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Beloved sons of the people

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

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

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

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

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

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

Laymyethna townships.

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

(See page 10)



Ngawun Bridge (Myogwin) seen in Ingapu Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

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



PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 22 March, 2009

Boost production of quality cotton thread

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended a ceremony to drive stake for construction of self-reliant library in Beinnwegyaung village held in conjunction with a ceremony to donate cash and publications to the library in the village, Yinmabin Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division on 15 March.

It was also attended by departmental officials, members of social organizations and over 3000 local people from nine villages.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and officials drove stakes at the designated places and sprinkled scented water on them.

Next, the minister met with local people and heard reports on regional development works being carried out by the responsible persons. After hearing the reports, the minister attended to the needs.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan donated K 300,000 each for construction of libraries in Beinnwegyaung and Kanchaung villages and publications to self-reliant libraries through responsible persons. After that, he cordially greeted local residents.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said in meeting with local people that the State is putting its efforts on

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan drives a stake for construction of self-reliant library in Beinnwegyaung village in Yinmabin Township.—MNA

development of education sector for promotion of national education. Nowadays, the students from basic education level to higher education level can have opportunities for easy pursuit of their education. He praised the efforts of rural people who are giving priority to the education of their children. The State is rendering necessary assistance, he said.

He urged the local people to cultivate reading habit at the self-reliant libraries that are intended for widening the horizons of rural people. As the State is building sound foundations for economic development, the rural people should strive for improvement of living standards by running agricultural, livestock breeding and other businesses suitable to their own regions, he said. The minister also said that the State will fulfill the needs.

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

In the evening, the minister went to the People's Hospital in Pale Township and greeted the eye patients in the townships of Monywa District and surrounding areas who were receiving free medical treatment and the health staff. He donated eyeglasses to the patients and greeted the eye specialists who were performing eye surgery in the operation rooms and comforted the eye patients.—MNA



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

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 595

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

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

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.

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

US soldier dies from non-combat causes in Iraq

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

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

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

NATO soldier killed in southern Afghanistan

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

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

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

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

Iraqi budget woes force security hiring freeze

UMM QASR, 21 March — The drop in oil prices has forced Iraq's military and police to put recruiting on hold even as the US hands over more responsibility for protecting the country.

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

Iraq will also have to scale back purchases of

equipment and weapons, raising new questions about its ability to defend the country's borders and prevent a resurgence of violence.

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

It's unlikely to affect the withdrawal schedule, which was set in a security agreement that took effect 1 Jan. But unless oil prices rebound, the crisis

could threaten hard-won security gains.

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

Internet

Canada bars British lawmaker over Hamas support

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

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

"Canada, however, won't be one of them," he said in an email.

Internet



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

NATO commander sees Afghan security gains in 2010

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

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

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

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



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

Singapore says US needs to remain engaged with Asia

SINGAPORE, 21 March—The United States needs to work hard to deepen its economic engagement in Asia, a Singapore official said here on Friday.

Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang said that the Asia-Pacific has always been important to the United States and Asia's economic and strategic weight will continue to grow in the future as the world emerges from the current economic turmoil.

Lim said at the Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce Spring Conference 2009 that the United States urgently needs to recognize both the promise of participation

and the stakes of exclusion, and work hard to deepen its economic engagement with Asia.

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

US Navy Submarine and ship crash near Iran

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

The stretch of water is between Iran and the Arabian peninsula.

According to the navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, the USS Hartford submarine was submerged before the crash.

Fifteen soldiers aboard the Hartford were slightly injured but able to return to duty. No injuries were reported on the amphibious ship, the USS New Orleans.

But the ship suffered a ruptured fuel tank, which resulted in an oil spill of approximately 25,000 gallons of diesel.

The damage to both vessels is still being evaluated.



The collision happened in the Strait of Hormuz—INTERNET

Both ships are currently operating under their own power. The crash is under investigation. The navy said both ships were on regularly scheduled deployments to the region and conducting security operations.

Officials said the collision happened about 1am local time.—Internet

EU fails to commit to climate change aid

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

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

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

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

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

Internet

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

Message on World Water Day, 22 March 2009

Water is our most precious natural resource. More than ever we need to work together to use it wisely. While the world's growing population is consuming more freshwater, climate change is making less water available in many regions as glaciers recede, rainfall becomes less predictable, and floods and droughts become more extreme. Managing water carefully and balancing the varied needs for it is vital.

Much of the planet's water, above or below ground, is shared. Forty per cent of the world's people live in one of 263 basins that are shared by two or more countries. Concern over the possibility of violent disputes features regularly in discussions about sharing limited water resources. But while the potential exists for water to act as a catalyst for conflict between States and communities, precedent suggests that the opposite is actually what happens. Cooperation, not conflict, is the most common response by people facing competing demands.

Under the theme "Shared Waters, Shared Opportunities", World Water Day this year highlights how transboundary water resources can act as a unifying force. Worldwide, there are at least 300 international water agreements, often among parties that are otherwise at odds. These agreements demonstrate the potential of shared water resources to foster trust and promote peace. Political will, a flexible policy framework, strong institutions and an inclusive approach will help us build on this foundation for the benefit of all.

