meeting as 1,068 out of 1,081 delegates attended the meeting, accounting for 98.80 per cent.

During the plenary session, discussions of the delegate groups concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution were read out.

First, U Thein Tun of National Unity Party read out the proposal of National Unity Party.

Next, U San Tha Aung of Mro (a) Khami National Unity read out the proposal on detailed basic principles to be laid down concerning the power sharing of ex-

ecutive and judicial sectors to be included in the framing of the State Constitution. Afterwards, independent representatives-elect U Aung Thein and U Tun Kyaw read out their proposals on detailed basic principles to be laid down concerning the power sharing of executive and judicial sectors to be included in the framing of the State Constitution submitted by independent representatives-elect Dr Hmu Htan, U Aung Thein and U Tun Kyaw.

After that, the plenary session went into recess. Later, the plenary session resumed at 11.05 am.

Independent representatives-elect U Thein Kyi and U Hla Soe read out the proposals submitted by U Tin Win, U Thein Kyi, U Hla Soe, U Mya Hlaing, U Kyi Win and U Tin Maung Tun. Next, the plenary session went into recess at 11.50 am.

The NC plenary session continues the day after tomorrow. — MNA



The Plenary session of the National Convention in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township. — MNA

(East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay,

organizations. Before the plenary meeting, NCCWC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Com-

sided over the meeting together with U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) of NCC Work Committee, U Saw Phillip (a) U Phillip Sam of delegate group of political parties, U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Ral of the delegate

group of State



Director (Meeting) U Than Aung and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi act as MCs. — MNA



Delegates attending National Convention. — MNA



U Thein Tun of Delegates of Political Parties. — MNA



U San Tha Aung of Delegates of Representatives-elect. — MNA



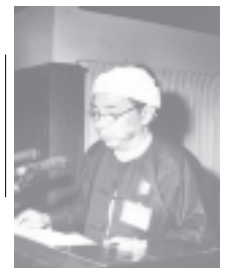
Independent Representative-elect U Hla Soe. — MNA



Independent Representative-elect U Thein Kyi. — MNA



Independent Representative-elect U Aung Thein. — MNA



Independent Representative-elect U Tun Kyaw. — MNA

Honouring Fifth Meeting of Fifth State Central Working Committee of Sangha of All Orders and welcoming great grand Religious Title Presentation Ceremony of 2005

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders comprising 300 members of Sangha represents in the Union represents over four hundred thousand members of Sangha of Myanmar. According to the fundamental principles of the Sangha Organizations of the Union of Myanmar, the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders shall hold its annual meeting.

We all Buddhists throughout the Union of Myanmar know that altogether five Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana were successfully held by arrangements and support of Buddhist people and Government of the Union of Myanmar in 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000 respectively. In accordance with the objectives and guidelines laid down by these successful congregations of the Sangha of All Orders, the very first unity of the members of Sangha could be reconstructed in the Union of Myanmar within one-hundred year.

We all Buddhists heartily know that altogether six great Buddhist Councils leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana were convened after the noble demise of the Gotama Buddha over 2,500 years ago. The Fifth and Sixth great Buddhist Councils were held in the Union of Myanmar.

The Sixth great Buddhist Council was held in 1954, and attended by 2,500 Maha Theras from the Five Theravada Buddhist nations, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and other Buddhist nations. The Buddhist people from these Buddhist nations joyously and warmly congratulated and admired the Sixth Buddhist Council.

A need was felt that without the unity of the Sangha, it was impossible to execute the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana. As different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders appeared separately, they were not able unitedly to implement the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana. In reality, all members of the Sangha and devotees want the everlasting unity of the Sangha of All Orders. They firmly believe that it only can be done to purify, perpetuate and propagate the Buddha Sasana by the unity of the Sangha. The Buddha Himself, urged the members of the Sangha to unite in order to carry out His teaching.

In fact, the main objectives of holding the First Great Buddhist Council through the Sixth Great Buddhist Council were to purify, perpetuate, propagate and preserve the Buddha Sasana in the Universe. Although altogether Six Buddhist Councils were held, it was found that

different schools and sects still appeared.

They were not united, and they parted from each other. Because of different schools and sects, many unlawful views (Adhammavadas) which were contradictory to and incompatible with the Pitakas of the Theravada Buddha Sasana appeared. In reality, these unlawful views endangered true Buddhism.

Therefore, all the Buddhists felt worried about the situation of true Buddhism. They really want to purify, perpetuate and propagate the Buddha Sasana. According to the history of Buddhism, it is learnt that schism and split of schools and sects usually occurred among the Monastic Orders whenever some members of the Sangha of Orders were in trouble through dispute and mutual misunderstanding. To reconstruct the unity and mutual understanding within different schools and sects of the Sangha Orders is deeply needed for the welfare and interest of the nation as well as for the Buddha Sasana.

