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Saturday, 26 March 2005

Build a modern Tatmadaw

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

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From address delivered at the parade of the 57th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)



Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Bangladeshi President

YANGON, 26 March— On the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26 March 2005, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

The successful implementation of the long-term project will contribute much to emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation. Prevalence of peace and tranquillity in the nation enables the government and the people to make concerted efforts for national development.

Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project emerges from 30-year long-term project for national all-round development Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends ceremony to inaugurate Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project

YANGON, 25 March — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin

Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, left here by helicopter and arrived in Pyinmana of Mandalay Division yesterday evening.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party

were welcomed by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, ministers, deputy ministers, Brig-Gen Win Myint of Pyinmana Station and officials.

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye formally unveils the stone plaque of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 26 March, 2005

Strive for development of transport infrastructures

The government with its own resources has been making all-out efforts for ensuring better transport, a prerequisite for national development.

Construction of new airports and upgrading of old ones, construction and renovation of motor roads, railroads, bridges large and small and jetties are being undertaken across the nation through creation and innovation of Myanmar engineers under the leadership of the government.

With better transport, national races residing in the Union have been able to travel from one place to another with peace of mind and are reaping the greatest number of successes in social and trade sectors.

The government is doing so with the aim of ensuring the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and of enhancing the socio-economic life of the entire people.

Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Manhsaung bailey suspension bridge on Tiddim-Reed Lake Road in Tiddim Township, Chin State was commissioned into service on 20 March with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

The bridge is the 195th of its kind in the nation and is the fourth of its kind built in Chin State in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

Priority is being given to ensuring better transport which has become a powerful impetus to development of Chin State. All-weather roads such as Kalay-Falam-Haka road, Haka-Gangaw road, Haka-Matupi road and Mindat-Matupi road are being built in the region.

Unprecedented progress has been made in Chin State with the emergence of the four roads as well as other roads, which prove to be a boon to secure and smooth flow of commodities between areas in the north and south of Chin State and Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions.

At a time when favourable conditions exist in the nation, the entire national people are to lend themselves to the drive for national development with nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit.

This being the case, the entire national people are urged to exert their utmost efforts together with the government for development of their own regions, realizing the goodwill of the government.

**နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်
မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့**

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

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

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

K 1m for MMCWA

YANGON, 25 March — A Japanese association of Masumoto town, Nagano District of Japan, presented K 1 million to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association today.

President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win accepted the donations from the delegation of the association, Girl Scouting in Japan, at the MMCWA office in Yangon.

Leader of the delegation Ms Fukasawa Kimiko explained the purpose of the donation. President Daw Khin Khin Win also explained the MMCWA functions

and expressed words of thanks.

After exchanging gifts with the delegation members, Daw Khin Khin Win posed for

photo together with

them. Together with the MMCWA president and central executive committee members, the

delegation of the Girl Scouting in Japan watched the photos portraying the activities of the MMCWA.

MNA



MMCWA President Daw Khin Khin Win accepts K 1 million donated by Nagano Girl Scouting in Japan.— MNA

Foreign Minister receives Indian counterpart

YANGON, 25 March — Foreign Minister U Nyan Win received Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr K Natwar Singh at the ministry at 10.30 am today. At the meeting, they discussed the relationship and cooperation matters between the two countries. In the evening, the minister hosted a dinner to the Indian delegation at Sedona Hotel.

At 9.45 am, Indian External Affairs Minister Mr K Natwar Singh and wife and party, accompanied by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and officials, visited Shwedagon Pagoda.

The Indian Minister signed in the visitors' book. Next, the visiting In-



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr K Natwar Singh hold a discussion.— MNA

dian minister and party donated cash to the fund of the pagoda. Afterwards,

they paid homage to Jade Buddha Image and view King Thayawady's Bell at the pagoda. Later, they ob-

served the religious buildings.

Indian External Affairs Minister Mr K Natwar Singh's wife Mrs Hem Natwar Singh together with Mrs Kum

Kum Bhatia, wife of the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, visited Myanmar Gems Museum. They were conducted by the officials of the museum around the museum. — MNA

Saw mill, furniture factories opened in Dagon Myothit, Hlinethaya

YANGON, 25 March — Forestry Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally opened the furniture factory of Johnny Brothers Co Ltd in Dagon East In-

dustrial Zone in Dagon Myothit (East) Township this morning.

Similarly, the minister attended the opening ceremony of Wood-based In-

dustrial Training Centre of Myanmar Timber Enterprise and Myanmar Timber Entrepreneur Association in Dagon Myothit (North). The min-

ister gave instructions on development of wood-based Industry and arrangements on emerging skillful workers. Next, Chairman of Tawwin Company U Ko Ko Htwe handed over the documents concerning the training centre to Managing Director of Myanmar timber Enterprise U Win Tun.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to the opening ceremony of the saw mill and furniture factory of FUDAK Enterprises Co Ltd in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone and heard the reports on construction of the factory. Later, the minister viewed inside the factory and attended to the needs. — MNA



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects furniture factory of Johnny Brother Co Ltd in Dagon East Industrial Zone.— FORESTRY

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



Workers assemble vehicles on a Toyota production line in Aichi Prefecture recently. Aichi Prefecture, known as 'the manufacturers' kingdom', has long been a locomotive for Japan's economy by fostering textile industries before World War II and afterward shifting its focus to automobiles led by titan Toyota.—INTERNET

Chinese FM's visit to enhance China-Nepal relations

KATHMANDU, 24 March — Nepali Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey will hold talks on bilateral issues with his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing, who is scheduled to pay an official visit to Nepal on 31 March -1 April, a high-ranking Nepali official said here on Tuesday.

"Pandey's talks with Li is expected to focus on bilateral matters, including economic cooperation, trade and tourism, and other matters of mutual interest," Kirti Nidhi Bista, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, or Cabinet, told reporters.

Li's official visit, at the invitation of Pandey, will

help further strengthen the existing bilateral relations between the two countries, Bista said. During his 24-hour visit in Kathmandu, the Chinese

Foreign Minister will meet with Nepali King Gyanendra and two vice-chairmen of the Council of Ministers Tulsii Giri and Bista. —MNA/Xinhua

Japan seeks anti-piracy cooperation with Asian nations

TOKYO, 24 March — Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Tuesday urged Asian countries along the sea lane through the Malacca Straits to set up a cooperative framework to stem pirate attacks. Koizumi said at a Press conference in Tokyo that many incidents of piracy have occurred despite shipping companies' own efforts to protect themselves. Further attacks by pirates should be prevented.