On this World Water Day, I urge governments, civil society, the private sector and all stakeholders to recognize that our collective future depends on how we manage our precious and finite water resources.—UNIC

Eurozone industrial output drops

LONDON, 21 March—Eurozone industrial output plunged by 3.5% in January compared with the previous month, the biggest decline since records began in 1990.

Compared with January 2008, the official Eurostat figures showed that industrial production across the 16 nations that share the euro fell 17.3%.

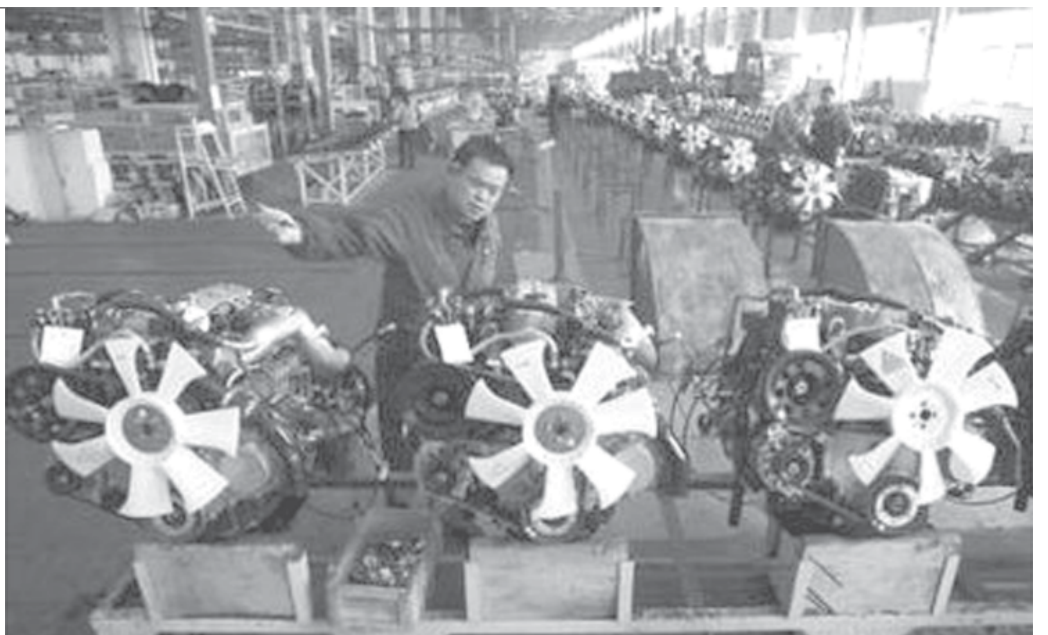
The drop came as factories cut output in light of a drop in demand for eurozone goods around the world.

Output from the 27 countries of the EU fell by 2.9% and 16.3% for the year.

Analysts were taken aback at the scale of the drop.

"The eurozone industrial production data for January is breathtakingly awful, adding to the evidence that manufacturing activity has fallen off a mountain rather than a mere cliff," said Howard Archer at Global Insight.—Internet

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



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



Ten injured in shooting at nursery school in Lyon, France

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

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

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

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



Earlier completion of projects will benefit local people...

(from page 16)

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

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

and Shwegyin hydropower projects are being implemented; and the plans are under way to implement Thaukyekhat-1 and Bawgata hydropower projects, he added.

The minister also reported on timely completion of the structures of the project and 52 per cent completion of the project.

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

Next, the General and party viewed progress of Pyuchaung Hydropower Project from the view point. Next, they looked into tasks of the project in a motorcade.

They proceeded to Pyu through the road linking Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and Pyu.



General Thura Shwe Mann of Ministry of Defence greets local people who are receiving eye treatment at 50-bed People's Hospital in Pyu. — MNA

At Pyu People's Hospital (50-bed), the General and party cordially conversed with the eye patients from Kanyutkyin, Nyaungbintha, Okphyat,

Zeyawady, Pyu, Shwegyin, Kyaukdata, Toungoo, Ottwin, Pado and Penwegan.

At the hospital, the General and party viewed eye tests, eye

power examination and medical treatment being provided by Head of Department Professor Dr Tin Win of Yangon University of Medicine-1 and party, for the patients who

had received eye surgical operations.

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

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



Photo shows progress in implementing the Shwegyin hydropower plant project.—MNA

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

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

Minister Col Zaw Min reported on the location and facts about the project. He reported that the project is being implemented to generate 75 megawatts. He continued to say that the 3,610 feet long and 185 feet high (See page 6)



Earlier completion of projects will benefit local people...

(from page 5)
zone type embankment is being built on Shwegyin Creek. The reserve spillway and the ground embankment have been completed cent per cent, he said. The diversion conduit, the main dam, the main spillway, the water intake structure, the pen stock and the power plant are under construction, he added. The minister said that the whole project has completed 77.5 per cent. He reported in detail on arrangements being made for timely completion of the project.

After hearing the reports, the General gave instruction, saying that Shwegyin Hydropower Project among Sittoung Basin projects is one of the important major

projects of the nation. He pointed out that it is necessary to pay attention to completion of the project as scheduled. The General called for timely completion of the tasks to supply electricity from the power plant to the consumers.

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

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

After visiting Maubin, the General and party met with departmental officials from Maubin, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon and Danubyu townships, townselders, local people and social organizations at Toe Shwewah Hall.

