Comrades,

Our patriotic Armed Forces rose from a state of foreign dependence to launch a revolution together with the people, relying on no one but itself for the first time 64 years ago today in the history of the independence struggle.

Comrades,

Our Armed Forces was formed with the aim of achieving independence, which was considered to be the first, the second and the third priority at the time. The aim of our Armed Forces today is to defend our independence and sovereignty from all attempts at manipulation through political, economic, ideological, military and other means.

Aim of Armed Forces

Thus, the immediate task before us is the building of a strong and capable modern patriotic Armed Forces that can ensure total all-round defence and protection of our independence and sovereignty.

Comrades,

In material terms, the modernization and development of the Armed Forces depend on the financial resources available to the State. But at the same time, ongoing efforts must be made in matters of morale, to ensure mental fortitude, good discipline, staunch loyalty, unity and the possession of the Three Capabilities, through the Four Major Tasks of Armed Forces Building.

(See page 8)
Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views

Allow the people’s Will to guide the way

* 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

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 28 March, 2009

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 28 March, 2009

Carry on serving national interest upholding the four oaths

Having born out of the independence struggles, the Tatmadaw was formed with offsprings of the people who are imbued with patriotism and nationalistic spirit.

Since its inception, the Tatmadaw has been well-disciplined and organized. So, it has become strong day by day. As each and every Tatmadaw member constantly abides by the military rules, military laws and military codes of conduct, the Tatmadaw has won the love and respects of the people.

With the fine traditions in the course of the history, the Tatmadaw has sacrificed a great number of lives, blood and sweat for the perpetuation of independence and sovereignty. At present also, it is steadfastly safeguarding the lives and property of the entire national people.

Nowadays, the Tatmadaw is discharging the three main duties, namely, the national defence duty, the training duty and the public welfare duty while actively participating in the process of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation together with the people.

The active participation of the Tatmadaw in the national defence duty and the public welfare duty is inspired by its innate ability to serve the people’s interest based on patriotism and nationalistic spirit. From the period of independence struggle up to date, the consolidation and unity among the Tatmadaw and the people has gone down in the annals of Myanmar history.

With the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw that never betrays the national cause in the course of the history, each and every Tatmadaw member is to carry on serving the national interest upholding the four oaths towards the State and the people.

Planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw) to open on 1 April

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 March—Planetarium (Nay Pyi Taw) will be kept open for public access starting from 1 April.

Booths open from 10 a.m to 4 p.m every day except Monday. The exhibition programmes are conducted two times a day at 11 a.m and 1 p.m.

Admission fees are K 4,000 per child and K 5,000 per adult.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Newly-built Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden opens to mark 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 March—As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the opening ceremony of newly-built Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee was held at the archway of the garden this morning.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Mayor Col Thein Nyunt and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe formally opened the newly-built Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin unveiled the signboard of Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden and Mayor Col Thein Nyunt, newly-built Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden. The commander, the mayor and the ministers sprinkled scented water on the signboard.

Then the commander, the mayor and guests viewed the playground, Musical Water Dancing and water fountains in it.

Now, Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden is 165 acres wide. After the opening ceremony, local people and staff families visited the modern water fountain garden decorated with waterfall taking relax and boating in the Ngalaik creek. — MNA

SWRR Minister receives EU Ambassador

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 March—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe received European Union Ambassador Mr. David Lipman and party at the Mekhala Hall of the Ministry yesterday morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Director-General U Kyaw Myint Tun of Fire Services Department and departmental officials.—MNA

Bomb blasts in N Okkalapa, leaves bomber dead

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 March—A man died in a bomb blast at a guest house in North Okkalapa Township yesterday afternoon as the bomb went off while he was setting it.

The blast occurred at room No. F-1 of Tawwinnan Guest House on Thudhamma Road, Ward (L), North Okkalapa Township around 4.20 p.m yesterday.

The authorities found a dead body of a man, aged over 20, in the room. The blast blew off his two arms and legs and damaged his face and lower part of the body.

The authorities seized one four-inch long, two-inch wide and one-inch thick dynamite weighing 0.5 pound; one electronic detonator and wires; one nine-volt dry cell, four AA Brand dry cells; 4-mm-radius 30 steel balls; two corks; one device for measuring amperes; one binding tape; one wire tape; one mobile phone; one wrist watch; and a citizenship scrutiny card of the man.

On examination of explosives and accessories found in the room and on the dead body, it was found that the blast occurred while the man was setting a time-bomb. Some explosives and materials to make more bombs were found in the room.

Destructive elements and insurgents have been plotting to plant bombs in an attempt to undermine community peace and stability and to cause panic among the people. The incident shows that one shall pay for his misdeeds. After investigating the blast, it was found the links between the blast, ABSDF insurgent group and WBURF insurgent group. The blast is still under investigation by the authorities. — MNA
Obama to order modest increase of troops in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 27 March—US President Barack Obama will announce a modest increase of 4,000 more troops to Afghanistan as he unveils a new Afghan strategy Friday, US officials said Thursday.

The new troops will be deployed to that country later 2009 and will be assigned to train local police and security forces, the officials were quoted by the web site of the Washington Post as saying.

That increase will raise US troop levels there to 61,000-65,000 troops, doubling America’s military presence from last December.

The White House announced earlier in the day that the president will announce the strategy on Friday after two-month internal consultations.

The strategy for Afghanistan is expected to include the contents of increasing US troops, expanding Afghan security forces, and appealing for cooperation from “moderate” insurgents, sources closed to the consultations said...

