The Tatmadaw has to keep abreast of the times

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

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

Paunglin Dam (support dam to Ngamoeyeik Reservoir) opened to irrigate farmland in Hlegu Township and supply water to Yangon

YANGON, 22 March — Paunglin Dam (support dam to Ngamoeyeik Reservoir) was commissioned into service in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, this morning, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of the division, district and township PDCs, staff of Yangon Division Irrigation Department, members of social organizations, teachers and students, farmers and local people totalling over 5,000.

First, the prime minister made an address. In his address, he said the opening of the Paunglin Dam will benefit a lot not only Hlegu Township but also the other townships in Yangon Division as it will be able to irrigate a vast area of farmland in Hlegu Township and between Hlegu Township and the City of Yangon and supply drinking water to the people living in Yangon.

The Union of Myanmar being an agricultural country rich in land and water resources, the government is taking various steps through modern technologies to make the best use of these resources in the long-term interests of posterity.

As agriculture is the main industry of rural people, majority of the population, and the main pillar of the national economy, the government is convinced that promoting the agricultural sector will not only strengthen the economy of the State but also raise the living standard of the people.

(See page 14)
59th Anniversary

Armed Forces Day Objectives

— To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State’s seven-point policy programme

— To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people’s militia strategy

— To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people

— To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold ‘Our Three Main National Causes’

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at a plantation of North-East Command. — MNA

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Kaukkwe Creek Dam Project in Lashio Township, northern Shan State. — MNA

All citizens responsible for making efforts for regional …

(From page 16)

First, Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint made a speech. He said that measures are being taken for reclamation of land and cultivation of special high yield paddy in the region to meet the growing population, that 843 acres of irrigated land were put under paddy and the storage capacity of Humon Dam is 1,850 acre-feet of water and the dam can benefit only 120 acres of summer paddy. Hence, to cultivate 843 acres of paddy the dam is required to store about 5,000 acre-feet of water.

Cultivation of 120 acres of summer paddy was carried out by Lashio District Peace and Development Council, Myanmar Police Force and battalions and units in Lashio with the assistance of service personnel of Myanmar Agriculture Service and local farmers. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing made a speech. He said that the requirement of paddy for 2.3 million population in Shan State (North) was 33.6 million baskets of paddy and only 27.6 million baskets of paddy were produced in 2002-2003. Therefore, it is targeted to produce 32.8 million baskets of paddy in 2003-2004 and it will constitute 97 per cent of self-sufficiency in rice.

He said that Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance which calls for extending own acreage for extended cultivation of paddy, taking measures for boosting the per acre yield and minimizing loss and wastage. To ensure self-sufficiency in rice, modern cultivation methods are to be applied while special high yield paddy is to be cultivated in Shan State (North) where there is a restriction for extended cultivation of paddy due to geographical conditions, he stressed.

Next, the Prime Minister presented K 13.1 million for farmers who are engaged in highland cultivation in Shan State (North). On behalf of the farmers, national race leader Pan Say U Kyaw Myint and U Hsiai Mon accepted the cash assistance.

Next, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung presented a dryer worth K 2 million donated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for Shan State (North) to member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Aung Hwe.

Later, Chairman of Central Development Co President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint presented K 2.5 million by Central Development Co and K 2.5 million by Diamond Star Co for production of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strains to Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing.

After that, Director of Five Ocean Co presented K 2 million for production of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strains to Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing.

On behalf of local farmers, national race leader Pan Say U Kyaw Myint spoke words of thanks and the ceremony ended.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party inspected power tillers donated and broadcast fertilizer.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Kaukkwe Creek Dam construction project site in Lashio Township.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Director of Irrigation Department U Kyaw Win reported on arrangements for construction of the dam, aims, progress of work, benefit to achieve on completion of the project, and salient points of the project.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung gave supplementary reports.

Next, the Prime Minister gave instructions, saying that the most possible feasibility study is to be made for construction of a dam that will feed Humon Dam and the survey work is to be made as soon as possible.

(See page 11)
Guerilla attack kills two US soldiers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 March — Guerrillas fired a rocket at US troops in western Iraq, killing two soldiers, while in Baghdad rockets fired towards the US-led coalition headquarters Sunday killed two Iraqi civilians and injured a US soldier, US officials said.

The attack in Baghdad came a day after the first anniversary of the start of the war that ousted Saddam Hussein.

A 1st Infantry Division soldier was also killed Sunday in an accident during a weapons firing exercise in Samarra, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Baghdad, Army spokeswoman Maj. Debra Stewart said. The incident was under investigation.

One of three rockets fired in Baghdad landed inside the coalition headquarters, but did not cause significant damage.

Iraqi onlookers gather around a damaged car in central Baghdad where a projectile exploded. Up to two people were killed and several wounded as the US coalition headquarters in Baghdad came under rocket attack, pushing Iraq into its second year of occupation amid a rising wave of violence. —INTERNET

Iraqi Ministry investigates leaked 30 billion ID old bank notes

BAGHDAD, 22 March — The Iraqi Ministry of Finance is investigating how $30 billion in old bank notes leaked into the treasury of Baghdad and other governorates during the exchange period that ended on February 15, newspaper Al-Azzaman said Saturday.

This sum of money, which is considered the largest in the history of the Iraqi banking system since it was founded in 1947, was discovered by an inspector committee formed by the ministry to check the accountings of the treasury, said the local newspaper. Since the sanctions imposed in July 1990, four trillion Iraqi dinars of bank notes have been printed in Iraq.

A committee from the Ministry of Interior is also conducting investigations in other accounts relating to money laundering of stolen money, mostly from Iraqi banks.

The investigation committee also caught a number of bank employees involved in receiving millions of dinars under the name of branches in the south of Iraq and according to certificates entailing them to do so. — MNA/Xinhua

Mortars hit US coalition HQ in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 March — Two mortar rounds landed in the headquarters compound of the US-led coalition Sunday, sending command staff to bunkers for safety inside the fortified complex in the centre of Iraq capital.

A third mortar round landed in a neighbourhood outside the compound, killing an Iraqi civilian and wounding 10 others.

The attack in Baghdad came a day after the first anniversary of the Iraq war amid a spike in attacks on coalition forces throughout the country.

US officials said Sunday that insurgents fired a rocket overnight at American troops near Fallujah in western Iraq, killing two soldiers. The attack also wounded five soldiers and a sailor.

It was not immediately clear whether there were any casualties from the mortar attack on the US command compound.

The round that landed in the upscale neighbourhood of Mansour outside the compound damaged cars and shops. Officials at the nearby Yarmouk Hospital said one civilian was killed in the attack and 10 were wounded. — MNA/Xinhua

Anti-war protesters march in London on Iraq war anniversary

LONDON, 22 March — More than 25,000 anti-war protesters took to the streets of London on Saturday to mark the first anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq, demanding an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq.

