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Friday, 28 March, 2008

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Senior General Than Shwe addresses 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade

Blind to progress of other nations, lack of defensive alertness resulted in losing of independence and sovereignty

Value, protect and preserve Independence and Sovereignty

All national races, where they reside in country, need to have firm Union Spirit and national political awareness



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivers an address at 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—The following is the full text of the speech delivered by Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, at the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade today.

Comrades,

Today is the day when we clearly showed and set on record the inherent capability and strength of our people and our Tatmadaw in the history of the struggle for Independence.

In order words, I wish to state that this was also the day etched into our history when the entire people demonstrated their national pride.

Comrades,

The reason why our country was unable to resist the aggressive wars of the imperialists in the 19th century was because we did not have a modern army. In our history, just as Prince Kanaung tried to make our country into an industrialized nation, he also exerted a special effort to produce modern arms for the Tatmadaw.

But after the demise of Prince Kanaung,

the goals of industrial modernization and the building of a modern army fell apart. In addition, because we were blind to the progress of other nations and did not have defensive alertness, we easily lost our independence and sovereignty.

Comrades,

After we lost our independence our people came near to being totally stunted by colonialist
(See page 8)



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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 28 March, 2008

Tatmadaw with fine tradition of safeguarding national and public interests

The patriotic Tatmadaw was conceived in the independence struggles, consisting of the youth born of the people with nationalistic spirit.

Risking life and limb, the Tatmadaw has protected the nation for 63 years for perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the nation, and safeguarding the property of the people.

The Tatmadaw gave the first priority to national reconsolidation for restoration of stability and peace throughout the country. When regions became stable with peaceful conditions, it laid down and since then has been implementing the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special development regions project and the five rural development tasks, linking them together.

Now, the Tatmadaw is building a large number of agricultural, industrial, education and health infrastructures for improving the socio-economic life of the people. As a result of all-out efforts the Tatmadaw has exerted in various sectors, the whole country is now enjoying the taste of community peace and stability along with national unity and progress.

In pursuit of the State's seven-step Road Map for building a democratic nation in compliance with the wishes of the people, the Tatmadaw government is working hard for emergence of a new State constitution. The Tatmadaw government is paving the way to a new system, while restoring stability and peace and ensuring the rule of law.

The Tatmadaw with a good reputation for its fine traditions is in perpetual service of the interests of the nation and the people, while safeguarding independence and sovereignty of the nation.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရန်

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန်ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် မတ်လအတွက်
နောက်ဆုံးပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
(၃၀-၃-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၈-ခုနှစ် ဧပြီလအတွက်
(၁၃-၄-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့
နှင့်
(၂၇-၄-၂၀၀၈) ရက်နေ့

People's Desire

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

Members of Sangha sit for Pahtamabyan examinations

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March— Organized by Religious Affairs Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Pahtamabyan examinations are being held for the first stage at 172 examination centres in Sagaing Division, Bago Division (West), Bago Division (East), Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions from 24 to 31 March from 12 noon to 3 pm daily.

On 26 March, altogether 38,370 monks — 15,028 monks at Pahtamange, 12,095 monks at Pahtamalat and 11,247 monks at Pahtamagyi — sat for the exam.

As the second stage, similar examinations will be held at 65 examination centres in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Chin States, Taninthayi Division, Rakhine State, Shan States (South), (North) and (East) from 12 noon to 3 pm starting from 2 to 9 April.

MNA

List of monks sitting for Pahtamabyan Exam					
Sr No	State/Division	Candidate monks			total
		Pahtamange	Pahtamalat	Pahtamagyi	
1.	Sagaing	2434	2105	2012	6551
2.	Bago (West)	638	559	469	1666
3.	Bago (East)	1080	946	763	2789
4.	Magway	1076	712	524	2312
5.	Mandalay	4101	3699	3604	11404
6.	Yangon	3665	2591	2618	8874
7.	Ayeyawady	2034	1483	1257	4774
	Total	15028	12095	11247	38370

Water supply from Ngamoeyeik-Gyobyu Pipeline launched

YANGON, 27 March— Honouring the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to launch water supply from Ngamoeyeik-Gyobyu Pipeline was held at the junction of Yazadarit Road and Bo Saw Naung Road in Dagon Myothit (East) Township on 25 March.

CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division In-charge) Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, member of Yangon City Development Committee U Nyi Nyi, Secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Aye Myint and officials formally launched the supply of water.

The mayor formally unveiled the stone inscription and sprinkled scented water on it.

CEC member and officials started water supply by switching on the valve.

The mayor spoke on the occasion and he also accepted 2,250 USDA membership applications.

People from 2,386 households can now get safe water adequately.

MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials open Ngamoeyeik-Gyobyu Pipeline in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.—YCDC

Beware of Fire

Teachers attack British Army over “school recruitment”

LONDON, 27 March — Teachers accused the Ministry of Defence on Tuesday of “exploiting” schools to find new recruits after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan made it harder to sign up volunteers.

Members of the National Union of Teachers said military visitors to schools pushed a partisan view of becoming a soldier which promotes the career prospects, training and travel, while downplaying

the “fatal realities”.

In a motion put forward at the union’s annual conference in Manchester, they said: “Schools should not be conduits for either the dissemination of MoD propaganda or the recruitment of military personnel”. South London teacher Catherine Brennan said information about the military given to pupils was one-sided.

“They shouldn’t come into schools and present a glamorised, untruthful

account of what’s it’s like in the military,” she told BBC radio. “There’s a clear intention to get more people joining the Army at a time when it has got trouble with its recruitment because they’re fighting a deeply unpopular war in Iraq.

“At 16, people are too young to drink, they’re too young to drive, they’re too young to vote and we think they are also too young to be joining the Armed Forces.”—MNA/Reuters

SAARC meeting on anti-terrorism rescheduled for April

ISLAMABAD, 27 March— Pakistan said on Tuesday that the South Asian regional meeting on counter-terrorism has been rescheduled due to hectic phase of government formation.

The regional meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

countries on counter-terrorism cooperation will be held from 15 to 17 April in Islamabad, said Interior Ministry spokesman Javed Iqbal Cheema.

The meeting will be held alongside the meeting of police chiefs of the SAARC. The meeting hosted by Pakistan was originally scheduled from

25 to 27 March.

“The new date for the important meeting of experts from the region has been set after necessary consultations with the secretariat of the organization and the governments of member countries,” said Cheema at a news briefing.

MNA/Xinhua



Pupils learn Peking Opera on the first day of the new term at Hong-qiao District Experimental Primary School in Tianjin, north China.

XINHUA

US National Guard pilot sues Boeing over “F-15” crash

LOS ANGELES, 27 March— A US National Guard pilot in Missouri is suing aircraft manufacturer Boeing over the mid-air crash of an F-15 fighter that he was flying on a training mission, according to the *Seattle Times* on Tuesday.

Major Stephen Stilwell said he suffered serious injuries when he ejected as the aircraft broke in half over southern Missouri last November.

The US Air Force in the wake of the accident decided to ground more than 300 older model F-15s, saying that it found cracks in some of the planes and parts that did not meet safety specifications in others.

It is reported that these planes were built by McDonnell Douglas Corp before the company was purchased by Boeing.

MNA/Xinhua



Residents gather at the scene of a US airstrike in Hilla on 27 March, 2008. Many people were killed and wounded by a US air strike called to support Iraqi forces in Hilla south of Baghdad on Wednesday, four Iraqi security sources said. —INTERNET

Many killed by US strike in Iraq’s Hilla

HILLA (Iraq), 27 March — Many people were killed or wounded by a US air strike called to support Iraqi forces in the town of Hilla south of Baghdad on Wednesday, Iraqi security sources said.

