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Tatmadaw—replete with good traditions

Our Tatmadaw was born of the nation’s historic demand. It was not formed just for the sake of having one. I want to tell you, Comrades, that the Tatmadaw which took history’s heritage is replete with good traditions. From the period of freedom struggle to date, the young men who joined the Tatmadaw did not look to any privileges for personal gain and joined only with the spirit of service to our nation and our race. That is why our Tatmadaw stands out on the good tradition of a patriotic Tatmadaw.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From address delivered at the parade of the 53rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Tatmadaw—replete with good traditions

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

Sunday, 20 March, 2005

**Introduce new lines of products to ensure quantum leap in industrial sector**

With the aim of turning the Union of Myanmar into an industrial nation, efforts are being made with added momentum on both the government’s part and the private part to promote the industrial sector.

For the development of socio-economic life based on modern industries, measures are being taken to enhance the efficiency of State-run industries, while industrial zones are being set up to encourage private industries to produce different kinds of machines.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe went on an inspection tour of the Indagaw Industrial Zone in June 2003, and gave guidance on the tasks to be implemented for industrial development. The zone has now contained different kinds of factories and foundries.

On this March this year, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe visited the Indagaw Industrial Zone of the Ministry of Industry 2 in Bago Township, Bago Division.

In his inspection tour, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that “in manufacturing goods, industrial officials will have to draw detailed projects on how to extend the new lines of machines, and which parts of manufactured machines should be substituted with better ones and what kind of new parts should be added to them to further improve their quality, after studying both the actual requirement of the industries and the entire nation in a practical way. Only then will the industries be able to produce standard machines including new brands according to the demand.”

With the aim of raising the ratio of GDP including the industrial sector, the government is investing heavily in the establishment of modern factories and workshops in industrial zones across the country.

It is necessary to do research work for sustainable development of commodities produced by factories and workshops. Research work should focus on ensuring consumer satisfaction. Suggestions and criticism should be sought from consumers to address the weaknesses for gross production.

Important is the harmonious cooperation and coordination among factories and workshops installed with modern equipment. The same thing can be said of private industries. Only then will both the government and private sectors be able to help each other in manufacturing machines.

All in all, cooperation and coordination should be made among departments and enterprises to speed up the industrial development of the State in line with the guidance of the Head of State.

**Sanitation activities carried out at Pazundaung Market**

**Yangon,** 19 March — The Working Group on Environment of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation carried out sanitation activities at the Pazundaung Market in Pazundaung Township this morning.

The Working Group on Environment led by leader Daw Nilar Thaw, wife of the Minister for Health, second leader Daw Yin Yin Lay and employees of Yangon City Development Committee participated in carrying out the sanitation tasks at the market and drains.

**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

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**Barlar No 2 Bridge, City Circular Road in Hlegu Township opened**

**YANGON,** 19 March — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander U Myint Swe and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin together with officials arrived at No 2 Barlar Bridge and City Circular Road this morning.

Yangon North District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Myat Min and Deputy Chief Engineer (Project) U Nyunt Maung San of Public Works formally opened No 1/2 bridge which is 20 feet long and 36 feet wide on the city circular road.

Next, a ceremony to open Barlar No 2 bridge and the City circular road followed.

Afterswards, the commander, the mayor and the deputy minister opened Barlar No 2 bridge and the road.

The circular road is 12 miles long and 18 feet wide linking Nos 1, 2, 3 and 4 Highways. Barlar No 2 bridge is reinforced concrete type with 65 feet in length and 36 feet in width and it can withstand 60 ton load.

They proceeded to the summer paddly plantations of Yangon Command in Hlegu Township. They also inspected Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngamoeyoe) in Ahtaya Village, Hmawby Township.

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**Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents championship trophy to Yangon Division team, in team scratch event**

**Yangon,** 19 March — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awarded championship trophies to Bago Division team which stood first in the team handicap event after firing 842 strokes in total nett and Yangon Division team with 904 on an aggregate in the team handicap event in the 27th Inter-State/Division Golf Team Championship 2005 at Danyaling Golf Club, here, yesterday evening.

President of MGF and MGPA Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presented second prizes to Rakhine State team that scored 847 strokes in total nett and Mandalay Division team with 952 in total gross in the team scratch event.