Braving strong winds and rain, the protesters marched from Hyde Park through central London, shouting anti-war slogans to air their anger on the first anniversary of the US-led war against Iraq.

Protesters called for closure of a NATO base in Southwark, Crete, and asked the government to keep Greek troops on home soil. Protesters also demanded the government to keep NATO out of security arrangements for the Athens Olympics in August.

The demonstration culminated in a rally in Trafalgar Square where speakers including London Mayor Ken Livingstone and Glasgow MP George Galloway addressed the crowd.

“Just because they call themselves the international community, that doesn’t mean their actions are right,” Galloway said. He urged voters to turn the June 10 European elections into a referendum on Tony Blair’s future.

Between speeches, the crowd took part in a minute of silence and thousands of black balloons were released in memory of those killed in the Iraq conflict, as well as the victims of the terrorist attack on Madrid.

The anti-war event has been backed by the Stop the War Coalition, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Muslim Association of Britain, which organized a million-strong demonstration in London against the impending war a year ago. — MNA/Xinhua

About 10,000 demonstrators march in Paris against Iraq war

PARIS, 22 March — About 10,000 people demonstrated here on Saturday afternoon on the first anniversary of the US-led war against Iraq.

The objective of the march is to “say no to war, terrorist attacks and violence against the people,” its organizers say.

The demonstrators marched from the Place de la Bastille to the Square of Chatelet, under the banner writing “All for peace and justice, democracy and law.”

Some slogans against American President George W Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Israeli Premier Ariel Sharon, former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy and Russian President Vladimir Putin were heard in the procession.

Demonstrators demanded the pullout of the occupation forces from Iraq and the power transfer to Iraqi people. Apart from Paris, anti-war rallies were also staged in other French cities of Marseille, Lyon and Toulouse. — MNA/Xinhua

Senior pilot training for civil flights initiated in N-E China

Harbin, 22 March — The prestigious Harbin Polytechnical University (HPU) signed an agreement with pilot training companies on Friday to provide a senior training programme for civil pilots.

The programme is first of its kind in China to offer bachelor’s degree.

Qualified trainees will receive a bachelor’s degree and be eligible to serve airline companies, said Zhao Chunxi, senior official with HPU’s school of automation.

The programme was jointly founded by HPU, China International Cargo Aviation Co Ltd and Harbin International Fly Dragon Training Company.

The programme will initially recruit about 30 trainees this year among college graduates and third-year undergraduates, Zhao said. He added that HPU will provide balanced courses and excellent facilities for the trainees.

So far, China has some 10 pilot training companies but all their bachelor degree programmes are carried out in overseas countries, said Wu Jianhua, assistant general manager of the Fly Dragon company. — MNA/Xinhua

Thousands of Greeks stage peace march to US Embassy

ATHENS, 22 March — Thousands of demonstrators staged a peace march to the US Embassy in Athens on Saturday as worldwide anti-war protests take place on the first anniversary of the US-led war to Iraq.

Marchers continued the permanent presence of foreign troops in Iraq.

Protestors called for closure of a NATO base in Souda, Crete, and asked the government to keep Greek troops on home soil. Protestors also demanded the government to keep NATO out of security arrangements for the Athens Olympics in August.

Security was tightened around the US Embassy and on the route of the march. No incidents were reported, police said. — MNA/Xinhua
Helicopter down near Falluja, says report

Baghdad, 22 March—An American helicopter was downed south of the flashpoint Iraqi city of Falluja, west of Baghdad, witnesses said.

The downing occurred Friday near Amayra, south of Falluja, said Brig-General Mark Kimmit, the US military’s deputy director of operations.

“Both pilots were recovered without injury and forces secured the crash site and confirmed the reports,” Kimmit said.

Guerrilla attacks have brought down several helicopters in Iraq since the US-led invasion a year ago.

Last November two Black Hawk helicopters collided and crashed in the northern city of Mosul after coming under fire, killing 17 US soldiers.

It was the bloodiest single incident for American forces since major combat was declared over on May 1.

A demonstrator is restrained as police make a mass arrest during an anti-war protest in San Francisco on 20 March, 2004. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world rallied against the US presence in Iraq on its anniversary.

...continued on page 5.

China issues new rules on public welfare foundations

Beijing, 22 March — China has issued new regulations on the administration of public welfare foundations, hoping to encourage more wealthy people to commit to public welfare and thus foster new foundations, a senior official said.

“We still need more foundations to participate in public welfare as we have inadequate non-profit organizations to meet the demand,” said Jiang Li, Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs, told a news conference.

China has registered 1,200 foundations, committed to public welfare by making public use of the assets donated by individuals or organizations by the end of 2003, according to statistics released by the ministry.

The regulations, which will take effect as of June 1, have for the first time divided foundations into two types: publicly-funded foundations, which can raise funds from the public, and non-publicly-funded foundations, which are not allowed to raise funds from the public.

Jiang said such divisions were to mobilize more people to participate in charitable activities and help utilize to the maximum the public’s social resources, especially those wealthy groups.

“More standardized social welfare activities by foundations will help China resolve the problem of the widening gap between the rich and the poor,” she said.

She said the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation are still discussing the specific social welfare tax policies for those individual or enterprise donors.

Meanwhile, overseas foundations win the go-ahead to establish representative offices on the Chinese Mainland but are not allowed to solicit or receive donations on the Chinese Mainland, according to the new regulations.

“We have to protect the limited charity resources by regulating the publicly-funded foundations on a certain scale,” Jiang said, adding such restrictions will not hinder overseas donors’ enthusiasm.

The national publicly-funded foundations are required to raise at least eight million yuan (about 964,000 US dollars) before registering while individuals and enterprises hope to establish non-publicly-funded foundations are required to donate at least two million yuan (about 241,000 US dollars).

Thailand, Laos sign number of agreements

Bangkok, 22 March — Thailand and Laos signed a number of agreements at an unofficial joint Thai-Lao Cabinet meeting which was held in a northeastern province connecting the two sisters’ countries, an agreement on educational cooperation, and an agreement on the funding of a project to build a railway connecting the two countries.

The joint Thai-Lao Cabinet meeting was followed by a meeting between Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his Laotian counterpart Bounnguang Sechavath.

Thailand, Laos sign number of agreements

About 350 people protest war against Iraq in Prague

Prague, 22 March—About 300 people carrying anti-war slogans gathered Saturday at Prague’s Wenceslas Square to protest the war against Iraq in its anniversary.

After several speeches, representatives from the American, Arab and Czech communities started a protest march towards the US Embassy.

During the demonstrations, a large scale demonstration, the protesters marched on a Chinese Art Museum for 14 hours before marching on through the central Paulista Avenue.

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A demonstrator is restrained as police make a mass arrest during an anti-war protest in San Francisco, on 20 March, 2004. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world rallied against the US presence in Iraq on its anniversary.