At the meeting, the General made a speech saying that remarkable progress can be witnessed in Maubin region as the motor roads and bridges were constructed. He noted that the region gained development in a short time through the necessary assistance of the government and the concerted efforts of the local people. Due to prevailing peace and stability and harmonious efforts of the people, the whole Ayeyawady Division is gaining development momentum, he added.

Next, the General heard reports on basic fac-



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

tors for development of Maubin region and the important perpetual co-operation between the people, the service personnel and the Tatmadawmen under the leadership of the State presented by Minister Col Thein Nyunt.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan also reported on the role of media in building the nation, arrangements for providing

more TV transmission facilities in Ayeyawady Division, and efforts to be made in building the new nation with unity and development by gaining the lessons obtained from the experience based on past and present and future programmes.

Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe also reported on development of Ayeyawady Division, undertaking of rehabilitation

for the storm survivors with the concerted efforts of the people, the Tatmadaw and the staff, and achievements in rehabilitation of the business of the storm survivors.

After delivering concluding remarks, the General cordially conversed with the local people.

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



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

Roads, bridges opened in Hlinethaya, Twantay and Kyimyindine townships

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

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

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

Myint Swe and party inspected the facility.

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

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

Sony Days Promotion 2009 being held

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

Everyone who buys Bravia LCD will get gifts ranging from Sony DVD to Hometheatre and Blue Ray Players during promotion period at the showrooms. The Bravia LCD is based on Motion Flow 200 HZ and RGB Dynamic LED technol-

ogy. Thanks to this technology, viewers can have clear screen. Customers can choose what they like, as there are various sizes of Sony LCD. In addition, Sony Digital Cameras and Video Cameras are being sold with special gifts in the promotion period. Lumin 2100 Projector are on sale at special discount.

As Sony items are produced with high technology and priceless, customers need to have war-

ranty card if they buy Sony items. If so, Sony Service Centre will provide necessary services.

MNA



Sony days promotion 2009 in progress.

MNA





HAILING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

Development of agriculture sector in the time of Tatmadaw Government



*Photo shows water being stored at North Yama Supporting Dam in
Pale Township of Monywa District, Sagaing Division.*

*Kadappana Sluice Gate built near Kadappana Village of Kyauktan
Township, Yangon Division.*



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

No.	Subject	1988	2008	Progress
1.	Sown acreage (million)	23.8	53.1	29.3
2.	Completed dam	138	355	217
3.	Dams under construction	-	33	33
4.	Completed river water pumping work	-	322	322
5.	River water pumping projects under implementation	-	41	41
6.	Total benefited acres (million)	1.35	5	3.65
7.	Double cropping acres (million)	3.89	19.9	16.01
8.	Monsoon paddy acres (million)	11.81	17	5.19
9.	Summer paddy acres (million)	-	0.92	0.92
10.	Total paddy production (million baskets)	630	1500	870
11.	Country's food sufficiency (per cent)	102	173	71
12.	Sown acreage of beans and pulses (million)	1.8	10.1	8.3
13.	Sown acreage of edible oil crops (million)	1.36	8.75	7.39



HAILING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

Only with a strong Tatmadaw will the nation be strong

Maung Nwe Sit


THE TATMADAW IS THE NATION'S STRENGTH

An army is a patriotic force responsible for defending the motherland and the people from dangers. Every country has their armies to defend the nation and the people concerned.

The army is formed with its members born of the people. If among the members of an army are aliens,

such an army is a force formed with mercenaries or a force formed with the troops of a colonial country that has colonized the country. Such a force is not recognized as a national armed force.

Every citizen of a nation has a sense of loving and cherishing their motherland. They have aspirations for a

prosperous future of their country and people. They never let their people and nation fall under alien subjugation. They have a desire to ensure that their nation and people remain independent with the rights to manage all the natural resources of the nation. Patriotic spirit, nationalistic spirit or Union Spirit is a combina-

tion of those sense, aspirations, wishes and desires.

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

The youth express their patriotic fervour by studying hard advanced technologies to become human resources in order to do their bit in nation-building tasks.

Those citizens engaging in trade express their patriotic sense by making profits at a moderate rate in their businesses, keeping a good balance of convenience between the producers and consumers, and contributing towards economic growth of the nation.

Armed forces responsible for ensuring security and peace of their country, defending their country against alien intrusion, and helping the people lead a peaceful life consist of the police and servicemen. Servicemen discharge national defence duties at risk to life for perpetuation of sovereignty (independence). Workers, farmers, students, the youth, merchants, servicemen and the police express their

patriotism by carrying out their duties with a sense of duty. Servicemen exhibit their love of the country and the people by shouldering their duties at the risk of life.

Every country has their armed forces, whose members safeguard their motherland, people and sovereignty. When a country turns covetous, proud of its great military power, and violent in promoting its interests eventually comes to colonize other countries, control other countries, exercising Fascism. The armed forces of such an evil country become colonialist troops, invader troops, Fascist troops and pocket armies and turn mercenary.

(See page 9)

Being strong alone is not enough, the Tatmadaw must be modern and efficient. That means the Tatmadaw must be strong both physical and mental prowess.