Three crew members of a Japanese tugboat were abducted by pirates in the Malacca Straits last week and were released over last weekend following reported behind-the-scene negotia-

tions between the ship's owners and the pirates.

Setting up an anti-piracy cooperative framework is difficult as it concerns the sovereignty of the countries concerned, Koizumi said. "Japan cannot do it alone, and we will have to set up a mechanism of close cooperation and support with the countries concerned," he added.

Koizumi's comments came after Indonesia and Malaysia both rejected a Japanese proposal to send Japan's Coast Guard ships and aircraft to patrol the Malacca Straits to combat piracy following the abduction of the three crew members.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam opens investment office in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 24 March — The Vietnam House, the first overseas office of the Investment Trade and Promotion Centre (ITPC) of Ho Chi Minh City, opened in Singapore on Tuesday.

The office will help Vietnamese companies export and expand to the international market through Singapore and encourage cooperation between businesses from the two countries, accord-

ing to Heng Chee How, Singapore's Minister of State for Trade and Industry.

The opening of the Vietnam House is part of the Vietnam-Singapore Economic Connectivity initiative, a win-win proposal put forward by Singapore's then Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong a year ago during Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai's visit to the island state.—MNA/Xinhua

WB selects 40 projects in Nepal to compete for grants

KATHMANDU, 24 March — The World Bank Nepal Office on Tuesday made public the 40 finalists from 1,037 enterprising projects to compete for the innovation grants in a bid to effectively deliver basic services to the poor living in conflict affected areas of Nepal.

The 40 will be invited to compete in a national competition scheduled for 5 May. Afterwards, at least 20 winners will each receive a grant award of 20,000 US dollars to test their ideas over a one year period beginning from 1 July, 2005, Rajib Upadhyay, senior external affairs specialist of the World Bank, told reporters.

"Of the 1,037 proposals, the 40 finalists were chosen on the basis of their creativity, coordination, innovation, effectiveness and economy promised in the proposals," Upadhyay said.—MNA/Xinhua

Hundreds of thousands march on second anniversary of Iraq invasion

WASHINGTON, 24 March — In more than 1,000 cities across the country and around the world, protestors took to the streets on the second anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq. In San Francisco on Saturday, 25,000 marched, and 20,000 marched in Los Angeles. Both demonstrations were sponsored by the ANSWER Coalition (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), which supported and helped to organize many of the other protests around the US.

The crowd in San Francisco swelled as, miraculously, the rain subsided after several gray, wet days and the sun broke through in the late morn-

ing, just as the demonstration began. "It was clear that not only would we have a fantastic peace march, but that the government lied about the weather, as it lies about everything else," quipped one reporter.

It took more than 45 minutes for all the demonstrators, marching on very wide streets, to enter the Civic Center plaza. The San Francisco march included contingents from the labour movement chanting, "They say cutback; we say fight back!" and from Glide Memorial Church, the Palestinian and Arab American community, veterans, students, the immigrant rights move-

ment, supporters of democracy and an end to the occupation of Haiti and many other organizations and communities.

Many thousands marched from Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem to Central Park in New York City in an event sponsored by the Troops Out Now Coalition. Six thousand people marched in Chicago in an event sponsored by the Chicago Coalition Against War and Racism, and 5,000 people rallied outside Ft Bragg in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in an event sponsored by Military Families Speak Out, Veterans for Peace, Iraq Veterans Against the War, NC Peace & Justice Coalition

and other organizations. Two thousand demonstrated and rallied in New Paltz, NY.

People mobilized around the world on 19 March, coming out in a united voice demanding an end to the war and occupation of Iraq. More than 100,000 marched in London, tens of thousands in Rome, and in large protests in Cairo, Kuala Lumpur, Sao Paulo, Madrid, Seoul, Manila, Sydney, Stockholm, Mexico City, Tokyo and all over the world. In the United States, antiwar actions were organized in more than 735 cities and towns — twice as many as last year's 19 March protests.—Internet



A Light Rail Transit train moves past the Petronas Twin Towers surrounded by haze in Kuala Lumpur recently.—INTERNET.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye addresses the opening of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam. — MNA

Perpetual flow of Paunglaung River and perpetual amity between Myanmar and Pauphaw

(from page 16)

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying, "There cannot be any development if the nature is left unattended. And there will be

25-megawatt Hsedawgyi Hydel Power Dam have already been opened in the division. Paunglaung, Kinta and Hsedawgyi hydel power stations are covered by the national grid.

implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Electric Power, it is an important project for the nation, built with the constant supervision of the State level officials.

In addition to the high rock fill dam, the A&I Ministry had built the four-step spillway with much difficulty. The EP Ministry had built two diversion tunnels, the intake structure and the power plant and cables including 37 large and small underground tunnels. The Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project is the symbol of engineering development in Myanmar to reach the higher level of technology. The victory was achieved not with individual talent, but through cooperation of all institutions concerned. Starting from the coming rainy season, the project will generate power at full capacity and the electricity will be distributed through the national grid. Arrangements are under way to build the spillway and feeder canals. The project will help create 35,000 more acres of crops in the surrounding areas of Pyinmana and together with Yezin and Ngalaik dams, it will green large acres of Pyinmana region. The Paunglaung will benefit both the nation and the region.

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets those present at the opening of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam. — MNA

development only if we add value to the nature with human labour. Development undertakings and the natural environment have interrelations. We cannot carry out regional development endeavours as we wish unless there is a good natural environment, so we will have to protect and conserve the forest, water and land resources." As the Government has been building dams and implementing electric power development projects, the people on their part, should accept the words as a guideline and should collectively protect, conserve and develop the forest resources.

The 56-megawatt Kinta Hydel Power Dam and the

At 280-megawatt generation capacity, the Paunglaung is the largest hydel power plant in Myanmar, and even larger than the 196-megawatt Lawpita Hydel Power Station harnessing the waters of Balu Creek.