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Annan says Iraq more dangerous due to guerilla attacks

CAIRO, 22 March — Terrorism has emerged in Iraq since the US-led invasion a year ago, making the country more dangerous and complicating the situation, UN Secretary-General Koofi Annan said in remarks published on Saturday.

Annan’s comments came as protesters planned anti-war demonstrations around the world on Saturday, the first anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq.

Asked whether he thought the US-led war had led to terrorism in Iraq, Annan said: “I do not know which side is responsible for the terrorism there,” he told the pan-Arab daily newspaper al-Hayat.

“This terrorism was not there in Iraq a year ago but now it has broken out,” he said. “The situation has become more complicated and dangerous,” he said.

Annan said on Thursday he would send a UN political team to Iraq “as soon as practicable” to advise Baghdad on a transitional government as well as elections early next year.

He told al-Hayat he was sure the world would become a target of attacks in Iraq but the organization would do what it could to protect its people.

“We have to be vigilant and guard our staff and guarantee their safety. We are going to Iraq amidst great danger but we have to be as vigilant as possible. We are worried that we will become targets. There is no doubt about that,” he said.

The United Nations pulled its international staff out of Iraq in late October after the organization’s offices were bombed on August 19. Twenty-three staff and visitors, including the head of the mission, Sergio Vieira de Mello, were killed.

The April 2003 story cited documents given to a journalist by an Iraqi general which purported to have been paid by the Iraqi regime, are false and without foundation,” Bateman told the court.

He said the Monitor, which is available to read online on the Internet, now accepted there was no truth in the allegations and had paid the MP substantial, undisclosed damages.

Galloway was expelled from British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s ruling Labour Party last October after branding Blair and US President George W Bush “war criminals.”

The daily newspaper, founded in 1908, is owned and published by the First Amendment Center, Scientist, based in Boston, Massachusetts.

The church said it “deeply regretted” publishing the article.

Britain’s presence in Iraq cannot be justified

LONDON, 22 March — A fitting way to mark the anniversary of the Iraq war would be to drive a stake through the doctrine of preemptive strike and bury it where it cannot be disinterred to justify another unilateral military adventure, a former British Cabinet minister has said.

In his article published in Friday’s The Independent newspaper, Robin Cook, former foreign secretary who resigned before the war over Iraq a year ago, said: “Iraq has proved beyond any reasonable doubt that intelligence cannot provide evidence reliable enough to justify war on such a speculative basis.

Noting that the British Government has no plans to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, Cook said any retrospective examination would inevitably draw attention to questions that they find increasingly difficult to answer, such as why they ever believed Saddam was a threat since he turns out to have had no weapons of mass destruction.

Referring the desperate need to justify Britain’s presence in Iraq, Cook said: “The conversion of Iraq into an extended battlefield between the West and al-Qaeda is a measure of the failure of our policy, not a justification for invasion.”

“The invasion of Iraq has made the world more vulnerable to a heightened threat from al-Qaeda, which is precisely what our intelligence agencies warned the government on the eve of the war,” he said. “It was our occupation that gave al-Qaeda the motivation to target Iraq and the incompetence of our plans after Saddam that offered them the open door through which they entered.”

The former foreign secretary said: “Our own experience in Northern Ireland has demonstrated that the only way to diminish the threat from terrorism is to isolate the terrorist and to deny them any sympathy from their own public. The invasion of Iraq has handed the terrorists a new weapon to deploy on the Arab street.”

“The great irony is that invading Iraq is precisely what al-Qaeda wanted us to do, because it served their agenda of polarizing the West and the Islamic world.”

Thousands protest in NY to mark 1st anniversary of Iraq war

NEW YORK, 22 March — Thousands of anti-war demonstrators marched through the streets of New York Saturday on the first anniversary of the Iraq war, calling for an end to the occupation of the country.

Protesters gathered in midtown Manhattan for an anti-war rally before they set off on a two-hour march through the centre of the city to protest the Bush Administration’s Iraq policy.

Under the banner “The World Still Says No to War,” dozens of protesters took to the floor to slam US President George W Bush’s decision to rush US troops into the war and asked to bring the soldiers home.

A member of the anti-war group “Military Families Speak Out” who lost his son in Iraq said: “Bush lied, who died? My son. Bring our children home now!”

Another high school student from Virginia demanded that the Bush Administration spend more on schools and education when a considerable number of teachers do not have enough textbooks for their students.

“Money on books and schools, not on war!” she chanted.

Carrying signs that read “Occupation in Iraq wrong,” “Stop Madcowboy Disease,” and “Not One More Delay, Not One More Death, Not One More Deception,” demonstrators marched through New York streets, chanting anti-war slogans. Some carried mock coffins, others had paper cranes in hand that symbolize peace.

“I am upset with the president for just about everything,” said one protester. “His war in Iraq that goes on and on and kills people, what he’s done to our economy and what he’s doing to our future.”

According to United for Peace and Justice, one of the anti-war groups that organized the event, it wanted to send a message to the Bush Administration that peace-loving people do not want this war.

“The March 20 protests come after months of revelations vindicating the anti-war movement’s position that waging war on Iraq was unnecessary and unjustified. Mounting evidence indicates that Iraq posed no imminent threat to the United States and that Bush Administration’s justifications for its preemptive strike were deliberately exaggerated or false,” the group said in a Press release.

Casablanca bomb suspect detained in Belgium

BRUSSELS, 22 March — Belgian police have detained a suspect wanted in Morocco in connection with the 2003 bombings in Casablanca that killed 45 people, the federal prosecutor’s office said on Friday.

Police detained the Moroccan man along with “less than 10” other suspects after conducting a series of morning raids at private homes in Brussels, Antwerp and Tongres, the office said.

“One of the people detained is... the subject of an international warrant delivered by the Moroccan authorities following the attack in Casablanca,” it said.

A series of suicide bombings in the Moroccan city last year killed 45 people, including 12 suicide bombers.

British politician accepts Iraqi libel damages

LONDON, 22 March — A British politician accepted libel damages from an American newspaper on Friday over a story which alleged he took 10 million US dollars to support former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Galloway, one of Britain’s most outspoken anti-war campaigners, sued the Christian Science Monitor over an article headlined “Newly found Iraqi files raise heat on British MP” (member of Parliament).

The April 2003 story cited documents given to a journalist by an Iraqi general which purported to have been paid by the Iraqi regime, are false and without foundation,” Bateman told the court.

He said the Monitor, which is available to read online on the Internet, now accepted there was no truth in the allegations and had paid the MP substantial, undisclosed damages.

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The church said it “deeply regretted” publishing the article.


Iraqi man, Haidar Samir, who lost an arm and an eye in the first air strikes of the US and British invasion last year, revisits the area where the attacks took place in central Baghdad on 17 March, 2004.

INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
After making accusations, US and allies troops invaded Iraq using excessive force. Since the end of major combat in Iraq was declared on 1 May, at least 18 military helicopters have crashed or been shot down in Iraq, killing a total of 64 US soldiers.

A map of Iraq showing the site of the US helicopter crash in which 17 American troops were killed.

**US helicopters crashed or shot down in Iraq**

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Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:
Tatmadaw always striving for development of the nation in the interests of the people

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The Tatmadaw that the people love

The Tatmadaw, which has taken over the duties of the State since 18 September 1988 to address the national situation, is continuously carrying out the national development tasks. It has been striving to ensure peace and stability of the nation, the legal order, peace and stability prevailing in the whole nation. Peace and stability of the nation and the socio-economic development are sound foundations for the emergence of democracy. The State has already laid down the seven-point basic policies of the people’s interest, the neo-colonialists and some radio stations, which are jealous of the success, branding the Tatmadaw Government "a military junta," and floating slanders to discredit it.

The Tatmadaw has saved the nation from the danger of losing independence in 1988 and continued to discharge the State duties. But it has been governing the nation in accord with the existing laws, bylaws and rules and regulations. Although some quarters have branded the Tatmadaw a military junta, it has never used the martial law. Because of the sinister schemes of the colonialists, some tourists are afraid to visit Myanmar. But when they actually visit they found that their previous views on Myanmar are totally against the objective conditions of the nation and who are under the influence of the negative views.

In summary, their slanderous accusations say that the Tatmadaw is destroying democracy and violating human rights; that there is a political impasse in Myanmar; that there exists forced labour in the country; that because of the economic hardships, the young women are falling into prostitution to earn their living; and that Myanmar is producing and trafficking a large amount of narcotic drugs.

As the Tatmadaw is achieving success in serving the people, old and new national causes — in accord with the existing laws, bylaws and rules and regulations. Although some quarters have branded the Tatmadaw a military junta, it has never used the martial law. Because of the sinister schemes of the colonialists, some tourists are afraid to visit Myanmar. But when they actually visit they found that their previous views on Myanmar are totally against the objective conditions, as they are warmly welcomed and treated by the State and the people. The Tatmadaw endeavours to end the anarchy and unrest in 1988 and to take over the duties of the State amounted to upholding Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of the national solidarity; and perpetuation of the sovereignty — in accord with the national duty.

The Tatmadaw sacrificed human lives, blood and sweat to restore independence and human rights, bylaws and rules and regulations. Although some quarters have branded the Tatmadaw a military junta, it has never used the martial law. Because of the sinister schemes of the colonialists, some tourists are afraid to visit Myanmar. But when they actually visit they found that their previous views on Myanmar are totally against the objective conditions, as they are warmly welcomed and treated by the State and the people. The Tatmadaw endeavours to end the anarchy and unrest in 1988 and to take over the duties of the State amounted to upholding Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of the national solidarity; and perpetuation of the sovereignty — in accord with the national duty.

The Tatmadaw that the people love
Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Poem

Sacrificing, daring Myanmar citizen

If truly Myanmar
Does not relish eating food that is other’s
Does not eat well, is not satiated
If comfort and avarice do not rise
If others mistreat us
Without justice, intrude and challenge
Not to have them take even an inch of land
We’ll rise and crush and expel them.
If truly Myanmar
His lake, his monastery, his river, his water
His homeland, his kin shall not be spoken of
Badly and jealously
Decisively
Shall not be spoken against, with malice
And if spoken of with mal-intent,
We’ll let not even a word be spoken, will retort
For the sake of the truth we will strive.
This water, this land, our abode
Born of this land, our kith and kin
Proudly achieve bravely
With all the sentiments for victory
Our nation will be victorious
Entire nations with hands held tight
Will not become anyone’s slave ever
Must be stalwart patriotic Myanmar.

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

Myanmar criticized him and demanded his resignation. But in reality, those acts are the attitude of the global neo-colonialists who are afraid to see the world understand the actual political, economic and social conditions of Myanmar.

The nation’s objective conditions stand proof to the fact that the Tatmadaw’s tradition and dignity of endearing for the flourishing democracy in Myanmar amount to serving the interest of the nation and her people.

Thus, any slander of the neo-colonialists, their lackeys and radio stations cannot cover up the endeavours of the Tatmadaw.

The record of the Tatmadaw which has always stood by the people throughout the successive eras of history also shines. And it will continue to stand as the one loved by the people.

(Translation: TMT)

The Tatmadaw and people collectively eradicate the danger of narcotic drugs. A ceremony to destroy narcotic drugs in progress.

However, the governments, the leaders, the entrepreneurs and media persons of the neighbouring countries, the regional countries and the major powers, who are in favour of the Myanmar’s interest, are saying that sanctions and pressures will further delay the process of democracy in Myanmar and to sink the people deeper into poverty. The friendly quarters are asking whether the sanctions and punishments are meant for the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar or for a minion to gain power. Help and co-operation should be rendered for the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar, they also said in expressing their attitude.

The tourists, and academics and organizations of the economic, education, health and cultural sectors, who have visited Myanmar, are compiling and publishing books and articles on the peace, stability and progress of Myanmar. But the foreign radio stations, BBC, VOA, RFA and DVB, are always silent concerning the nation’s objective conditions.

Some politicians of the west, who were not satisfied with the report of the UN Special Envoy, Mr Razali Ismail, presented on the Tatmadaw’s seven-point future policy programme of Myanmar. He even invited government representatives of ASEAN countries and some other Asian and European countries to meet and discuss the programme with Myanmar representatives. A so-called member of the parliament of the west bloc country branded the Thai Prime Minister an agent of Myanmar Military Government, saying that as the agent fee, he alleged, the Prime Minister got the permission to extend his business in Myanmar.

The Thai Prime Minister responded his accusations, saying that Thailand’s help for the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar is not for any self-interest, but just for the responsibility it had as a neighbour and a regional country.
Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Pakistan

YANGON, 22 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23 March 2004, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to His Excellency Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Prime Minister attends ceremony to honour Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa

YANGON, 22 March — Prime Minister Khin Nyunt attended a ceremony to honour President Nayaka of Ponnanamayazay Kyangtaik Joint, Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa, who received Abhidhaja Maha Rathya Guru title presented by the State Peace and Development Council.

Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Pakistan

YANGON, 22 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23 March 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent message of felicitations to His Excellency Mian Kurshid Mehmoood Kasuri, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Armed Forces Day Exhibition to be held

YANGON, 22 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Exhibition will be held on a grand scale free of charge from 26 March to 4 April at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here.

Quiz on knowledge at Armed Forces Day Exhibition

YANGON, 22 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition will be held from 26 March to 4 April at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here.

