Beloved sons of the people

Our Tatmadawmen are born of the people. As we are beloved sons of the people, we must treat the people as our own parents whenever we meet with them irrespective of our postings and the assigned duties. We must protect them, defend them and serve their interests. As the sons of the people, all of you have already won the hearts and minds of the people.

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

To build a modern, developed country calls for diligence of the people, regional stability, the rule of law, and sense of Union Spirit

General Thura Shwe Mann addresses inauguration of Ngawun (Myogwin) Bridge

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence addressed the inauguration of Ngawun Bridge (Myogwin) in Ingapu Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Division, this morning. The bridge was opened as a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

Present on the occasion were Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, local people of Hinthada, Ingapu and Laymyethna townships.

Addressing the bridge opening ceremony, General Thura Shwe Mann said Ngawun Bridge (Myogwin) was opened to mark the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. Today’s Ayeyawady is no longer Ayeyawady of the past and a new era has emerged.

(See page 10)
**Boost production of quality cotton thread**

The opening of the Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) of the Myanma Textile Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 took place at the factory in Pyawbwe Township, Yamethin District, Mandalay Division, the other day, attended by Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

The basic needs of each citizen are food, shelter and clothing. Myanmar has enjoyed food safety. Myanmar is blessed with temperate climate and natural resources such as wood and bamboo. Now, necessary construction materials such as bricks, sand, gravel and cement are locally manufactured.

Now, high-yield cotton strains like Ngwechi (6) can be grown on a large scale. Previously, the cotton supply did not meet the demand, and the requirement was fulfilled through import. Now, the nation is on the verge of sufficiency of clothing.

On the tour of the factory, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of compliance of the guidance of the Head of State on operating factories at full capacity, productivity cost control, thrift, and supervision for quality control.

The overall cost of the Textile Factory (Pyawbwe) project amounted to 7223.080 million kyats plus 9.8 million US dollars, totalling 7288.740 million kyats.

In a year, the factory will be able to produce 3.455 million pounds of 1/32 type thread, 0.577 million pounds of 1/21 type thread (without spinning stick), and 1.440 million pounds of 1/32 type thread (beephee), totalling 5.472 million pounds. Now, it has started to produce 1/32 cotton thread, 1/32 and 1/40 thread, 1/10 type thread and 1/21 OE cotton thread.

The people of the resource-rich Myanmar have enjoyed the security of the three basic needs. So, the people have to ensure sustainable exploitation of the nation’s natural resources, and maintain State-owned factories and plants.

---

**Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attends stake-driving ceremony for construction of self-reliant library in Beinnwegyaung village**

Local people urged to cultivate reading habit at self-reliant libraries

**Peoples’ Desire**

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

**Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially greets eye patients in Monywa District.**

Mr. Kyaw Hsan called upon the rural people to participate in successful implementation of the seven-step Road Map joining hands with the State after distinguishing between right and wrong, as they have enjoyed improvement of living standards.

In the evening, the minister went to the People’s Hospital in Pale Township and greeted the eye patients in the townships of Monywa District and surrounding areas who were receiving free medical treatment and the health staff. He donated eyeglasses to the patients and greeted the eye specialists who were performing eye surgery in the operation rooms and comforted the eye patients.
Iraqi budget woes force security hiring freeze

USSM QASIM, 21 March

The drop in oil prices has forced Iraq’s military and police to put recruiting on hold even as the US hands over more responsibility for protecting the country.

The freeze is stalling efforts to hire Sunni ex-insurgents and has prompted the Iraqi military to transfer hundreds of soldiers to the navy to protect vital oil installations in the Persian Gulf.

Iraq will also have to scale back purchases of equipment and weapons, raising new questions about its ability to defend the country’s borders and prevent a resurgence of violence.

All this comes as the Iraqi military is preparing for the 2011 departure of US forces, who often provide everything from clean drinking water to fuel.

It’s unlikely to affect the withdrawal schedule, which was set in a security agreement that took effect 1 Jan. But unless oil prices rebound, the crisis could threaten hard-won security gains.

The freeze began without fanfare in the police ministry in December and expanded when the government had to revise its 2009 budget early this year. It was confirmed this week by US and Iraqi officials.

Canada bars British lawmaker over Hamas support

OTTAWA, 21 March — George Galloway has been blocked from visiting Canada because of his support of Hamas, which is banned here, the Canadian immigration minister’s office said.

“I’m sure Galloway has a large Rolodex of friends in regimes elsewhere in the world willing to roll out the red carpet for him,” Alykhan Velshi, spokesman for Canadian Immigration Minister Jason Kenney, told AFP.

“Canada, however, won’t be one of them,” he said in an email.

NATO commander sees Afghan security gains in 2010

WASHINGTON, 21 March — The arrival of 12,000 extra US combat troops in southern Afghanistan this summer is not likely to bring major security gains to the volatile region until 2010, a top NATO commander said on Friday.

Dutch Major General Mart de Kruif, who commands NATO’s 22,300-strong International Security Assistance Force in southern Afghanistan, expects “a significant spike” in violence as fresh US and NATO forces enter the region ahead of Afghan elections due in August.

“I think that what we are doing now is actually planting the seeds and that we’ll view a significant increase in the security situation across southern Afghanistan next year,” Kruif told Pentagon reporters in a video conference.

Southern Afghanistan, a six-province area where NATO forces operate under a command called Regional Command-South, is the country’s most violent region. It is also the centre of a global opium network believed to generate tens of millions of dollars in revenue for the Taliban insurgency.