US forces confirmed the airstrike and said they were not certain how many people had been killed but denied that there were large numbers of casualties.

One police source said at least 11 people were

killed and 18 wounded in the strike, launched after Iraqi security forces called for support following street battles with Shi’ite militia members in the city’s Thawra neighbourhood. Another police source said 29 people were killed and 39 were wounded. He said six houses were destroyed in the strikes which lasted for an hour late on Wednesday evening.

Two other security sources said the combined

total of dead and wounded was in the dozens, although they were unable to give precise casualty figures. All of the sources spoke under condition they not be named, as is usual practice in Iraq.

Major Allayne Conway, spokeswoman for US forces south of Baghdad, said US helicopters had responded to a call for help from SWAT special police units in Hilla. — MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Thai’s EC recommends to dissolve two parties

BANGKOK, 27 March— The legal advisory panel of Thailand’s Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday voted six to one to recommend the EC to start the dissolution proceedings against two parties, Chart Thai and Matchima Thipataya.

The EC has yet to review the panel’s report. However, in case of agreement, it would proceed to petition the Constitution Court to rule

whether to disband the Chart Thai Party and Matchima Thipataya Party. Both are coalition parties in the ruling government. The decision came after executives of both parties were “red-carded” for serious electoral offenses in the 23 December general election.

Both parties are facing possible dissolution after Chart Thai deputy-secretary general Monthien Songpracha and

Matchima Thipataya deputy leader Sunthorn Vilawan were disqualified, or so-called “red carded”, before House seats were endorsed. If the court orders the two parties to be dissolved, it may trigger new round of political chaos since Yongyuth Tiypairat, the ruling People Power Party’s deputy leader, was also disqualified by the EC in early March.

MNA/Xinhua



A capsule on the world’s largest ferris wheel, the Singapore Flyer, is seen above Marina Bay in Singapore on 26 March, 2008.

INTERNET



Smoke rises from an Iraqi police station hit by a mortar attack in Basra on 26 March. Followers of radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr staged noisy protests against a crackdown on Shiite fighters in Basra, as the southern oil hub was rocked by a third straight day of fighting.—INTERNET

Up to 30 killed in Iraq’s Basra clashes

BASRA (Iraq), 26 March—Up to 30 people were killed and some 60 others wounded in the ongoing fierce clashes between Iraqi security forces and the Shiite Mahdi Army militia in the southern oil hub of Basra, medical and police sources said on Tuesday.

“Two hospitals in the city have received 30 bodies, including three policemen,” a medical source in the city told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

He said that the wounded people, many of whom were women and children, were transported to the city hospitals for treatment. Some of them were in critical condition, he added. On the ground, clashes continued during the night despite curfew measures in the neighbourhoods of Hayyanayah, Ashar, Jamhuriyah and Qiblah, a local security source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. —*Xinhua*

Three US citizens wounded in attack on Baghdad’s Green Zone

BAGHDAD, 27 March — Three American citizens working for the US Government were wounded by an indirect fire attack on Baghdad’s heavily fortified Green Zone on Wednesday, US Embassy said.

“I can confirm that there was an indirect fire attack on the Green Zone, and that three US government officials were seriously injured,” Mirembe Nantongo, US Embassy spokeswoman told reporters in Baghdad.

Indirect fire attack refers to mortar or rocket attack in the terms of the US military statements.

Earlier in the day, an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua* that four mortar rounds struck the Green Zone at about 5:00 am local time (0200 GMT).

Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency



Italy circus “slave” forced to swim with piranhas

ROME, 27 March — Police rescued two teenage Bulgarian sisters from a circus in southern Italy which forced one of them to swim with flesh-eating piranhas for the amusement of guests, police said.

While the 19-year-old sister swam in a transparent tank, the younger, 16-year-old was forced into a container where the circus staff tossed snakes at her. She was injured by one of the snakes, police said.

Xinhua

Five feared dead after building collapses in Norway

STOCKHOLM, 27 March — At least five people were feared dead after an apartment building collapsed Wednesday morning in Norway’s west coastal city of Aalesund, according to news reaching here from the Norwegian capital Oslo.

The relatively new residential complex near the city’s downtown collapsed just before 4 am local time (0300 GMT) after the hillside behind it gave way. The first few floors of the building were crushed and residents were trapped under the rubble.

Xinhua



Protesters take part in the “Ostermarsch” (Easter march) demonstration to protest against wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, in Berlin recently.—INTERNET

Guangdong pollutant indicators drop in 2007

GUANGZHOU, 27 March — China’s southern Guangdong Province saw its major air and water pollutant indicators drop in 2007, yet the environmental situation remained “severe”, the Guangdong Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau (GDEPB) said Tuesday.

Chen Guangrong, deputy head of the GDEPB, said the province’s sulphur dioxide emissions fell by 5.05 per cent and chemical oxygen demand (COD), a measure of water pollution, went down 3.02 per cent year-on-year.

However, the COD failed to meet the provincial government’s target.

By the end of last year, the province had established 127 sewage treatment plants, which could treat 8.74 million tons of waste water every day, the highest capacity in the country. However, only 50 per cent of the waste water was properly treated in 2007 because it could not cope with the total amount, he said. —*Xinhua*

Belarus to help Venezuela’s anti-aircraft defence system

MOSCOW, 27 March — Belarus will help Venezuela set up an anti-aircraft defence system over the next six years, Belarus’ deputy chief of general staff said Tuesday.

“We plan during a six-year period to supply to Venezuela with an anti-aircraft defence system and train their commanders,” General Pyotr Tikhonovsky was quoted by the *Interfax* news agency as saying.

This year, Belarus will send 10 military advisers to Venezuela, which currently “has detached units, fighters, but no anti-aircraft defence systems”, he said.

Tikhonovsky added that the establishment of an air defence system in Venezuela would allow his country to enter Latin America’s armament markets. “This will help us pursue our other interests in Venezuela too,” the military official said.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has already bought significant numbers of aircraft and small arms from Russia in a bid to modernize and expand his country’s Armed Forces. —*Xinhua*

Thousands of Germans hold anti-war demonstrations

BERLIN, 26 March—Tens of thousands of people took to the streets in Germany over the weekend to take part in the traditional Easter peace marches against wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Germany’s military deployment in Afghanistan and the US-led war in Iraq were the centre of criticism at this year’s Easter peace marches which started on Friday.

Organizers said anti-war demonstrations have been organized in more than 70 German cities with about 10,000 more people participating this year compared with last year.

In the capital city of Berlin, about 4,000 demonstrators marched through downtown area on Monday mainly to press their demand for German troops’ withdrawal from Afghanistan. Anti-war demonstrations were also held in other large cities such as Frankfurt, Hamburg and Dortmund. —*Xinhua*

Cambodia to have 400,000 hectares of rubber trees by 2030

PHNOM PENH, 27 March —Cambodia could have 400,000 hectares of rubber trees by 2030, as market demands are fueling the plantation heat, English-Khmer language newspaper the *Mekong Times* said on Wednesday.

Increasing rubber prices may drive Cambodia to plant more rubber and put it on a par with other ASEAN rubber producers, Ly Pholla, general director of the General Department of Rubber

Plantations in the Cambodian Government, told the paper.

Both small privately owned plantations and larger plantations owned by corporations are becoming more common, annually growing by 10,000 hectares, despite of lack of rubber plantation experience in some areas, he said.

“The government must think about allotting partially denuded forest land to expand rubber tree

cultivation because rubber is also a natural tree,” he said.