Altogether Six Buddhist Councils throughout our age were held to establish the unity of the Sangha of All

Altogether Six Buddhist Councils throughout our age firmly believe that without the unity of the Sangha, it is impossible to promote the Buddha Sasana. An old saying goes, "Whenever religion is pure, the society prospers". The situation of the nation is well-developed and prosperous in these golden days when the members of the Sangha of the Order unanimously practice the Vinaya Laws and fulfil their religious duties.

Orders so long as the Buddha Sasana exists. All the Buddhists throughout our age firmly believe that without the unity of the Sangha, it is impossible to promote the Buddha Sasana. An old saying goes, "Whenever religion is pure, the society prospers". The situation of the nation is well-developed and prosperous in these golden days when the members of the Order unanimously practice the Vinaya Laws and fulfil their religious duties.

And so, the First, the Third, the Second, the Fourth and the Fifth Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders of the Union of Myanmar have absolutely and successfully reconstructed the concrete unity of the Sangha of All Orders with the support of Buddhists and the Government since 1980. Only one Sangha Organization could be formed in the Union of Myanmar for the first time during one-hundred years.

The Fifth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders

In accordance with the prescribed terms of the Sangha Organizations of the Union of Myanmar, the Fifth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders was fixed to be held at the Mahapasana Cave

on Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon from 20 to 22 March 2005. The Meeting was to attend 300 members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and 111 members of the State Ovadacariya (Patrons) throughout the country. The main Objectives of the Fifth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are strengthening to carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana throughout the world.

It is further learnt that all necessary arrangements and requirements for holding the Fifth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders have been already made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and responsible personnel concerned.

The great grand Religious Title Presentation ceremony of 2005

In Order to preserve, promote and flourish the three kinds of the Buddha Sasana, viz (1) the Pariyatti Sasana (learning the Buddha's teaching), (2) the Patipatti Sasana (Practical application of the Buddha's teaching) and (3) the Pativedha Sasana (realization of the Buddha's teaching), the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar issued its Notification No 1/2005 on the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar which falls on the 4th January 2005, regarding conferring the Religious Title on the 307 eminent Buddhist monks, the 16 elder nuns and the 61 persons at home and the 13 eminent Buddhist monks and 1 elder nun from abroad who distinctively could carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the three kinds of the Buddha Sasana at their utmost efforts.

The great grand ceremony for presenting the Religious Title to the recipients will be held at the Mahapasana Cave, Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon, Myanmar on the 24th March 2005 (The Fullmoon of Taboung 1366 ME).

All Religious-Title Recipients have already been invited to attend the great grand Religious Title Presentation Ceremony of 2005. It is further learnt that altogether 688 members of the Sangha and 16 elder nuns will be present on this auspicious occasion.

Besides, the auspicious ceremony for communal offering of provisions and various articles to 688 members of the Sangha and 16 elder nuns will be held on a grand scale on Kaba Aye Hillock, in the late afternoon of 24th March 2005. And so, all Buddhists and well-wishers are cordially invited to attend this auspicious ceremony for paying profound respect to the members of the Sangha and sharing merits for meritorious deeds.

We all Buddhists throughout the Union of Myanmar joyously and warmly welcome and congratulate the Fifth Meeting of the Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and the great grand Religious Title Presentation Ceremony of 2005.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe visits model farm of North-East Command

YANGON, 23 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence visited a model farm of North-East Command on 20 March.

Accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe heard a report on plantation of lychee, orange, djenkol bean, jackfruit plantations and mix-cropping of sunflower and soybean at the farm presented by the farm in-charge. At the seed garden, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe observed foodstuff produced by the farm with sunflower and soybean, and a nursery of various crops.

During inspection of the Pyidaungsu Gymnasium Construction Project of the command, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe heard a report on efforts being made to promote sports and salient points of the project, pre-

sented by Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and Project Director of Asia World Company U Kye.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party attended the blood donation ceremony held at Shan State (North) Hospital in Lashio to hail the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and cordially conversed with members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and other social organizations conducting sanitation work at the hospital. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and the commander presented 50 bottles of Holicks and 500 eggs to 32 blood donors, who were members of the USDA, Organization for Women's Affairs and Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

At the Shwedagon Pagoda Replica Construction Project, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party paid obeisance to Buddha images, and later, heard a report on salient points of the projects presented by officials concerned. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe made arrangements for work facilitation. — MNA

MHC golden jubilee commemorative publications

YANGON, 23 March—So far, 21 books — 15 in English version and six in Myanmar version — on Myanmar historical research compiled to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Myanmar History Commission by members of the commission are now in circulation. The commission is taking continued measures to compile more books to mark its golden jubilee up to the 50th one.

Those wishing to get copies of the books may contact the Universities' Historical Research Department, Amarapura Hall, Yangon University Kamayut, (Tel: 526401, 536417). —MNA

Computer quiz in exhibition

YANGON, 23 March — The exhibition to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day will be held at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road from 26 March to 4 April and the computer quiz will be held at the booth on nation-building endeavours.