The brother of an Afghan man who was killed in what the US military called an overnight raid weeps in Bati Kot district in Nangarhar Province, 140 km (90 miles) east of the capital Kabul on 19 March, 2009. — Internet

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 595

WASHINGTON, 21 March — As of Friday, 20 March, 2009, at least 595 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Friday at 10 am EDT.

Of those, the military reports 439 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay and Kuwait.

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There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death. — Internet

US soldier dies from non-combat causes in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 March — The US military says an American soldier has died from non-combat causes in Iraq.

A statement issued Friday says the Multi-National Division — Center soldier died the previous day. It doesn’t give a location or more details but the soldier’s division operates in an area south of Baghdad.

The death occurred on the day that marks the sixth anniversary of the 2003 US invasion that led to the ouster of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. — Internet

NATO soldier killed in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 March — A NATO soldier was killed in a hostile incident in southern Afghanistan, the military alliance said on Saturday.

The soldier died Friday, the same day four Canadian troops serving with NATO-led force were killed in two separate explosions, the statement said.

The statement did not disclose the victim’s nationality or the exact place of the incident.

Southern Afghanistan is the center of the Taliban-led insurgency. Thousands of new US troops will be joining British, Canadian and Dutch troops in trying to reverse gains by the Taliban and expand governance and security. — Internet

An Afghan policeman looks at the wrecker of a car used by a suicide bomber in Chaparhar district of eastern Nangarhar province east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, 21 March, 2009. A suicide bomber in a car blew himself up at a police checkpoint in Chaparhar district of eastern Nangarhar province where officers were searching cars, killing six people, including five civilians and one policeman, said police spokesman Gafor Khan.

The blast also wounded four civilians and a policeman, he said. — Internet

An Iranian woman and her son walk past missiles on display in Teheran, 2008. Iran on Friday welcomed US President Barack Obama’s olive branch to Tehran but urged him to take concrete steps to repair mistakes that have frozen ties between the two nations for three decades. — Internet

An Afghan police man looks at the wrecker of a car used by a suicide bomber in Chaparhar district of eastern Nangarhar province east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, 21 March, 2009. A suicide bomber in a car blew himself up at a police checkpoint in Chaparhar district of eastern Nangarhar province where officers were searching cars, killing six people, including five civilians and one policeman, said police spokesman Gafor Khan. The blast also wounded four civilians and a policeman, he said. — Internet

Internet
Singapore says US needs to remain engaged with Asia

SINGAPORE, 21 March—The United States needs to work hard to deepen its economic engagement in Asia, a Singaporean official said here on Friday. Singapore’s Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Heng Kiang said that the Asia-Pacific has always been important to the United States and Asia’s economic and strategic weight will continue to grow in the future as the world emerges from the current economic turmoil. Lim said at the Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce Spring Conference 2009 that the United States urgently needs to recognize both the promise of participation and the stakes of exclusion, and work hard to deepen its economic engagement with Asia.

He said the Asian countries will continue to accelerate their economic linkages and integration with each other to drive growth and development, but added that the economic integration should not be pursued at the expense of economic linkages with the United States. Lim also urged the United States to resist protectionism amid the current global economic crisis. “The US’ actions set the tone for others to follow. It is critical for the US to resist the temptation of protectionism even as we recognize the US’ domestic difficulties.” Lim said.—MNA/Xinhua

US Navy Submarine and ship crash near Iran

MANAMA, 21 March—An US Navy submarine and an American amphibious ship have collided in the Strait of Hormuz.

The stretch of water is between Iran and the Arabian peninsula. According to the navy’s Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, the USS Hartford submarine was submerged before the crash. Fifteen soldiers aboard the Hartford were slightly injured but able to return to duty. No injuries were reported on the amphibious ship, the USS New Orleans. But the ship suffered a ruptured fuel tank, which resulted in an oil spill of approximately 25,000 gallons of diesel. The damage to both vessels is still being evaluated.

The collision happened in the Strait of Hormuz—INTERNET

Both ships are currently operating under their own power. The crash is under investigation. The navy said both ships were on regularly scheduled deployments to the region and conducting security operations. Officials said the collision happened about 1am local time.—INTERNET

Eurozone industrial output drops

LONDON, 21 March—Eurozone industrial output plunged by 3.5% in January compared with the previous month, the biggest decline since records began in 1990. Compared with January 2008, the official Eurostat figures showed that industrial production across the 16 nations that share the euro fell 17.3%.

The drop came as factories cut output in light of a drop in demand for eurozone goods around the world. Output from the 27 countries of the EU fell by 2.9% and 16.3% for the year.

Analysts were taken aback at the scale of the drop. “The eurozone industrial production data for January is breathtakingly awful, adding to the evidence that manufacturing activity has fallen off a mountain rather than a mere cliff,” said Howard Archer at Global Insight.—INTERNET

Ten injured in shooting at nursery school in Lyon, France

PARIS, 21 March—Ten people were injured in a shooting that took place at a nursery school in Lyon, southeast France, said a French radio station on Friday.

A man fired a shotgun at women coming to pick up their children from the Harmony school in central Lyon, said the report. Some parents were among the injured but no children were hurt.

Five of the 10 injured were slightly wounded, and the others suffered even less significant injuries, said the reports. None of the injured needed hospitalization.