In 2007, to promote rubber plantations, the government allocated about 250,000 hectares of land for rubber. Currently, Cambodia has a total of nearly 70,000 hectares of rubber plantations yielding about 40,000 to 50,000 tons of dry resin annually. Rubber resin now costs 2,600 US dollars per ton.

MNA/Xinhua



MediaCorp CEO Lucas Chow with Molly Lee, winner of MediaCorp’s first Singapore Woman of the Year award. The award was given out on 26 March as part of a month-long celebration of International Women’s Day, presented by MediaCorp’s Publishing magazine “Vanilla”.—INTERNET



A worker sprays paint on stuffed toys at a factory located in Clark, a former US military base which is now a free trade zone in Pampanga province, north of Manila on 26 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Philippine banks exposed to high credit losses

MANILA, 27 March—Despite their high earnings profile, Philippine banks are exposed to high credit losses because of lack of support from the government and a generally weak operating environment, ratings agency Moody’s Investor Service said on Tuesday.

In its first report on Philippine banks, Moody’s said industry reforms undertaken since

the Asian currency crisis have helped improve regulation and supervision but further improvements are needed, Philippine TV network GMA News reported. Moody’s senior analyst Richard Lung said the industry’s confidence can be further boosted by greater transparency, formalization of procedures and institutionalization of reforms.

“Bank credit risk in the

Philippines has been elevated by a difficult operating environment, a new and developing supervisory and regulatory framework, and low level of government support,” Lung said.

Philippine banks have historically faced little competition from the domestic capital markets or from non-bank financial institutions, Lung said.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia revises up subsidies on electricity this year

JAKARTA, 26 March —The Indonesian Government and Parliament agreed on Monday to revise up the subsidies on electricity from 55 trillion rupiah (some 5.98 billion US dollars) to 61.01 trillion US dollars (some 6.6 billion US dollars) in the state budget for this year due to soaring global oil price. “The result of lobby of factions agreed that the

subsidies on the electricity sector is 61.01 trillion rupiah,” said Airlangga Hartarto, head of the Commission Seven which is in charge for energy, at a hearing between the Energy Ministry and the lawmakers at the Parliament building here.

The amount of the subsidies was made based on the oil price assumption of 95 barrel per day, rupiah

exchange rate at 9,100 per one US dollar and 1.9 per cent growth of the electricity sales, he said.

Indonesia has attempted to boost crude oil output as the country has failed to find new oilfields fast enough. —MNA/Xinhua

The launch of India’s US\$2,500 Tata Nano at the Geneva International Motor Show on 4 March 2008 in Geneva. Tata Motors is buying Britain’s Jaguar and Land Rover from ailing US carmaker Ford for US\$2.3 billion.—INTERNET

ECONOMIC NEWS

Tata to buy Ford’s Jaguar, Land Rover for \$2.3b

MUMBAI, 27 March —India’s Tata Motors Ltd will buy luxury brands Jaguar and Land Rover from Ford Motor Co for

about 2.3 billion US dollars in cash, the companies said on Wednesday.

The transfer of ownership to Tata Motors is expected to close by the end of the next quarter, subject to regulatory approvals, they said. “We have enormous respect for the two brands and will endeavour to preserve and build on their heritage and competitiveness, keeping their identities intact,” Tata Motors Chairman Ratan Tata said in a statement. Ford would contribute up to about 600 million US dollars to Jaguar/Land Rover pension plans, Tata Motors said.—MNA/Reuters

Lotto winner loses 6.9m pounds in London

LONDON, 27 March—A lottery winner lost a 6.9-million-pound jackpot on Wednesday, the National Lottery said, after the mystery punter failed to claim the prize.

The winning EuroMillions ticket —with the numbers 22, 30, 34, 35, 44 and the Lucky Star numbers four and five — was bought in Devon on 28 September last year. The 180-day deadline to claim the jackpot expired at 5:30 pm on Wednesday. The money will now go to good causes. — MNA/Reuters



Prizes awarded to winning parade companies in 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March — A ceremony to present prizes to the winners in the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade 2008 was held at the parade ground in Nay Pyi Taw this morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the SPDC Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Defence Services Inspector-General Maj-Gen Thein Htaik, Chairman of the Parade Work Committee Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Chairman of the Best Parade Company Selection and Prize Presentation Work Committee Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and senior military officers, column commanders, commanding officers, company commanders, Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar



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



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



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gives a prize to a company representing Myanmar Fire Brigade.—MNA

Police Force, Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Brigade of Anawrahta, Kyansittha, Bayintnaung, Aungzeya, Hsinbyushin, Bandoola and Myawady columns led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min.

First, General Thura Shwe Mann took the salute of the Tatmadawmen, MPF members, members of Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Brigade of parade columns led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min.

Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented honorary prizes to the parade companies representing Myanmar Red Cross Society and Myanmar Fire Brigade.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung awarded the honorary prize to the parade company



representing the MPF and the third prize to the parade company representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy).

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

Later, Tatmadawmen, MPF members, members of Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Brigade of parade columns led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min saluted General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence.

MNA

Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung gives third prize to a company representing Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Office.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup 13-15 April

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March — The Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup will take place at Nay Pyi Taw City Golf Course, Yaypya Tatmadaw Golf Course and Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course from 13 to 15 April respectively.

The golf tour will be categorized as the Gold and Silver team-wise events and the Gold and silver singles events. At the respective golf courses, the first and second prizes will be awarded in the team-wise event, and the prizes from the first to fifth will be presented in the singles event.

After competing in one round each at respective golf courses, the winning team will bag the Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Tour Gold Cup and one gold trophy each and K 1 million will be presented to

players of the winning team. One silver trophy each and K 700,000 will be awarded to the runner-up team. The best golfer on three rounds will win one gold trophy and K 1 million and the runner-up player, one silver trophy and K 700,000.

Every golf team is to be formed with six players including two professional golfers. All the golfers must be handicap zero.

The golf tour will be held in line with the disciplines prescribed by the Myanmar Golf Federation and that of the respective regions.

The golfers are to enlist at the Mayor's Office of Nay Pyi Taw, not later than 10 April, dialing 067-414610 and 414289.

MNA

Thousands of people accord rousing welcome to parade columns of 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day



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

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March — Tatmadawmen of Anawrahta, Kyansittha, Bayintnaung, Aung Zeya, Hsinbyushin, Bandoola and Myawady columns and

members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and Red Cross Society led by parade commander Brig-Gen Hla Min this morning marched to the parade ground of Nay Pyi Taw where the 63rd Anniversary



Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, garlands a Tatmadawman of a parade column.—MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of General Thein Sein, garlands a Tatmadawman of a parade column.— MNA



Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, garlands a Tatmadawman of a parade column.—MNA

Armed Forces Day Parade would be held.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of 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 State Peace and Development Council 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 Shwe Mann of the Ministry



Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann, garlands a Tatmadawman of a parade column.— MNA

of Defence, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Secretary-1 of the SPDC Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, wives of members of the SPDC, the Commanders-in-Chief (Navy) and (Air), Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint and senior military officers and people accorded a rousing welcome to parade columns and so did service personnel from respective ministries, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization and social organizations, Tatmadawmen and their families, members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigades and Red Cross Society and their families, nurses, teachers and students. — MNA



Social organization members garland Tatmadawmen of a parade column.—MNA



Military parade columns marching on 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspects parade columns at Parade Ground in Nay Pyi Taw.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe addresses ...

(from page 1)
oppression. The life under colonialism, when we had to call foreigners “Thakhin” and respond “Phaya” to them, was a life so unbelievably bitter that it could not be understood just by the telling of the tale — one had to actually endure it to appreciate its bitterness. After bearing this unbearable situation for over a long hundred years the people, with their patriotic pride of origin rising in their blood, regained their independence only after sacrificing a great deal of their blood, sweat and lives. Therefore, I would like to urge you to seriously value, protect and preserve our Independence and Sovereignty.