Anybody may participate in the quiz from 12 noon to 2 pm during the exhibition days and handsome prizes will be awarded to the winners of the contest,

MNA

ADVERTISEMENTS

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မရှင်အဖွဲ့

ကြေးမြို့နယ်၊ ၅/၂၀၀၅ (၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ မတ်လ ၁၃ ရက်) ရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့

၁။ သစ်တောရေးရာဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ အပူပိုင်းဒေသ စီမံကိန်းဦးစီးဌာနတွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါရာထူး အတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများအသိပေးသည်။

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည် - (က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။ (ခ) ၁၂-၄-၂၀၀၅ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၁၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါက အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။ (ဂ) လစာနှုန်း (၄၄၀၀-၁၀၀-၅၅၀၀) အဆင့် အထက် ရာထူး တစ်ခုခုတွင် အနည်းဆုံးလုပ်သက် (၅) နှစ်ရှိရန် လိုအပ်သော လျှောက်ထားသူများသည် သက်ဆိုင်ရာဌာန အကြီးအကဲ၏ ထောက်ခံချက်ကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ပူးတွဲတင်ပြရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မရှင်အဖွဲ့၊ ရုံးခန်း ၁၂-၄-၂၀၀၅ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ မှားယွင်းမှုရှိပါက စာရွက်စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးပေး ၂၀၀/- ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နည်းလမ်း၊ ရေခဲသေတ္တာအတွက် အလှူငွေအဖြစ် လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့် စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့က ကြိုတင်အမတ် ၁၂/၂၀၀၅ ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့က ကြိုတင်အမတ် ၁၂/၄-၂၀၀၅ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လစ်လပ်နေသော ရာထူးများကို ရွေးချယ်ခန့်အပ်ရန် အတွက် လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၄။ ရန်ကင်းမြို့နှင့် မန္တလေးမြို့ မြို့တွင် ရေခဲသေတ္တာအဖွဲ့များ တားမြစ်လိုသော စာစစ်ဌာနကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရှင်းလင်း တိကျစွာ ဖော်ပြရမည်။ ၅။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတော်ဝင်မိမိ ဆောင်ရွက်ပြီးနောက် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာကို ခွင့်ပြုချက်ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့မှ ၁၂-၄-၂၀၀၅ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို တပ်ပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့မှ ထုတ်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၆။ ၃၀-၄-၂၀၀၅ နေ့နှင့် ၁-၅-၂၀၀၅ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ် ရေးခြင်းပေးပို့ခြင်းမရှိပါ။ ၇။ ၂၈-၄-၂၀၀၅ နေ့မှစ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်း အထူးထွက်ဆောင်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့မှ ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော မျက်နှာကို ထုတ်ပေးမည်။ ၈။ စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုပါက ဤအဖွဲ့မှ ရုံးသို့ လိုက်နာတိုင်ကြားရမည်။ ၉။ ဤကြေညာချက်ကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မရှင်၏ Website လိပ်စာ csstb.imis.com.mm တွင်လည်း ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 24 March 2005

DONATE BLOOD

Pressure mounts on US to obey WTO's ruling
GENEVA, 22 March — Pressure mounted on the United States on Monday to obey a world-trade ruling outlawing some of its multi-billion-dollar cotton subsidies.
The World Trade Organization (WTO) approved a ruling by its highest court, the Appellate Body, upholding a complaint by Brazil against the farm aid and set the clock ticking for Washington to comply.
Brazil argued that the United States exceeded subsidy ceilings with its cotton support programmes, worth some 4 billion US dollars in 2001 alone.
The use of export credits also violated trade rules, the Appellate Body confirmed earlier this month in rejecting a US appeal against the findings around 11 am (0800 GMT) when it sneaked into the Victoria Lake. Entebbe airport's main runway ends at the shore of Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake.
The US Government, which has said only that it will work with Congress "on the next steps", has 30 days under WTO rules in

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ
ရထားပို့ဆောင်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
မြန်မာ့ပိုးရထား
ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ခါ (Sealed Tender) များပေးပို့ခြင်း
၁။ မြန်မာ့ပိုးရထားမှ အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းများကို မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ (Khyats) ပြင်ပသို့ ပို့ဆောင်ပေးပို့ခြင်း
(Sealed Tender) များကို ပေးသွင်းရန် စိတ်ဝင်စားပါသည်။
၂။ တင်ခါပုံစံများကို အောက်ဖော်ပြပါဌာနတွင် (၂၅၄၂၄၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့မှစ၍ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်းပေးပို့နိုင်ကြောင်းနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို သိရှိလိုပါက ၎င်းဌာနသို့ ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းစုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
ဒုတိယအထွေထွေမန်နေဂျာ၊ တောက်ပုံဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ပိုးရထား
ကုန်သည်လမ်းနှင့် (၅၁) လမ်းထောင့်၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊
ရုံး - ၂၅၄၂၄၂၀၀၅၊ ၂၅၄၂၄၂၀၀၅ - လိုင်ခွဲ - ၆၀၂၂၆၅၀၂၁၂

The Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Construction
Public Works
Extension of Invitation for Quotation
The Project Management Unit, Public Works, Ministry of Construction has invited Quotation for Myanmar-Laos Friendship Suspension Bridge.
On behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Union of Myanmar, Project Management Unit gives notice that the date for completion and return of the Quotation has been extended to 2nd May, 2005 instead of 31st March, 2005.
Managing Director
Public works