Police have surrounded the area and are searching for the shooter, who has escaped.—MNA/Xinhua

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: “Water Is Our Most Precious Natural Resource”

Message on World Water Day, 22 March 2009

Water is our most precious natural resource. More than ever we need to work together to use it wisely. While the world’s growing population is consuming more freshwater, climate change is making less water available in many regions as glaciers recede, rainfall becomes less predictable, and floods and droughts become more extreme. Managing water carefully and balancing the varied needs for it is vital. Much of the planet’s water, above or below ground, is shared. Forty per cent of the world’s people live in one of 263 basins that are shared by two or more countries. Concern over the possibility of violent disputes features regularly in discussions about sharing limited water resources. But while the potential exists for water to act as a catalyst for conflict between States and communities, precedent suggests that the opposite is actually what happens. Cooperation, not conflict, is the most common response by people facing competing demands.

Under the theme “Shared Waters, Shared Opportunities”, World Water Day this year highlights how transboundary water resources can act as a unifying force. Worldwide, there are at least 300 international water agreements, often among parties that are otherwise at odds. These agreements demonstrate the potential of shared water resources to foster trust and promote peace. Political will, a flexible policy framework, strong institutions and an inclusive approach will help us build on this foundation for the benefit of all. On this World Water Day, I urge governments, civil society, the private sector and all stakeholders to recognize that our collective future depends on how we manage our precious and finite water resources.—UNIC

An employee works in the production line of Nanjing IVECO Company Ltd. in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province on 20 March, 2009. XINHUA

A French elite GIPN unit policeman (GIPN) reconstruct the scene with women who were slightly injured by gunman in a public garden in Lyon on 20 March, 2009. XINHUA

An employee works in the production line of Nanjing IVECO Company Ltd. in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province on 20 March, 2009. XINHUA

EU fails to commit to climate change aid

BRUSSELS, 21 March—A European Union summit refused Friday to put a figure on aid for developing nations to cut greenhouse gases, waiting to see what United States and others offer.

The European Commission has proposed 30 billion euros and EU leaders, ending a two-day summit in Brussels, have been working on that basis, officials said.

However no figure was included in draft conclusions drawn up for the summit, with the EU not keen to show its hand before the United States, China and others had indicated their proposals.

Pressure is mounting ahead of global climate change talks to be held in Copenhagen in December.

“It would be inopportune for the European Union to be too precise on their funding objectives now, while the negotiations are going on,” one diplomat said.

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Earlier completion of projects will benefit local people...

(From page 16)

At the briefing hall, the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation reported on the location of Pyuchaung Multi-purpose Dam Project and facts about the project. He reported that Pyuchaung Multi-purpose Dam Project is being implemented to irrigate 100,000 acres of farmlands, to prevent the flooding of farmlands and to generate 40-megawatt hydropower. He said that efforts are being made for timely completion of the preliminary construction works, building of the water diversion tunnel and the spillway. The project has completed by 30 percent, he added.

Minister Col Zaw Min also reported that in implementing the project, the hydropower plant can generate 40 megawatts to be supplied to the whole nation through the power grid. There are 12 hydropower projects in Sittoung basin, he said. Of them, Paunglaung, Khabaung, Yenwe and Zaungtu hydropower projects have been implemented; Pyuchaung, Kunchaung, Upper Paunglaung, Nancho, Thaukyekhat-2 and Shwegyin hydropower projects are being implemented; and the plans are under way to implement Thaukyekhat-1 and Bawgata hydropower projects, he added.

The minister also reported on timely completion of the structures of the project and 52 percent completion of the project. After hearing the reports, General Thura Shwe Mann delivered an address. He said that it is important to complete the construction of dams in time by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the hydropower work by the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1. He said that the earlier completion of projects will benefit the local people sooner. The General urged the officials to implement the multi-purpose project with awareness.

Next, the General and party viewed progress of Pyuchaung Hydropower Project from the viewpoint. Next, they looked into tasks of the project in a motorcade. They proceeded to Pyu through the road linking Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and Pyu.

At Pyu People’s Hospital (50-bed), the General and party cordially conversed with the eye patients from Kanyutkyin, Nyaungbintha, Okphyat, Zeyawady, Pyu, Shwegyin, Kyaukdata, Toungoo, Ottwin, Pado and Penwegon.

At the hospital, the General and party viewed eye tests, eye power examination and medical treatment being provided by Head of Department Professor Dr Tin Win of Yangon University of Medicine-1 and party, for the patients who had received eye surgical operations.

Next, the General and party visited the operation theatre where the eye patients were undergoing eye surgery.

Due to prevailing peace and stability and harmonious efforts of the people, the whole Ayeyawady Division is gaining development momentum.

The eye surgery was performed from 19 March to date. On 19 March, eye test was conducted on over 300 patients; a total of 90 patients were registered to undergo surgery; and eyeglasses were provided to 35 patients.

Accompanied by Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min, the General and party proceeded to Shwegyin Hydropower Project near Kyauknaga Village, 6 miles northeast of Shwegyin.

Minister Col Zaw Min reported on the location and facts about the project. He reported that the project is being implemented to generate 75 megawatts. He continued to say that the 3,610 feet long and 185 feet high...
Earlier completion of projects will benefit local people...

(from page 5)

zone type embankment is being built on Shwewgyin Creek. The reserve spillway and the ground embankment have been completed cent per cent, he said. The diversion conduit, the main dam, the main spillway, the water intake structure, the pen stock and the power plant are under construction, he added. The minister said that the whole project has completed 77.5 per cent. He reported in detail on arrangements being made for timely completion of the project.