US watchdog says billions of US aid wasted in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 27 March — About three billion US dollars to five billion US dollars in US aid for rebuilding Iraq has been wasted since 2003, and similar problems will likely haunt development in Afghanistan, a top US watchdog said on Wednesday.

Stuart Bowen, the US special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, told Congress that sums wasted on ill-designed or failed projects in Iraq translate into 15-20 per cent of the 21-billion-US-dollar Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund set up by Congress after the 2003 US-led invasion.

Bowen, who appeared before the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, did not give specific examples but faulted an ad hoc US approach that sought to modernize every aspect of Iraqi society from banking to traffic laws, poor security and a lack of structure for mobilizing resources.

The figures were the result of about 135 audits conducted by Bowen’s team in recent years.

Bowen said reconstruction in both Iraq and Afghanistan suffers because the United States has no established framework for relief and contingency operations...

Israel successfully tests anti-rocket system

JERUSALEM, 27 March—Israel’s Defence Ministry says it has successfully tested a high-tech system designed to intercept incoming rockets.

A ministry statement says the Iron Dome system successfully intercepted rockets in tests carried out this week. The statement called the tests a “milestone” in the system’s development.

Defence officials said on Friday that this was the first time the system had intercepted rockets in a test.

The system fires missiles that home in on incoming short and medium-range rockets of the type fired by Palestinian and Lebanese militants. Millions of Israelis are now in range of rockets fired by Hamas and Hezbollah.

Israel is spending more than $200 million on the system, which is supposed to be operational in 2010...

US, Afghan troops kill 11 militants in south

KABUL, 27 March—International and Afghan troops killed 11 militants when a raid in Afghanistan’s volatile south turned into a gunbattle with Taliban fighters, US forces said on Friday.

Fighting broke out during the Thursday night raid targeting a key Taliban insurgent in a village in Helmand province, the military said in a statement. The forces came under fire from militants inside a compound as they advanced and returned fire...

Nine police killed in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 27 March—The Interior Ministry says militants have killed nine police officers in southern Afghanistan.

The ministry in a statement the officers were attacked in Helmand Province’s Nahr Saraj district on Thursday. It blamed the “enemies of Afghanistan” for conducting the attack, a common reference to Taliban militants.

Lightly armed police bear the brunt of militant attacks across the country. Southern Afghanistan is the center of the Taliban insurgency, where thousands of new US troops will be joining the fight later this year.

Husham Jawad is comforted by his brother, after being injured in a car bombing in northern Baghdad, Iraq, on 26 March, 2009. The bomb exploded near a crowded market in a mainly Shiite area, killing at least 20 people, Iraqi officials said...

The site of a bomb attack in western Baghdad on 24 March, 2009. A bomb at a bus terminal killed nine people and wounded 23 on Monday in Abu Ghrabi, western Baghdad, police said....

The body of a suspected Taliban militant lies lifeless on the back of a police vehicle with his heavy machine gun after he was killed in a battle with the Afghan forces on the outskirts of Ghazni province west of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 26 March, 2009...

The US military said the militants targeted in the attack were making bombs that were used for roadside attacks in northern Helmand Province. One militants was captured and 11 killed in the fighting in Lashkar Ghar district, west of the provincial capital of Kandahar. The statement said one militant tried to use women and children in the compound as human shields, but the force managed to shoot the man without harming the civilians.

A village elder told coalition forces the Taliban forced them to shelter the group for the night, the statement said.

An Iraqi youth inspects the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad. The bomb ripped through a crowd in Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 20 people, including women and children, a day after US military said violence in Iraq was at its lowest in six years...

The militants targeted in the attack were making bombs that were used for roadside attacks in northern Helmand Province. One militants was captured and 11 killed in the fighting in Lashkar Ghar district, west of the provincial capital of Kandahar. The statement said one militant tried to use women and children in the compound as human shields, but the force managed to shoot the man without harming the civilians.

A village elder told coalition forces the Taliban forced them to shelter the group for the night, the statement said.

Internet
China spent 26.5 b US dollars on Three Gorges Project

BEIJING, 27 March—As of the end of 2008, China had spent 181.5 billion yuan (26.5 billion US dollars) in dynamic investment, and 122.9 billion yuan in static investment, on the Three Gorges Hydropower Project on the upper reaches of the country’s Yangtze River.

So far, 91 percent of the budget has been spent on the project. The total cost is not expected to surpass what has been budgeted, said Wang Xiaofeng, deputy director of the Committee of the Construction of the Three Gorges Project and the Three Gorges Project Office under the State Council.

The project is now in its final stage in both construction and resettlement. The government is still working on guidelines for carrying out long-term follow-up programs that are aimed at ensuring a stable life for the more than one million resettled people, protecting the environment and preventing geological disasters in the area.

According to the official, after nearly 17 years of construction, the Three Gorges Reservoir is now able to hold water that’s 175 meters high. All 26 generators, 700,000 kw each, were put into operation in November.

Foreigners studying in China exceeds 200,000 in 2008

BEIJING, 27 March—The number of foreign students in China reached a record high of 223,499 in 2008, a 14.32 percent increase over 2007, an official with the Ministry of Education (MOE) said on Wednesday.

Foreign students were attending 592 higher educational institutions throughout the country, Zhang Xiuqin, head of the international cooperation and exchange department said at a press conference in Beijing.

“China has become one of the most popular destinations for foreign students because of its history and culture as well as improving government services,” Zhang said.

The Chinese government increased scholarships for foreign students in recent years. In 2008, 13,516 foreign students received scholarship. That’s 33.15 percent more than the previous year.

Those scholarships included tuition, housing and medical insurance, Zhang said.