Coord Meeting on collection of road, bridge tolls held

YANGON, 22 March — Coordination meeting on collection of road and bridge tolls was held at the Assembly Hall of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction here this afternoon with an address by Chairman of the Central Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. It was attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Transportation Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe.

Works of Armed Forces Day Commemorative literary and art competition to be displayed

YANGON, 22 March — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative literary and art competition works will be displayed at the Defence Services Museum from 26 March to 4 April.

Minister for Construction U Tin Swe and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min briefed on collection of tolls of the bridges built by the ministries and preparations for bridge toll collecting system which will be implemented in 2004-2005 fiscal year. Next, representatives of the commands also reported on collection of bridge tolls being carried out by the commands and those present took part in the discussion. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Secretary-2.

MNA
All citizens responsible for 
(from page 2)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected the site for construction of Kaukkwe Creek Dam. After that, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the 1,000-acre highland model plantation of the company, and inspected 200,000 gallon tank and construction of the pump station. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected samples of Pezinngon, sunflower, maize, peanut and paddy displayed at the briefing hall.

General Khin Nyunt gave instructions to the forestry department officials to work instead, the socio-economic and livestock breeding, emergence of an industrialized nation, propagation of national solidarity spirit and Union Spirit and perpetuation of the Union. He said national solidarity spirit and Union Spirit are souls for the Union of Myanmar made up of states and regions which are small unions where national races live. He spoke of the need for the government to stand the good will of the government that is making contributions to raising of liv- 

ing standard of the people. He called for development of highway, a road that will be the short cut from Lashio to Nawnghkio Township and Pyay, to open rural health centres, specialist hospitals and 300-bed hospitals in states and regions. Now, high-ranking officials themselves are touring down to villages and un- 

formed people, and education and health campaigns.

With the cooperation of national races living in border areas, the government has been taking measures to put an end to the chronic culti- 

vation and production of narcotic drugs in border areas, laying down the 15-year project for elimination of nar- 

cotic drugs. Since 2000 the achievement in this drive owing to the cooperation of the leaders of national races, local communities, the Union and the government.

Under the New Destiny Road Development Project, seeds of poppy-sub- 

stitute crops are handed to poppy growers directly. As a result, the poppy growers come to hand over poppy seeds giving up their poppy culture.

Therefore, the poppy yield survey team conducted the survey recently and ac- 

knowledged a considerable drop in production and culti-

vation of poppy in Myanmar. Now that poppy growers are beginning to kick off poppy cultivation and pick up agri- 

cultural and livestock breeding work instead, the socio- 

economic life of the public become higher and higher.

Everyone government do their best for the good of their nation. Sadly, the lack of unity as well as party slaps and armed fights has affected the development pace of the Government although there has been a succession of gov- 

ernments.

Undeniable therefore is the increasing progress made day after day in the effort to realize the development of the State in the time of the present Government. He said as is known to all the governor, minister, leaders and local communities in all sectors for national de- 

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He said the government has been serving the interest of the people as the parents giving kindness and goodwill towards their chil- 
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where in the country. There are factories, major roads and bridges, dams and reservoirs, modern buildings, new, splendid and magnifi-
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ment of socio-economic structures, strengthening of the solidarity and urban development have been made in all border areas including Shwebo (South), he said. He said people in border areas first enjoyed better re- 

sults of such developments. As a result of this, all citizens are responsible for making efforts for regional peace and stability, strengthening national solidarity and perpetuation of the Union. He said national solidarity spirit and Union Spirit are souls for the Union of Myanmar made up of states and regions which are small unions where national races live. He spoke of the need for the government to stand the good will of the government that is making contributions to raising of liv- 

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ernments.
C’wealth ministers call for cooperation to fight terrorism

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 March — The commonwealth tourism ministers on Saturday made a strong call for international cooperation to combat terrorism and other violent acts that stifle the growth of tourism.

The call was made in a joint communiqué issued at the end of the two-day meeting of the Commonwealth Tourism Ministers here.

The ministers supported the international community’s fight against terrorism and other criminal activities affecting the tourism sector, transport industry and economic flows, the communiqué said.

The 26 Commonwealth ministers who attended the meeting also called on donor agencies to respond to the needs of some countries that faced problems in complying with international standards of safety and security, according to the communiqué.

The ministers also endorsed the proposal to set up a Commonwealth Tourism Protection Centre and a Task Force to evaluate the centre’s role, benefits, logistics and financing aspects.

In addition, the ministers encouraged the development of a Commonwealth Tourism Secretariat by the end of the year.

The centre, mooted by Malaysia, would also study how to ease visa requirements among Commonwealth nations — another impendence to intra-Commonwealth tourism at present, he said.

The communiqué said ministers noted the significance of tourism — a powerful economic instrument to stem poverty in underdeveloped countries, besides helping export-oriented industrial, job creation, stimulation, promoting greater socio-cultural understanding and peace.

It called on the 53-member Commonwealth, which at present accounts for one-seventh of international tourists, to pool resources and share information to enhance intra-Commonwealth tourism.

On the controversial travel advisories issued by some countries, ministers urged their counterparts to “consult in order to promote informed decisions and mitigate their adverse economic impact.”

Meanwhile, the meeting also adopted the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Tourism Action Plan, which recommended the establishment of a Commonwealth Tourism Market Information System.

Besides, to promote more intra-Commonwealth tourism, the plan called on members to “to organize and participate in Commonwealth Games and other cultural and sporting events.”

Ecuador denies US intention to build military base in Baltra

QUITO, 22 March — The Ecuadorian Air Force (FAE) denied on Friday that the United States intends to set up a military base in Baltra, an island of the Galapagos Archipelago.

The denial came one day after US Ambassador to Ecuador Kristie Kenney rejected reports the US Government would be interested in occupying a position on the Baltra Island to construct a military base.

The ambassador said US interest was merely tourist. General Angel Cordova, the FAE general commander, said: “No national authority, military or civilian, has told the Ecuadorian Air Force that a foreign military unit of any type was to be set up in the Baltra Island air base.”

The report is “absolutely false,” he said.

The government and the national Armed Forces had made it clear that as a sovereign country, it would not permit any decision in “a sovereign way,” he added.

Meanwhile, the FAE stressed that it would not permit the establishment of a foreign military base on Ecuadorian territory.

UN appeals for funds for Madagascar cyclone victims

GENEVA, 22 March — The United Nations on Friday appealed for 8.7 million US dollars to provide food, shelter and medicines to more than 300,000 people in Madagascar affected by the worst cyclone in two decades.

Cyclone Gafilo killed at least 115 people and 165 people were missing, according to the Red Cross earlier this week. It also left 120,000 homeless on the Indian Ocean island.

The international community must respond before people fall victim to poor sanitation, lack of food or exposure to the elements,” Jan Egeland, UN Under-secretary-General for humanitarian affairs, said in a statement.