After hearing the reports, the General gave instruction, saying that Shwewgyin Hydropower Project among Sittoung Basin projects is one of the important major projects of the nation. He pointed out that it is necessary to pay attention to completion of the project as scheduled. The General called for timely completion of the tasks to supply electricity from the power plant to the consumers.

Next, the General and party looked into progress of the project from the view point. They viewed the scale model of the project site. Minister Col Zaw Min briefed the General on location of the buildings for generating of electricity.

At 3.15 p.m., the General and party arrived at Maubin where they were welcomed by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and officials.

After visiting, the General gave instruction, saying that remarkable progress can be witnessed in Maubin region as the motor roads and bridges were constructed. He noted that the region gained development in a short time through the necessary assistance of the government and the concerted efforts of the local people. Due to prevailing peace and stability and harmonious efforts of the people, the whole Ayeyawady Division is gaining development momentum, he added. Next, the General heard reports on basic factors for development of Maubin region and the important perpetual cooperation between the people, the service personnel and the Tatmadawmen under the leadership of the State presented by Minister Col Thein Nyunt.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan also reported on the role of media in building the nation, arrangements for providing more TV transmission facilities in Ayeyawady Division, and efforts to be made in building the new nation with unity and development by gaining the lessons obtained from the experience based on past and present and future programmes.

Next, the General and party left Maubin for Pathein. — MNA

YANGON, 21 March—Sony Days Promotion 2009 is being held at Sony showrooms and the sale centres in every township from 18 March to 9 April.

Everyone who buys Bravia LCD will get gifts ranging from Sony DVD to Hometheatre and Blue Ray Players during promotion period at the showrooms. The Bravia LCD is based on Motion Flow 200 Hz and RGB Dynamic LED technology. Thanks to this technology, viewers can have a clear screen. Customers can choose what they like, as there are various sizes of Sony LCD. In addition, Sony Digital Cameras and Video Cameras are being sold with special gifts in the promotion period. Lumix 2100 Projector are on sale at special discount.

As Sony items are produced with high technology and priceless, customers need to have warranty card if they buy Sony items. If so, Sony Service Centre will provide necessary services.

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YANGON, 21 March—The opening of Myoma-nyein tarred road in Ward (7), Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District, took place at the archway of the road at 8 am today. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin formally opened the road.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe strolls along Aung Thukha tarred road in Ward — 14 in Hlinethaya Township after opening the ceremony of the road to hail the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.— MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann views eye surgery at People’s Hospital (50-bed) in Pyll.— MNA

Roads, bridges opened in Hlinethaya, Twantay and Kyimyindaingin townships

The opening of Aungthukha tarred road in Ward (14), Hlinethaya Township, was held at the pavilion at the top of the road at 8.10 am. The mayor and the chairman of the committee for constructing the road formally opened the road. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the facility.

Yanganyoe Creek Bridge in Twantay Township, Yangon South District was put into commission at the pandal of the bridge at 9 am. The commander and the mayor cut the ribbon to open the bridge. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the facility.

A ceremony to open Waila Creek Bridge in Kyimyindaingin Township, Yangon West District, was held at the archway of the bridge at 9.15 am. The commander and the mayor formally opened the bridge. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected it.

At the temporary briefing hall near Waila Creek Bridge, officials reported on the roads to be constructed, and progress of regional development tasks. The commander gave a supplementary report.— MNA
HAILING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

Development of agriculture sector in the time of Tatmadaw Government

River water pumping projects benefit arid region Sagaing Division to be able to grow summer and monsoon paddy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Sown acreage (million)</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>29.3</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Completed dam</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>217</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Dams under construction</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Completed river water pumping work</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>322</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>River water pumping projects under implementation</td>
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<td>41</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Total benefited acres (million)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>3.65</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Double cropping acres (million)</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Monsoon paddy acres (million)</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Summer paddy acres (million)</td>
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<td>0.92</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Total paddy production (million baskets)</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>870</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Country’s food sufficiency (per cent)</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Sown acreage of beans and pulses (million)</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Sown acreage of edible oil crops (million)</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>8.75</td>
<td>7.39</td>
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Photo shows water being stored at North Yama Supporting Dam in Pale Township of Monywa District, Sagaing Division.

Kadappana Sluice Gate built near Kadappana Village of Kyauktan Township, Yangon Division.
HAILING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

Only with a strong Tatmadaw will the nation be strong

Maung Nwe Sit

An army is a patriotic force responsible for defending the motherland and the people from dangers. Every country has its armies to defend the nation and the people concerned. The army is formed with its members born of the people. If among the members of an army are aliens, such an army is a force formed with mercenaries or a force formed with the troops of a colonial country that has colonized the country. Such a force is not recognized as a national armed force.

Every citizen of a nation has a sense of loving and cherishing their motherland. They have aspirations for a prosperous future of their country and people. They never let their people and nation fall under alien subjugation. They have a desire to ensure that their nation and people remain independent with the rights to manage all the natural resources of the nation. Patriotic spirit, nationalistic spirit or Union Spirit is a combination of those sense, aspirations, wishes and desires.

When inspired by patriotic spirit, farmers work hard to boost their agricultural production with the aim of ensuring perpetuity and sustainable development of their country. They express their patriotic spirit by demonstrating their good volition and diligence in their farming. Workers, blue and white, express their great love of their country by demonstrating their perseverance in their work for greater progress of their country.