TO RENT (NEW BUILDING)
Modernize R.C. 3 storey building on Thirimingalar Street, (Artia), Kamayut Township, Yangon. Including 6-A.C, 2- Ph, Generator, Two master bed rooms, One luxury room and Two bed rooms. Ks.1,500,000/month. Tel: 505929/534238

Zimbabwe plans to
build more dams
for irrigation
HARARE, 22 March — Zimbabwean Vice-President Joyce Mujuru said on Sunday the government had plans to build more dams for irrigation.
Mujuru was addressing more than 25,000 people who gathered to witness the commissioning of Mutema Irrigation Scheme in the eastern city of Chipinge. "Irrigation schemes are the answer to poor yields experienced due to droughts and the government will build more dams for irrigation," she said.
Mujuru urged all beneficiaries of the irrigation projects to jealously guard against theft and vandalism of equipment.
"We should look after our irrigation equipment with care as they are our lifeline. We should not steal or vandalize them. Blocked irrigation channels should be unblocked and maintained," she said.
She said agriculture was the country's backbone, boosting economic growth, creation of employment and the fight against HIV and AIDS. — MNA/Xinhua

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
The family of the late U Htay Tin (C.E.O. FISCA ENTERPRISES) wish to thank the Specialist, doctors and nurses of Thukha Gaba Medical Centre, B.O.D and staff of FISCA ENTERPRISES OLD ALBERTIANS, friends and relatives from far and near for their kind assistance, floral tributes, messages of condolences and all help rendered during their recent bereavement. They regret their inability to thank each and everyone individually.

Ethiopian plane crash victims out of danger
KAMPALA, 22 March — The five-crew members of the cargo plane contracted by Ethiopian Airlines that crashed in Entebbe, some 40 kilometres south of Kampala are out of danger, a medical official from a local hospital has said.
Dr Martin Nsubuga of Nsambya Hospital where the crash victims were rushed on Saturday told Xinhua on Monday that the crew members were now in a stable condition describing it as out of danger.
The five crews are two Ethiopians, one Rwandan, one Zambian and an Iraqi.
The Boeing 707 cargo plane crashed on Saturday as it came in for a technical stopover at Entebbe International Airport to refuel. It was landing around 11 am (0800 GMT) when it sneaked into the Victoria Lake. Entebbe airport's main runway ends at the shore of Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake.
MNA/Xinhua

difficult because of opposition to the WTO findings in Congress.
For this reason, they say that it would be easier to handle the cotton issue within the context of current negotiations to reform world farm trade, a key part of the WTO's Doha Round of free trade talks. Brazil has countered that the rules that the United States broke were hammered out during a previous trade round in the mid-1990s, and that it has no intention of "paying twice" by having them put on the table again.
MNA/Reuters

Elbradei says US needs to give Iran security assurance
PARIS, 22 March — The United States needs to give Iran some kind of security assurance as Washington joins the EU to try to persuade Teheran to give up sensitive atomic activities, the UN's nuclear watchdog chief said on Monday.
"I think when the issue of security comes up (in the EU-Iran talks), obviously the US will have to step in, because ... the Iranians will very much need the American and not just European (security) assurance ..." Mohamed ElBaradei told reporters on the sidelines of a conference on the future of nuclear energy.
MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ရေးကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Study shows Internet crimes focus on financial information

LOS ANGELES, 23 March — More than half of recent major Internet threats are targeting personal information, a sign that financial gain is behind the attacks, IT security firm Symantec said on Monday.

While releasing its latest Internet Security Threat Report, Symantec said that identity theft features were found in 54 per cent of the top 50 malicious codes detected between July and December last year, marking an increase on the 36 per cent found during the same period in year 2003.

This represents a clear trend that attackers have gone from seeking fame to seeking fortune, according to Oliver Friedrichs, senior manager with Symantec Security Response.

Computers are increasingly coming under attack from Trojan horses, worms and viruses that attempt to glean users' cached log-on data and passwords to financial information, and this trend is not likely to slow down soon, he noted.

The study also detected a rise in phishing attempts used by financially motivated attackers. Phishing scams, which rely on social engineering to dupe people into providing sensitive finan-

cial and confidential information, use fake e-mails and web sites that look like legitimate sites.

Symantec said that by the end of last December, it was blocking an average of over 33 million phishing attempts a week, up from an average of 9 million a week in mid-July. This represents an increase of over 366 per cent.

Phishing will continue to be a very serious concern over the Year 2005, the study expected.

Regulatory intervention and technological means of checking the legitimacy of e-mails have been suggested as methods of reducing identity threat attacks. But regulations are somewhat limited, because the individuals behind the scams are already breaking the law and show an apparent disregard to rules and regulations, according to Friedrichs.

He added that technology, in its current form, is also hard-pressed to combat phishing e-mails and identity threat attacks.—MNA/Xinhua

Silicone hydrogel contact lenses reduce risk of keratitis

LONDON, 23 March — A new generation of contact lenses can significantly reduce the risk of severe eye infections, researchers said on Tuesday.