A number of underground tunnels were built to harness the Paunglaung flowing 3.3 million acre-feet of water annually. Hardships were faced in building the power station according to its design. Advanced heavy machinery were used in building it. The rock fill dam is 430 feet high. As the work volume was large, the project needed sophisticated technology. Jointly

- * Paunglaung multi-purpose dam was built at Paunglaung River near Kyitaung-Khawma, about ten miles from the east of Pyinmana, Yamethin District, Mandalay Division.
- * The dam is 3,100 feet in length and 430 feet in height.
- * The power plant can generate 280 megawatts and the dam will benefit 35,000 acres of farmland.
- * Water storage capacity of the Paunglaung Dam is 560,000 acre feet.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye views the underground power plant from Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects the control room of Paunglaung underground power plant.—MNA

Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam...

(from page 4)

It is a common knowledge that the Government has been striving to the

75-megawatt Shwekyin Hydel Power Project, 30-megawatt Khaboung Hydel Power Project, the 40-mega-

hydel power Project in Shan State, Buywa and Kyion-Kyiwa hydel power projects in Magway Division are gaining momentum.

The energy sector is important for the national economy. So also, the new hydel stations can be built only if the economy is robust. Thus, what is im-

the united strength of the entire people. The local people should love, protect and conserve the trees, and in this way they will help maintain the hydel

only water but power far the local people in Pinyinna Township.

As Myanmar is rich in water resources, environmental conservation tasks



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents cash awards for the staff of the project. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets the assistant-governor of Yunnan Province of China.—MNA

best of its ability to fulfil the nation's power requirement in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. There are projects being implemented by other ministries in addition to the ones under construction by the A&I Ministry and EP Ministry.

Upstream the Paunglaung River is the Ahtet Paunglaung Hydel Power Project, being implemented by the EP Ministry to generate 140 megawatts and supply water to the present Paunglaung Dam down stream the river. The ministry is also implementing the Yeywa Hydel Power Dam Project on Dokhtawady River, which will become the largest power station in Myanmar at 790 megawatts.

It is sure that hydel power projects larger than the Paunglaung and the Yeywa will emergence in the near future. Dreams will come true as the 7,100-megawatt Tarhsan Dam Hydel Power Project will be implemented on Thanlwin River, and the 1,200-megawatt Htamanthi Dam Hydel Power Project, on Chindwin River.

Covered by the Paunglaung Project are the

watt Phyuchaung Hydel Power Project, the 60 megawatt Kunchaung Hydel Power Project, and the 25 megawatt Yenwe Hydel Power Project, being implemented on the Sittoung basin.

The Tigit coal-fired power station in Shan State will be opened soon. And implementation of Shweli Project and Kengtawng

Now the Government has started to materialize the motto "Lets us built a haven on this earth with electricity". As a hydel power project consumes time and capital, the people should understand the Government, and should collectively strive for strengthening the nation's financial power.

portant is just to strengthen the national economy. Rather than placing reliance on outside assistance, the nation should do its best with her own capital and strength. Only then will she be able to enjoy has higher dignity and greater strength. Thus, the most important national duty at present is to march to the national goal with

power station.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered an address, saying that nowadays, Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project has emerged as a development symbol for Mandalay Division.

The dam was opened as an act of public welfare activities to supply not

are being carried out for long term to be able to uplift of socio-economic standard of the people.

On completion of the diversion weir and feeder canals, the dam can irrigate 70,000 acres of various crops including 35,000 acres of monsoon paddy. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

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Paunglaung Hydro power station that can generate 280 megawatts of electricity.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects tasks of Upper Paunglaung Hydel Power Plant.— MNA

Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam...
(from page 5)

plans to carry out increase of agricultural produces in the respective regions.

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut spoke on the occasion. He said that power consumption increases with momentum annually according to the

evidences on extension of factories, construction of housing estates, implementation of the river water pumping projects and use of modern electronic equipment of the people.

The Ministry of Electric Power had opened Zaungtu Hydel Power Plant on Bago River near Bago, Thaphanseik Hydel Power Plant on Mu River in Sagaing

Division and Mone Creek Hydel Power Plants in Magway Division totalling 30 hydel power plants including the newly-inaugurated Paunglaung Hydel Power Plant.

The Paunglaung Hydel Power Plant is the first underground hydel power plant in the country. All
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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects spillway of Paunglaung Dam.— MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears reports on matters related to Upper Paunglaung Hydel Power Plant by Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut.— MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint.
MNA



Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut.— MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo.— MNA



U Khin Maung Htay, a local people.— MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects final rehearsal of parade drills



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects final rehearsal of parade drills.—MNA

YANGON, 25 March — Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade Member of State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, accompanied by Chairman of the Management Committee Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Chairman of the Parade Working Committee Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and senior military officers, inspected marching drills of final rehearsal of the parade columns from the Myoma Grounds to the Resistance Park from 5.30 am to 9.30 am today.

During their drills, Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyansittha Column led by Column Commander Col Tha Aung,

Bayintnaung Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Nawade Column led by Column Commander Captain Aung Zaw Win (Navy), Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander Col Myo Win, Hsinbyushin Column led by Column Commander Col Khin Aung Myint, Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Col Khin Maung Oo, Myawady Column led by Column Commander Col Win Swe and Aung San Column led by Column Commander Col Thein Zaw took part in marching drills under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun.

Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, Red Cross Society and members of Fire Services participated in the final rehearsal of marching drills.

MNA

Billboard to mark 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day unveiled

YANGON, 25 March — The billboard measuring 72 feet and 18.5 feet in the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was opened in front of the People's Park on Pyay Road this morning, attended by Member of State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Vice-Chairman of the Organizing Committee for Literary and Arts Competitions Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Chairman of Parade Working Committee Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Best Parade Company Selection Work Committee Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Reserved Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein and senior military officers.



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win formally unveils the signboard to hail the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.—MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win formally opened the billboard bearing the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on development of the State, convening of the National Convention, implementation of the special project of the State, progress of buildings and marching drills of Tatmadawmen of Defence Services (Army,

Navy and Air).

The billboard poster was illustrated by Computer technician U Maung Maung Aye and party of Myanmar CD-ROM WWW Company Group with the use of

computer software.

The Leading Committee has spent K 3 million and computer technician U Maung Maung Aye K 2.6 million on building the billboard.