In the individual handicap, Tun Tun Oo of Rakhine State secured first with 270 strokes, Thant Zaw Oo of Kachin State second with 278 and Maung Maung Than of Rakhine State third with 278. Similarly, Naing Naing Lin of Yangon Division secured first with 295 in total gross, Naing Bala Win of Yangon District second with 303 and Derek Htet Doe of Yangon Division third with 307.

In the team captain event, U Tun Tun of Kayin State won first prize with 70 total nett and U Thein Tun of Kachin State second with 71.

General Manager of the Isuzu Motors Ltd Mr Kenji Lida presented US$ 500 each to the MOC and the MGF through Acting Director-General U Kyaw Soe Myint of Sports and Physical Education Department and MGF Executive U Ko Ko Lay and US$ 1,000 through U Khin Se Soe Tha of Yangon Golf Club. Then, the Isuzu Motors Ltd hosted a dinner to the guests.

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**Construction of district-to-district road in Hmawby inspected**

**YANGON,** 18 March — Director-General U Myint of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs together with departmental officials inspected the construction of district-to-district road in Hmawby Township today.

Afterswards, the director-general looked into the construction of the road linking Kyar-in (West) Village and Nyaungmyi Village with the use of heavy machinery. Next, the director-general gave instructions on worksite safety, minimizing the loss and wastage, timely completion of the tasks meeting the set standard. On completion, people can travel in a short time between Yangon and the villages in Hmawby Township. — MNA
At least 16,000 Iraqis have died since start of war

BAGHDAD, 18 March — Violence and insecurity hold sway over much of Iraq two years after the US-led invasion, despite burgeoning Iraqi security forces and the continued presence of 150,000 foreign troops, mostly Americans.

The two main roads heading south from the capital are so dangerous that one of them is nick-named the “highway of death,” while the other passes through an area with the dubious moniker of the “triangle of death.”

The road north, which passes through the country’s Sunni Arab heartland, is the scene of repeated kidnappings and murders.

The cities of Ramadi, west of the capital, and Samarra and Mosul, to the north, see daily clashes between guerrillas and government forces while bomb attacks in Shiite districts have cost the lives of at least 700 people.

Widespread looting followed by the disbanding of the army and intelligence services of the former regime as ordered by former US administrator Paul Bremer in May 2003, have contributed to the insecurity.

The guerrilla itself, made up of members of the former ruling Baath Party and militant Islamists, initially targeted US forces, then Iraq’s own nascent security personnel and Shiites, considered collaborators of the “occupation.”

Meanwhile, porous borders have allowed hundreds of self-proclaimed holy warriors to pour into the country and have a go at soldiers of the world’s only superpower.

The most famous of these belligerent foreigners is the Al-Qaeda-linked Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has claimed responsibility for the most bloody bombings and a string of kidnappings and gruesome executions.

Iraq’s national intelligence chief General Hammadi Abdullah al-Shahwani said in January that there were some 200,000 rebels, with a hard core of 40,000 fighters.

According to the Iraq Body Count database set up by British academics, at least 16,000 Iraqis have died since the start of the war, of which around 7,000 died in the first six weeks of the war, after which US President George W Bush announced the end of major combat operations.

Chinese FM hopes EU would lift “irrational” ban on arms sales to China

BRUSSELS, 18 March — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said on Thursday he hoped the European Union would lift what he called its “irrational” ban on arms sales to China.

He insisted Beijing posed no threat to Taiwan — the basis on which the US Administration has vigorously tried to stop the EU from lifting the ban.

“I think the European Union, as a very important group of countries, will have enough political wisdom and courage to lift as quickly as possible this measure which is irrational and constitutes political discrimination towards China,” he told reporters in Brussels, headquarters of the 25-nation EU.

Vietnam plans big subsidies for sugar refineries

HANOI, 18 March — The Vietnamese Government will provide state-run sugar refineries with at least 126 million US dollars this year to help them reorganize and pay debt, including to foreign lenders, Vietnam newspaper Saigon Times reported on Thursday.

Together with this subsidy, the government also decided to reorganize 32 sugar factories and relocate or close three more among the 39 that are operating now.

Last year was the only profit-making year of the country’s sugar industry since 1995, with some 340 million US dollars revenue, according to the report.