According to the MOE, the Chinese government invested 500 million yuan (71.4 million US dollars) in 2008 to finance foreign students. Recipients received a monthly stipend between 1,400 to 2,000 yuan (200 to 285 US dollars).

Tourist attractions open for free on anniversary of quake

CHENGDU, 27 March—Most scenic spots in southwest China’s Sichuan Province will open for free on 12 May, the one year anniversary of a fatal earthquake which killed nearly 70,000 people, local tourism authority confirmed on Wednesday.

Tourist attractions will also be discounted, some from 50-70 percent, during the month of May, said Wu Mian, deputy director of the Sichuan Provincial Tourism Administration.

The measures were taken to rebuild tourists’ confidence so as to revitalize the province’s travel industry, he added.

On Tuesday, the provincial capital Chengdu began distributing 20 million tourism cards, named the Panda Card, which offer free or discounted admission at tourist attractions in the city for people in and outside the province.

Steel futures contracts launched in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 27 March—China’s steel futures contracts were launched at 9 am on Friday on the Shanghai Futures Exchange (SHFE), with benchmark price for major contract of rebar RB909 set at 3,399 yuan (499.85 US dollars) per tonne and that of steel wire WR909 at 3,199 yuan per tonne.

September contract for rebar opened at 3,621 yuan, up 222 yuan, or 6.5 percent from the benchmark price, and that of steel wire at 3,459 yuan, up 260 yuan, or 8.1 percent. Both contracts dipped lower to 3,585 yuan (522 US dollars) per tonne.

Among other steel products, rebar and steel wire were in large demand from the industrialization and urbanization process, and thus had a sound and stable base of market trading, an SHFE official told Xinhua.

New York’s unemployment hits 16-year high

NEW YORK, 27 March—The New York State Department of Labour said Thursday that the city’s unemployment recorded the worst figure in 16 years, according to local TV channel NY1.

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the city posted 8.1 percent last month, from 6.9 percent in January.
HONOURING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

Development of information sector in the time of Tatmadaw Government

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Armed Forces Day resolve

❖ Joining hands with brethren
   We will always strive without fail
   To implement seven-step Road Map
   Till reaching goal successfully
   For national peace and modernization
   Added with prosperity and glory
   And to serve national interest
   And win over all enemies
❖ Always placing in fore
   Our Three Main National Causes
   As the national policy
   Willingly sacrificing lives
   To safeguard nation.
❖ Taking the strength of brethren
   We will crush all destructionists
   Who with antagonism and wicked mind
   Attempting to undermine
   People’s interest and nation
   Which is so peaceful and developed
❖ With firm determination
   We will build
   A modern patriotic Tatmadaw
   In accord with the time
   Safeguarding sovereignty
   And territorial integrity
   For ever existence and glory
   Of our country

Than Tun Nyo (Trs)
Honouring the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Printing Press of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under Ministry of Information established in Nay Pyi Taw.

TV retransmission station built in Pyigyi Mandaing of Taninthayi Division.

Kettha Youth Library opened in Homalin Township of Sagaing Division for disseminating knowledge to local people.

TV retransmission station seen in Mindat of Chin State.
Senior General Than Shwe addresses...

(from page 16)

Also present at the parade were Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Thih Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Tha Aye and Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Defence Services Inspector-General Maj-Gen Thein Htuk, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Hla Htaw Win and Maj-Gen Maung Shin of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, senior military officers of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) of the Ministry of Defence, deputy ministers, the deputy Attorney-General, members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, military attachés of foreign missions, departmental heads, senior police officers of Myanmar Police Force, senior officers of Fire Services Department, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, chairmen and members of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon and Myanmar Music Asiayon, nurses, fire brigade members, Red Cross Brigade members, journalists, correspondents of foreign news agencies at home and reporters of local journals and magazines and guests.

At 5 a.m., servicemen of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air), Myanmar Police Force members, Myanmar Fire Brigade members and Myanmar Red Cross Brigade members took the designated places at the assembly area of Thitatta Parade Ground to march towards the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground.

At 5.30 a.m., Parade Adjutant Lt-Col Soe Moe Kyaw presented seven parade columns to Parade Commander Brig-Gen Tun Nay Lin. The Central Military Band led by Captain Aung Moe Lin marched to the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground in advance and took the designated places. Next, Parade Commander Brig-Gen Tun Nay Lin led the military columns, followed by Parade Adjutant Lt-Col Soe Moe Kyaw, the standard bearers of the Union Flag and flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) of Anawrahta Column led by Major Khin Maung Aye, Column Commander Col Than Win ushered Anawrahta Column, together with the Guard of Honour representing Directorate of Armoured Force led by Company Commander Major Htoo Myat Toe, Commanding Officer Lt-Col Kyaw Htun Win, the company led by Major Khin Tun Aung representing Eastern Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-West Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Soe Moe Kyaw representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Min Chit Nyo representing Directorate of Signals, the company led by Major Soe Moe Kyaw representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Khin Tun Aung representing Eastern Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-West Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Soe Moe Kyaw representing Northwestern Command, the company led by Major Aung Hsan Lin representing Coastal Region Command and the military band led byWO-II Kyaw Zeyar Win.