MNA

Change of waterway under Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) reminded

YANGON, 25 March — The new waterway under Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) is between the pier No 1 and No 2 for upstream vessels and between pier No 2 and No 3 for downstream vessels, with effect from 19 March 2005. The clearance under the bridge is 220 feet wide and 55 feet high.

A triangle-shaped warning sign in green colour has been marked at the entrance to the waterway and during the night time, and it is illuminated with green light. The no-entry sign is a red-coloured cross lighted with red bulbs at night. Vessels are to drive in the correct waterway for safety between two piers.

MNA

Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

POEM:

Let's take stock and see

- * Out in the open, without guard
Estate of mansion, no matter how big
Is never safe at any time.
- * Even with the fencing small and inadequate
Made and set up for the big estate
The schemer, with unsteady mind
Approaches and threatens
Wants to insult and destroy, taking the upper hand
He's prone to act, lord over
- * If strong, grand fence is built around
The schemer, wanting to insult and intrude
From just seeing the fence will lose his desire
Suppress it, feel depleted
And won't dare to do it dirty.
- * This said, the nation we will
Keep safeguarding, with adequate strength
For, if in building the nation's Tatmadaw
Grand in appearance and strong enough
If it is not modern
In this age of globalization
How could our Myanmar nation
Be longlasting.

Meru (Trs)

FM sends felicitations to Bangladesh

YANGON, 26 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh which falls on 26 March 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr M Morshed Khan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

MAWFA's talks on trafficking in persons

YANGON, 25 March — Organized by the Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association (MAWFA) under the auspices of Working Group of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, Head of Department against Transnational Crime Police Col Sit Aye of Myanmar Police Force made a presentation on trafficking in persons was held at Wunzin Min Yaza Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning.

Present on the occasion were heads and responsible persons from Working Group on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons of MWAF, members of board of patrons of MAWFA Daw Myint Myint Soe, wife of the foreign minister, wives of deputy foreign ministers, honorary members, wives of minister, CEC members, wives of senior officials of the ministry, the lady Filipino Ambassador and wives of Ambassadors from the ASEAN Embassies in Yangon, wives of Ambassador of non-ASEAN Embassies, women of the Diplomatic Corps and the United Nations Agencies in Yangon and members of the Association.—MNA

Renew satellite TV licence 31 March latest

YANGON, 25 March — Renewal certificate for satellite TVs for the year 2005 have already been issued during the 30-day period from 1 to 30 January 2005. During the grace period from 31 January to 31 March 2005, the department concerned has already sent notice individually to those who have failed to pay the licence fee yet in the early February and early March for two times.

Those who have not received the notice for certain reasons may renew their licence at the respective township communication centres (post offices) on 31 March 2005 the latest.—MNA

Tatmadaw Day Parade to be broadcast live

YANGON, 25 March — The 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade 2005 will be broadcast live through MRTV programme beginning 6 am on 27 March.

MNA

Tatmadaw for the people



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

Only with strong and efficient Tatmadaw can the nation stand tall among world nations

The Tatmadaw born of the struggle to regain the nation's sovereignty and independence becomes stronger and more efficient for crushing the dangers and threats posed by internal and external destructive elements in order not to lose the independence again. The Tatmadaw is indeed just the people's force fully imbued with nationalistic fervour and patriotism.

The Tatmadaw was absolutely united and harmonious with the entire people in the independence struggles such as anti-colonialists, anti-fascists, and national liberation struggles. In addition, it has played a major role many times in the

The colonialists' political and military attempt was to weaken the Myanmar's Tatmadaw and then to cause the disintegration of the nation. They did so intentionally. In other words, the colonialists took all possible advantages to prevent all the Tatmadaw's endeavours to become a strong force. However, in the end, the Tatmadaw managed to tackle all the political and military crises facing the nation in the periods of 1949-1952 and 1958-1960 in a bid to safeguard and protect the independence.

Throughout the history of the nation, the Tatmadaw has stood as a strong and united na-



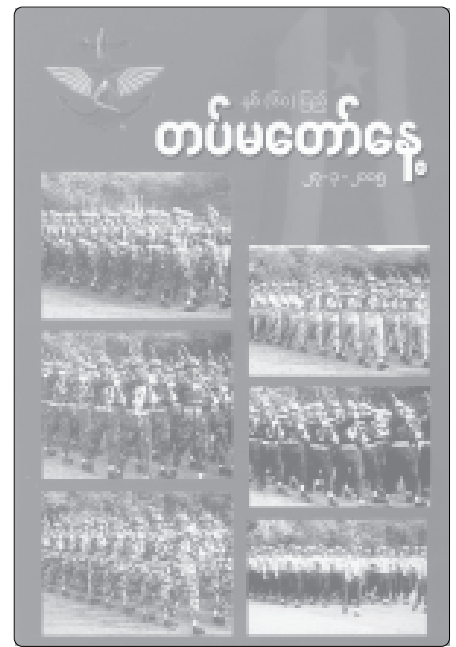
national defence and security duties as well as in the national political leadership. The Tatmadaw conscientiously shouldered the State responsibilities in the periods of 1949-1952 and 1958-1960 in which the ruling governments no longer could deal with the political and military crises being faced by the entire nation. In an arduous effort to remedy the political and military hardships in the period from 1949 to 1952, the Tatmadaw after sacrificing a lot of lives of its members managed to recapture the cities of almost the entire nation that had fallen to the hands of a variety of insurgents including the Burma Communist Party.

At that time, the Tatmadaw was not fully equipped with arms and ammunition. Some strong battalions made up of respective national races were rebelling the ruling government, the AFPFL party, resulting from the fact that the colonialists drove a wedge among the national races. To create such an awful situation so as to trouble the nation, the imperialists had resorted to various ways and means since the period of independence struggle to politically and racially inculcate the battalions of national races with extreme spirits. The wicked also armed the internal insurgents to help the latter to be powerful and to enable them to rise against the government.

tional force keeping pace with the nation's political changes and also as a mature and experienced force endowed with three capabilities and four outlooks —military outlook, political outlook, economic outlook and administrative outlook.

Being well convinced that there can occur any time the situations and conditions that the nation's sovereignty and independence is harmed

Kyai Phyu



and threatened by outsiders, the leadership of Tatmadaw with farsightedness have been implementing the drive to upgrade the Tatmadaw to a strong, capable and efficient force.