In 1995, the government launched a programme in which state-run sugar refineries were expected to supply one million tons of sugar per year by 2000.

To meet the target, Vietnam borrowed some 864 million US dollars from internationals lenders to build new sugar factories, buy equipment and grow more cane. The factories are still paying back debts to the lenders, said the report.

CSC approves layouts of track commuters in three developed regions

BEIJING, 18 March — Chinese State Council Wednesday approved the transportation layouts of track commuters in the country’s three most developed regions, including the region around Bohai including Beijing and Tianjin, the Yangtze River Delta, and the Zhumjiang (Pearl) River Delta.

The State Council’s executive meeting, presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao on Wednesday, decided to build a modern transportation system with track commuters between scattered cities in the three regions, aiming to save land resources and improve environmental protection.
China to build nat’l database for personal credit information

BEIJING, 18 March — The People’s Bank of China (PBOC), China’s central bank, is soliciting public opinions on building a nationwide database for personal credit information.

According to a draft regulation on the management of the database for personal credit information, issued by the PBOC Wednesday, a database linking seven cities such as Beijing and Southwest China’s Chongqing has been on trial run since last year.

A national database is expected to be built at the end of this year. The database collects personal information including identity, profession and address, history of financial credit and other relevant data capable of showing a citizen’s credit, according to the PBOC.

The seven-chapter regulation includes items on how banks will report and search personal credit information, how citizens will apply to the administration for correcting their information in the database and how the database will safeguard privacy and security of the information.

Banks will be banned from accessing the database and fined 10,000 yuan (1,209 to 3,627 US dollars) if they are over the line or use the information for other purposes than loaning management, the draft regulation said.

HK Housing Authority expects surplus in 2004-05 budget

HONG KONG, 18 March — Hong Kong Housing Authority has endorsed its revised budget for 2004-05, which shows a consolidated operating surplus of around 500 million Hong Kong dollars (64 million US dollars), according to a government Press release on Thursday.

The surplus, up 400 million Hong Kong dollars on the approved budget, is mainly due to lower personal emoluments as a result of downsizing, and lower maintenance and improvement expenditure brought on by a lower tender price index. The authority’s consolidated operating surplus is expected to rise to 15 billion Hong Kong dollars in 2005-2006.

On such a basis, the authority’s cash position will remain positive with an estimated cash balance of 13.2 billion Hong Kong dollars in March and 41 billion Hong Kong dollars by March, 2006.

The authority said the forecast estimated cash balances are subject to change, as external factors can have an immense impact on them.

The authority Thursday also endorsed its Corporate Plan for 2005-2006. With 67 key activities, the plan sets out a clear programme of work for the authority to achieve its strategic objectives in the coming year.

The authority will ensure the provision of adequate public rental housing units with a view to maintain the average waiting time at three years. To tackle abuse of public housing resources, the authority will step up legal support to the Task Force Against Abuses of Public Housing Resources. Suitable measures will also be introduced to reduce the number of rent arrears cases.

The corporate plan also highlights efforts to facilitate efficient and rational allocation of housing resources. Key activities include reviewing the domestic rent policy, maximising the recovery of public housing units, minimizing the turn-around time of housing offers and proving opportunities for relief of overcrowding.

1,519 of US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 18 March — As of Friday, 18 March, 2005, at least 1,519 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,155 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST on Friday. The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,381 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,049 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

BBC to cut 1,500 jobs to save $384.7m

LONDON, 18 March — The BBC is to cut 1,500 jobs from news and other programmes over three years to save 200 million pounds (384.7 million US dollars), media reports said on Friday.

“We are going to make an announcement to staff on Monday about savings in output and content,” said a spokesman for the world’s biggest public broadcaster, which has already cut other jobs.

This would cover all the BBC’s programme-making divisions, including news, drama, entertainment, children’s and radio, the spokesman said. Monday’s announcement is due at 1430 GMT.

Details of the cuts were leaked to the BBC’s labour affairs correspondent by a senior well-placed source, the BBC’s news web site reported.

Last week, BBC Director General Mark Thompson said 1,730 jobs would be going from the broadcaster’s Professional Services division, which includes finance, personnel and marketing.

57 Filipinos fall ill after eating spaghetti

MANILA, 18 March — A total of 57 children and adults were sick after eating spaghetti in the northern Philippines, a local TV reported on Thursday.