Comrades,
Our Tatmadaw was a Patriotic Army founded by the people during the struggle for Independence. Since its inception, the Tatmadaw was one which overcame various difficulties and obstacles to come into existence.
Even after Independence, the Tatmadaw sacrificed many lives to safeguard the perpetuation of our Sovereignty and prevent the disintegration of the Union and national solidarity. In addition, the Tatmadaw also had to overcome the danger of external aggression.

In every instance of grave danger to the country, the Tatmadaw stood squarely in front of the people. This is why those who do not have the right view towards our country are eternally plotting and striving to disintegrate the Tatmadaw.

Our Tatmadaw is one which is patriotic, loyal, united, capable, self-sacrificing, high-minded, and one which always enshrines our Three Main National Causes. This is why it has stood firm in its existence thanks to such noble traditions. And this is why I wish to solemnly urge you, my comrades, to continue to carry on the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

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

Today as well, unscrupulous persons are consistently striving to disintegrate the Union and national solidarity. Actually we, the national races of Myanmar, have lived in harmony all over the country since

ancient times. Although for administrative purposes 14 States and Divisions have been created, they are not viewed as separate but as the Union of Myanmar.

But if we do not watch out for the cunning tactics of separatism being used by others, the danger of the disintegration of the Union may one day befall us.

(See page 9)



Parade Columns marching to Parade Ground on 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Poem

Treasure Our Three Main National Causes

- * With full strength the Tatmadaw
Significant traditions it has
Blood brother soldiers
Country they defend
- * Like stone pillar
Union to stand straight
Kith and kin
To live in unity
And to perpetuate
Sovereignty and independence
Serves the Tatmadaw
Nation and people’s interest
- * Love the country
As their lives
Patriots with
Nationalistic fervour
- * Building new nation
Adding modernization
To prosper our Union
Unity and amity of kin
Paves it the way
For flourishing democracy
- * Ready ever and dutiful always
Victorious soldiers
Marching on and on
Let’s pray for their success
For unity and amity
Pray we for their health
Wish we for prosperity
Of our territory
And for success
Pouring water on Bo tree

Honouring the 63rd Anniversary
Armed Forces Day
Yenatha Maung Kyaw Nyunt
(Translation)



Dignitaries attend 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade at the Parade Ground.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe addresses ...

(from page 8)

Therefore I would like to state that all the national races, no matter where they

and tranquillity and the prevalence of law and order, we gave priority to national reconciliation. As

expanding the arable land, raising major crops yields and transforming to agriculture mechanization

roads, railways, bridges and airports were built eliminating natural barriers and ensuring smooth and better communication to enable our national races

Excerpts from speech of Senior General Than Shwe

- * Our Tatmadaw was a Patriotic Army founded by the people
- * Tatmadaw sacrificed many lives to safeguard the perpetuation of our Sovereignty
- * Our Tatmadaw is one which is patriotic, loyal, united, capable, self-sacrificing, high-minded
- * Tatmadaw is making relentless and dedicated efforts during its tenure of shouldering the State responsibility with a sincere aim for development of the country without any craving for power



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets military attaches.—MNA

may reside in our country, need to have a firm Union Spirit and national political awareness.

Comrades,

Because of the violent disturbances of 1988 the Tatmadaw, to protect the life, property and security of the people and to preserve and protect the sovereignty and independence of the nation, had to take over all the responsibilities of the country. In the same way as we had restored the peace and stability of the country, we had also rebuilt the deteriorated mental and physical conditions of the country.

Since it was necessary to put an end to armed insurgencies which began with our Independence for the sake of peace

many armed groups have come back into the legal fold, today's period is the best for peace and stability since Independence. Therefore, the people are now in a position to go about their livelihoods in peace.

Comrades,

As our nation is an agro-based country with more than 70 per cent of its populace living in rural areas and engaging in farming, our endeavours to promote economic progress and prosperity of the country and the people had initially started by implementing massive number of projects for construction of dams and reservoirs, river water pumping stations and projects for tapping underground water resources. Besides, such measures as

have resulted in development of agriculture sector ensuring national food security.

In order to transform our country to an industrialized economy through agricultural mechanization, we have built many State-owned manufacturing industries and also encouraged the development of private manufacturing industries by establishing industrial zones. These industrialization processes have contributed significantly in providing employment opportunities for the people.

With a view to narrowing down the existing development gap caused by the physical distance and transportation difficulties between urban and rural areas, motor



Prime Minister General Thein Sein welcomes military attaches.—MNA

to commute among them in a close and friendly manner.

Comrades,

While shouldering its major responsibilities for defending the State, our Tatmadaw has also

been undertaking nation building tasks for the benefit of the people. Being warriors who have travelled extensively to every corner of the country, we can fully sympathize the sub-standard livelihood of

our national races caused by armed insurgencies and difficulties in communication in far-flung areas. Therefore, we have made vigorous efforts by implementing projects for the
(See page 10)



Military attaches attend 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe addresses ...

(from page 9)

development of border areas and national races.

Likewise, with a view to equitable and parallel development of the entire country, we have also established a network of Special Development Regions where many new schools and universities were opened to bridge the gap in human resources development as much as possible. Similarly, hospitals and rural clinics were also newly constructed or upgraded in those regions for promoting fitness of our nationals in the whole nation.

At the same time, rural area development measures are also taken through systematic implementation of plans in order not to leave any gap in the all-round development of the country. Moreover, the development of the private sector and cooperative sector has also been encouraged for successful transition from the previously-practised socialist economy to the market oriented economy.

Comrades,

As there is an essential requisite for a new Constitution in our efforts for transforming the State to a multi-party democratic system as aspired by the people, the National Convention was initially convened in 1993 after coordination and consultation with the leaders of political parties and elected representa-

tives. In 1996, the National Convention had had to be temporarily suspended due to various reasons. Following the announcement in 2003 of the Seven-Step Road Map of the nation, the National Convention resumed in 2004 and has successfully completed during the year 2007.

Comrades,

Though the Tatmadaw Government was compelled to assume the state responsibilities due to unavoidable circumstances, it has been making necessary preparations without losing sight of its ultimate aim to hand over the State powers to the people. Our Tatmadaw is making relentless and dedicated efforts during its tenure of shouldering the State responsibility with a sincere aim for development of the country without any craving for power. Therefore, we are moving forward steadily according to the Seven-Step Road Map in a timely manner.

Though our national development endeavours for emergence of basic foundations have yet to be perfectly completed, many essential basic infrastructures have already been laid down for the benefits of the country and the people.

Moreover, as the New Constitution has already been drafted, it will be put to a National Referendum in forthcoming May and subsequently the

Multi-party Democratic General Elections will follow in 2010 in line with the provisions of the new Constitution. The Tatmadaw Government will then be in a position to transfer the State power.

Comrades,

In conclusion, I would like to stress the fact that it is indeed a historic mission for the Tatmadaw to perform this important national duty of transforming the era and the system of the State in a smooth and systematic manner.

Therefore, I wish to conclude by urging you all to strive unswervingly for achieving the following objectives of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

- * To work in concert with the people in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- * To realize the seven-step Road Map of the State joining hands with the people
- * Joining hands with the people and based on Union Spirit to crush internal and external destructive elements sabotaging stability and development of the State
- * To build a strong, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe ...