In the 21st Century, the political, military and economic sectors of the international community are making rapid and dramatic progress.

(See page 9)



(from page 8)

So, each and every nation is placing emphasis on measures for enhancing their military and economic powers.

A glance at the present international situation reveals that some super powers are putting political, economic and military pressures on small developing countries to hold sway over them. They also establish anti-government elements to stir internal strife in small countries that do not dance to their tune.

They are flagrantly taking military action and invasion on some countries. However, the western big powers do not dare to insult some countries which are against them since these countries possess modern and strong armies equipped with sophisticated weaponry, in other words, their defense is robust and unbreakable.

The current world affairs stand witness to the fact that some countries which are against big



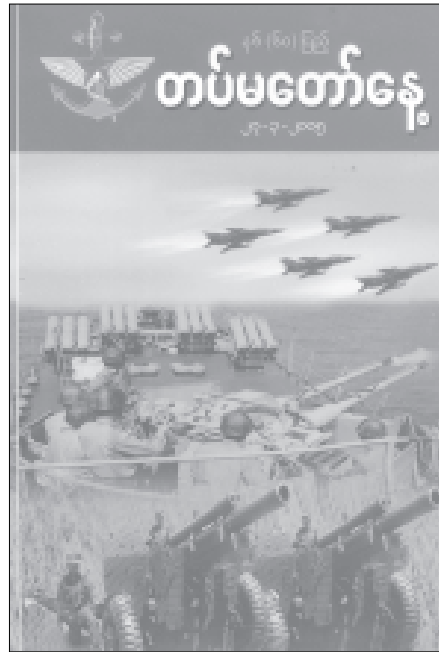
Only with strong and efficient Tatmadaw can the nation stand tall among world nations

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powers but do not have strong defence force are subject to the blatant and various accusations, invasion and interference of super powers.

History proves it that Myanmar, after regaining independence, was faced with several attacks of foreign-backed insurgent groups. However, Myanmar Tatmadaw always provides training to its members to acquire three capabilities in line with its fine tradition.

It also strengthens itself based on the experiences it gained from military operations launched in defence of the country. As the Tatmadaw is full of experience, it could crush insurgents who



acted as stooges of alien countries. Moreover, the Tatmadaw could nip in the bud their deliberate attempts to occupy the country bit by bit.

Myanmar Tatmadaw secured victories as the people assisted the Tatmadaw for its serving the interest of the country and the race to the best of its ability. The fact that 'only when the Tatmadaw is strong will the nation be strong' will become more meaningful, given what has been mentioned above. Therefore, building Myanmar Tatmadaw into an efficient and modern one is in a sense strengthening the nation. During the periods around 2001 and 2002, Myanmar Tatmadaw was faced with challenges in which it was put to the test. SURA opium-smuggling insurgent group relying on external elements attacked Tatmadaw's outposts at the border to assess the military might of the Tatmadaw. Their motive was to invade and occupy the border areas. Their dream was broken as the Tatmadaw showed clearly its strength and quelled them effectively.

Had the Tatmadaw not been capable of showing its strength and capacity at that time, there would not have been any respect and admiration for the country and the Tatmadaw in the region. The country and the Tatmadaw would be regarded and treated as unimportant.

However, Myanmar Tatmadaw could build itself into a strong and modern one. Only when the Tatmadaw is modern and strong will the nation be respected and admired in the international community.

Some big powers are making attempts to press small developing countries politically, economically and militarily as they are displeased with some nations building modern armies to defend themselves. By accusing small countries of developing atomic bombs and biochemical weapons that can destroy the mankind and by threatening an invasion, some big powers are practising hegimonism, a neo-colonialist policy, to ensure that no country in the world can strengthen its army.

In truth, these super powers are the countries which produce and sell a variety of sophisticated arms. Moreover, they are not signatories to the international treaties that ban the production of sophisticated weaponry for the sake of world peace.

This being the case, the sovereignty and independence of the country can be guaranteed by the establishment of Myanmar Tatmadaw as a strong, efficient and modern one, given the current international affairs. Only then will the country be able to stand amid world nations as a stable, peaceful, and developed nation.

Translation: MS + KTY

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Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Indian Minister

YANGON, 25 March — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win received Indian External Affairs Minister Mr K Natwar Singh and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta this evening.

Also present at the call were Foreign Minister U Nyan Win, Deputy Min-

isters U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Director-General U Soe Tint at the Government's Office, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia.

MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Indian External Affairs Minister Mr K Natwar Singh and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta.

MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win greets Indian External Affairs Minister Mr K Natwar Singh at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta.

MNA



Proposals on detailed basic principles on sharing of executive and judicial powers submitted to NC plenary session

YANGON, 25 March — The plenary session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Delegate groups read out proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for shar-

ing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution.

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 Committee members, chairmen of sub-committees 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 (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South),
(See page 11)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends the plenary session of the National Convention at Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township. —MNA

Prime Minister sends felicitations to Bangladesh

YANGON, 26 March— On the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh which falls on 26 March 2005, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.—*MNA*

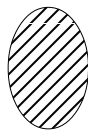
Proposal on detailed...

(from page 10)
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, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State Service Personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President Of-

delegates, delegates of 17 national race groups who exchanged arms for peace, and representative of other organizations.

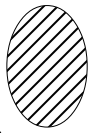
Before the plenary session, NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the sub-committees, representatives of political parties, representatives-elect, del-

over the plenary session together with members of the Panel of Chairmen NCCWC member U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam of Delegates of Political Parties, U Law Hsin Kwam of Delegates of Representatives-elect, U Kyi Tint of Delegates of Peasant, U Bo Thein of Delegates of Worker, Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) of Delegates of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin of Delegates of State Service Personnel and Dr Manan Tu Ja of Delegates of Other Invited Persons. Director (Meeting) U Than Aung of the NCCWC Office



The plenary session of the National Convention in progress.

MNA



Members of the panel of chairmen in the plenary session. — MNA



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs the attendance book. — MNA

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 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.

U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Yai of Delegates of National Races presided

acted as master of ceremonies and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-MC.

First, the MC announced the validity of the meeting as 1,070 out of 1,081 delegates attended the meeting, accounting for 98.98 per cent.