Some 117,000 hectares of farm land were damaged, and 200 schools and 200 health centres were damaged or destroyed, according to the UN.

Funds raised from donor countries will be used to cover urgent relief needs for a period of three months, it said.

The government has estimated total economic losses at more than 250 million US dollars, it added.

Swedish Navy raises Cold War spy plane from Baltic

STOCKHOLM, 22 March — The Swedish Navy lifted the wreckage of a Cold War-era spy plane from deep under the Baltic Sea on Friday and began solving the mystery of the fate of the crew of the shot down by the Soviet Union in 1952.

Rescuers looking for the DC-3/half a century ago had found only an unsafe life raft, fueling speculation the crew of eight baled out and were captured by the Russians — a version that the Soviets denied to neutral Sweden.

After the wreckage was detected last year on the seabed in international waters about nine hours by ship from Stockholm, an unmanned Navy mini-submarine discovered the remains of the pilot, and more human remains were found on Friday. — MNA/Reuters

Police raid German magazine office in Brussels

BRUSSELS, 22 March — Belgian police and European Union fraud investigators raided the office of the Brussels correspondent of the German magazine Stern on Friday, witnesses said.

A senior editor at the Hamburg-based weekly, Hans-Peter Juncker, confirmed the raid and said he believed it was linked to critical reporting of EU affairs by correspondent Hans-Martin Tillack.

Tillack was allowed to leave the office briefly to use a toilet in the building and told waiting reporters: “I don’t know what is going on. I’m totally shocked.”

The Stern correspondent has published several reports in recent months about financial irregularities involving European Parliament members’ expenses and at the EU statistics agency, Eurostat, citing secret documents in its allegations.

A policeman on guard outside his office said the search was ordered by the Brussels public prosecutor in connection with a judicial investigation, but could give no further details.

Juncker said police were preventing Tillack from making contact with his employer or a lawyer. Police officers had picked up Tillack at his home and taken him to the office, close to European Commission headquarters, for the search.

The European Commission said it had no immediate information on the raid. The EU’s anti-fraud office OLAF was not available for comment. — MNA/Reuters

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TRADE MARK CAUTION

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Dated: 23 March, 2004

Thousands of books are waiting for you to give you knowledge free of charge.
China values others’ experiences in financial reform

BEIJING, 22 March—China hopes to learn from international experience in reforming its state-owned commercial banks, Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju said here Saturday.

Also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Huang told Sir John Bond, chairman of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. (HSBC) Group, that the reform in the banking sector is an important component of China’s economic reform.

An important part of China’s economic reform is to accelerate the financial reform to realize a healthy development of the financial sector,” Huang said.

China has launched the reform on two of its wholly state-owned commercial banks by introducing a joint-stock system. They are the Bank of China and the China Construction Bank.

The Chinese Government gave each of the two banks 22.5 billion US dollars last year from its foreign exchange reserves to boost their balance sheets in preparation for stock market listing, ordering them to improve their perspectives.

The two banks, which are preparing for overseas listing, were ordered to have all necessary elements of a standard joint-stock bank, for example, the general meeting of shareholders, board of directors and board of supervisors.

China has promised to open its banking business in all places and all currencies to foreign banks in 2006. However, China’s major banks are still beleaguered by poor corporate governance, high non-performing loan ratios and low capital adequacy ratio.

Huang said the objective of China’s banking reform is to transform the wholly state-owned commercial banks into modern joint-stock commercial banks through improving corporate governance, transforming operational mechanism and strengthening exterior supervision.

“China hopes to learn from the success of world experiences in this regard,” the Chinese Vice-Premier said.

In addition, Huang said China welcomes the HSBC and other financial institutions to come to China for investment and cooperation.

It also encourages and supports their lawful operation in China. — MNA/Xinhua

HK holds conference on education

HONG KONG, 22 March—The first Principals’ Conference was held Friday in Hong Kong to provide educational practitioners with a platform to exchange ideas and experiences on the issue.

The Principals’ Conference, with the theme Breaking New Ground: Steering Hong Kong Institute of Education, the Hong Kong Subsidiary Secondary Schools Council and the Subsidiary Primary Schools Council.

The conference aimed to provide a unique and distinguished opportunity for school principals and depu- ties to focus on their issues of concern, exchange ideas and experiences, and voice out their perspectives.

President of Hong Kong Institute of Education Paul Morris expressed his view on education at the conference that school principals’ abilities to improve schools and implement changes are greatly dependent on teachers.

He also suggested that teacher educators, school personnel and members of the government should cooperate and take initiative to locate the source of problems, including school bullying, student suicide and the decreasing standard of students’ language level, to create a better environment for school students to grow.

Renowned education practitioners, policy-makers and other educators were also invited to discuss issues related to educational reforms in a forum, highlight of the conference, and the organizers planned to summarize recommendations in the form of a statement and submit it to the government.

MNA/Xinhua

China donates fireworks to Ghana

NANJING, 22 March—China donated 221 cartons of fireworks to Ghana for the West African country’s National Day celebrations and other activities, Ghana News Agency reported Saturday.

Officer of NeptuneLine (Singapore) and family present K 800,000 for construction of a three-storey hospital at Huntuonghong Home for the Aged recently. — MNA/Xinhua

China’s fast pace of keeping up with the economic globalization trend, said the economist. Globalization, to a large extent, ensured that China’s economy would develop in a balanced way by keeping pace with the world economy, he said.

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WB expert says globalization boosts China’s eco growth

BRUSSELS, 22 March—Increased globalization has brought the world vast investment space in China and thus boosted China’s economic growth, said Deepak Bhattacharji, chief economist of World Bank Saturday.

Speaking at the pres-session of the China Development Forum’s 2004 annual meeting, Bhattacharji spoke highly of China’s active involvement in the economic globalization and the consequent improvement of investment climate.

China has directly absorbed foreign investment of 50 billion US dollars in 2003.

This can be attributed to China’s fast pace of keeping up with the economic globalization trend, said the economist. Globalization, to a large extent, ensured that China’s economy would develop in a balanced way by keeping pace with the world economy, he said.

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MNA/Xinhua

Dutch Queen mother Juliana dies aged 94

AMSTERDAM, 22 March—Queen mother Juliana, who reigned over the Netherlands for 32 years after World War II, died Saturday at the palace in central Netherlands at the age of 94, the state information service said.

She died of a lung infection at 5.30 am (0450 GMT) in the Soestdijk palace where she had lived most of her life, the information service said. Juliana is the mother of reigning Queen Beatrix and it is her birthday. On April 30, that is still celebrated as the Dutch Queen’s Day holiday.

The shy and soft-spoken Juliana ascended to the throne in 1948 and soon captured hearts both at home and abroad as she strove to bring the royal family closer to the people.

The “bicycling monarch” shopped at her form of a statement and the conference, and the organizers planned to summarize recommendations in the form of a statement and submit it to the government.