The youth express their patriotic fervour by studying hard advanced technologies to become human resources in order to do their bit in nation-building tasks. Those citizens engaging in trade express their patriotic sense by making profits at a moderate rate in their businesses, keeping a good balance of convenience between the producers and consumers, and contributing towards economic growth of the nation.

The army is formed with its members born of the people. If among the members of an army are aliens, such an army is a force formed with mercenaries or a force formed with the troops of a colonial country that has colonized the country. Such a force is not recognized as a national armed force.

Being strong alone is not enough, the Tatmadaw must be modern and efficient. That means the Tatmadaw must be strong both physical and mental prowess.
Hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Only with a strong Tatmadaw will the nation be strong

Maung Nwe Sit

In addition to their national defence duty, Tatmadawmen also take part in building infrastructures such as the Ngamoeik Bridge (Thingangyun) shown in the above photo.

Translation: MS

POEM

March on the Tatmadaw

* The Tatmadaw
  Ever ready for any critical time
  With perseverance and endurance
  And unyielding spirit
  It never fails to achieve victory

* It is the Tatmadaw
  That serves people's interest
  Organizing the whole nation
  To remain united in any critical moment
  With blood thicker than water

* Whenever arises an emergency situation
  Views it the Tatmadaw
  From various angles
  Safeguarding with high alert
  Public lives and property
  Also peace and stability
  To remain intact

* The people's cause is also the Tatmadaw's
  Public view is also its
  Always straightforward and loyal
  For sixty-four years
  It marches on selflessly
  Unwavering ever
  Under any circumstances
  All along its path it marches
  Ever vigilant the Tatmadaw
  With loyalty and amity
  It stands by the people in weal or woe
  Wiping out all enemies
  Its zeal and endurance so high
  The Tatmadaw with firm unity
  Continuing its journey forward
  Always winning public admiration

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Khun Ye Thwe-Ayethaya (Trs)

Objectives of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

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

In additional to their national defence duty, Tatmadawmen also take part in building infrastructures such as the Ngamoeik Bridge (Thingangyun) shown in the above photo.

(From page 8)

Myanmar never invades any other country, and it has repulsed alien incursion with bravery. In driving the invaders out of its soil, it militarily forced the alien enemies to where they came from in order that they would not dare do so again. The Tatmadaw of the Myanmar monarchs and patriotic national people bravely fought back the colonialist troops that waged three aggressive wars against the nation commencing 1824.

The Thirty Comrades also members of DohBamar Asiyon (Our Burmese Association) secretly went abroad for military training and armed assistance to launch battles against the British colonialists who had colonized and exploited the entire nation since 1885. They formed the Burma Independence Army at the beginning of the World War II and drove the British troops from the territory of the nation.

Worried about the strength of the Myanmar Tatmadaw, Fascist Japanese troops that had occupied and tortured Myanmar since the beginning of the World War II forced the nation to reconstitute BIA to become much reduced Burma Defence Army in membership. Then, BDA was reconstituted into the Burma National Army.

Due to the Fascists' pressure put to reduce the numbers of its troops, the Myanmar Tatmadaw became somewhat weak in power, but it got strong enough again to drive the Fascist Japanese troops out of the country beginning 27 March 1945. It was because patriotic national people reinforced the Tatmadaw.

The Tatmadaw that became less strong in the World War II due to the pressure of the Fascists was encouraged and recognized by the public as the force with members born of the people and the people's Tatmadaw.

Shwedawng Nyunt composed a song to give encouragement to the Tatmadaw at that time. Even when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong, he composed the song designed to pursue the people to give effective encouragement to the Tatmadaw formed with their children. The song still wins the hearts of the people.

Two expressions of the song "Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong" and "We will show our military prowess all over the world" represent the notable fact that the Tatmadaw must be strong to be able to defend the motherland from alien intrusion and to crush internal armed insurrection. They also depicted that being strong alone is not enough, the Tatmadaw must be also modern and efficient. That means the Tatmadaw must be strong with both physical and mental prowess.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw managed to help the nation regain independence by driving the colonialists and Fascists out of the nation. It managed to save the nation that was on the edge of disintegration and losing the sovereignty (independence) following the armed insurrection triggered by power craving, selfishness, dogmatism and too much reliance on alien countries. The Tatmadaw also managed to drive Nationalist Chinese troops (a) KMT (Chinese expatriate drug traffic-ers) troops out of the nation that were intruding some regions of the nation at the instigation of a certain foreign country.

At the time of successive monarchs, Myanmar had a Tatmadaw, whose strength was in proportion to the nation's population. The Tatmadaw was endowed with military, physical and mental prowess. It was brave with nationalistic spirit. If compared with that of industrialized countries at that time, the Tatmadaw of Myanmar was weak in armed power. Today's Myanmar Tatmadaw is now at full strength equipped with warfare. It is a disciplined, united Tatmadaw with a sense of serving the national interests. It is equipping itself with sophisticated weaponry so as to become a stronger one. So, the people put reliance on and recognize the Tatmadaw as a force capable of safeguarding the nation, the people and the State constitution.

55555

Translation: MS
To build a modern, developed...

In the past, transportation had to mainly rely on the water route and motorway and railway were used only in upper Ayeyawady Division. Since about 1989 after the assumption of duty by the Tatmadaw government, bridges, small and big, have been built and there are now 45 large bridges including the present one in Ayeyawady Division. Ayeyawady is the place where the largest number of bridges have been built. The General added that along with Yangon-Pathein Road, new district-to-district roads have emerged, and travelling from one town to another takes only in a matter of hours, no need to take long hours like in the past. Upon completion of Myinkakon and Yazudai bridges, all the townships in the division can be reached by road. As there was the only old Ngawun rail-cum-road bridge in the past, the Head of State gave guidance on building a new motorway bridge. As a result, the new Ngawun Bridge has emerged and that will contribute to speedy flow of traffic in upper and lower Ayeyawady.