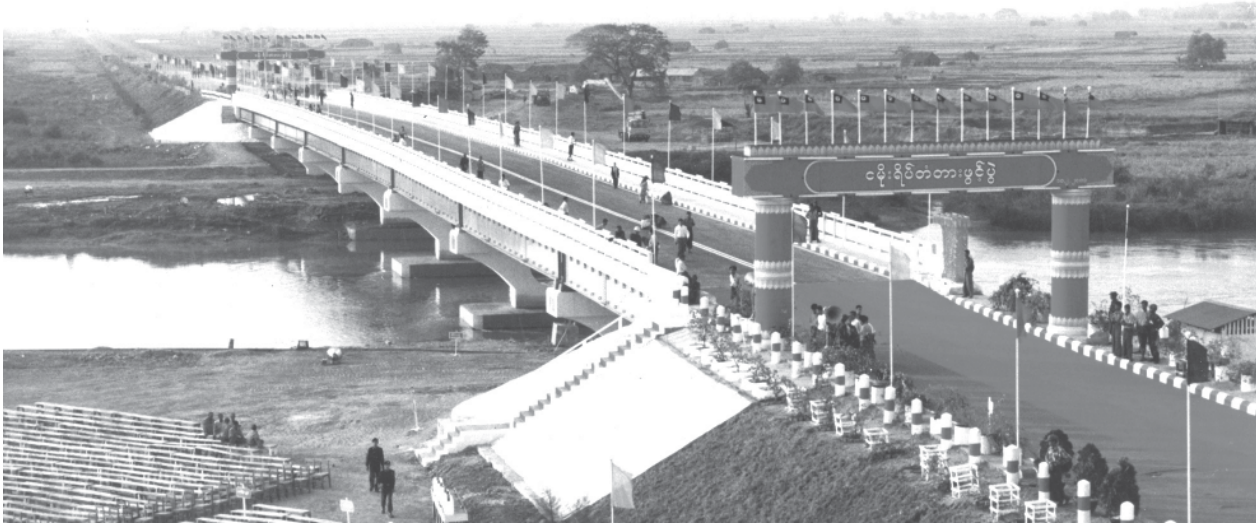


Tatmadawmen are also participating with might and main in building Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. Its Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon section will be opened soon.



HAILING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

Only with a strong Tatmadaw will the nation be strong

Maung Nwe Sit

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

(from page 8)

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

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

Worried about the strength of the Myanmar Tatmadaw, Fascist Japanese troops

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

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

The Tatmadaw that became less strong in the World War II due to the pressure of the Fascists was encouraged and recognized by the public as the force with members born of the people and the people's Tatmadaw. Shwedaing Nyunt composed a song to give encouragement to the Tatmadaw. At that time, he was bed ridden. Being convinced of the point that only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong, he composed the song designed to persuade

the people to give effective encouragement to the Tatmadaw formed with their children. The song still wins the hearts of the people.

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

The Myanmar Tatmadaw managed to help the nation regain independence by driving the colonialists and Fascists out of the nation. It managed to save the nation that was on the edge of disintegration and losing the sovereignty (independence) following the armed insurgency triggered by power craving, selfishness, dogmatism and too much reliance on alien countries. The Tatmadaw

also managed to drive Nationalist Chinese troops (a) KMT (Chinese expatriate drug traffickers) troops out of the nation that were intruding some regions of the nation at the instigation of a certain foreign country.

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

Translation: MS

Objectives of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

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

POEM

March on the Tatmadaw

- * The Tatmadaw
Ever ready for any critical time
With perseverance and endurance
And unyielding spirit
It never fails to achieve victory
- * It is the Tatmadaw
That serves people's interest
Organizing the whole nation
To remain united in any critical moment
With blood thicker than water
- * Whenever arises an emergency situation
Views it the Tatmadaw
From various angles
Safeguarding with high alert
Public lives and property
Also peace and stability
To remain intact
- * The people's cause is also the Tatmadaw's
Public view is also its
Always straightforward and loyal
For sixty-four years
It marches on selflessly
Unwavering ever
Under any circumstances
All along its path it marches
Ever vigilant the Tatmadaw
With loyalty and amity
It stands by the people in weal or woe
Wiping out all enemies
Its zeal and endurance so high
The Tatmadaw with firm unity
Continuing its journey forward
Always winning public admiration

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day
Khun Ye Thwe-Ayethaya (Trs)



To build a modern, developed...

(from page 1)

In the past, transportation had to mainly rely on the water route and motorway and railway were used only in upper Ayeyawady Division.

Since about 1989 after the assumption of duty by the Tatmadaw government, bridges, small and big, have been built and there are now 45 large bridges including

was the only old Ngawun rail-cum-road bridge in the past, the Head of State gave guidance on building a new motorway bridge. As a result, the new Ngawun Bridge has emerged and that will contribute to speedy flow of traffic in upper and lower Ayeyawady.

Thanks to the construction of more and more roads, Ayeyawady can now open up its

Ayeyawady. These results are also attributed to the diligence, innovation and capability of service personnel.

Ayeyawady has learned a good lesson from the fact that any difficulties and hardships can be overcome if the three forces – the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are to work

that did not suffer the cyclone participated in the relief and rehabilitation tasks with heart and soul. As a result, the storm-hit areas could bounce back in a short time.