(from page 16)

joining hands with the people; joining hands with the people and based on Union Spirit to crush internal and external destructive elements sabotaging stability and development of the State; and to build a strong, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC members Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-

General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, deputy ministers, Military Attachés of the foreign missions to Myanmar, departmental heads of the Government Office and departments and enterprises under the ministries, senior police officers of Myanmar Police Force, senior officers of Fire Services Department, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization, nurses, members of Fire Brigade and Red Cross Brigade, media men, journalists of foreign news agencies in Myanmar and local journals and magazines and guests.

First, the Tatmadawmen, MPF members, members of Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Brigade of parade columns took the designated positions at the parade ground at 5 am today.

At 5.30 am, Parade Adjutant Lt-Col Aung

Myint Oo presented the seven parade columns to Parade Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min.

Before their departure for the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground, the Central Military Band led by WO-I Aung Moe Lin took the designated position.

Parade Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min led the parade columns, followed by Parade Adjutant Lt-Col Aung Myint Oo, the standard bearers of the Union Flag and flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) of Anawrahta Column led by Major Kyaw Kyaw Lin and the military band led by Sgt Win Moe.

Column Commander Col Khin Maung Cho ushered Anawrahta Column, together with Commanding Officer Lt-Col Kyaw Zeya, which was made up of Guard of Honour of Directorate of Armoured Force led by Major Toe Myint Kyaw, the company led by Major Min Chit Nyo representing the Directorate of Signals, the company led by Major Kyaw Thiha representing the Triangle Region Command, the company-4 led by Major Lin Tun representing Western Command, the company-3 led by Major Kyaw Zeya representing Coastal Region Command and the company led by Major Myo Kyaw Thu representing No 22 LID.

The standard bearers of the Union Flag and flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) of Kyansittha Column led by Major Myint Naing and the military band led by Sgt Tin Hla Win ushered the column comprising Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, the Guard of Honour of Kyansittha Column led by Major Win Myint Khaing representing Yangon Command, Commanding Officer Lt-Col Naing Din Latt, the company led by Major Kyaw Kyaw Tun representing the Directorate of Military Engineers, the company-2 led by Major Khin Maung Soe representing Nay Pyi Taw Command, the company led by Major Hein Myat Kyaw representing North-East Command and the company-2 led by Major Aung Kyaw Min representing Western Command.

The standard bearers of the Union Flag and flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) of Bayintnaung Column led by Major Lun Nay Aung and the military band led by L/Cpl Mya Maung ushered the column comprising Column Commander Captain Tin Aung Hsan (Navy), the Guard of Honour of Bayintnaung Column led by Lt-Cmdr Sai Thawda Ko

(See page 11)



Military parade columns seen at Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground.— MNA



View of illuminated Parade Ground in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 March.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 10)

representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Commanding Officer Cmdr Ko Ko Kyaw, the company led by Major Hsan Min Aung representing the Directorate of Ordnance Service, the company led by Major Kyaw Thiha representing Northern Command, the company led by Major Soe Kyaw Htet representing North-West Command and the company-3 led by Major Phone Naing Win representing Triangle Region Command.

The standard bearers of the Union Flag and flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) of Aungzeya Column led by Major Win Bo and the military band led by WO-II Kyaw Zeya Win ushered the column comprising Column Commander Col Kyaw Than Htay, the Guard of Honour of Aungzeya Column led by Major Kyaw Zay Min representing the Directorate of Artillery Force, Commanding Officer Lt-Col Tun Myat Shwe, the company led by Major Lay Myat representing the Directorate of Transport and Supply, the company led by Major Aung Zaw Latt representing Southern Command, the company led by Major Zaw Moe Khaing representing Central Command, the company-2 led by Major Thaw Zin of Triangle Region Command and the company-2 led by Major Thaug Htaik Oo representing North-East Command.

The standard bearers of the Union Flag and flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) of Hsinbyushin Column led by Major Soe Moe Kyaw and the military band led by Cpl Win Myint ushered the column comprising Column Commander Col Nay Win, the Guard of Honour of Hsinbyushin Column led by Major Ye Myo Thant representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Commanding Officer Lt-Col Khin Myint, the company led by Major Soe Moe Kyaw representing South-East Command, the company led by Major Kyi Htoo representing Coastal Region Command, the company led by Major Htin Win Aung representing the Office of the Chief of Defence Industries and the company-4 led by Major Ye Yint Lwin of Eastern Command.

The standard bearers of the Union Flag and flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) of Bandoola Column led by Major Kyaw Thein Oo and the military band led by Sgt Aung Zaw Latt ushered the column comprising Column Commander Col Khin Maung

Cho, the Guard of Honour of Bandoola Column led by Major Ko Ko Aung representing the Directorate of Medical Service, Commanding Officer Lt-Col Soe Min Thu, the company led by Major Thein Naing representing Eastern Command, the company led by Major Min Nyunt Oo representing South-West Command, the company-2 led by Major Zaw Latt Min representing Northern Command and the company-2 led by Major Soe Tint of South-East Command.

The standard bearers of the Union Flag and flags of MPF, Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society of Myawady Column led by Police Major Aung Moe Oo and the military band led by Sgt Zaw Oo ushered the column comprising Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, the Guard of Honour of Myawady Column led by Police Major Myo Thura Naung representing the Myanmar Police Force, Commanding Officer Lt-Col Zaw Zaw Aung, the company led by Assistant Director Ye Bala Myo Win representing Myanmar Fire Brigade, the company led by Deputy Commanding Officer Zaw Naing Thant representing Myanmar Red Cross Society, the company led by Major Thawda Htwe representing No 11 LID, the company led by Major Nay Myo Wai representing the Directorate of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

and the company-3 led by Major Aung Kyaw Moe representing Western Command.

The parade columns comprising 13,087 Tatmadawmen, MPF members, members of Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Brigade, singing military songs, marched toward the Parade Ground.

Along the route, the marching columns were accorded a rousing welcome by the Camp Commandant's Office, directorate of the Ministry of Defence, service personnel of ministries, Tatmadawmen, MPF members, Fire Brigade and Red Cross Brigade members, family members of Nay Pyi Taw Station, members of USDA, WAO, MCWA, WVO, Red Cross and Fire Brigades, nurses, teachers, students and local people who waved miniature flags presented flowers and garlands to the parade members.

At 7.20 am, the parade columns took the designated positions at the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground. At 7.30 am, 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 Ministry of Defence, arrived at the Parade Ground where he was welcomed and ushered to the dais by SPDC member Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe.

After the Senior General took the position on the dais, the parade columns saluted him. Next, Parade Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min presented the columns to Senior General Than Shwe. The Senior General inspected the parade columns by car.

The Central Military Band played the National Anthem while those present saluted the Flag of the Union of Myanmar. Afterwards, they paid tribute to the fallen leaders and members of the Tatmadaw. Next, they took the four oaths.

After that, Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address. (*The address of the Senior General is reported separately.*)

Next, the parade columns led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min marched past the Senior General and left the Parade Ground.

The Senior General left the Parade Ground and the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade concluded at 8.40 am.—MNA



Military parade columns marching to Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground on 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day.—MNA

ADVERTISEMENT

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 1st April (Tuesday) 2008, being Bank holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Pets abandoned after mysterious death of cats in Thailand

BANGKOK, 26 March—Many pet owners in Thailand’s northern province Phichit have abandoned their cats and dogs at temples over panic after many cats died mysteriously in central Thailand, media here reported Tuesday.

Laboratory tests are still being conducted to determine what caused the deaths of at least dozens of cats in the central Ang Thong Province.