Wearers who keep their lenses in overnight can develop keratitis — inflammation or irritation of the cornea — but scientists found the new ones cut that risk five-fold.

“Those who choose to sleep in lenses should be advised to wear silicone hydrogel lenses, which carry a five times decreased risk of severe keratitis for extended wear compared with hydrogel lenses,” said Dr. Philip Morgan of the University of Manchester in the *British Journal of Ophthalmology*.

He and his colleagues studied 118 patients with different degrees of keratitis in a year-long study. Each person provided details about the type of lens they used and whether or not they slept with them.

Specialists determined the degrees of severity they suffered. Four types of lenses — rigid, hydrogel daily disposable, hydrogel and silicone hydrogel — were used in the study.

MNA/Reuters



A worker walks by Sri Lankan pavilion with a ceiling made of hundreds of handmade red, orange, and yellow batik tapestries during a press preview of the Aichi Expo 2005 in Nagakute, central Japan, on 18 March, 2005. — INTERNET

7,000-year-old Neolithic flint tools, buildings found in UAE

ABU DHABI, 22 March — Archaeologists have recently discovered flint tools and the remains of small buildings dating back to the Neolithic period some 7,000 years ago in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the *Gulf News* daily reported on Monday.

Finds at the sites included dozens of finely made flint tools plus important remains of small buildings, Peter Hellyer, Executive Director of Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey (ADIAS), was quoted as saying.

These tools demonstrate that the human dwellers in the area near

Al Ain in Abu Dhabi from about 7,000 years ago took advantage of the many locally available resources, added Hellyer.

The findings are of great importance to the understanding of the early history of the emirates, said the archaeologist, adding that no buildings of this date had previously been identified in Abu Dhabi's deserts.

They demonstrate that this now remote desert area was once lush with vegetation, which had a regular supply of sweet water, said Hellyer.

According to the ADIAS, during the Neolithic period, the climate in the UAE was much wetter than today, and the plains may have been lakes.

There would have also been much more vegetation and wildlife than today, providing inhabitants with ample pasture for their herds of sheep and goats as well as opportunities for hunting such animals as gazelle and oryx.

MNA/Xinhua

US threatens to renew lawsuit against EU aid for Airbus

BRUSSELS, 23 March — The United States threatened to renew a lawsuit against European aid for plane maker Airbus on Monday as the EU vowed not to budge without concessions on support for rival US titan Boeing.

A truce between the two sides broke down last week after Washington accused Brussels of backsliding on a commitment to eliminate state aid to civil aircraft manufacturers and putting new issues on the table.

The European Union said it was prepared to

resume talks, but it was up to the United States to make the first move.

“The ball is in America's court,” European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson told a news conference in Moscow. “I'm looking for clarification of the US position.”

The economic giants last year launched competing litigation at the World Trade Organization (WTO) but then agreed on January 11 to a 3-month negotiation drive in the hope of reaching a settlement on scrapping subsidies to the aviation firms.

MNA/Reuters

Saudi Arabia to help pull down rising oil price

MANILA, 22 March — Saudi Arabia can help to pull down rising crude oil prices through increasing the daily supply by 1.5 million barrels, visiting Petroleum Minister Ali Al-Naimi said on Monday.

Naimi, who is in Manila for a three-day visit, said that his country can increase oil supply depending on demand.

He also dismissed the perception that the supply is limited. “There is plenty of supply. What we in Saudi Arabia want is to alleviate this unnecessary concern about shortage of supply.”

“I have said before that we in Saudi Arabia don't like high prices that negatively impact on economic growth particularly of developing nations,” he added.

Naimi-led delegation will meet with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and other government officials at Monday for bilateral talks on energy, trade and investments.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo earlier welcomed his visit as “a valuable opportunity for timely discussions, especially on cooperation in energy resources”.

“The visit is significant in terms of energy cooperation. The President is expected to express the Philippines' desire to expand bilateral relations with the Kingdom (of Saudi Arabia), specifically in the petrochemical and oil industries,” said Romulo in a statement.

He said that the government will also explore potential areas of economic cooperation ahead of the 2nd Philippine-Kindom of Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting on 9 and 10 July in Riyadh. — MNA/Xinhua



An African giraffe tends to her calf at Nakhon Ratchasima Zoo in Nakhon Ratchasima Province about 259 km (161 miles) northeast of Bangkok on 21 March, 2005.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Platini wants to avoid battle with Beckenbauer

FRANKFURT, 23 March— Michel Platini wants to avoid a battle with Franz Beckenbauer for the UEFA presidency and thinks the German should have run for the post a decade ago.

"Until 2006, Beckenbauer is busy with the World Cup," the former France coach and captain told Germany's Sport Bild magazine.

"After that he can do what he wants but it would just be a shame if he chose to run in the same year that I'm standing. He might have stood for this 10 years ago." Platini and Beckenbauer both command respect as former great players turned administrators.