The hospital said that the children had been given medical treatment at the emergency room to control the vomiting.

As of posting time, 21 patients were still receiving medication while the rest were under observation for testing, the report said. The investigation is still underway on the cause of the mass food poisoning in the central province of Bohol last week, leaving 27 popsil dead after eating cassava snacks.

China’s projects cost to be reduced by 10 to 15% through public bidding

BEIJING, 18 March — Thanks to the public bidding system, China’s projects could reduce costs by 10 to 15 per cent on average, said Ma Kai, minister in charge of the State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC) here on Wednesday.

In some sectors, investors could save a much as 20 per cent, Ma said at a symposium commemorating the fifth anniversary of the implementation on public bidding.

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An Iraqi woman carries a child into a school guarded by US soldiers during a visit by Iraqi doctors in Baghdad, on 18 March, 2005. — Internet

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— MNA/Reuters
Eight HK scientists awarded
croucher foundation fellowships

HONG KONG, 18 March — Eight top research academics from four local universities were presented Senior Research Fellowship of the Croucher Foundation here on Wednesday.

Awards were presented by chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Andrew KN Li to the eight distinguished individuals in recognition of their outstanding research.

Of the eight recipients of the fellowship awarded this year, three academics are from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) two from the University of Hong Kong (HKU), two from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and one from the City University of Hong Kong (CityU).

The Croucher Senior Research Fellowship scheme was first introduced in 1997/98 academic year. It is awarded to local academics who have excelled in scientific research work. In recognition of their success and to encourage their further achievement in their given fields, funds will be awarded to the respective institutions for recruiting an academist to take over the fellow’s duties for the period of the fellowship.

Two transnational transits to link
Guangxi, Vietnam next month

NANNING, 18 March — Two transnational routes linking south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Vietnam will open next month, local authorities said Wednesday.

According to communication bureau of the autonomous region, the routes run from Beihai, a southern Chinese port city, to Southeast Asia and from Nanning, capital of the autonomous region, to Ha Long of Vietnam. They will open at end of April.

The two transnational routes all pass through Guanxi Dongxing one of the most convenient ports from China to Vietnam and Southeast China. The port saw 1.09 million people, including about 700,000 tourists, leaving or entering the country last year.

The transit’s opening should alleviate transport pressure between the autonomous region and Vietnam, noted the resources.

Tianjin port posts $10.93b of foreign trade in January, February

TIANJIN, 18 March — Foreign trade through the northern port of Tianjin reached 10.93 billion US dollars in January and February, up 30.6 per cent over the same two months last year, according to Customs statistics.

During the first two months of 2005, imports rose 15.2 per cent to 4.46 billion US dollars and exports grew 44 per cent to 6.47 billion US dollars.

Foreign-funded businesses contributed to 46.2 per cent of the total foreign trade, with trade volume standing at 5.05 billion US dollars and exports grew 44 per cent to 6.47 billion US dollars.

Foreign trade of state-owned companies were valued at 4.19 billion US dollars, an increase of 25.3 per cent.

Exports of mechanical and electrical products via the port rose 40.4 per cent to 2.49 billion US dollars.

Tianjin port more than doubled its exports of steel to 736.00 tons during the first two months, valuing at 460 million US dollars.

A haircut in Iraq can be the death of the barber

BAGHDAD, 17 March — It was almost closing time in Sadiq Abdul Hussein’s barbershop when a man in a black mask walked in, pulled out a pistol, and began spinning it on his finger, cowboy style.

The gunman was not after government officials or American collaborators. He had come because of the way Mr Hussein cut hair.

Within seconds, the masked man opened fire, fatally wounding Mr Hussein, 23, who lived long enough to describe the attack. The gunman also killed his partner and a custumer.

In southern Baghdad, the hazards of life have come to this: gangs of militant Islamists are warning barbers that it is haram — forbidden — to shave men’s beards or do Western-style haircuts. As many as 12 barbers have been killed, Iraqi officials say, including five in one day in late January. With little hope of police protection, most now refuse to offer the offending cuts, and have placed prominent signs in their front windows saying so.

On a recent afternoon, a barber who gave his name only as Ahmad stood over a customer, scissors in hand, glancing nervously out front window of his shop. One of the two leather barber’s chairs sat empty, and on the walls were mirrors and photographs of handsome young men with glistening newly cut hair, as in any Western salon.