The Disease Control Department under the Public Health Ministry on Monday said the most likely cause of the cat deaths is feline distemper. Animal experts said the feline distemper primarily spread through contact with an infected cat’s fluids, faeces or fleas.—MNA/Xinhua

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Dated: 28 March 2008

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One dead in 60-vehicle pile-up on Austrian motorway

SEEWALCHEN (Austria), 27 March—One person was killed and six were seriously injured when some 60 vehicles slammed into each other in heavy snow on Austria’s main east-west highway on Tuesday, police said. Rescue workers picked their way through bits of twisted metal, shattered windscreens and lorry freight scattered over the highway while stretchers and ambulances lined up to take away the injured.

“I saw in my rear view mirror how the lorries slammed in from behind. I got out of my car and all I could hear was the screaming from the man whose wife had been killed,” said Raphael Auer from Salzburg.

“It was pure madness, like a battlefield.”

The dead woman was a Spanish citizen living in Switzerland, said police, adding that 30 people were injured in the pileup.

“We had heavy snow and one accident happened ... then a series of other accidents in its wake,” said Guenther Weissl from the highway police, who led the rescue operation.—MNA/Reuters

Up to 20 killed in Baghdad’s Sadr militia battles

BAGHDAD, 27 March — The death toll from the battles between Muqtada al-Sadr’s militiamen and US-backed Iraqi troops in Baghdad’s Sadr City neighborhood, rose to 20 and 115 others wounded, an Interior Ministry source said Wednesday.

"Our latest reports said that up to 20 people were killed and 115 others wounded in the Sadr City clashes," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

A police source said earlier that clashes in the stronghold of the Mahdi Army Shiite militia killed at least 10 people and wounded 80 others.

Mahdi Army fighters started a midnight fight with Iraqi and US forces in their Sadr City Shiite bastion in eastern Baghdad and continued sporadically during the day, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.—MNA/Xinhua

Chile to invest \$ 9.6m in anti-landmine equipment

SANTIAGO, 26 March—Chile will invest 9.6 million US dollars in updating its minefield-elimination equipment, Defence Minister Jose Goni told the *El Mercurio* newspaper on Monday. He also said Chile is seeking an extension to the Ottawa Convention, which requires a complete removal of mines by 2012. Chile expects the nation’s nearly 123,000 landmines, spread over 181 minefields, could be cleared by 2016.

“Anti-mining is a delicate task and the conditions for our specialists are very difficult. Some mines are

in areas over 5,000 metres above sea level, where rain and wind mean we can only work two or three weeks a year,” he said.

Goni added that the government is planning to send a bill to the nation’s legislature to help the civilian victims of landmines. The late dictator General Augusto Pinochet planted the mines in 1978 during a dispute with Argentina over the three islands in the southern Beagle Channel. Explosives were also planted along the Bolivian and Peruvian borders.

MNA/Xinhua

Danish soldier killed in Afghanistan

COPENHAGEN, 27 March — A Danish soldier was killed in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday and another was wounded, Danish Army Central Command said. The Army said a patrol had come under attack from small arms and mortar fire from Taliban insurgents north.

Denmark has about 550 soldiers in Afghanistan. Two soldiers were killed this month and nine have died in combat so far, while three others were killed in 2002 while trying to dismantle a mine.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing’s subways to offer 24-hour service during Olympics

BEIJING, 27 March—Beijing subways will try to run round-the-clock on the opening and closing days of the Olympic Games.

The move was aimed at relieving heavy traffic on the two days, 8 August and 24 August, while the operating hours would be extended on other days of the Games, Tuesday’s *Beijing Daily* quoted an official with the Beijing metro operation company as saying, without giving further details.

The subway is expected to carry the bulk of passengers to the National Stadium, also known as the “bird’s nest”, on the opening day when about 100,000 people are expected to attend the ceremony, he said.

The No 10 route linking the stadium with the downtown area was expected to have intervals between trains shortened from four minutes to three minutes during the ceremonies, said the official. Subway stations would have “green channels” for ticket holders, Games staff and volunteers, who will be exempted from paying the two-yuan fare during the Olympics.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexico says drug gangs not behind bomb attack

MEXICO CITY, 27 March—Mexico’s attorney general said on Tuesday drug cartels were not behind a botched bombing in Mexico City last month, crushing the theory of city officials who had blamed narcotics smugglers for the attack. A man carrying a small homemade bomb was killed on February 15 when the device he intended to plant under the car of a city police chief went off prematurely. Nobody else died, although a suspected accomplice and a passerby were hurt.

"This type of device does not correspond at all with the modus operandi and the sophistication of organized crime gangs dedicated to drug smuggling," Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora told reporters.

Mexico City’s top prosecutor, Rodolfo Felix, said last month that one of Mexico’s violent drug cartels was behind the bombing, and city Mayor Marcelo Ebrard pointed the finger at the powerful Sinaloa alliance, based in northwestern Mexico.

MNA/Reuters

Brazilian mining giant fails to acquire Xstrata

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 March — Brazilian mining giant Vale said Tuesday it has discontinued negotiations to acquire Switzerland-based miner Xstrata in a deal that could have turned it into the world’s biggest mining company.

The deal, which includes a cash and shares offer for 100 per cent of Xstrata’s stocks, could "have created significant value for both sets of shareholders", Vale said in a statement.

According to local newspaper *Valor Economico*, the deadline for the completion of the negotiations expired on 21 March.—Xinhua



Swiss champions Alinghi and US challengers Oracle say they failed to agree on a date for their multi-hull duel that is to decide the next America’s Cup.

INTERNET

Dinosaur fossil found on bus in Peru's mountains

AREQUIPA (Peru), 26 March—Officials found the fossil of a giant dinosaur jawbone while investigating a suspicious package on a bus in the mountains of Peru on Tuesday.

The fossil, weighing some 19 pounds (8.5 kilos), was found in the cargo hold of the bus, which was headed for the capital of Lima, and had been sent on the bus company's package service.

"They began to check the package because it didn't have anything to indicate what was inside. They were worried about its weight, opened it and found the fossil," said Kleber Jimenez, a local police officer.

Peru has struggled for years to combat trafficking of fossils and artifacts. Recently Yale University in the United States agreed to return thousands of pieces taken from the ancient Inca citadel of Machu Picchu to Peru.

"The jawbone that was found could be from a triceratops, even though dinosaurs like that have never been found in southern Peru," Pablo de la Vera Cruz, an archeologist at the National University in Arequipa in southern Peru, said after examining police photos.

MNA/Reuters



Bangladesh kills 200,000 fowl to stop bird flu

DHAKA, 26 March—Authorities in Bangladesh said recently they have culled more than 200,000 chickens at different farms over the last two weeks over suspected bird flu outbreaks, although the disease had begun subsiding across the country.

Avian influenza has spread through 47 of Bangladesh's 64 districts and forced the killing of more than 1.5 million birds since March of last year. Nearly two million eggs

have also been destroyed.

"More than 200,000 chickens and ducks were culled over the past two weeks in dozens of affected firms and in their immediate vicinity," a senior official at the Livestock Ministry said.

Industry officials said bird flu has caused losses of about 45 billion taka (650 million US dollars) to the poultry sector, which accounts for 1.6 per cent of the poor nation's gross domestic product.

About 60 per cent of

the country's more than 150,000 poultry farms have been closed, making more than 1.5 million people jobless.

MNA/Reuters

BOCOG-elected best poster for Beijing 2008 Olympics. It portrays a Chinese woman hairdress of five Olympic rings styled by Xiao Yang, a model.
XINHUA



File photo shows the shear face of a massive iceberg in Antarctica. The Wilkins Ice Shelf has begun disintegrating under the effects of global warming, satellite images have proved.

INTERNET

Asia's first anti-bird flu facility opens in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 27 March—Asia's first anti-bird flu facility has opened in Bangkok to help fight any new avian influenza outbreaks in the region.