Platini, 49, announced last week that he would stand for the UEFA presidency when the post falls vacant in a year's time.

Beckenbauer, 10 years older than the Frenchman, led West Germany to World Cup victory as captain in 1974 and coach in 1990.

He is now the president of the organizing committee for the 2006 World Cup, which Germany is hosting, and has said he will consider running for the UEFA job. UEFA president Lennart Johansson has said he will not seek re-election when he completes his fourth term in early 2006.

MNA/Reuters

Real Madrid to take stake in Chinese football club

BEIJING, 23 March— Spanish football giant Real Madrid plans to buy a 30 to 40 per cent stake in Chinese club Beijing Guo' an for some 30 million yuan (about 3.62 million US dollars), local media reported on Tuesday.



Real Madrid's Ivan Helguera (L) and Hong Kong's Hao Haidong chase the ball during a pre-season match in August 2003. Real plans to buy a 30 to 40 per cent stake in Chinese club Beijing Guo'an for 30 million yuan (3.62 million dollars).—INTERNET

tract," said the report.

The two clubs will carry on detailed discussions about the deal, added the report.

"Even if both sides strike a bargain, we still have the majority stake in Guo'an. Citic Guo'an will not withdraw from Chinese football," Luo Ning, vice chairman of the board of Citic Guo'an, the principal shareholder of Beijing Guo'an, was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

Last October Beijing Guo'an threatened to boycott the first season of the Chinese Super League after it was penalized by the Chinese Football Association (CFA) for staging a walkout in a league match over refereeing disputes.

The incident rocked Chinese football and sparked a month-long standoff between seven top-flight clubs and the CFA. The CFA finally compromised by agreeing to carry out a series of reforms to improve the league.

Real's arch-rival Barcelona had been linked last year with Beijing Guo'an on cooperation but their negotiations broke down.

Beijing Guo'an will play Real Madrid in a friendly match in the Chinese capital on July 23.

MNA/Xinhua

Forlan named UNICEF ambassador to Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO, 23 March— Diego Forlan, a member of the Uruguayan national soccer team and player of Spanish club Villarreal, was named Tuesday as UNICEF ambassador to Uruguay.

The striker of Villarreal signed the contract with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) through which he will be the ambassador of the organization to Uruguay for a year, and for whose services he will receive the symbolic payment of one US dollar.

"I am very happy about this, and I expect to be able to collaborate for many Uruguayan children have a happy childhood, such as mine," said Forlan during a ceremony at a Montevideo hotel.

Government officials, sports celebrities and many children attended the ceremony.

An opinion poll showed that Forlan is the principal idol of Uruguayan children. The striker is the second top striker in Spain.

According to the contract, he will help to promote UNICEF projects for the creation of a national network for the defense of Uruguayan children and in fundraising campaigns.

Forlan, a former player of England's Manchester United and Argentina's Independiente, trains in Montevideo with the Uruguayan national team to gear up for the World Cup qualifiers.

MNA/Xinhua

Eriksson says Ferguson, Wenger should thank him for planning US tour

MANCHESTER (England), 23 March— England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson says Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson and Arsenal's Arsene Wenger should be thanking him instead of criticizing his planned US tour in May.

Ferguson and Wenger have expressed concerns over a trip which includes friendlies against the United States and Colombia at the end of a demanding season.

Asked about the flak as he prepared for this weekend's World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland, Eriksson told reporters on Tuesday: "I can understand that, we all have our opinions.

"But I think they should say 'thank you' to me instead, because before the fixture list was made for the (World Cup) qualification games I said... I had only one request: no games in June.

"The reason I did that was because I wanted the players to have a long rest before the World Cup year."

Eriksson was success-



England's national soccer team coach Sven-Goran Eriksson

ful with that request but had to start qualifying from Group Six last year with two away games, a 2-2 draw in Austria and a 2-1 victory in Poland.

As a result, however, England player will be free while other countries have two qualifiers in early June.

In a further move to placate the leading Premier League clubs, Eriksson also made it clear he would be willing to talk to them about letting certain players miss the US tour.

"I'm not forced to go

there with the 11 best players," he said.

"I will take the best possible players, but if one player who normally plays from the beginning has problems and needs a rest — he can rest. It's perfect."

Eriksson also brushed aside media speculation that he may not get his players a four-week break before the start of the 2006 World Cup, as agreed by the Football Association.

"As recently as last week I had assurances from the FA and the Premier League that I will have the four weeks," said Eriksson, whose team have not yet qualified for the finals.

"It may seem stupid but one week is gold, it's absolutely vital for the players," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Man United warns players days of huge wage rises are over

LONDON, 23 March— Manchester United, the world's richest soccer club, has warned players that the days of huge wage rises are over and the club intends to clamp down on costs.

United, which announced a 54-per-cent drop in interim profits on Tuesday, has failed to reach the Champions League quarterfinals and complained of the uncertainty triggered by US billionaire Malcolm Glazer's stalking of the club.

The fall in pretax profits to 12.4 million pounds (23.6 million US dollars) was caused by a sharp decline in television income following a new Premier League broadcasting deal and last season's third place finish which cut Champions League income.