Later, U Saw Ohn Tin, Daw Mary Yan and Daw Nyunt Nyunt Win read proposal papers of the Delegates of National

Races. The plenary session went to recess. At 10.30 am, U Ein Lin, Daw Nan Aye Tint and Dr Khin Shwe submitted proposal of the Delegates of National Races.

The plenary session of the National Convention concluded at 11.35 am.

The plenary session continues on 28 March morning.

MNA



MC U Than Aung and co-MC U Aung Kyi.

MNA



Dr Khin Shwe. — MNA



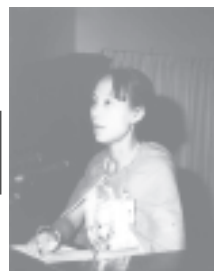
Daw Nan Aye Tint.—MNA



U Ein Lin. — MNA



Daw Nyunt Nyunt Win.MNA



Daw Mary Ran. — MNA



U Saw Ohn Tin. — MNA

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (697)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (697) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (718)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI SUVIDHA VOY NO (718) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

UNSG expects timetable on full Syrian withdrawal by early April

ALGIERS, 24 March — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Tuesday he expected Syria to present a credible and precise timetable on a full withdrawal of its troops and security services from Lebanon by early next month.

Annan told reporters after talks with Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad on the sidelines of an Arab summit that he would be sending his special envoy to Lebanon, Terje Roed-Lareen, in the first week of April.

"I would expect him to come back with a credible and well-defined timetable" for a Syrian withdrawal, Annan said.

Annan said full implementation of UN Resolution 1559, which was passed in September and which called for full withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon and the disarming of militia, would follow.

"We will press ahead with the full implementation of the (1559)," he said, adding that he would report to the

UN Security Council once he got a timetable.

Syria says it is willing to cooperate in implementing the resolution. "I had a very constructive discussion with President Assad and he reconfirmed his commitment to Resolution 1559 and the withdrawal has begun and continues," Annan told reporters.

"He is working out a timetable in consultation with the Lebanese authorities and will withdraw his troops completely into Syrian territory, not just the troops but the security service, as well as all the logistical and material equipment into Syria," Annan said.

Faced with mounting international pressure and Lebanese popular protest since the killing of a former Lebanese prime minister last month, Syria has completed the first stage of a two-phase plan to withdraw its troops from Lebanon, pulling them back to the Bekaa Valley and withdrawing 4,000 to 6,000 completely.

MNA/Reuters

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 26 March 2005

US, Canada, Mexico announce plan to strengthen eco, security ties

WACO (Texas), 24 March — President George W Bush and the leaders of Canada and Mexico announced on Wednesday a plan to strengthen economic and security ties, including border security and infrastructure protection.

Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin and Mexican President Vicente Fox, meeting at Baylor University, issued a joint statement on the establishment of the new "Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America".

The statement said that while the three countries had taken steps over recent years to expand trade and

since the September 11, 2001, attacks to address terrorism threats.

"But more needs to be done," the statement said. "In a rapidly changing world, we must develop new avenues of co-operation that will make our open societies safer and more secure, our businesses more competitive, and our economies more resilient."

While the summit will not focus on tensions over trade and immigration disputes that have marred relations, those issues will likely be raised during a day that will include lunch at Bush's ranch in nearby Crawford.

The summit comes amid US-Mexico tensions

over immigration issues, with Fox seeking an easing of restrictions on Mexicans working illegally in the United States.

Canada and the United States have been embroiled in trade disputes over Canadian lumber exports, and beef and cattle trade that has been disrupted since Canada found its first domestic case of mad cow disease.

The North American allies are facing a rise in the economic power of China and India and the expansion of the European Union. The United States has pressed its neighbours to improve border security after the 11 September, 2001, attacks.

MNA/Reuters

Britain tightens control on processing of secret intelligence

LONDON, 24 March — Britain has tightened controls on the processing of secret intelligence, the government said on Wednesday, after Prime Minister Tony Blair attacked Iraq partly on the basis of what he has acknowledged was wrong information.

Iraq's banned arms stockpiles were the primary Anglo-American motive for the war but no weapons of mass destruction have been found and London has since withdrawn two key lines of flawed pre-war intelligence. Since the row over Iraq, the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), also known as MI6, and other spy agencies have

adopted new safeguards, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said.

"Secret Intelligence Service has developed new procedures, provided additional resources and revised line management arrangements to improve evaluation and to oversee the quality of intelligence," Straw said in a statement to parliament. The statement came in response to a report by senior civil servant Lord Butler, who said last July that intelligence used to compile a September 2002 dossier on Iraq was "very thin".

The debacle over Iraq's weapons plunged Blair into one of the rockiest periods of his premiership following the suicide of

government weapons inspector David Kelly.

Kelly was the source of a contested BBC radio report that accused the government of hyping the case for war.

Blair's public trust and popularity ratings took a nosedive over Iraq and the issue could erode support for Blair in a general election expected in May, which he looks set to win. Butler cleared Blair of deceiving Parliament and the public over the intelligence on Iraq but identified collective shortcomings in the gathering and presentation of intelligence.

Straw said the procedures of the Joint Intelligence Committee

(JIC), which compiled the September dossier, had been "reviewed and tightened up" since the Butler report.

He said further work was under way to improve the analytical support provided to the intelligence community.

The government has agreed to appoint a professional head of intelligence analysis and analysts will be better trained. The government also plans to expand the 28-strong assessments staff — which analyses the work of intelligence services for ministers — by about one third, allowing for more rigorous checking of JIC reports.

MNA/Reuters

Explosion in Texas refinery kills 14, injures 100

TEXAS CITY (Texas), 24 March — An explosion rocked BP's sprawling refining complex in Texas City, Texas, on Wednesday, killing at least 14 and causing extensive damage, the company said. "We believe 14 people lost their lives as a result of the fire," BP site director Don Parus told reporters.

An estimated 100 people were injured by the powerful blast, which shattered windows and shook buildings for miles around, BP and area health officials said.

Of the injured, more than 70 were working at the facility, plant spokesman Bill Stephens said.

"It's a sad day for BP,"

Parus said from the third-largest US crude oil refinery. The blast sent a huge plume of black smoke billowing into the sky near the city of Galveston. The plant is about 35 miles southeast of downtown Houston.