Column Commander Captain Min Thein Tint (Navy) ushered Bayintnaung Column, together with the standard bearers of the Union Flag and flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) of Bayintnaung Column led by Lt-Col Sai Thet Naing, the Guard of Honour led by Company Commander Lt-Col Ye Tun Lin representing Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Commanding Officer Cdr Maung Maung Kyaw (Navy), the company led by Major Nay Myo Win representing Directorate of Supply and Transport, the company led by Major Kyaw Thet Win representing North-East Command, the company led by Major Yeint Aung representing Western Command, the company-2 led by Major Zaw Min Soe representing Northern Command, the company-2 led by Major Zaw Min Soe representing Western Command, the company-2 led by Major Zaw Min Soe representing Northern Command, the company-2 led by Major Zaw Min Soe representing Eastern Command, the company-2 led by Major Zaw Min Soe representing Northern Command, the company-2 led by Major Zaw Min Soe representing Western Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-West Command, the company led by Major Min Chit Nyo representing Directorate of Signals, the company led by Major Soe Moe Kyaw representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-West Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing Western Command, the company-2 led by Major Zaw Min Soe representing Northern Command, the company-2 led by Major Zaw Min Soe representing Western Command, the company-2 led by Major Zaw Min Soe representing Northern Command, the company-2 led by Major Zaw Min Soe representing Western Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-West Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Oo representing South-East Command.
Senior General Than Shwe...

From page 6.

the company led by Major Zin Min Htut representing No. 101 LID, the company-2 led by Major Arkar repre-
senting Triangle Region Command and the military
band led by WO-II Aung Zaw Latt.

Column Commander Col Kyaw Thant Naing
ushered Myawady Column, together with the standard
bearers of the Union Flag and flags of Tatmadaw (Army,
Navy and Air) of Myawady Column led by Police Ma-
jr Maung Maung Zaw, the Guard of Honour led by
Company Commander Police Major Aung Hsan Win
representing Myanmar Police Force, Commanding Of-
ficer Lt-Col Kyaw Lin Oo, the company led by Assist-
ant Director Hlaing Win Aung representing Myanmar
Fire Brigade, the company led by Deputy Command-
ing Officer Zaw Naing Thant representing Myanmar
Red Cross Society, the company led by Major Tin Myo
Naung representing Directorate of Armoured
Force, Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross So-
ciety. —

The columns took the designated places at 7.20
a.m. At 7.30 a.m., Chairman of the State Peace and
Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence
Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by
SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Min-
istry of Defence, took the designated place on the dais
at the Parade Ground. Afterwards, the parade columns
saluted the Senior General. Next, Parade Commander
 Brig-Gen Tun Nay Lin presented the columns to the
Senior General.

After that, the Senior General inspected the
parade columns by car. The columns saluted the flag of
the Union of Myanmar. Meanwhile, the Central Mili-
tary Band played the National Anthem.

Next, the Senior General delivered an address.
(The speech of the Senior General is reported sepa-
rateley.)

The parade commander sought the permission
from the Senior General to march past him. The col-
umns led by the parade commander marched past the
Senior General and left the Parade Ground for the as-
sembly area. The Senior General left the Parade Ground
and the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade
ended at 8.40 a.m.

The bronze statues of King Anawrahta, King
Bayinnungaung and King Alaungphaya could be seen in
the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground. A torch was lit at the
top side of the statues. The parade ground was deco-
rated with water fountain, flowery plants, the lawns and
multi-coloured lights. Various billboards with mottos
of the Tatmadaw and flags of the Tatmadaw were put
up along Pnluaung Road. —

Prize presentation ceremony of 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade held

NAV PYI TAW, 27 March—The prize presenta-
tion ceremony of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces
Day Parade took place at the assembly area of Thitth
parade ground here at 9 a.m. today attended by Mem-
ber of the State Peace and Development Council Gen-
eral Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Adjutant-
General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Lead-
ing Committee for Observance of the 64th Anniver-
sary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Train-
ing Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Parade Work
Committee for Observance of the 64th Anniversary
Armed Forces Day Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Train-
ing Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Chairman of Work Commit-
tee for Presenting Prize to Best Parade Company Vice
Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and senior mili-
tary officers, Tatmadawmen from Anawrahta Column,
Kyaungsitha Column, Bayinnungaung Column, Aungzeya
Column, Hsinbyushin Column, Bandoola Column and
Myawady Column led by the parade commander
 Brig-Gen Tun Nay Lin, members of Myanmar Police Force,
Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross So-
ciety.

General Thura Shwe Mann took the salute of
Tatmadawmen and members of Myanmar Police

General Thura Shwe Mann presents first prize
to the company representing Directorate of
Artillery Force. —

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 March—General Thura Shwe Mann presents second
prize to the company representing Directorate of Armoured Force. —

MNA

Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presents a prize to the company representing Myanmar Red Cross
Society. —

MNA

Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung presents third prize

to the company representing Commander-in-
Chief (Navy) Office. —

MNA

MNA

Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society of
respective columns led by Parade Commander Brig-
Gen Tun Nay Lin.

Next, Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presented prizes
to companies representing Myanmar Red Cross Soci-
ety and Myanmar Fire Brigade.

Then, Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung presented a
prize to the company representing Myanmar Police
Force and the third prize to the company representing
Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy).

Afterwards, General Thura Shwe Mann
presented the second prize to the company representing
Directorate of Armoured Force and the first prize to
the company representing Directorate of Artillery
Force.

Later, General Thura Shwe Mann took the
salute of columns of Tatmadawmen and members
of Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar Fire Brigade and
Myanmar Red Cross Society led by Parade Com-
mmander Brig-Gen Tun Nay Lin. —

MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 28 March, 2009 7
Comrades should be making an effort to accomplish the Four Major Tasks, building your Units through training, through administration, through welfare and through morale.

**Comrades,**

We must be combat-ready forever to defend the nation and protect the life and property of the people. To be combat-ready, we must have military awareness at all times and engage in continuous training.

**Main duties**

In addition, as true patriot soldiers, we have to uphold the public interest and serve the people not only by taking responsibility for national defence but also through participation in national development activities. These are our main duties.