However, wage costs rose to 46.6 per cent of turnover (42.7 million) from 40.8 per cent at this time last year. This figure is expected to climb above the 50 per cent mark which United has set as a ceiling for wage costs.

"Financial discipline is absolutely critical in maintaining the stability and the financial strength of the club," said chairman Roy Gardner in a statement.

"Player wage control remains difficult, particularly with the strong competitive pressures from a small number of rival

clubs across Europe."

United's interim results included an wages increase of 2.6 million caused by contract renewals, particularly that of Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy.

The contract of winger Ryan Giggs, the longest-serving player in the current team, is up for renewal at the end of this season. Chief executive David Gill said the Welshman would have to bear in mind the club's desire to keep costs under control.

"We are very confident that we will reach an agreement to extend

Ryan's stay at Old Trafford," said Gill.

"We are moving towards a situation of more variable pay where an element of pay (is dependent on) reaching the Champions League group stage." Contracts of the younger players would increasingly contain a "performance-based element", he added.

"We are trying to de-risk the wage profile to fit the performance of the club," Gill said. "The days of huge pay rises are not here — 15-20 per cent increases are in the past."

MNA/Reuters



Danilo Napolitano from Italy, right, jubilates after crossing the finish line to win the 55th edition of the 'Stauseerundfahrt', or Storage Lake round trip, cycling race in Klingnau, Switzerland, ahead of Alexander Usov from Bulgaria, left, and Jan Svorada of the Czech Republic, centre, on 20 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Teleplay to honour Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 23 March — Thu-ye-gaung-mya Htun-ga-the (Heroes emerge) will be telecast in three parts on 24, 25 and 26 March on Myawady TV and on 28, 29 and 30 March on TV Myanmar after the evening news programme, hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

Int'l conference on space security opens in Geneva

GENEVA, 23 March — An international conference on safeguarding space security opened here on Monday aiming to help prevent an arms race in outer space.

The objectives of the conference, initiated by China, are to safeguard the benefits derived from peaceful activities in space, to introduce the concept of "space security" and to advance the consideration of the prevention of an arms race in outer space by the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

China, Russia, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Simons Centre for Disarmament and Non-proliferation Research of Canada. At the opening ceremony of the conference, Hu Xiaodi, ambassador for disarmament affairs of China, said that "Outer space is the common heritage of mankind and the peaceful uses of outer space is the aspira-

ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ရေးနည်းဆော်ချက်

ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါ၊ ကာလဝမ်းရောဂါ အပါအဝင် ဝမ်းနှင့် ပတ်သက်သော ရောဂါများသည် ရောဂါပိုးများပါဝင်သည့် ရေ၊ အစားအသောက်တို့ကို စားသောက်မိရာမှ စူးစူးရှရှူးရှူးပါသည်။ ရေနှင့်အစားအသောက်များအတွင်းသို့ ရောဂါပိုးများသည် အောက်ပါအကြောင်းများကြောင့် ရောက်ရှိပါသည်။

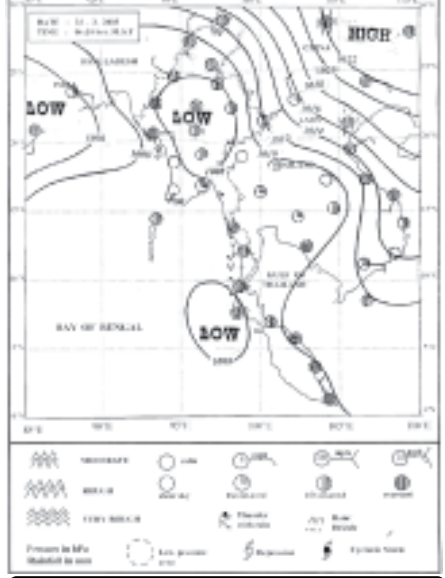
- (က) မသန့်ရှင်းသည့် လက်၊ အိုး၊ ခွက်၊ ပန်းကန်တို့ဖြင့် ချက်ပြုတ် ပြင်ဆင်ခြင်း၊ စားသောက်ခြင်း။
(ခ) အစားအသောက်များသို့ ယင်အုံယင်နားခြင်း။
(ဂ) မွှေးသောအသိများတွင် သောက်သုံးစေခြင်း။ ရေကန်များအတွင်း သို့ မသန့်ရှင်းသောရေနှင့် အမှိုက်သရိုက်များ စီးဝင်ခြင်း။
(ဃ) သောက်သုံးစေခြင်းရေကန်များသည် အိမ်သာများနှင့် နီးကပ်စွာ တည်ရှိခြင်း၊ အိမ်သာထက်နိမ့်သောနေရာများတွင်ရှိခြင်း။

tion of all peoples". "However,... changes in the perception of security, the coming into age of related weapons technologies as well as the developments in combat theories, all lead to the increasing danger of turning outer space into a battlefield and a place without security," he added. —MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar meet Thai in U-21 soccer final

YANGON, 23 March — The Myanmar youth team stretched its lead at the top of the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy Under-21 Invitational Football Tournament with a 2-0 victory over the Vietnamese youth in the second semifinal match this evening.