Here, the resilient Ayeyawady dwellers showed in the catastrophe well deserves being put into record. Under the assistance and instructions of the

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



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

government, local residents of Ayeyawady Division responded to the natural disaster with undaunted spirit with firm determination. So, now some storm-hit areas have enjoyed better living conditions than previously, and the achievement reflects the result of collaboration of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

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

(See page 11)

Thanks to the new roads, bridges, communication facilities, and human resource development plans undertaken by the government, Ayeyawady Division has developed rapidly.

the present one in Ayeyawady Division. Ayeyawady Division is the place where the largest number of bridges have been built. The General added that along with Yangon-Pathein Road, new district-to-district roads have emerged, and travelling from one town to another takes only in a matter of hours, no need to take long hours like in the past. Upon completion of Myinkakon and Yazudai bridges, all the townships in the division can be reached by road. As there

motorway all the more and is well on the path to development. With smooth transport, economic, trade and social sectors of the division are also developing day by day, thereby contributing towards the improvement of socio-economy of the State.

The General went on to say that such fruitful results have emerged thanks to the goodwill, farsightedness and encouragement of the government as well as the understanding, cooperation, honesty and hard work of the people of

hard with understanding.

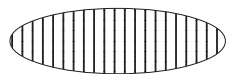
In the effort for rehabilitation tasks after seven townships in the south of Ayeyawady Division had been hit hard by cyclone Nargis in early May of 2008, the government, the people and the Tatmadaw worked unitedly and actively.

The people contributed towards the relief and reconstruction tasks with great generosity provided under the leadership of the State. The people of the remaining areas including this region



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

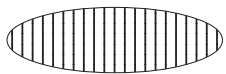




General Thura

Shwe Mann unveils
the stone plaque of
Ngawun Bridge
(Myogwin).

MNA



To build a modern, developed...

(from page 10)

The combination of natural resources and local people's innovations and hard work has brought about a prosperous future of the region.

The division's paddy sown acreage has risen to over five million acres from just over 3.1 million acres, so the division stands at the country's largest paddy growing region. Extended cultivation of about two million more acres of paddy is remarkable

crops, from about 200,000 acres to about 600,000, and rubber, to 16,000 acres.

Similarly, the extended breeding of 100,000 acres of fish farms and over 56,000 acres of prawn farms has generated a large number of job opportunities. Moreover, Ayeyawady Division has become the region that runs more ducks, pigs and chicken of local species than any other state or division, and the food surplus is now distributed to Yangon Division and

for boosting per capita income and economic development of the region with the concept of making contribution towards the national economic growth.

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

In response to the government's goodwill and objectives, the entire people have to participate in the State's work programmes and to work hard.

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

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

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

The commander delivered an address. He

said that thank to construction of the bridge, buses and trucks can easily transport passengers and commodities up to 60 tons of loads to Hinthada, Ingapu, Myanaung, Kyangin and Laymyethna townships. Local people have easy access to Kwinkauk on Patheni-Monywa Road through Ngawun Bridge (Myogwin), to Pathein in the south through Ngathaingchaung-Yekyi, to An-Sittway in the north through Betye-Okshinpin and to Monywa through Padan-Kazunma, he said. In conclusion, the commander thanked the Head of State for his guidance and supervision and the workers of Public Works for their efforts in construction of the bridge.

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

A local spoke words of thanks.

Next, the General and party greeted the local people.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Khin

Maung Myint formally opened the bridge. The General and party posed for documentary photo.

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

Next, the General and party strolled along

long and the approach bridge on Ingapu bank, 840 feet long. The motor way on the bridge is 28 feet wide and three feet wide pedestrian way on either side.

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

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

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

the bridge.

Ngawun Bridge (Kwinkauk) located on Myogwin-Kwinkauk Road is 2,835 feet long. The main structure is 1,035 feet long and the approach bridge on Hinthada bank, 960 feet

The two-lane bridge can withstand 60-ton loads. Out of above 180-foot-long bridges in Ayeyawady Division, Ngawun Bridge (Myogwin) is the 45th facility of its kind.

MNA



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe makes speech.—MNA

success.

In addition, the sown acreage of beans and pulses has surged from nearly 300,000 to over 1.8 million acres; edible oil

foreign markets.

So, the economic indicator of Ayeyawady Division influences that of the nation. So, Ayeyawady dwellers have to work hard

Thanks to the construction of more and more roads, Ayeyawady can now open up its motorway all the more and is well on the path to development.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO (477)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO (477) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Cambodian workers sacks of rice as they load into a wooden boat on the Mekong River in Luea Sar village in Kandal Province, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) east of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 21 March, 2009. Hundreds of tones of rice are transported to the neighbouring country of Vietnam.—INTERNET

Obama offers Iran 'new beginning'

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

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

An advisor to Iran's

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

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

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana described Mr Obama's appeal as "very constructive" and urged Teheran to pay close attention to it.

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

Internet

Small plane crash in SoCal kills pilot, passenger

CORONA, 21 March—A small plane crashed in a heavy fog shortly after takeoff from Corona Municipal Airport on Friday, killing the pilot and a passenger, authorities said. Wreckage of the Piper Cherokee was located Friday night about 1 1/2-miles northwest of the airport, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor. The plane, which was headed to Lake Havasu, Ariz, disappeared in fog after people on the ground heard the sound of its engine apparently quitting.