Thanks to the new roads, bridges, communication facilities, and human resource development plans undertaken by the government, Ayeyawady Division has developed rapidly, and got many opportunities of economic growth as a result of efficient exploitation of natural resources. (See page 11)

General Thura Shwe Mann addresses the inauguration ceremony of Ngawun (Myogwin) Bridge. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects Ngawun (Myogwin) Bridge. — MNA

Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint formally open Ngawun (Myogwin) Bridge. — MNA

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The General went on to say that such fruitful results have emerged thanks to the goodwill, farsightedness and encouragement of the government as well as the understanding, cooperation, honesty and hard work of the people of Ayeyawady. These results are also attributed to the diligence, innovation and capability of service personnel. Ayeyawady has learned a good lesson from the fact that any difficulties and hardships can be overcome if the three forces – the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are to work together.

The General added that along with the construction of more and more roads, Ayeyawady can now open up its motorway all the more and is well on the path to development. With smooth transport, economic, trade and social sectors of the division are also developing day by day, thereby contributing towards the improvement of socio-economy of the State.

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Thanks to the new roads, bridges, communication facilities, and human resource development plans undertaken by the government, Ayeyawady Division has developed rapidly, and got many opportunities of economic growth as a result of efficient exploitation of natural resources. (See page 11)
To build a modern, developed…

The combination of natural resources and local people’s innovations and hard work has brought about a prosperous future of the region. The division’s sown acreage has risen to over five million acres from just over 3.1 million acres, so the division stands at the country’s largest paddy growing region. Extended cultivation of about two million more acres of paddy is remarkable for boosting per capita income and economic development of the region with the concept of making contribution towards the national economic growth.

There still exists development gap in the Union, developed regions, developing regions and regions that lag behind other regions in development. So, the Head of State laid down the 24 special regions development project, the border areas development project and the rural development plan to create economic opportunities, bridge development gap between one region and another, and ensure equitable development.

In response to the government’s goodwill and objectives, the entire people have to participate in the State’s work programmes and to work hard. To build a modern, developed country calls for diligence of the people, regional stability, the rule of law, and sense of Union Spirit.

In particular, the government, the people and the Tatmadaw have to keep on working together for successful completion of the steps laid down for transition to democracy. Each and every citizen is under the bounden duty of relaying fine traditions to new generations.

In conclusion, calls for maintenance of the roads and bridges, economic growth and consolidated national unity.

The commander delivered an address. He said that thank to construction of the bridge, buses and trucks can easily transport passengers and commodities up to 60 tons of loads to Hinthada, Ingapu, Myanmar Kyangin and Laymyethna townships. Local people have easy access to Kwin Kauk on Patheni-Monywa Road through Ngawun Bridge (Myogwin), to Pathein in the south through Ngathambreung-Yekyi, to An-Sittway in the north through Betwey-Oskhinbyu and to Monywa through Padan-Kazuma, he said. In conclusion, the commander thanked the Head of State for his guidance and supervision and the workers of Public Works for their efforts in construction of the bridge.

Next, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint reported on construction of the bridge. He reported that the foundation of Ngawun Bridge (Myogwin) was built with reinforced concrete bored piles, and the upper structure with steel girders, pre-stressed concrete girders and RC floor. The bridge is 2,835 feet long and it has a two-lane 28-foot-wide motor road on it. The bridge can withstand 60-ton loads, he added. The minister urged the local people to maintain durability of the bridge.

A local spoke words of thanks. Next, the General and party greeted the local people.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint formally opened the bridge. The General and party posed for documentary photo.

The General unveiled the stone plaque and sprinkled scented water on it. Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw, the commander and the ministers also sprinkled scented water on the plaque.

Next, the General and party strolled along the bridge. Ngawun Bridge (Kwin Kauk) located on Myogwin-Kwin Kauk Road is 2,835 feet long. The main structure is 1,035 feet long and the approach bridge on Hinthada bank, 960 feet long and the approach bridge on Ingapu bank, 840 feet long. The motor way on the bridge is 28 feet wide and three feet wide pedestrian way on either side.

The main bridge was built with pre-stressed RC beams and frames, and the approach bridges were of RC type.

The clearance area of the bridge is 180 feet wide and 18 feet high.

Ayeaywady has learned a good lesson from the fact that any difficulties and hardships can be overcome if the three forces – the State, the people and the Tatmadaw work hard with understanding.

To build a modern, developed…

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Small plane crash in SoCal kills pilot, passenger

CORONA, 21 March—A small plane crashed in a heavy fog shortly after takeoff from Corona Municipal Airport on Friday, killing the pilot and a passenger, authorities said. Wreckage of the Piper Cherokee was located Friday night about 1 1/2-miles northwest of the airport, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor.

The plane, which was headed to Lake Havasu, Ariz., disappeared in fog after people on the ground heard the sound of its engine apparently quitting.

Authorities said the pilot never contacted air traffic control and the plane did not return to the airport in Riverside County. Helicopter crews had searched the area and the plane did not return to the airport.

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


textbook with lessons via iPods.