The explosion took place on the western side of the sprawling 1,200-acre complex in one of the units used to make high-grade fuels. Company officials said the cause was not immediately known.

BP said it did not suspect a terrorist attack was behind the blast, which caused several scattered fires at the plant that took firefighters about two hours to extinguish.

MNA/Reuters



A female lemur plays with a camera lens with her one-month-old twins riding along at the Buenos Aires Zoo, on 23 March, 2005. A lemur is a kind of primate related to simians, which is more arboreal, meaning they spend more of their time in trees and bushes. Although lemurs are no longer being hunted as much as in the past, their survival is threatened because their natural forest habitats are being cut down for lumber and to clear lands for farming.

INTERNET



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win speaks at the opening of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam. —MNA

power plant cannot produce power with full capacity in the rainy season. So, Ahtet Paunglaung Hydel Project is being implemented on Paunglaung River, 32 miles from the today's project.

In his address, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint said that Mandalay Division has a dense population and it is producing all the 10 main crops of the State. Thanks to 42 dams and 70 river water pumping projects implemented by the government, numbers of sown acreage increase in Mandalay Division year after year. In future, Mandalay Division can be upgraded from food insufficiency region to a food sufficiency one.

Experiences from the Paunglaung Project can contribute towards implementation of Yeywa Hydel Power Project in Mandalay Division. And, all the people in Mandalay Division are to safeguard the dam and plant.

Next, U Khin Maung Htay of Kyitaung Village in Pynmana Township express thanks for opening the project.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye made a speech. He said that the State Peace and Development Council has been exerting utmost efforts for the emergence of a

as a result of integrated and combined efforts of the people and the government.

In the agricultural sector, the paddy production in the nation has surpassed the amount the population to consume and plans are under way to meet the demand of growing population of about 30 years to come.

Paunglaung Multipurpose Dam Project have emerged from the 30-year long-term project that is being implemented, with the aim of ensuring all-round development in the nation.

The successful implementation of the long-term project will contribute much to emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Prevalence of peace and tranquillity in the nation enables the government and the people to make concerted efforts for national development.

In conclusion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye called on local people and officials concerned to strive for running of the hydel power plant with full capacity and to safeguard it for its durability.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented cash awards for the staff who participated in the dam construc-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win formally unveils the stone plaque of Paunglaung hydropower station. —MNA

Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam...

(from page 6)

sizes of tunnels stretching 3.29 miles were jointly built by the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation with the use of modern technique and heavy machinery. The plant can generate 280 megawatt. So, it is bigger than Lawpita Hydel Power Plant which produces 198 kilowatts. Actually, the Paunglaung Dam will store water this monsoon season. Senior General Than Shwe gave a guidance that it is necessary to complete the projects as soon as possible and it must be served interest of the people.

Out of the projects being implemented in the third five year plan period, Yeywa Hydel Power Project in Mandalay is being implemented to produce 790 megawatts and Shweli Hydel Power Plant in Shan State (North) to generate 400 megawatts. At the same time, Kun Creek, Phyu Creek, Khabaung Creek, Yenwe Creek and Shwekyin Creek are also under construction. But hydel

peaceful modern and developed nation, adding that in the process, is taking systematic measures in line with the 12 political, economic and social objectives while placing in the fore Our Three Main National Causes that are the national policy.

Meanwhile, the 24 special development zones have been designated and work is well under way to bring about harmonious and equitable development the length and breadth of the nation. In addition, steps are being taken for development of education, health and transport sectors. The government has laid down and is implementing projects for development of border areas and national races who are residing in border areas which had made little headway in the past to narrow development gap among the regions.

Moreover, the five rural development tasks have been laid down and are being implemented for enhancing socio-economic life of the rural people who are the majority of the population.

Remarkable progress has been made across the nation

tion to Director U Vita of Construction-5 of the Irrigation Department. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party cordially greeted the assistant-governor of Yunann Province of the PRC, the Chinese Ambassador, officials and those present. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party took position in front of the stone inscription of Paunglaung multi-purpose dam project. Next, he formally unveiled the stone plaque.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, the Prime Minister and member sprinkled scented water on it. Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut formally opened the dam by cutting a ribbon. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed round the dam and cordially greeted those present at the ceremony. They also inspected the spill way, underground power plant and control tower. On arrival at the underground power plant, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party were greeted by the technicians of the YMEC and officials.

(See page 15)



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo, and Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut formally open Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam. —MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut and Mr Tang Lili formally open Paunglaung hydelpower station. —MNA

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Peru not afraid of Brazil

LIMA, 24 March — Peru say they are not afraid of world champions Brazil and will face them as equals when they travel to Goiania for Sunday's World Cup qualifier.

"We know they have a team full of great players but we have to face them without trembling, without fear," PSV Eindhoven striker Jefferson Farfan told reporters.

Fullback Juan Vargas, who scored a superb individual goal for his Argentine club Colon at the weekend, added: "Everyone has come with a winning mentality, it is a difficult match but not impossible. It doesn't scare us." Captain Nolberto Solano said that the club form of European-based players such as Claudio Pizarro was encouraging but not enough. "The attack gives us a lot of confidence but we will have to work as a team and be solid."

Brazil have never lost a World Cup qualifier at home and their last two meetings with Peru have both ended in 1-1 draws.

Peru, whose coach Paulo Autuori is Brazilian, are seventh in the 10-nation South American qualifying group with 13 points from 11 games. They also face Ecuador at home on March 30.—MNA/Reuters

Beckenbauer interested in becoming next UEFA president

BERLIN, 24 March — Germany's Franz Beckenbauer said on Wednesday he was interested in becoming the next UEFA president and was ready for a "fair and clean election battle" with France's candidate Michel Platini.

"The interest is there," said Beckenbauer, 59, who led West Germany to World Cup victory as captain in 1974 and coach in 1990 but has remained coy until now about whether he would run to lead European soccer's governing body.

"I've taken responsibility all my life and never worried about possibly failing," he said in an interview with the German football association's (DFB) website. "The presidency of such a successful organization as UEFA would be an appealing challenge."

The charismatic Beckenbauer said, how-

ever, he wanted to wait to make sure UEFA president Lennart Johansson would definitely retire before formally announcing his candidacy. Beckenbauer won unanimous backing last week from the DFB's



German soccer legend Franz Beckenbauer. INTERNET

executive last week.