Authorities said the pilot never contacted air traffic control and the plane did not return to the airport in Riverside County. Helicopter crews had searched a swampy area behind Prado Dam, an Army Corps of Engineers flood control and water storage project on the Santa Ana River. Its reservoir sprawls over thousands of acres of land.—*Internet*

Singapore needs foreigners for economic survival

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

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

Lee is the country's first Prime

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

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

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



Businessman Angelito Araneta Jr, 21, shows a chocolate cake topped with 15 African diamonds and covered with 24-karat gold leaves, which he displayed at his residence in Manila. Araneta, who commissioned his catering service to create the cake, says he plans to sell the cake at 124,000 pesos (2,558 US dollars) to men for use as a marriage proposal gift.

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

Tibet's oldest woman turns 118

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

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

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

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



Tibet's oldest woman, Arme Tsering(R), celebrates her 118th birthday at home in the northeastern suburbs of Lhasa.



NEWS ALBUM

Elderly woman wants to divorce flirty husband

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

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

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

Textbooks are old school

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

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

Thirty-five first-year undergraduates have each been given the device — preloaded with video lessons about how

to position patients for X-rays — for free as part of their course. It is hoped the portable video demonstrations will be more useful than traditional text books and has cost the college over £3,000.

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



WTO rejects most US complaints on China IPR protection

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

"A report from the WTO's dispute settlement panel denied most of the complaints raised by the United States and recognized China's measures to

protect IPR," MOC spokesman Yao Jian said.

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

The complaints raised by the United States included the claims that trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy were not prosecuted and the

customs authorities only removed infringing features when dealing with counterfeit goods.

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

Xinhua



Reuters' correspondent Simon Gardner looks inside the copper mills building at the Los Bronces copper mine, about 60 km (40 miles) northeast of Santiago and 3500 metres above sea level, on 20 March, 2009.—INTERNET



DPRK resumes border phone line communication

SEOUL, 21 March—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Saturday reconnected cross-border military phone lines, *Yonhap* news agency reported.

The news agency earlier reported that DPRK had informed South Korea that the inter-Korean military communication would be resumed.

Xinhua

Soldiers escort Sigrifedo Najera (L) to a plane after being captured during an operation in the northern city of Saltillo on 20 March, 2009. Soldiers on Friday captured a man Mexico calls a drug kingpin who is accused of attacking a US consulate and killing nine soldiers, in the second major arrest this week in the country's drug war.—INTERNET

Three Indian warships leave for China to join international fleet review

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

The newspaper quoted Naval sources as saying the three warships, all belonging to the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy, are guided missile destroyers INS Mumbai and INS Ranveer, and guided missile corvette INS

Khanjar. The tanker is INS Iyoti.

The Indian warships will make calls at ports in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and South Korea along its way to China, said the newspaper.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

US witnesses 18th bank failure in 2009

WASHINGTON, 21 March—FirstCity Bank of Stockbridge, Georgia, was closed Friday, becoming the 18th bank failure in the United States this year amid the economic crisis.

It was closed by the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC) was

named receiver of the failed bank.

The FDIC said the FirstCity Bank had 297 million US dollars in assets and 278 million in deposits as of 18 March.

It also said direct deposits from the federal government, such as Social Security and Veteran's payments will be transferred to SunTrust Bank.

In 2008, a total of 25 banks collapsed, among which Seattle-based Washington Mutual was the biggest bank to fail in the US history.—Xinhua

Death toll in Japan nursing home fire rises to nine

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

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

There were 17 people in the facility at the time of the fire, which broke out at around 11 pm Thursday and was put out about two hours later. The remaining people were reported to be safe.—Xinhua



Girls peek out to watch the Cocibolca Lake as it is seen reflected on the windows of a bus in Granada, 45km south of Managua, on 20 March, 2009. The world celebrates Water Day on 22 March.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Marseille eye French summit after golden week

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

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

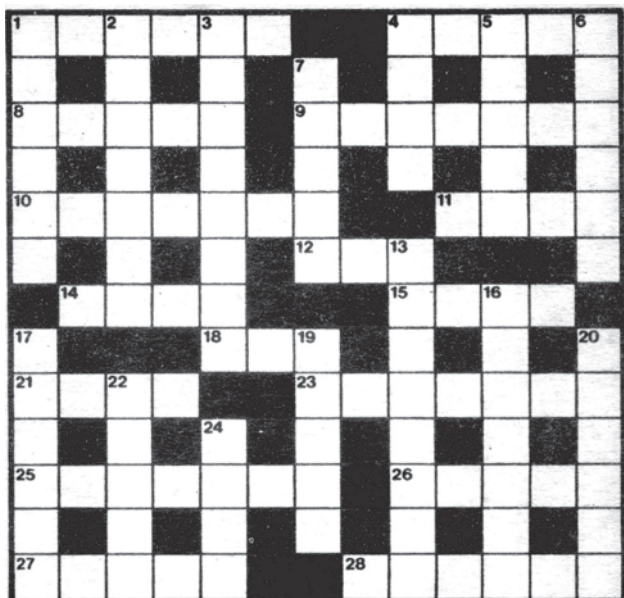
"My players have a ferocious appetite," coach Eric Gerets said after an extra-time goal from English loanee Tyrone Mears sealed a 4-3 aggregate victory in Amsterdam on Wednesday. "We did everything possible to eliminate Ajax because a run in the UEFA Cup could have a positive effect on our bid for the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