“One morning about three months ago I came to the shop and found a handwritten note with a bullet,” he said.

The note warned him that it was forbidden to shave men’s beards, or to do facial massages or the French-style haircuts known as the ‘carre’ and the ‘spiky.’ The note also warned him not to offer hifihaa, the Iraqi practice in which barbers use a length of thread to pull out the small hairs on the face and give a closer shave. If he ignored the warning, he would be killed, the note said.
Bomb explosions occur in some regions due to subversive acts of terrorists

PUBLIC EXHORTED TO KEEP SECURITY AWARENESS, COOPERATE WITH AUTHORITIES

YANGON, 19 March — The government has received information since early January this year that absconder saboteurs that are active on the border between Myanmar and the neighbouring country are hatching plots to step up their destructive acts in Myanmar.

According to the information, the NLD (LA) armed a destructionist with information of a duty-conscious person, a leather bag was seized on a bus of Magway-Yangon-Pathein route near Shwe-mantheu bus terminal on 17 March 2005. Security personnel examined the bag and found that it was a time bomb with a clock, two small dry cells, a detonator, wire and explosives. There was no explosion as they cleared the mine in advance. Though the security personnel and the people tried to prevent damage, no one was injured.

A time bomb embedded in a purse found on a bus plying Magway-Yangon-Pathein route in at Shwemantyu Bus Terminal in South Okkalapa Township on 16 March. — MNA

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects Disposable Syringe and Intravenous Fluids Production Project (Inyaung). — INDUSTRY-1
Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented best player of the year 2004 to selected footballer Soe Myat Min, and selected Wushu player Swe Swe Thant, and best sports team of the year to selected Myanmar women’s football team which emerged champion in 1st ASEAN Women’s Football Tournament.

Managing Director U Zaw Win Naing of Kanbawza Bank Ltd presented K 1 million each to the two best players of the year to selected Myanmar women’s football team.

President of Myanmar Sports Writers Federation Dr Tin Tun of U Zaw Win Naing of Kanbawza Bank Ltd pre-sented K 1 millions each to the two best players of the year to selected Myanmar women’s football team.

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List of World Meteorology Day commemorative article, poem contests announced

Managing Director U Zaw Win Naing of Kanbawza Bank Ltd presents best player of the year award to Soe Myat Min.— NLM

The meeting of Central Committee for Offering Gold Plates and Inspecting Durability of Shwehtidaw at Shwedagon Pagoda in progress. MNA

Plan to check Htidaw, offer gold plates to Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 19 March — The Central Committee for Offering Gold Plates and Foils and Inspecting Durability of Shwehtidaw of Shwedagon Pagoda held the meeting at the pagoda this morning.

Present were Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, departmental heads, officials and wellwishers.

They discussed durability of the Htidaw, arrangements being made for offering of three-tical and six-tical gold plates and gold foils for wellwishers, drawing architectural design of the main building of the pagoda, resistance against natural dis-tasters. They planned to check durability of the Shwehtidaw and offer gold plates and foils to the pagoda not later than 30 April.— MNA

MNA

POEM

Chronicle of March, Chronicle of Summer

* Green are the buds of emerald “payit”
  And as they bloom and are stirred by the wind
  The golden cuckoo recalls
  Chronicle of March, chronicle of Summer.

* Having deprived of our sovereignty, subjugated
  We fell under them, this land of ours
  Tears in our eyes, not properly attired
  Suffered in privation, in that forlorn period.

* Suffering in privation, and
  Treading the dark in that station of life
  Passage would not be possible
  Our ancestors, born of Myanmar
  Were awakened with the right thought.

* In hills and plains, abode of civilization
  Got together in solidarity, bravely
  Those who intruded our land, insulting
  The colonials, Awakened, alert, with fighting spirit
  We waged the war of resistance.

* That with fighting spirit, our martyrs
  We marched and confronted them,
  cannot be forgotten
  From this sovereign land of ours
  To flee, we waged the resistance
  And this to be told to future generations
  Our ancestors came to be chronicled as true martyrs.