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Speaking at the pres-session of the China Development Forum’s 2004 annual meeting, Bhattacharji spoke highly of China’s active involvement in the economic globalization and the consequent improvement of investment climate.

China has directly absorbed foreign investment of 50 billion US dollars in 2003.

This can be attributed to China’s fast pace of keeping up with the economic globalization trend, said the economist. Globalization, to a large extent, ensured that China’s economy would develop in a balanced way by keeping pace with the world economy, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Dutch Queen mother Juliana dies aged 94

AMSTERDAM, 22 March—Queen mother Juliana, who reigned over the Netherlands for 32 years after World War II, died Saturday at the palace in central Netherlands at the age of 94, the state information service said.

She died of a lung infection at 5.30 am (0450 GMT) in the Soestdijk palace where she had lived most of her life, the information service said. Juliana is the mother of reigning Queen Beatrix and it is her birthday. On April 30, that is still celebrated as the Dutch Queen’s Day holiday.

The shy and soft-spoken Juliana ascended to the throne in 1948 and soon captured hearts both at home and abroad as she strove to bring the royal family closer to the people.

The “bicycling monarch” shopped at her form of a statement and the conference, and the organizers planned to summarize recommendations in the form of a statement and submit it to the government.

MNA/Xinhua
Paunglin Dam...

Various measures are being taken to ensure sufficient water supply for agricultural purposes as it is the sine qua non for the development of the agricultural sector. As a result, dams, reservoirs, sluice gates and river water pumping stations have mushroomed the length and breadth of the nation. The number of dams and reservoirs built by the present government, including the Paunglin dam opened today, has now reached 158 and the government has spent nearly K 70,000 million on them. All these dams and reservoirs are now irrigating more than 21 million acres of farmland. Therefore, it can be said that they are benefiting the State and all the rural people, including the farmers. The present government is building dams not only for the purpose of irrigating farmland but they are being constructed for generating electricity, for greening the environment in the dry zones, for containing the weather and for preventing floods and in-flow of sea water. As a result, the irrigation facilities have become an engine of agricultural development. Moreover, they will provide adequate supply of food for the public, thereby raising their economic and social status.

Ngamoyeik Reservoir, nation’s pride, is the first as well as the biggest one built in 1995 in Yangon. The present Government with the use of a small number of machinery and with the skills of Myanmar engineers alone. Huge dams including Thapyhan Dam in Sagaing Division have now emerged. Ngamoyeik Reservoir, the most vital facility for Yangon City, not only benefits over 70,000 acres of farmland between Hlegu Township and Yangon City but also supplies nearly 90 million gallons of water a day to the people living in Yangon.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe provided guidance to establish agriculture and poultry farming zones in the vicinity of Yangon City for the people of Yangon. Ngamoyeik Reservoir supplies irrigation water to the zones being undertaken in line with the guidance of the Head of State. To improve the country, the supply of electricity and irrigation water is of paramount importance for undertaking industries on a broader scale. Therefore, electricity-generating dams such as Paunglaung, Yyewa, Moine creek hydel power station projects, Shweli, Shwekyin and Kengtawng hydel power station projects as well as Khaupaung, Pyu, Yenwe and Kun hydel power station projects are being implemented at a cost of a great sum of money to generate electricity. Another of 28 hydel power station projects was implemented after 1988. If 12 projects out of those under implementation are completed, there will be some what sufficient supply of electricity in the country.

There have been provided a total of 158 irrigation facilities including Thapyhan Dam to enable the rural people to carry out their farm work all the year round with the irrigation water.

The Head of State also gave guidance on the drive to keep the areas 30 miles radius of Yangon City lush and pleasant all the year round. To make more effective the water supply system of Ngamoyeik Reservoir, Paunglin Dam (Support Dam to Ngamoyeik) was opened today successfully. The dam opened today will be able to store water starting from coming rainy season and serve the interest of the people in Yangon. Therefore, Paunglin reservoir and recently completed Mahuyar reservoir will help supply water to Ngamoyeik Reservoir, ensuring an adequate supply of irrigation water to Hlegu Township and Thakhill Township. The rural farmers enjoying the fruitful results of Ngamoyeik Reservoir should strive on their part for the success of agricultural work through the effective use of the water. As for urban people, they should also strive with diligence to raise their living standard through careful use of water.

As is known to all, the Government is doing everything that will prosper the agriculture and livestock breeding work of farmers as well as of national people and shape the higher standard of health, education and social life. While maintaining these achievements in hand, the Government is also taking steps to successfully realize the seven-point political programme of the State.

Later, he urged the entire national people to render their assistance in unison to the successful implementation of the seven-point roadmap, to promote agricultural products as that the country can stand proud amid the international community, and to do their bit in stabilizing the nation and raising the socio-economic life of the public.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin made a speech. He said that the government is giving priority to availability of water for agricultural purpose and dams and reservoirs were constructed and river water was supplied to the people. The Prime Minister explained storage of water in the Ngamoyeik Dam. They went to the briefing hall of the Ngamoyeik Dam to inspect the project. The Prime Minister thanked the government for construction of the dams. The Prime Minister presented gifts for service personnel who participated in the construction of the dam through Director U Kyaw Thein of Yangon Division Irrigation Department and Assistant Director (Mechanical) U Than Win. The Prime Minister delivered a speech on the occasion and thanked the government for construction of the dams.

The Prime Minister inspected the tower of the main dam and construction of conduits. He also inspected storage of water in the Ngamoyeik Reservoir and Paunglin Dam. Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win reported on data of the dam. The Prime Minister said Ngamoyeik Reservoir and other related dams would be useful in supply of water to cultivable lands and to Yangon. The Prime Minister and party inspected storage of water in the Ngamoyeik Dam. They went to herbal garden of Myanmar Agriculture Service in Hlegu Township and inspected 258 kinds of herbal plants.

The Prime Minister inspected herbal plantation that can cure six major diseases. He also inspected 79 kinds of herbal plants of Myanmar Farms Enterprise.

They went to the briefing hall of Ngamoyeik Reservoir where Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Aung Thein Lin reported on history of water supply to Yangon and water supply project. Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on supply of water from Ngamoyeik Reservoir and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe on cultivation of summer paddy and storage of water in the reservoir. The Prime Minister then gave instructions. They arrived back here in the afternoon.
Weather, Climate, Water and in the Information Age

Thein Tun

Today is the best moment to mention the brief history of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Myanmar working together to support the national development. The First International Meteorological Congress was held in Washington D.C. in 1882. The International Meteorological Organization (IMO) was established in 1873. The International conference of directors of meteorological services held in Washington D.C. in 1947 adopted the convention and was signed by representatives of 31 countries. Myanmar was represented by Dr. Po E.

The convention entered into force on 23 March 1950. WMO became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1951.