**Comrades,**

In every national emergency, our Tatmadaw always stands steadfastly in front of the people to defend and protect them. In 1988 when the Tatmadaw unavoidably had to assume State power, the Tatmadaw had the capability to bring such a situation under control. The Tatmadaw initially had to restore the stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and the rule of law. While meeting the livelihood requirements of the people expeditiously on the one hand, immediate action was taken to clear up blockages in the transportation system and restore its safe and smooth functioning. Moreover, to achieve national reconciliation, a welcoming hand was extended in good faith and with goodwill to armed dissident groups that had appeared since independence was gained, in order to facilitate their return to the legal fold.

**Immediate action**

Thus, the Tatmadaw initially had to restore the stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity and the rule of law. While meeting the livelihood requirements of the people expeditiously on the one hand, immediate action was taken to clear up blockages in the transportation system and restore its safe and smooth functioning. Moreover, to achieve national reconciliation, a welcoming hand was extended in good faith and with goodwill to armed dissident groups that had appeared since independence was gained, in order to facilitate their return to the legal fold.

**Comrades,**

The Tatmadaw strove for the emergence of a new Constitution appropriate to the democratic system and the market economy that the people aspired to and capable of defending and protecting the causes of non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity.

**National Convention**

For this purpose, the representatives of political parties and the selected representatives were consulted, and taking their opinions into account, the National Convention was convened with delegates from every township in the country, including the delegates of the national groups, farmers, workers, intellectuals and professionals, civilian and military personnel and other invitees. The National Convention started out with momentum and achieved initial successes, but had to be suspended subsequently for a variety of reasons. The Tatmadaw always kept the National Convention in mind. In order to utilize the available time for the benefit of the nation rather than letting it go to waste, the goal of building a peaceful, modern developed nation was implemented through ceaseless efforts.

**Comrades,**

Under the 3 major projects that the Tatmadaw has been carrying out, which are the Border Areas and National Peoples Development Project, the 24 Special Regions Development Project and the Rural Areas Development Project, the infrastructures for the economy, transportation, health, education, etc. have been constructed all over the country to an extent that is out of proportion to the 20-year period in which it has been accomplished. Such effective and expeditious implementation is the result of strong cooperation among the 3 principal pillars: the Government, the People and the Armed Forces.
United strength

Another clear instance of the united strength of the Government, the People and the Armed Forces can be seen in the expeditious and effective relief, resettlement and rehabilitation in the aftermath of the disaster brought about by the Cyclone in 2008. I would like to stress that in our country, the unity—of the Government, the People and the Armed Forces—is the enabling factor for success.

Comrades,

At present, the new National Constitution has been adopted with the overwhelming support of the people. In 2010, elections will be held in proper order for the various Hluttaws to be formed in accordance with the new Constitution.

Transition to new system

In such a period of transition to a new system, all manner of political parties are likely to appear, reflecting diverse beliefs and political arrangements. In our country, parliamentary democracy was practised in the post-independence period. The political parties in those days were the major established parties that played prominent roles in the independence struggle.

A view of the history of politics in our country reveals that splits in organizations and political parties were common and almost routine rather than unusual or unexpected occurrences.

Comrades,

The Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA), which played a prominent role in the national movement, was formed in 1906 and achieved national coverage in 1920 with its transformation into the General Council of Burmese Associations (GCBA). But in 1922, the GCBA first split into the 21-member faction led by U Ba Pè and U Maung Gyi, and the faction led by U Chit Hlaing, U Pu and U Tun Kyaw.

After further splits in the GCBA, the Doh Bama Asi Ayone was formed in 1930. In turn, the Doh Bama Asi Ayone split into the Thakhin Kodaw Hmaing faction and the Thakhin Ba Sein faction in 1938.

The Pyithu Yèbaw group formed in 1945 later split into the White Faction and the Yellow Faction. The Burma Communist Party with its roots going back to the Doh Bama Asi Ayone also split into Red Flag and White Flag factions in 1946.

Similarly, the Anti-Fascist People’s Freedom League (AFPFL) expected to last at least 40 years and possibly much longer at the time of its formation in 1945 split amid deep controversy after only 13 years in 1958. The Pyi Daung Su Ah Phwe Gyoke (Pa Hta Sa) that appeared in 1960 after the AFPFL split also faced the problem of factionalism with conflicts between U, Bo and Thakhin factions. After that the danger of disintegration of the Union became a serious threat to our country.

(See page 10)
Political parties need to have their campaigns...

(from page 9)

Comrades,

The root causes that underlay the rise of factional sectarianism and the proliferation of splits are found to be the incentives that the colonialists provided to expand their sphere of influence, the wedges of instigation and incitement that they drove in a well-planned manner among colleagues, the arrogance born of overestimating oneself, personal rivalries and underestimating others, jealousies, suspicions and grudges.

Some parties looked to foreign countries for guidance and inspiration, followed the imported ideologies and directives irrationally under foreign influence and carried out purges against fellow party members, which inevitably led to their demise. There were also many others that brought misery on themselves by aping the practices of countries with divergent development and dissimilar backgrounds. Power struggles were also seen to be a source of disunity.

After a split, different factions gave free rein to their feelings of hurt and resentment, accusing and attacking each other until reconciliation was no longer practical. In addition, the fear of persecution after a defeat led the losing factions to go underground. As you Comrades are aware, the evil practice of going underground was a great detriment to the nation. These are the lessons for us to learn.

Comrades,

In the post-independence period, disunity in our country led to numerous instances of armed opposition among national groups, which was detrimental to our country. So, in our time, political parties need to have their campaigns grounded in a commitment to non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity as well as in the Union Spirit. It is also necessary to refrain completely from undermining the Constitution that has been adopted by the people.