In Bangkok, the first of three worldwide anti-bird flu stockpiles is fully operational.

It is ready to counter new occurrences of the disease with rapid response emergency kits.

A total of 45,000 pieces

A female wood sculptor decorates the half done wood sculpture in the small village of Fengtai Town, Ninghe county in north China's Tianjin on 23 March, 2008. —XINHUA

of personal protective equipment, 440 decontamination kits, ten laboratory specimen kits and four training packs worth over half a million US dollars will be stored in a warehouse near Suvarnabhumi Airport.

He Change Chui, Assistant Director General, Food and Agricultural Organisation, said: "The very purpose of this centre

is to deliver equipment, commodities in the shortest time possible. In a few hours, Bangkok can reach anywhere."

US Ambassador to Thailand, Mr Eric John, inaugurated the Regional Distribution Centre, which is partly sponsored by United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Internet

Dubai fireworks depot blaze kills two

DUBAI, 27 March — At least two people were killed and two injured when a fire engulfed a fireworks warehouse in Dubai on Wednesday, police said, causing an explosion and bringing parts of the city to a standstill.

Witnesses said the blaze in the Al Quoz industrial district of the Gulf trade and tourism hub sent a cloud of

thick, black smoke into the sky and ash raining down.

Fire engines and ambulances rushed to the blaze, which broke out before the morning rush hour and spread to surrounding depots and workshops. Nearby schools were closed.

The fire has now been extinguished, residents said.

The official WAM news

agency said the fire broke out because fireworks were being stored in an unsafe way. Fires are common in the United Arab Emirates, which is going through a construction boom. A number of blazes broke out in industrial districts, port storage depots and on building sites last year.

MNA/Reuters



SPORTS



Stephan Lichtsteiner (L) of Switzerland fights for the ball with Bastian Schweinsteiger of Germany during their friendly soccer match in Basel on 26 March, 2008. Mario Gomez scored twice and also set up the opener for Miroslav Klose as Germany powered to a 4-0 win over Switzerland on Wednesday. —INTERNET

Croatia held to a 1-1 draw by Scotland

GLASGOW, 27 March — Euro 2008 finalists Croatia were held to a 1-1 draw by Scotland in their friendly international at Hampden Park on Wednesday.

Croatia took the lead after nine minutes when midfielder Niko Kranjcar hit a wonderful 20-metre shot on the turn that swerved away from keeper Craig Gordon to fly high into the middle of the net.

Scotland, playing their first game under manager George Burley, fought back and levelled on the half hour when Kenny Miller fastened onto a long ball down the left from Steven Fletcher.

The striker raced into the box and from a tight angle he fired a shot from eight metres that deflected off defender Josip Simunic and caught out keeper Stipe Pletikosa at his near post.

The second half was a stale affair punctuated by a succession of substitutions from both sides.

Scotland keeper Gordon pulled off a fine near post save from Igor Budan who charged down the left before blasting in a 10-metre shot.

MNA/Reuters

Germany put four past hapless Swiss

BASEL (Switzerland), 27 March — Germany got their Euro 2008 preparations back on track on Wednesday with an emphatic 4-0 win over tournament co-hosts Switzerland.

Two goals from Mario Gomez in between strikes from Miroslav Klose and Lukas Podolski secured a comfortable win for Joachim Loew's side who have now gone 51 years and 18 matches without losing to their southern neighbours.

Germany came into the match with doubts over the fitness and form of several key players but never looked in danger of surrendering their historical superiority over the Swiss.

After a strong start including two good chances in the opening two minutes, the visitors were gifted a 23rd minute lead when Swiss goalkeeper Diego Benaglio failed to deal with a low cross from Gomez.

The newly-established Swiss number one let the ball squirm underneath his outstretched body allowing Klose to easily tap in his 38th international goal.

Benaglio acquitted himself better as the half wore on, first dealing with a fierce strike from Thomas Hitzlsperger and then reacting quickly to block a low Michael Ballack drive with his feet.

MNA/Reuters

Superb Pato goal hands Brazil win over Sweden

LONDON, 27 March — Teenager Alexandre Pato marked his international debut on Wednesday with an astonishing opportunist goal to give Brazil a 1-0 win over Sweden in a friendly at the Emirates Stadium.

The 72nd-minute strike was the one fitting moment of a match marking the 50th anniversary of Brazil's victory over Sweden in the 1958 World Cup final in Stockholm for the first of their five titles.

The 18-year-old chased Rami Shaaban towards the right touchline as the substitute goalkeeper looked set for an easy clearance and contrived to block the ball, swivel and send an exquisite left-footed lob into the unguarded net.

"It was flawless, a perfect volley, but he also had a little bit of luck," Sweden coach Lars Lagerback told a news conference.

Brazil coach Dunga was characteristically low key about the strike but praised Pato for his commitment.— MNA/Reuters



Mohamad Korhani of Lebanon, left, and Shi Jiayi of Singapore chase the ball during the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifier group competition soccer match on 26 March, 2008 in Singapore. —INTERNET

Beckham proud to win 100th cap

PARIS, 27 March — David Beckham showed he could still play a role for England when he won his 100th cap in a 1-0 defeat to France in a friendly on Wednesday.

The LA Galaxy midfielder looked a little rusty at times but gave a typically hard-working performance at the Stade de France and was involved in much of England's attacking play before being replaced by David Bentley in the 63rd minute.

The 32-year-old, who made his England debut against Moldova in a World Cup qualifier in September 1996, became only the fifth English player to achieve a century of appearances for his country.

Billy Wright (105 caps) was the first to reach the

milestone in 1959 and was subsequently followed by Bobby Charlton (106), Bobby Moore (108) and England's record appearance holder Peter Shilton (125).— MNA/Reuters



Mexico's America's Jose Castro, left, fights for the ball with Peru's Universidad San Martin's Alexander Sanchez during a Copa Libertadores soccer game in Lima, on 26 March, 2008. —INTERNET



Brazil's Diego (R) challenges Sweden's Fredrik Ljungberg during their international friendly soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 26 March, 2008. Brazil earn a 1-0 win over Sweden with Alexandre Pato's sublime strike. —INTERNET

Capello praises Beckham, England after narrow defeat

PARIS, 27 March — England coach Fabio Capello praised his team and particularly David Beckham after a brave performance in a 1-0 defeat by France in a friendly on Wednesday.

"As I told the players, I'm very happy about what they did tonight," Capello told a news conference after a tight game in the French capital, where England have not beaten France since a 3-1 win in 1949.

"We made progress compared to the Switzerland game, even though we had won that one," the Italian added, referring to a 2-1 friendly win in his first game in charge at Wembley last month.

"We played against a top team and showed some good things. The team showed that they didn't want to lose. That's the most positive aspect," he added.

MNA/Reuters

Villa scores stunning winner as Spain beat Italy

ELCHE (Spain), 27 March — David Villa's spectacular volley earned Spain a 1-0 win over world champions Italy in a friendly on Wednesday.

The Valencia striker, who replaced Fernando Torres at halftime, fired the ball past a helpless Gianluigi Buffon 13 minutes from time after Fabio Cannavaro had headed the ball clear of his area.

Spain enjoyed the lion's share of possession but it was Italy who created the better chances.

"I always try to score when I hit it but this one was perfect and went straight in the (top) corner," Villa told Spanish television. "It was a great goal and was the icing on the cake for a match we deserved to win."

The victory extended Spain's unbeaten streak to 14 matches. It was Italy's first defeat since losing 3-1 to Hungary in a friendly in August. "We had very good chances. We didn't deserve to lose," Italy coach Roberto Donadoni told Rai television.