With Lyon not hosting Sochaux until Sunday, a victory for Gerets's men at home to relegation-threatened Nantes on Saturday will take them to the top of the table for the first time since the end of August.—INTERNET



Paris Saint-Germain's Ludovic Giuly (left) vies with Marseille's Taiwo Taye Ismaila during their French L1 match in Paris. INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Small metallic missile
- 4 Gemstone
- 8 Monetary unit
- 9 Poster
- 10 Told
- 11 Betting term
- 12 Pixie
- 14 Heavenly body
- 15 Leave out
- 18 Snake
- 21 Italian capital
- 23 Orator
- 25 Hide
- 26 Tempest
- 27 Panache
- 28 Receive

DOWN

- 1 Preceding in time
- 2 Circular
- 3 And so on (2,6)
- 4 Not at home
- 5 Prize
- 6 Firstborn
- 7 Digger
- 13 Conifers (anag.)
- 16 Annoying
- 17 Spring flower
- 19 Sacred song
- 20 On time
- 22 Cash
- 24 Lake



Juventus' Amauri Carvalho de Oliveira (right, front) fights for the ball with AS Roma's Cicinho during their Serie A football match at Olympic Stadium in Turin, last November. Both teams meet again on Saturday.—INTERNET

Old boy Sanchez aims to dent Real title bid

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

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

Roddick to clash with Nadal in Indian Wells semis

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

Roddick, seeded seventh, needed just 68 minutes to dispatch the out-of-sorts Serbian 6-3, 6-2. Djokovic, seeded third, double-faulted to give Roddick a match point, on which he fired a backhand long. He finished with 30 unforced errors.

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

INTERNET

Lorena Ochoa leads Mastercard Classic in Mexico



Mexico's Lorena Ochoa drives the ball on the 18th hole during the 1st round of the LPGA MasterCard Classic golf tournament in Mexico City, on 20 March, 2009.—INTERNET

The LPGA's No 1 player shot a 7-under 65 on Friday on the hilly Bosque Real course outside Mexico City that has often gotten the best of her. She sailed through the difficult course with five birdies and an eagle on the 541-yard ninth hole. She held a two-stroke lead over Na Yeon Choi.

Brittany Lang and Yani Tseng shot 68s and were tied for third.—INTERNET

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

(21-3-2009)

Blackburn	1 - 1	West Ham Utd
Fulham	2 - 0	Man Utd
Newcastle	1 - 3	Arsenal
Portsmouth	2 - 1	Everton
Stoke City	1 - 0	Middlesbrough
Tottenham	1 - 0	Chelsea
WBA	1 - 1	Bolton



Manchester United's Paul Scholes (2L) commits a handball and concedes a penalty and is red-carded as Fulham's Bobby Zamora (L) heads goalwards during their English Premier League soccer match against Fulham at Craven Cottage in London 21 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Foes reunited in Champions League

PARIS, 21 March —There was a distinct air of deja-vu about Friday's draw for the quarter-finals of the



Balls used for the draw of UEFA Champions league final are pictured at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon. There was a distinct air of deja-vu about Friday's draw, not least after English power-houses Liverpool and Chelsea were paired together for the fifth successive season in the competition.—INTERNET

Champions League, not least after English power-houses Liverpool and Chelsea were paired together for the fifth successive season in the competition.

A keen rivalry has developed between the sides since a controversial goal by Liverpool's Luis Garcia settled their 2005 semi-final tie and paved the way for the Reds' stunning comeback in that year's final against AC Milan.

The teams met again in last year's semi-final, when a John Arne Riise own goal in the last minute of the first leg at Anfield shifted the momentum of the tie in favour of Chelsea, who advanced with a 4-3 aggregate victory.

INTERNET

Sevilla's Renato Dirnei (right) kicks the ball next to Athletic Bilbao's Pablo Orbaiz during their match in Bilbao. INTERNET



Obama stresses need to reform US education

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

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



File picture shows an Emirates plane in Dubai. An Emirates flight with 225 passengers on board made an emergency landing in the Australian city of Melbourne after the Airbus A340's tail struck the tarmac during take-off, officials said on Saturday.—INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (22.3.2009) (Sunday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