Blessing of the government

Incidentally, I would like to request those who will be involved in organizing work for parties to refrain from inciting unrest, to avoid personal attacks and smear campaigns against other parties and to find unity in diversity by practising tolerance, forgiveness and understanding toward one another. Everyone following such ways and means of mature party organizing work will receive the blessing of the government. I would like to point out that this will ensure democracy does not collapse before it becomes established as a strong democracy.

We have to ensure that the practice of democracy in the country does not affect non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity.

Democratization process

In the democratization process, given that the kind of well-established mature democracy that is the end result of two or three centuries of development cannot reasonably be made to appear overnight, all-round consideration and thoughtful action will be advisable. Democracy in Myanmar today is at a fledgling stage and still requires patient care and attention. As a Myanmar proverb puts it, a recently dug well cannot be expected to produce clear water immediately; understanding the process of gradual maturity is crucial, as is contributing to it through concerted constructive efforts in an environment of peace and tranquillity.

Comrades,

In conclusion, our Tatmadaw not only has the duty of national defence but it has to uphold the public interest and contribute to it. The building of a strong capable modern patriotic Armed Forces is an imperative. Serving the public interest has to continue through nation-building efforts initiated by the Government, the People and the Armed Forces with joined hands after the unavoidable assumption of State power by the Tatmadaw. We have to ensure that the practice of democracy in the country does not affect non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity. I would also like to urge you to make concerted efforts together with the government and the people, never losing sight of the national goal of building a peaceful modern developed nation. With this, I conclude my speech.—MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—Thousands of people accorded a rousing welcome to Tatmadawmen of Anawrahta, Kyansittha, Bayintnaung, Aungzeya, Hsinbyushin, Bandoola, and Myawady columns, members of Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar Fire Brigade, Myanmar Red Cross Society led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Min Aung Haing and Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Defence Services Inspector-General Maj-Gen Thein Hlaik, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Lt-Gen Myint Haing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, deputy ministers, the parade commander and column commanders, foreign military attaches to Myanmar and their wives, departmental heads, members the Leading Committee for Observance the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and work committees, foreign and local journalists, delegates from social organizations, artistes and guests.

Before and during the dinner, vocalists presented songs to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan modern music band.—MNA

Thousands of people accord rousing welcome to parade columns of 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, garlands a Tatmadawman of a parade column.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—Thousands of people accorded a rousing welcome to Tatmadawmen of Anawrahta, Kyansittha, Bayintnaung, Aungzeya, Hsinbyushin, Bandoolla, and Myawady columns, members of Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar Fire Brigade, Myanmar Red Cross Society led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Tun Nay Lin as they marched from Thittat parade ground to Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground to participate in the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade for 2009 this morning.

Daw Kyawing Kyawing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, garlands a Tatmadawman of a parade column.—MNA

Daw Kyawing Kyawing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, and family members; Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye; Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Member of the SPDC General Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Min Aung Haing and Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Defence Services Inspector-General Maj-Gen Thein Hlaik, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Lt-Gen Myint Haing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, deputy ministers, the parade commander and column commanders, foreign military attaches to Myanmar and their wives, departmental heads, members the Leading Committee for Observance the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and work committees, foreign and local journalists, delegates from social organizations, artistes and guests.

Before and during the dinner, vocalists presented songs to the accompaniment of Myanmar Athan modern music band.—MNA
Zambia and Namibia face worst floods in 40 years

LUSAKA, 27 March—Zambia and Namibia face their worst floods in at least 40 years as rains swell the Zambezi River to record levels, destroying crops and swamping whole villages, disaster officials and aid workers said on Wednesday.

Zambia has put its air force on standby to airlift people to areas that have declared a state of emergency in flood-hit areas as waterways burst their banks in the narrow Caprivi Strip between Zambia and Botswana.

Some 400,000 people have been affected on both sides of Namibia’s border with Angola alone, the international Red Cross movement said, adding that the number was likely to rise. —Internet

US economy sees quicker decline

LONDON, 27 March—The US economy shrank at a faster pace than previously estimated in the final three months of 2008.

US GDP contracted at an annualized rate of 6.3%, worse than a previous estimate of 6.2%. The rate of decline was the steepest since early 1982.

For 2008 as a whole, the economy expanded 1.1% in 2008, the weakest rate of growth since 2001.

However recent data has been less downbeat, with improved home sales and factory orders. Economists had been expecting an even sharper contraction of 6.5%.

I think people realize the economy seemingly fell off the cliff in the fourth quarter,” said Doug Bender, managing director of McQueen, Ball & Associates, pointing out that the decline has continued this year. —Internet

Ban calls for global coop in fighting tuberculosis

UNITED NATIONS, 27 March—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Tuesday called on all countries in the world to work together and fight against tuberculosis (TB) amid the spreading financial crisis.

In a message marking World TB Day, Ban said although strides have been made on combating TB, the contagium still claiming a life every 20 seconds. He underlined the need to prevent infection, to detect cases at an early stage and to provide treatment for all.

Ban also stresses the importance of redoubling efforts to fight multi-drug-resistant (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR-TB) forms of TB as well as the TB/HIV co-epidemic.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to increase steel import tariffs

HANOI, 27 March—Vietnam’s Ministry of Finance decided to increase import tariffs on certain steel and iron products in a bid to help domestic steel producers boost their consumption the local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times reported Friday.