* O, green buds, emerald hued
  When new blooms are stirred by the wind,
  The golden cuckoo recalls
  Chronicle of March, Chronicle of Summer.
  Khun Ye Thway (Ayethayar) (Trs)
The ancient Myanmar that was powerful whenever the Tatmadaw was strong

The world has known Myanmar’s existence as a sovereign nation, having her own territory and culture, since time immemorial. Historical records stand witness to the fact that Myanmar had the Tatmadaw formed with various national races since the very early periods.

The pages of history prove that whenever there was a formidable Tatmadaw, Myanmar became powerful, enjoying cent-per-cent unity and peace and prosperity. And during the times, the Myanmar Tatmadaw always won the respect and attention of the surrounding states.

A study of history shows that the main force behind the national solidarity, peace, tranquillity, strength, prosperity is the powerful Tatmadaw. There are many examples.

First, I will go back to the Bagan period, in which the history of glorious Myanmar was recorded with firm evidence. But during the period, the English race of England, that would claim itself as the empire where the sun never set had not yet come into existence. The people of England were called Anglo Saxons, when King Anawrahta of Bagan dynasty ascended the throne in 1044 AD. But in Myanmar the Bagan state with its own race, culture, administration and sovereignty was flourishing.

Not only in history do we know the flourishing of the Sasana, abundant supply of food, and the donations made by the people to build pagodas in Bagan, the royal capital of Myanmar was a country rich in above-ground resources, and her forests and hills have helped maintain and protect her favourable climate. As the colonialists coveted her riches, they were trying to colonize her through various ways. There would be encroachment on the independence and sovereignty during the time, if the national races had no unity among themselves and the nation lacked a strong Tatmadaw. History has proved that the strength of the Tatmadaw is also the nation’s.

But in the later periods, the national unity was in a state of decline. In the absence of a Tatmadaw that would certainly march on to Bagan to carry on their acts of aggression. What I mean here is that if there was not powerful Tatmadaw in Bagan or in other parts of Myanmar, the country would face the danger of alien intrusion since then.

We have firm historical records about the national development resulting from the national solidarity during the Hanthawaddy period, the long-lasting sovereignty, Myanmar being renowned Myanmar step by step, giving trade as an excuse, during the time of King Alaungphaya, who founded the Third Myanmar Empire. The British set up East Asia Company and built an economic and military base on Hainggyi Island. The French also opened commercial centre there, with the excuse to compete with the British traders.

Because of the economic and military ventures of the British reaching the extreme limits, the Myanmar Tatmadaw had to attack the British troops on the Hainggyi Island and took it. In 1756, King Alaungphaya drove out the French smuggling timber from their base in Thanlyin. As France did not want to abandon all its ships, it sent three warships to Thanlyin as reinforcements. But the Myanmar army was able to seize and destroy all the ships.

As a power in Southeast Asia and her formidable army, the nation had enjoyed fame during the time of King Bayinnaung, the founder of the Second Myanmar Empire. And it was the time, when some colonial countries of the west were applying various means to enter Myanmar. Some colonialists came to Myanmar as merchants and some as diplomats to extend friendly relations. Portuguese Nga Zinga (a) Philip de Britto was the first to set foot on Myanmar soil for colonization. In 1627, the Dutch, British and French entered Myanmar, when the unity of the Second Myanmar Empire broke down and the Tatmadaw’s strength was in a state of decline.

The colonialists were trying to extend their colonialist ventures in

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First, I will go back to the Bagan period, in which the history of glorious Myanmar was recorded with firm evidence. But during the period, the English race of England, that would claim itself as the empire where the sun never set had not yet come into existence. The people of England were called Anglo Saxons, when King Anawrahta of Bagan dynasty ascended the throne in 1044 AD. But in Myanmar the Bagan state with its own race, culture, administration and sovereignty was flourishing.

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The ancient Myanmar that was powerful whenever the Tatmadaw was strong

King Bayinnaung who founded the second Myanmar empire.