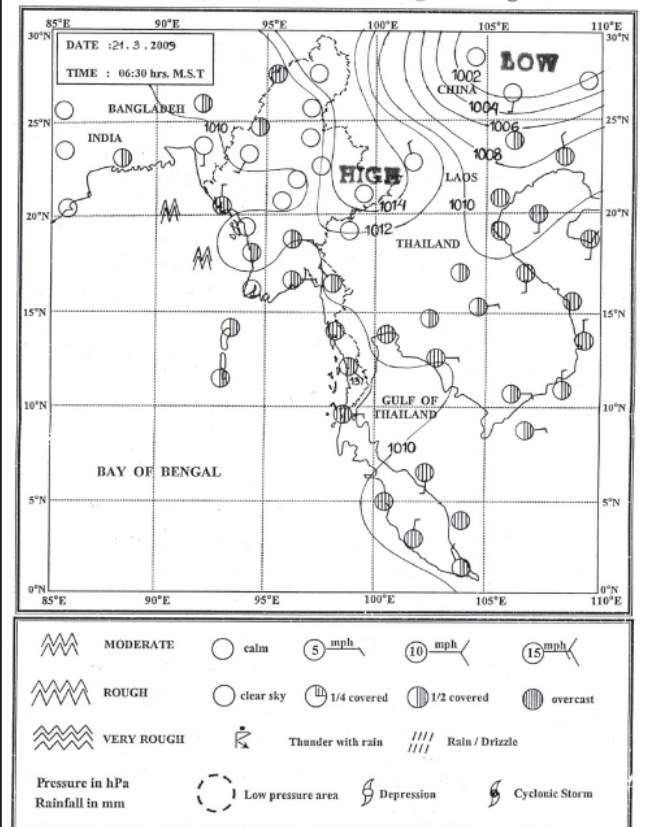
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Traditional Myanma Pickled Tea
- * The Great Bell of King Sintgu
- * Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw (Agriculture Sector, Forestry Sector, Livestock and Fisheries Sector)
- * Thiri Zeya Buhmi Golden Palace and Museum of King Anawrahta
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Let's utilize waste products as Fuel
- * Dainty Hill Resort of Loi-Mwe
- * Hundred Fruits from a common Stem, our Union “Shan State”
- * A Leisure Day in Ngapali
- * Progressive Images of Rakhine State
- * Cruise along Yangon River...Feel Enchanting Scenes with Pleasure
- * Pleasant Taunggyi (Part-2)
- * Myanma Modern Song
- * Traditional Myanma Pickled Tea
- * The Great Bell of King Sintgu
- * Victories of the State, the People and the Tatmadaw (Agriculture Sector, Forestry Sector, Livestock and Fisheries Sector)
- * Thiri Zeya Buhmi Golden Palace and Museum of King Anawrahta
- * Beautiful and Colourful Plastic Basket
- * Actively participate in the Fight against Narcotic Drugs
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 21 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kachin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Shan States and Bago Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) below March average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Shan State, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (41°C), Aungmye and Thawgyi (40°C) each. The Noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Belin (0.75) inch and Myeik (0.52) inch.

Maximum temperature on 21-3-2009 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 21-3-2009 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-3-2009 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 20-3-2009 was (7.5) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 21-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and 0.04 inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (21:30) hours MST on 20-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22nd March 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Mon States and Taninthayi Division 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 Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-3-2009: Partly cloudy.



Sunday, 22 March
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော် (မင်္ဂလာသုတ်)

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. အကဖြင့်ပွဲ

7:50 am

5. Nice and sweet song

8:00 am

6. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ

8:10 am

7. Musical programme

8:20 am

8. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

10. “အဆုံးအဖြတ်”
(ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ အေးမြတ်သူ၊ မျိုးမျိုးစိုင်)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းဖြင့်အောင်)

11:00 am

1. Martial Song

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:20 am

3. Round up of the week's international news

11:30 am

4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အားကိုးချစ်သူ ကျေးတောသူ” (အပိုင်း-၃၃)

12:30 pm

5. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင် “ဝေလည်းမွေး၊ ကြွေလည်းမွေး” (ကျော်ဟိန်း၊ မွေး၊ တင်တင်ထွန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်မောင်ဦး၊ စိုးသိမ်းထွန်း)

2:45 pm

7. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Musical programme

4:20 pm

3. Dance of national races

4:30 pm

4. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ

4:40 pm

5. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)

4:55 pm

6. Song to uphold National Spirit

5:00 pm

7. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့၊ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:10 pm

8. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. ရန်ကုန်-ဗန္ဓုလေး အမြန်လမ်းမကြီး (အပိုင်း-၃)

6:50 pm

12. “အမေတူသား” (ပထမပိုင်း) (ဇင်ပိုင်း၊ လူမင်း၊ မင်းမောင်ကွန်း၊ နေမျိုးအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်း (Examplez), ပန်းဖြူ၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်၊ သက်မွန်မြင့်၊ မေသဉ္ဇာဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ပန်းချီ (စိုးမိုး))

8:00 pm

13. News
14. International news
15. Weather report
16. ပြည်သူ့အတွက်တပ်မတော် (သမိုင်းဂုဏ်ရောင်ထွန်းပြောင် သည့် ရှေးဓမ္မတော်မြန်မာ့တပ်မတော်)
17. “အမေတူသား” (ဒုတိယပိုင်း) (ဇင်ပိုင်း၊ လူမင်း၊ မင်းမောင်ကွန်း၊ နေမျိုးအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်း (Examplez), ပန်းဖြူ၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်၊ သက်မွန်မြင့်၊ မေသဉ္ဇာဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ပန်းချီ (စိုးမိုး))

**Earlier completion of projects will benefit local people sooner****General Thura Shwe Mann inspects Pyuchaung Hydropower Project, Shwegyin Hydropower Project***General Thura Shwe Mann views progress of Shwegyin Hydropower Project. — MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Education Dr Chan

Nyein, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen

Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and officials of the SPDC Office, left Nay Pyi

Taw by helicopter at 9 a.m on 19 March and arrived at Pyuchaung Hydropower Project site on Pyu

Creek, 7 miles west of Pyu. The General and party were welcomed by Chairman of Bago Divi-

sion PDC Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min and officials. (See page 5)

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

MNA

**SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY****POEM****March on the Tatmadaw**

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

Development of agriculture sector in the time of Tatmadaw Government

Only with a strong Tatmadaw will the nation be strong

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