Accordingly, the tax rate of 8 per cent will be imposed on steel ingot instead of 5 per cent. Import duties on finished products including rolled and barbed steel will also rise 12 per cent to 15 per cent. Though local steel producers have continuously slashed prices, sales have still been slow due to low demand and the flood of imports with cheaper prices. The new tax rate will take effect as of 1 April. —Xinhua

Two Afghan farmers shot dead by NATO-led troops

KABUL, 27 March—NATO-led troops shot dead two Afghan farmers who were watering their land in east Afghanistan, a police chief told Reuters on Wednesday.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has said civilian casualties are the biggest cause of tension between him and his Western backers, who have about 70,000 troops in Afghanistan fighting a Taliban-led insurgency.

The two Afghans were killed late on Tuesday just outside Khost city, east of the capital Kabul, provincial police chief Abdul Qayum Baqizai said, adding they were innocent civilian farmers tending their land. —MNA/Reuters
London, 27 March—Drinking hot tea may cause throat cancer, Iranian researchers said on Friday, suggesting people should let steaming drinks cool before consuming them.

Previous studies have linked tobacco and alcohol with cancer of the oesophagus, and the research published in the British Medical Journal suggests that scalding beverages may also somehow pave the way for such tumours.

Drinking very hot tea at a temperature of greater than 70 degrees Celsius was associated with an eight-fold increased risk of throat cancer compared to sipping warm or lukewarm tea at less than 65 degrees, the researchers said.

Reza Malekzadeh of Teheran University of Medical Sciences and colleagues studied the tea-drinking habits of 300 people with oesophageal cancer and another 571 healthy men and women from the same area in Golestan Province in northern Iran.

That region has one of the highest rates of throat cancer in the world but smoking rates and alcohol consumption are low, the researchers said. Nearly all the volunteers drank black tea regularly, consuming on average more than a litre each day.—MNA/Reuters

UN report warns on threat of triple crises to Asia, Pacific

New York, 27 March—A UN report released here Thursday warned that when most countries are focused on fighting the worst economic crisis in decades, two other longer-term crises—food, fuel price volatility and climate change—should not be forgotten.

“Food—fuel price volatility and climate change are converging with the present economic crisis to create what is now being referred to as the triple threat,” said the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2009, a publication of a UN’s regional arm—the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP).

It said the triple crises are “interlinked and are reinforcing the impacts of each other,” noting that the number of the poor in Asia and the Pacific, already two thirds of the global total, is likely to increase as a result of the economic crisis and rising unemployment.

The survey, released in over 20 cities across the region and in New York and Geneva, provides a regional perspective as well as country-specific analyses, and outlines ways in which economies in the region can move forward to achieve a more inclusive and sustainable development path.—Internet

Grounds for coffee beans

New York, 27 March—Two of the most respected US newspaper publishers. The Washington Post Co and The New York Time Co, are offering new rounds of buyouts to newspapers, production and circulation employees, and said it could not rule out laying off staff.

“This was a very difficult decision to make,” said a memo signed by Times Chairman Arthur Sulzberger Jr and Post Co, Executive Janet Robinson.

“The environment we are in is the toughest we have seen in 30 years in business.”

The moves come as a host of other US newspaper publishers have reduced staff, declared bankruptcy or shuttered once-vaunted newspapers, as readers seek news online and elsewhere and as the recession crimps advertising spending.

Gere tours Galapagos, meets unique tortoise

Richard Gere may be adopting a new cause: the preservation of the Galapagos Islands.

Gere, 59, the Oscar-winning actor, flew to the Galapagos National Park on Saturday to collect a living laboratory for Charles Darwin. It was a visit to the Ecuadorean archipelago with his wife and son.

Gere is an outspoken advocate for human rights in Tibet and other causes.

“The world’s oldest champagne opened

The world’s oldest champagne, bottled before Victoria became Queen, is still drinkable, with notes of “truffles and caramel”, according to the experts.

An “addictive” bottle of 1825 Perrier-Jouet was opened at a ceremony attended by 12 of the world’s top wine tasters. Their verdict: the 184-year-old champagne opened to “melt”, according to the experts.

The wine and champagne experts convened at the winemaker’s cellars in Epernay in France, for “a once in a lifetime” tasting of the 1825 champagne — officially recognised by Guinness World Records as the world’s oldest.

A man shows a ball of thread, material of the dress hung on the wall which was made from newspapers, during the China International Energy Saving, Emission Reduction and New Energy Science and Technology Expo at the Beijing Exhibition Center in Beijing, capital of China, on 19 March, 2009. More than 200 companies and organizations took part in the expo, opened.

Pyramid swallow

An Australian woman said a python slithered onto her property and swallowed her 12.8-pound dog.

Patty Buntine said she became concerned on Wednesday when her Maltese terrier mix, Bindi, did not show up for breakfast at 7 am in her Katherine, Australia, home, the Northern Territory News reported Monday.

“She was always there so I got worried and went to look for her,” she said. “I went around the side of the house and that’s when I found the snake. It couldn’t move and had its head up in a striking position. It’s belly was bulging — it looked like a big fat coconut was inside it. I knew straight away that it had ate Bindi,” she said.

Snake catcher David Reed of Reedy’s Reptiles came to Buntine’s home to collect the reptile.

“I’ve had a lot of calls about dogs that have been bitten by snakes, and I have even had an olive python that had eaten some new-born puppies, but never one like this,” Reed wrote on his Web site, www.reedyseptiles.com.
Anceletti almost certain to stay, says Galliani

ROME, 27 March — AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti will almost certainly be staying at the club according to vice-president Adriano Galliani.