Zaw Zaw of Myanmar scored an opening goal for his team at 22nd minute in the first half. At 84th minute in the second half, Myo Min Tun added one more goal. The Myanmar team moved up to the final, and on 25 March evening, it will meet with the Thai team which won over the Laos 3-2 in the first semifinal. —MNA



WEATHER

Wednesday, 23 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Chin State and lower Sagaing Division, isolated in Chin State and lower Sagaing Division, isolated in Chin State and lower Sagaing Division...

Maximum temperature on 22-3-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 23-3-2005 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-3-2005 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 23-3-2005 was (9.2) hours approx.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-3-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin and Northern Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the upper Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-3-2005: Partly cloudy. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-3-2005: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

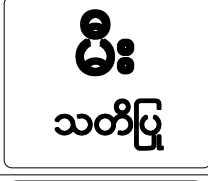


Thursday, 24 March View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဂ္ဂ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသဘာဝရာဇဝင် သ၏ ဝရိုက်တရားတော်
7:15 am 2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာသဏ္ဍိတ၊ တက္ကသိုလ်နာဘိဝံသ(ယောဆရာတော်)၊ ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
7:25 am 3. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 4. Morning news
7:40 am 5. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am 6. Dance of national races
8:10 am 7. Dance variety
8:20 am 8. နှစ် (၆၀) ပြည့် တပ်မတော်နေ့

- ၇:00 am 8:30 am 9. International news
8:45 am 10. Let's Go
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use
4:40 pm 4. တေးသံဂျာနယ်အစီအစဉ်
4:50 pm 5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်း: ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးအတွက် (၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်)
5:00 pm 6. အစားအသောက်ကုသရေး ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်း: စာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (သနားအထူးပြု) (သရုပ်)
5:15 pm 7. Cute little dancers
5:25 pm 8. Religious song
5:35 pm 9. နှစ် (၆၀) ပြည့် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
5:50 pm 10. နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းပြိုင်စိမ်းလန်းရေးစဉ်
6:05 pm 11. ဥပျာဉ်တောင်ရွာခရိုင် ဖခော အလှူတော်
6:20 pm

- 12. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံဂုဏ်ပြုတေး: 6:30 pm
13. Evening news
7:00 pm 14. Weather report
7:05 pm 15. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတင်သံ: တွဲ "ဗုဒ္ဓဘေသာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)
7:30 pm 16. ၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ် ကမ္ဘာ့တီဘီရောဂါ တိုက်ဖျက်ရေးနေ့ နေ့စဉ်အစီအစဉ်
7:45 pm 17. ပြည်သူ့အတွက် တပ်မတော် "စက်မှု သားငါး၊ သတ္တုနှင့် သစ်တော
8:00 pm 18. News
19. International news
20. Weather report
21. Teleplay "သူရဲကောင်းများတန်းတန်းသည်" (အပိုင်း-၁) (ကျော်သူ၊ ရန်အောင်၊ ဒွေး၊ မင်းမောင်ကွန်း၊ နိုင်းနိုင်း၊ မေမျိုးအောင်၊ နိုင်းနိုင်းမင်းလှိုင်၊ မေသန်းနု၊ မေသုဉ္ဇာ၊ ဝန်းဖြူ၊ မိုးမြင့်နန္ဒာ၊ လှူဖြူသဉ္ဇာနယ်) ဘီရိုက်တာ-ပန်းချီနီနီ
22. သီတဂူဆရာတော် အရှင်ညီညီသရဖီ နေ့ဦးဆောင်: နေ့ခင်း: လတပေါင်း (အပိုင်း-၂)
23. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်အယ်ချက်မှာ ဝေဠာဘာသာမှာ ဖွားမြင်: တရားတော်
24. The next day's programme



Radio Myanmar

- Thursday, 24 March Tune in today:
8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music -Happy
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: What my heart wants to say
8.50 am National news/Slogan
9.00 am Music: Love will find a way
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music: You'll be in my heart
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music: -Colours of the wind -If you love me -Love is all -Heart of innocence
9.00 pm Aspects of Myanmar -Full Moon Day of Taboung
9.10 pm Article
9.20 pm Pouri WHO says global health treaty can save millions of lives -World's first tube camel born in UAE
9.30 pm Song feature: -Military songs sung by Rakhine nationals
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

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

World Meteorological Day observed



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses the World Meteorological Day commemorative ceremony. — MNA

YANGON, 23 March—A ceremony to commemorate the World Meteorological Day Sponsored by the Ministry of Transport was held at Myanma Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Park this

evening, with an address by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the

Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, officials of Department of (See page 4)

Proposals on detailed basic principles on sharing of executive and judicial powers read at NC plenary session



Members of the panel of chairmen at the plenary session of the National Convention. — MNA

YANGON, 23 March — The plenary session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Discussions of the delegate groups concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution were read.

Present at the plenary session were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management (See page 10)



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party and National Convention delegates attend the plenary session. — MNA