Every year since 1961, we have celebrated the World Meteorological Day on 23 March to commemorate the coming into force of that day in 1950 of the convention creating the WMO as the successor of the IMO. In the annual celebration of World Meteorological Day it is customary to select different theme each year. The theme for this year is “Weather, climate and water in the information age”.

Indeed, weather, climate and water are vital for most socio-economic activities. For example, weather and hydrological forecasts are used among others, to enhance agricultural production, manage water resources, combat desertification, ensure safe and efficient transportation, control pollution, schedule the production and distribution of electricity, support leisure activities and the insurance industry.

The information technology plays a vital role in advancing meteorological, hydrological and related geophysical sciences that enable National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to contribute to socio-economic development and to the protection of the environment.

There is greater awareness of the sensitivity of the economy to weather, climate and water that influence virtually all human activities. Statistics over the last decade show that over 80 per cent of all natural disasters are of meteorological or hydrological origin. In 1950s, losses from all natural disasters, including the use of hydrometeorological origin, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, were estimated in US $4 billion per year and in the 1990s at US $ 40 billion.

More than 65 percent of those losses and nearly 90 percent of people killed were due to weather-, climate- and water-related disasters, more than 280,000 deaths attributable to drought in the 1990s.

Due to major scientific breakthroughs and technological developments in observing, telecommunication and computer capability, the NMHSs could forecast the occurrence of El Nino and La Nina and its associated impacts over a time-scale of a season to a year in advance, make improvement in the quality and accuracy of numerical weather prediction (NWP) and climate predictions on a time-scale of a decade. The progress in telecommunications and information technology make it possible to launch WMO’s World Weather Watch (WWW) in 1963. Today, WMO coordinates the making of observations, using both traditional and state-of-the-art monitoring system, including automatic weather stations, weather radars, and meteorological operations, as well as research and development Satellites. Apart from monitoring the ocean through ships and buoys, WMO sponsors the deployment of more technologically advanced measurements, which contribute to improving the understanding of marine interactions and the provision of services for marine users.

Another benefit of the information age relates to the monitoring of the water cycle and water quality using remote sensing and up-to-date techniques and scientific developments. The observations of precipitations, stream flow and water level are now of ten transmitted by satellite to the central offices of National Hydrological Services or Water Agencies for processing. These new capacities should place the National Hydrological services in good stead to address the challenges of growing water scarcity. Present estimates indicate that more than one billion people do not have ready access to safe drinking water.

As regards environmental protection, WMO’s Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) monitors the chemical composition of the atmosphere including the greenhouse gases, the ozone layer and ultraviolet radiation, as well as long-range transport of pollutants, aerosols, reactive gases and radioactive isotopes. WMO coordinates a global network of Regional Specialized Meteorological Services to respond effectively to human-induced and other environmental emergency conditions including nuclear or chemical accidents.

As for severe tropical storms, forecasts and warnings involve satellite images for detection and tracking, computer models of the atmosphere-ocean system to predict their intensification or decay as well as their track, and up-to-date tele-communication facilities to disseminate the information to all categories of users. Steady improvements in predictions of tropical cyclones up to three days in advance, effective dissemination of warnings and signals to affected areas have led to a dramatic decrease in related deaths.

One of the six objectives of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) is to take precautionary measures against and to minimize the effects of natural disasters. Accordingly, DMH issues timely forecasts and warnings for floods, droughts, squalls, storm surges, strong winds, untimely rain and fog.

The present paper makes an effort to provide effective services to the public. DMH has established full-time meteorological, hydrological and raiquage stations throughout the whole country. Among them are 27 world weather watch stations which are part of a global network of the World Weather Watch (WWW) programme and the data from these stations implement the global monitoring of the atmosphere.

DMH nurtures its staff by organizing training courses, seminars and workshops. Some relevant candidates are sent abroad for further studies and others are selected to participate in international seminars and workshops. The meteorological field is organized by WMO and other international organizations to support safety building measures.

DMH is now providing B.Sc (Hons.) in Meteorology & Hydrology classes of the Department of Physics and Mathematics of Dagon University. Yangon Technological University, Defence Service Technical Academy. DMH is also delivering lectures for the preconvention and mitigation of meteorological, hydrological related and earthquake disasters at various natural disaster preparedness training courses in the country sponsored by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

For the purpose of protecting the environment, DMH has established greenhouse gas monitoring center, drought monitoring center and acid deposition monitoring center.

The opportunities offered by the “Information Age” to meteorological, hydrological and related geophysical sciences should enable WMO and the NMHSs to address a growing number of challenges.

In conclusion, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of Myanmar is in good shape to access and use the information provided under the umbrella of national and international fieldorganized by WMO and other international organizations to support safety building measures.************
All citizens responsible for making efforts for regional peace and tranquillity, strengthening national solidarity and perpetuation of the Union

YANGON, 22 March — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addressed opening of Paunglin Reservoir in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division. (News page 1) — MNA

Secretary-1 inspects Shwesayay hydro-electric power project site

YANGON, 22 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, and officials of the SPDC office, on 20 March afternoon arrived by helicopter at the site of Shwesayay Dam and hydro-electric power project to be undertaken in Budalin Township, Sagaing Division. They were welcomed there by Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials. The Secretary-1 and party next looked into current conditions of the defile of the river near Shwesayay Village, the project site. At the briefing hall, Hydro-electric Power Department Director-General U Win Kyaw reported to the Secretary-1 on feasibility of hydro-electric power resources, hydro-electric power projects implemented and being implemented, matters concerning the Chindwin-Ayesu-wady all-round development project, measures to be taken for Shwesayay hydro-electric power project and geological survey. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint reported on construction of Shwesayay Dam and supply of water for irrigation.

In response to the reports, the Secretary-1 said that the Irrigation Department and Hydro-electric Power Department are to cooperate in successfully undertaking the project. After that, the Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win presented a basket of fruit to Mr. Yoshihito, assistant general manager of Kansai Co, and officials. The Secretary-1 then inspected the site chosen for the project.

The location of the project is near Shwesayay Village in Budalin Township, 20 miles away from Monywa. According to the project, a gravel-filled dam, 3,280 feet long and 130 feet high, will be built at Shwesayay defile of the Chindwin. On completion, the project can generate 660 mega watt of electricity and benefit 150,000 acres of farmland.

In Sagaing Division, Zee Creek hydro-electric power project in Kalay Township, Lake hydro-electric power project in Lake Township, and Thapbanesik hydro-electric power project in Kyunhla Township have been implemented, and they are now generating 31.31 mega watt of electricity.

Along the Chindwin River valley, Homalin hydro-electric power project, Uru Creek hydro-electric power project, Humanthi hydro-electric power project, Mawlaik hydro-electric power project and Nay-ristara hydro-electric power project will be implemented in addition to Shwesayay project.