Speculation in the Italian press has long linked Ancelotti with a move to Spanish giants Real Madrid but Galliani said that would not happen. However, he said Milan would wait until they knew for sure which European competition they were playing in next season before beginning their summer shopping.

“Our club will continue to plan for next season,” Galliani said. “There’s been a lot of speculation about Ancelotti, but that is only natural. I can’t make any guarantees, but Ancelotti is a coach in demand and I’m sure he will remain at Milan.”

McManus ruled out for Scots

GLASGOW, 27 March — Celtic captain Stephen McManus has lost his battle to be fit in time for Scotland’s World Cup qualifier against Holland.

The centre-back, a first-choice for his country when fit, has been struggling with an ankle injury and had been rated only a 50-50 chance for the match in Amsterdam on Saturday evening.

Glacko books meeting with tennis No 1 Serena

MIAMI, 27 March — American Alexis Glacko made the most of her wild card invitation to book a second-round clash with world number one Serena Williams at the Miami ATP Masters and WTA hardcourt tournament on Thursday.

Glacko, ranked 124th in the world, defeated Switzerland’s Bacsinszky 6-4, 6-1 to advance to a meeting with Williams, a five-time Miami champion who claimed her 10th career Grand Slam title at the tournament on Thursday to take the first-round lead in the J Golf Phoenix LPGA International, while two-time defending champion Lorena Ochoa and Michelle Wie struggled in windy afternoon conditions.

Kim leads, Ochoa and Wie struggle in Phoenix

PHOENIX, 27 March — South Korea’s In-Kyung Kim shot a 4-under 68 on Thursday to take the first-round lead in the J Golf Phoenix LPGA International, while two-time defending champion Lorena Ochoa and Michelle Wie struggled in windy afternoon conditions.

Kim had a one-stroke lead over countrywomen Jiayi Shin, Imbee Park and Eun-Hee Ji and American Cristie Kerr, who eagled the final hole, and Norway’s Suzann Pettersen, who finished with a birdie.

Beckham will play minder for fiery Rooney

LONDON, 27 March — David Beckham is ready to act as Wayne Rooney’s minder to keep the fiery England forward out of trouble.

England coach Fabio Capello called Rooney a “crazy man” following the Manchester United star’s petulant red card for throwing the ball at the referee against Fulham last weekend. Capello’s joke hid concern that a lack of individual discipline could damage England’s hopes of a successful World Cup campaign in South Africa next year.

Rooney has often struggled to control his temper with England and was sent off for stamping on Ricardo Carvalho in the 2006 quarter-final defeat against Portugal. He was also substituted by Sven Goran Eriksson after losing his rag in a friendly against Spain in 2004.

Beckham knows from personal experience how the red mist can descend quickly on the pitch following his costly red card for kicking Diego Simeone in the 2002 World Cup defeat to Argentina.

The on-loan AC Milan midfielder is a more mature figure now but he knows it is essential that Rooney retains his fire or he will become a less dynamic player.
Bangladesh takes fresh move to set up N-power plant

DHAKA, 27 March—The Bangladeshi Government has initiated a fresh move for setting up a one-billion-US-dollar nuclear power plant to meet the mounting demand for electricity in the country, a minister said Tuesday.

The country’s chronic energy problem has prompted the government to ponder over installation of the country’s first nuclear power plant, State Minister for Science and Information & Communication Technology Yafes Osman was quoted by local newspaper The Financial Express as saying.


MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (28.3.2009) (Saturday)

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<tr>
<th>Transmissions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>(09:00 am – 10:00 pm) MST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>(15:30 pm – 23:30 pm) MST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>(23:30 pm – 07:00 am) MST</td>
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Local Transmission
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- One of the Bright Prospects in Agriculture
- Scuba Diving Adventure
- Thalatat Hydropower Project to spread Light across Rakhine State
- Travelogue (PynOoLwin)
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Bagan, Our Pride and Glory of the Past
- Hero Physician, Victorious Warrior
- Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw (Main Programme)
- Innovative Skills of Myanmar Handicrafts (Part-2)
- Wonderful Tofu
- Success of tea-growing call for concerted efforts
- One of the Bright Prospects in Agriculture
- Scuba Diving Adventure
- Thalatat Hydropower Project to spread Light across Rakhine State
- Travelogue (PynOoLwin)
- Teacher Matters
- Marketable Fruit
- Let’s study the “World Biggest Book”
- Naga Traditional Handicrafts
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather outlook for first weekend of April 2009:

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Chin State, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Shan and Kayin States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and weather have been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Thayawady (40°C) and Hinthada (39°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Myek (1.53) inches, PyinOoLwin (0.59) inch. Kouthoung and Kawkareik (0.53) inch each and Laishio and Mogok (0.39) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 26-3-2009 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 27-3-2009 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 27-3-2009 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 26-3-2009 was (8.9) hrs. approx.

Rainfall on 27-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from South at (15:30) hours MST on 26-3-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 28th March 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 28-3-2009: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for first weekend of April 2009: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

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MNA/Xinhua

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Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Weather outlook for first weekend of April 2009: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address at the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade 2009 at the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground this morning.

The 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was observed in accord with the objectives—To work hard together with the people to accomplish the State’s seven-step Road Map in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation; To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy at risk to life; To crush, in cooperation with the people, internal and external subversive elements that are disrupting stability, peace and development of the nation; and To build a strong and patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation.

(See page 6)

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe takes the salute of the parade columns.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted a dinner to mark the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, this evening.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived at the dinner to mark the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day at 7 pm today.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing together with Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Thura Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observation the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Hla Hla Hay Win, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, cordially greeted foreign military attaches to Myanmar and their wives and special guests.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted dinner to those present.

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