INTERNET

Singapore offers Iran ‘new beginning’

WASHINGTON, 21 March—US President Barack Obama has offered “a new beginning” of engagement with Tehran in an unprecedented direct video message to the Iranian people.

“My administration is now committed to diplomacy that addresses the full range of issues before us,” Mr Obama said.

An advisor to Iran's president welcomed Mr Obama’s message but said Washington had to fundamentally change policy.

Relations between Iran and the US have been strained over Tehran’s controversial nuclear activities. The US fears Iran’s uranium enrichment programme is a cover to build atomic weapons, a charge Iranian officials deny. Mr Obama, like his predecessor, wants Iran to abandon its uranium enrichment programme, but is trying to build up diplomatic pressure before confronting the issue, says the BBC’s diplomatic correspondent Jonathan Marcus.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana described Mr Obama’s appeal as “very constructive” and urged Tehran to pay close attention to it.

Mr Obama’s message was released to coincide with the festival of Noruz, when Iranians mark the arrival of spring.

Internet

Singapore needs foreigners for economic survival

SINGAPORE, 21 March—Singapore, which is facing its worst recession in history, needs foreigners to survive in the long-term, founding father Lee Kuan Yew said. The city-state is not reproducing itself fast enough and the government has in recent years opened its doors to attract more talented migrants to avert a serious population shortage.

“Without new citizens and permanent residents, we are going to be ‘The Last of the Mohicans’. We will disappear,” Lee, 85, told an audience at a local university late Friday.

Lee is the country’s first Prime Minister and remains an influential figure. He is an adviser in his son Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong’s cabinet with the title minister mentor.

Singapore needs a fertility rate of 2.1 babies per woman to maintain its population naturally but a string of incentives including monetary ones to encourage Singaporeans to have babies has failed to make an impact.

A report released this month by the Department of Statistics showed 39,935 babies were born in 2008, well short of the 60,000 births the country needs each year. — Internet

CLAMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO (477)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO (477) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A. W.P.T where it will lie at the conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Businessman Angelito Araneta Jr, 21, shows a chocolate cake topped with 15 limited edition worths as high as £3,000.

A piano, shaped like Ferrari, is displayed in a piano shop for sale in Beijing. With smooth lines and high mobility, this world limited edition worths as high as 2.86 million yuan (over 410,000 US dollars)

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Tibet’s oldest woman turns 118

Tibet’s oldest woman, Arme Tsering, celebrated her 118th birthday Monday at home in the northeastern suburbs of Lhasa.

In her best clothing — a blue vest, green woolen sweater and a brand new Tibetan costume — Tsering sat quietly under an umbrella in her courtyard to enjoy the sunshine as guests, mainly county and village officials and a few reporters, poured in. Everyone offered a fareda, a white, Tibetan-style scarf, and wished her good health.

One by one, the old woman quietly counted the beads in her left hand, while the crowd curiously watched her and snapped photos.

Tsering was born on 16 March, 1891, in a small village in Ngari Prefecture. She moved with her husband to Lhunzhub County, about 40km northeast of Lhasa, in the 1930s.

Elderly woman wants to divorce flirty husband

A 68-year-old woman in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province, wants to divorce her husband because he likes to flirt with young girls. The woman, surnamed Jin, complained her husband, 70, often goes out early in the morning and returns late.

Jin also described her husband, who runs a small factory, as a fashionable man who uses perfume and drives a luxury car.

Her husband argued he was just showing his appreciation for beauty.

Textbooks are old school

A British university is experimenting with a digital alternative to traditional textbooks and lectures by providing students with lessons via iPods.

Best known for providing hours of digital music and film entertainment to people across the globe, the iPod is now being used to help train diagnostic radiography students at The University of Derby.

Thirty-five first-year undergraduates have each been given device – preloaded with video lessons about how to position patients for X-rays – for free as part of their course. It is hoped the portable video demonstrations will be more useful than traditional textbooks and has cost the college over £13,000.

“We are always looking for innovative ways to deliver education to students,” said Chris O’Reilly, e-Learning Development Coordinator, for Radiography within the Faculty of Education, Health and Sciences at the university.

Internet

INTERNET

Internet

INTERNET

Internet

INTERNET
**WTO rejects most US complaints on China IPR protection**

**BEIJING, 21 March**—China’s Ministry of Commerce (MO), said Friday the World Trade Organization (WTO) rejected most US complaints about intellectual property rights (IPR) protection in China, which the ministry said was “a recognition of China’s efforts to protect IPR.”

A report from the WTO’s dispute settlement panel denied most of the complaints raised by the United States and recognized China’s measures to protect IPR,” MO spokesman Yao Jian said.

He made the remarks after the WTO Dispute Settlement Body approved the panel’s report Friday. The panel was established in April 2007 in response to a US request that China’s IPR situation be investigated.

The complaints raised by the United States included the claims that trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy were not prosecuted and the customs authorities only removed infringing features when dealing with counterfeit goods.

“Out of 11 complaints, the United States won only two and got three-fifths of what it sought in a third complaint,” said Li Chenggang, deputy head of the Department of Treaty and Law under the MO, adding the information came from an foreign research institute, which he did not identify.

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**California’s unemployment jumps to 10.5%**

**LOS ANGELES, 21 March**—Unemployment in California, the most populous state in the United States, rose from 10.1 percent in January to 10.5 percent in February, the highest since April 1983, it was reported on Friday. This was the 11th straight month that California’s unemployment was on the rise as recession-wrecked economy shed 116,000 jobs across all professions and industries, the Los Angeles Times said, quoting statistics from the state.