"I'm in favour of going one step at a time," Beckenbauer said. "Whether (Johansson) definitely steps down at the end of the current term is, as far as I know, not yet clear. I'd never run against Lennart. I admire him, and I'm a friend of his."

Beckenbauer, leading Germany's 2006 World Cup organizing committee, has long dropped hints that he wanted to succeed Johansson who has held office for 14 years and will be 76 by the time he completes his fourth term in 2006.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham puts question mark over future at Real Madrid

MANCHESTER (England), 24 March — David Beckham has put a question mark over his future at Real Madrid after two of his children were targeted by paparazzi.

The England captain told reporters on Wednesday of two incidents earlier this month which he felt went beyond what was acceptable even for such a high-profile player and his wife, former Spice Girl Victoria.

"I'm at the point where I don't know what to do, because it's my children now and that's different," Beckham said at the England team hotel as he prepared for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland.

"I've had a couple of incidents in the last two weeks that have made me sit back and think.

"I believe that when my children are going to primary school, nursery or football school they should

be left alone. And they're not. And they're not even with their parents. "So, for me, it's becoming a big problem," said the 29-year-old father of three.

Detailing the recent incidents, Beckham said: "My eldest son, Brooklyn, goes to a football school. "I was working at the

time and Victoria was working, or looking after Cruz, and paparazzi showed up and harassed him and chased him into the football school.

"This is a six-year-old little boy. For me, that's crossing the line. And, of course, that affected him.

MNA/Reuters



England national soccer team captain David Beckham, left, and Michael Owen pose for pictures after signing a banner dedicated to the London 2012 Olympic bid at Carrington near Manchester, England, on 24 March, 2005.—INTERNET

Real coach defends Beckham as hardest working player

MADRID, 24 March — Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo has defended England captain David Beckham, describing him as the hardest working player at the Spanish club.

"He works more than any other player here and, what's more, he's playing out of position," Luxemburgo told Spanish sports daily AS on Wednesday. "He is prepared to sacrifice himself for the team."

Beckham, like several of his high profile 'Galactico' team mates at Real, has been subjected to heavy criticism in recent weeks following the team's poor form in the Primera Liga and their elimination from the Champions League.

The 29-year-old midfielder turned

in some good performances when playing in his former position on the right at the start of the year but has been far less effective when he has been moved into the middle.

Sections of the Spanish Press have said that the former Manchester United player no longer deserves his place in the starting line-up.

Beckham is currently with the England squad preparing for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland in Manchester.—MNA/Xinhua

Chelsea to respond any charges to CAS

LONDON, 25 March — Premier League leaders Chelsea have responded to what they describe as an "unprecedented attack" by Europe's governing body UEFA, saying they will fight any charges all the way to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Chelsea have been charged with bringing the game into disrepute after their manager Jose Mourinho's accusation that Swedish referee Anders Frisk met Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard at halftime during the first leg of the clubs' Champions League first knockout round match on February 23.

"Chelsea is both surprised and disappointed that at least one individual within UEFA appears to have launched an unprecedented attack on the club, regardless of the fact that Chelsea has cooperated fully with the enquiries related to the charges against us," the club's chief executive Peter Kenyon said in a statement.

Frisk subsequently received death threats and announced his immediate retirement from refereeing, leading to condemnation of Chelsea by UEFA, which accused the London club of making false declarations and creating a "negative ambience."

UEFA's head of refereeing Volker Roth also responded by describing Mourinho as "an enemy of football".—MNA/Xinhua

Ashley Cole, Mourinho charged over "tapping-up" row

LONDON, 24 March — Arsenal defender Ashley Cole, Chelsea and their manager Jose Mourinho have been charged over the long-running "tapping-up" row, the Premier League said on Wednesday.

League leaders Chelsea have been charged with a breach of Rule K3 over an illegal approach to Cole, said to have taken place in a London hotel in January, while Mourinho has been charged over a breach of managers' conduct.

England international Cole, who is contracted to Arsenal until 2007, faces

charges over breaking Rule K5, which governs approaches by players to other clubs.

The Premier League Board has asked for a formal response to the charges within 14 days and has begun the process of appointing a three-person independent commission to determine the matter.

Cole's agent, Jonathan Barnett, and Pini Zahavi, who acts for Chelsea, are outside the jurisdiction of the Premier League, although the statement said the Board would forward information gathered during the inquiry to the Football Association with regard to their actions in the matter.

Chelsea issued a statement saying: "(the club) acknowledges receipt of the Premier League charges and will continue to cooperate fully with the commission process."

Mourinho initially denied that he and Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon had met Cole, saying he was in Milan speaking with (Inter Milan) striker Adriano when the meeting supposedly



Chelsea soccer club manager Jose Mourinho.—INTERNET

took place.

Cole has never denied that the meeting took place, although the circumstances remain unclear.

His manager Arsene Wenger, however, has gone on record blaming Chelsea for the episode.

MNA/Reuters



Arsenal's Ashley Cole, left.—INTERNET

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

Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project emerges from 30-year long-term project for national all-round development...

(from page 1)

This morning, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attended the ceremony to inaugurate Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project near Kyitaung-Khawma Village of Pynmana Township as a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

Also present on the occasion were Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, ministers, Assistant Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Tang Lili and Chinese Ambassador Mr Li



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party pose for a documentary photo together with the assistant-governor of Yunnan Province of PRC.— MNA

Jinjun, officials, local authorities, social organization members and local people.

The ceremony to open the Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam

Project was held at the pandal near the dam.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that Mandalay Division is one of the most important regions of Myanmar as well as her

economic hub. Because of the dry weather, agriculture is a hard work in the most populous region of the states and divisions of the nation. After studying the flow of water in the

rivers and creeks of the division, dams and diversion weirs have been built in the region to harness the water resources to the most possible degree, and hydel

power stations attached to them if possible. Mandalay Division now has 42 dams and 70 water pumping stations.

(See page 4)

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INSIDE

The current world affairs stand witness to the fact that some countries which are against big powers and do not have strong defence force are subject to the blatant and various accusations, invasion and interference of super powers.

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KYAI PHYU



Paunglaung Dam in Pynmana township, Yamethin District, Mandalay Division. — MNA