Luis Aragonese's side settled quickly into their usual short-passing game at the Martinez Valero stadium without posing much threat in the first half hour.

MNA/Reuters

Baby found dead in French family's freezer

PARIS, 27 March — Police have detained a French couple after the body of a newborn baby was found in their freezer, a prosecutor said on Tuesday.

It was the fourth such case of apparent infanticide to come to light in France in the last two years.

Prosecutor Marie-Sophie Monet told reporters the new case came to light at the weekend in the north-west region of Brittany, when the grandfather of the dead child found its body by chance in the couple's freezer.

A post mortem suggested the baby had died shortly after its birth. "There were signs it had been hit... and there were signs of strangulation," Monet said.

MNA/Reuters

Black carbon is major contributor to global warming

LOS ANGELES, 27 March — A new study by some US scientists has found that black carbon plays a major role in global warming.

Black carbon, a form of particulate air pollution most often produced from biomass burning, cooking with solid fuels and diesel exhaust, has a warming effect in the atmosphere three to four times greater than prevailing estimates,

according to the study conducted by scientists at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California in San Diego (UCSD) and the University of Iowa.

Soot and other forms of black carbon could have

as much as 60 per cent of the current global warming effect of carbon dioxide, more than that of any greenhouse gas besides CO₂, the UCSD said in a Press release on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Drug-related shootout kills nine in Guatemala

MEXICO CITY, 27 March — At least nine people were killed and seven others injured in a shootout related to drug traffickers in eastern Guatemala on Tuesday, according to reports reaching here.

Faustino Sanchez, spokesperson of police in Guatemala said the shootout took place in Zacapa Province. Six men including two Mexicans who were carrying automatic rifles and grenades were arrested by police.

Investigators were trying to determine the cause of the shootout between drug traffickers, Sanchez said. At least 12 people escaped from the spot and several dozens of policemen were sent to prevent them from fleeing outside the country.

The area in Zacapa Province is on a transshipment route for drugs heading from Colombia to the United States where drug trafficking frequently took place. — MNA/Xinhua

Beauty parlour fire kills eight in north China city

SHIJIAZHUANG, 27 March — A fire broke out in a beauty parlour at 4:30 am Wednesday in Tangshan City, north China's Hebei Province killing eight people, said the police sources. Fire fighters put out the fire at 5:30 am.

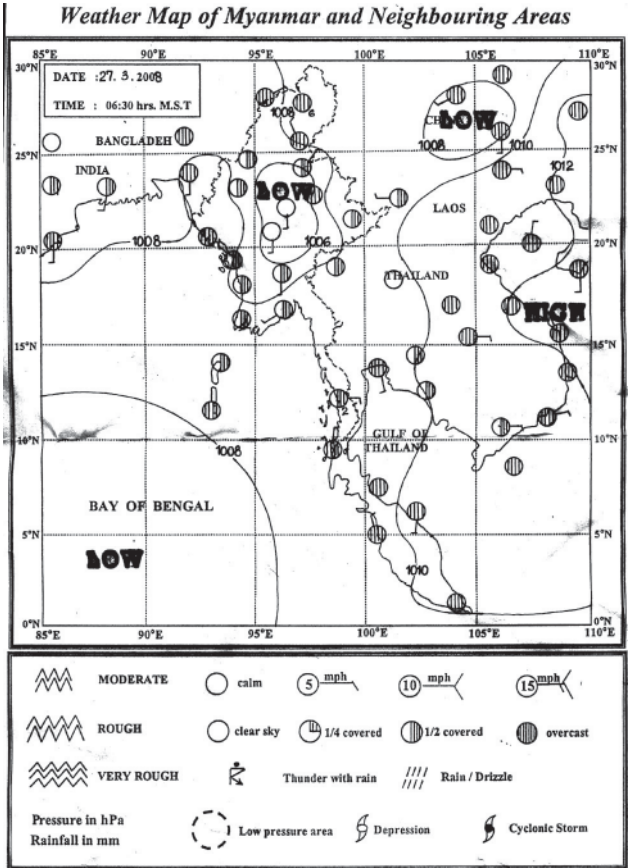
There were 11 shop staff sleeping at the Xiulizi Beauty Parlour, including the shop's juridical person Liu Di, when the fire broke out.

Only three staff including Liu managed to escape. Four people died in the fire, and four others died on the way to hospital.

An initial investigation found that the fire was ignited by short circuit of electrical appliances. Police has put Liu in custody for further investigation. — MNA/Xinhua



A baby wearing a mask as a preventive measure against a recent flu outbreak in Hong Kong. Primary schools are set to re-open next Monday after a temporary closure because of the flu crisis. — INTERNET



WEATHER

Thursday, 27 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) above March average temperatures in Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) below March average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (43°C), Minbu (42°C), NyaungU, Magway and Aungmyan (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao (0.24) inch and Machanbaw (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 26-3-2008 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 27-3-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 27-3-2008 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 26-3-2008 was (7.9) hours approx.

Rainfall on 27-3-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (15:40) hours MST on 26-3-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-3-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be 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 28-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-3-2008: Partly cloudy.



Friday, 28 March
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသားသန့်ပြု ဆရာတော်ကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္နိပါဠိတော်

7:30 am

2. Morning news

7:40 am

3. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေးဂီတတေး

7:50 am

4. Nice and sweet song

8:00 am

5. “နောက်မကျရအောင်” (မင်းသူ၊ ကျော်ထူး၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)

8:15 am

6. ချစ်စရာအရွယ်ကကြိုးသွယ်

8:30 am

7. International news

8:45 am

8. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသားရိုးရာအက

4:20 pm

3. Practice in Reading

4:35 pm

4. Musical programme

4:45 pm

5. အလေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (မြန်မာမှုပညာအထူးပြု) (မြန်မာမှုပညာ)

5:00 pm

6. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓါတ်ရှင်သန်ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ

5:10 pm

7. “စက်မှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတိုင်းပြည်အကျိုး” (ပြီးငွေရိုးမိုးဒီးသခင်၊ နှင်းဆီ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်ရွှေ)

5:30 pm

8. (၆၃)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:45 pm

9. မြန်မာမှုပန်းဆယ်မျိုး(ပန်းတည်း)

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေဉာဏ်ရှင်

7:00 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လေဒီယာနှင့်ဆုံဆည်းခြင်း” (အပိုင်း-၁၉)

7:50 pm

14. ပြည်သူ့အတွက်တပ်မတော်

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. မြန်မာသံစဉ်ဂန္ထဝင်တေးများ

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ဘဝဆက်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၁၂)

Senior General Than Shwe addresses 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade



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 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade at the Parade Ground, here, this morning.

The 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day was observed in accord with the objectives — to work in concert with the people in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation; to realize the seven-step Road Map of the State
(See page 10)



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

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host dinner to mark 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted dinner to mark the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2008 at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, this evening.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived at the Yeiktha at 7 pm.

Next, they greeted Vice-Chairman of SPDC

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, members of SPDC, Member of SPDC Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander-in-Chief

(Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Military Affairs Security Chief Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, military attachés from foreign embassies and their wives and special guests.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted dinner in honour of the attendees.

Also present at the dinner were Vice-Chairman of 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 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 Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, members of SPDC and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and their wives, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, deputy ministers, the Parade Commander and column commanders, military attachés from foreign embassies and their wives, departmental heads from the SPDC Office and respective ministries, members of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day and working committee, local and foreign journalists, representatives from social organizations, artistes and guests.

Before and during the dinner, entertainments were performed by the vocalists to the accompaniment of Myanma Athan Modern Music Band. — MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe greets military attaches at the dinner.— MNA