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**Three Indian warships leave for China to join international fleet review**

**NEW DELHI, 21 March**—Three warships and a tanker of the Indian Navy Friday left India for China to participate in an international fleet review to be held in the northern Chinese navy port of Qingdao, the local daily The Statesman reported on Saturday.

Soldiers escort Sigrifredo Najera (L) to a plane after being captured during an operation in the northern city of Saltillo on 20 March, 2009. Soldiers on Friday day captured a man Mexico calls a drug kingpin who was put out about two hours later. The remaining people were reported to be safe.—Xinhu

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**Death toll in Japan nursing home fire rises to nine**

**TOKYO, 21 March**—Death toll from a nursing home fire in Japan late Thursday evening has risen to 9 after two more people have died in hospital, police said on Saturday.

Police earlier had recovered seven bodies after the fire, which burned the three buildings of the nursing home in Gunma Prefecture north of Tokyo.

There were 17 people in the facility at the time of the fire, which broke out at around 11 pm Thursday and was put out about two hours later. The remaining people were reported to be safe.—Xinhu
Marseille eye French summit after golden week

PARIS, 21 March—After beating their fiercest rivals and then one of European football’s biggest names in the space of a week, Marseille are now eyeing the French first division summit.

The Mediterranean side moved to within a point of faltering leaders Lyon by beating Paris Saint Germain 3-1 at the Parc des Princes here on Sunday, and followed up with a 2-2 draw at Dutch giants Ajax that saw them into the last eight of the UEFA Cup.

“My players have a ferocious appetite,” coach Eric Gerets said after an extra-time goal from English loanee Tyrone Mears sealed a 4-3 aggregate victory in Amsterdam on Wednesday. “We did everything possible to eliminate Ajax because a run in the UEFA Cup could have a positive effect on our bid for the championship.”

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Old boy Sanchez aims to dent Real title bid

MADRID, 21 March—Hugo Sanchez became a legend at Real Madrid in seven trophy-laden seasons but on Sunday the Mexican will put sentiment aside as his Almeria side look for a first ever win at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Legendary striker Sanchez starred for Real between 1985 and 1992, winning five league titles and four ‘Pichichi’ (top goalscorer) crowns, but now he wants to get one over on his old club. “It will be emotional to return to Real Madrid but I have to put my job first and we will go for the three points,” said Sanchez. “I would like to make Almeria history by winning at the Bernabeu for the first time.”

Roddick to clash with Nadal in Indian Wells semis

INDIAN WELLS, 21 March—Andy Roddick has ousted defending champion Novak Djokovic in straight sets to set up a semi-final clash with world number one Rafael Nadal at the Indian Wells hardcourt tennis tournament.

Roddick, seeded seventh, needed just 66 minutes to dispatch the out-of-sorts Serbian 6-3, 6-2. Djokovic, seeded third, double-faulted to give Roddick a match point, on which he fired a backhand long. He finished with 30 unforced errors.

Nadal, meanwhile, bounced back from a tough fourth-round match to notch a 6-2, 6-4 victory over sixth-seeded Argentinian Juan Martin Del Potro.

Lorena Ochoa leads Mastercard Classic in Mexico

HUXQUILUCAN, 21 March—Lorena Ochoa is back home in Mexico and leading the Mastercard Classic.

The LPGA’s No 1 player shot a 7-under 65 on Friday on the hilly Bosque Real course outside Mexico City that has often gotten the best of her.

She sailed through the difficult course with five birdies and an eagle on the 541-yard ninth hole. She held a two-stroke lead over Na Yeon Choi, Brittany Lang and Yani Tseng shot 68s and were tied for third.
Obama stresses need to reform US education

LOS ANGELES, 21 March—US President Barack Obama said on Thursday that his country must do more if it wants the best education system. The US education system needs reform in addition to more funding. Obama said at a town hall meeting in Los Angeles. He pledged that his administration is pushing to spend more on education, saying that if America wants the best education system in the country, “somebody has to pay for it.” But Obama said state and local governments spend the most on schools and will keep doing so. Talking about the enormous deficits California schools are facing, Obama said “we can’t be talking more money without reform”, such as better teacher assessments and performance reviews, and ways to get bad teachers to “choose a different career”.

Obama said he would sign a national service bill in the coming weeks that would help young adults finance their education by volunteering for the Peace Corps or Teach for America. He also said parents cannot complain about schools and teachers when their children are home playing video games instead of doing homework.—MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (22.3.2009) (Sunday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transmissions</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Local</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(09:00am – 10:00am) MST</td>
<td>(15:30pm – 23:30pm) MST</td>
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<td>Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw (Agriculture Sector, Forestry Sector, Livestock and Fisheries Sector)</td>
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<td>Thiri Zeya Buhmi Golden Palace and Museum of King Anawrahta</td>
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Earlier completion of projects will benefit local people sooner

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects Pyuchaung Hydropower Project, Shwegyin Hydropower Project

General Thura Shwe Mann views progress of Shwegyin Hydropower Project. — MNA

An aerial view of Pyuchaung Hydropower Project being implemented on Pyu Creek. — MNA

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

March on the Tatmadaw

* The Tatmadaw
  Ever ready for any critical time
  With perseverance and endurance
  And unyielding spirit
  It never fails to achieve victory

Development of agriculture sector in the time of Tatmadaw Government

Only with a strong Tatmadaw will the nation be strong

Servicemen exhibit their love of the country and the people by shouldering their duties at the risk of life.