The new light of Myanmar Sunday, 20 March, 2005 9

The ancient Myanmar that was powerful whenever the Tatmadaw was strong

among the nations through economic and political means, and lack of linkage and harmony among the patriotic fighters. Thus, a decisive victory can be achieved only if the national people know the wicked schemes of the colonialists to divide Myanmar, and join trade business in Yangon in addition to coastal towns including Mawlamyine and Sittway. Two British merchant ships, trying to avoid paying taxes, secretly landed at Yangon port in the end of 1850. Thus, Yangon Mayor U Oak took action against the two ships and fined them. The captains, Lewis and Shapurd, of the two ships filed a complaint to the Governor-General Lord Dalhose of India concerning the capture. Instead of ordering the two captains to pay the fine, the Governor-General demanded fine from Myanmar and the transfer of the Mayor for his act to embarrass Lewis and Shapurd. Lord Dalhose did not make the demand through proper diplomatic channel, but sent a naval boat to the command of Captain Kambert. King Bagan transferred the Mayor in accord with the agreement and took together with them the goods and one million silver coins in addition to thecorreo to Myanmar to the British Government; and that Myanmar was to accept a representative of the British Government in Yangon.

Myanmar did not respond to the ultimatum. And with that excuse, the British started the Second Anglo-Myanmar War.

For the colonialists, the Second war was easier and sweeter to fight than the First war. The reason was that the British had already known the weakening situation of the Myanmar army. Since the First war, they had known the Myanmar army’s lack of military, administrative and organizational skills and arms and ammunition.

Thus, we study the First and Second Anglo-Myanmar Wars and the reasons behind them, we will find that Myanmar lacked a modern and strong Tatmadaw. The absence of such a Tatmadaw had led to inviting alien interference in and intrusions into Myanmar.

King Mindon made plans to modernize and strengthen the Tatmadaw. The King tried to buy weapons from British merchants in accord with the agreement in 1867. But Dalhose prohibited British merchants from selling weapons to Myanmar. Thus, Myanmar King tried to buy military hardware from Italy and France. The British minister forbade the goods from passing through the lower Myanmar that was under the British occupation during the time.

The British Government did not wish Myanmar to have a powerful Tatmadaw equipped with advanced weaponry. Because it wanted to seize the upper Myanmar easily.

Prince Kanoung made plans to build factories to manufacture advanced weapons to overcome the difficulty the nation was facing in buying arms and ammunition. But the plans failed because of the court crises and those who were against making war with the British. Thus, setting up of a modern and strong Tatmadaw was away from Myanmar although she knew of the requirement very well.

The ultimate aim of the colonialists was to annex the entire Myanmar. Because of her richness in natural resources, British and French merchants were meddling in the trade and commercial affairs of upper Myanmar since the time of King Mindon. During the reign of King Thibaw, the two colonial giants were vying each other to gain market in upper Myanmar. The New York Times newspaper issued on 24 October 1885, said that upper Myanmar was the best market in the world unopened yet; and that France was launching clandestine operations to grab the market. It also urged the British to use upper Myanmar for trade.

The British did not want to see Myanmar falling under the French influence. Thus, the British had already made plans to occupy upper Myanmar. In April 1885, there occurred a case, in which the British Bombay Burma Company smuggled timber from Myanmar.

When the Myanmar Government caught the smuggling, it fined the company. But instead of paying the fine, the company filed a complaint against the case to the Governor-General of India. The Governor-General sent an ultimatum which included an unconcerned matter—the demand to acknowledge the British about the Myanmar’s foreign relations. All were in vain, despite Myanmar that was under British occupation during the time. In accord with their original plan, the colonialists started the Third Anglo-Myanmar War.

The colonialists were able to seize upper Myanmar easily within 15 days. In the book, Winston Churchill wrote about his grandfather, who was the Secretary of Indian Affairs, it is said that as the British Government was worried about the French domination in Myanmar, it unjusely seized the country without the approval of the parliament. The British political leader, in his book “Friends of England”, said that the British unjustly seized upper Myanmar; that the seizure of Myanmar was not approved by anyone; that as Myanmar was extending relations with France, the British occupied Myanmar in time.

If we study history, we will see Myanmar rising high among nations for three times because of her powerful Tatmadaw; and there were also three Anglo-Myanmar Wars in which Myanmar was defeated because of the absence of a strong Tatmadaw.

Myanmar becomes a sovereign nation having the precise territorial boundary and firm administration whenever the Tatmadaw is strong. As long as the Tatmadaw is imbued with the three capabilities, the nation will enjoy peace, prosperity and unity.

History stands witness to the fact that Myanmar will remain strong as long as there is the powerful Tatmadaw or in other words, the Tatmadaw imbued with the three capabilities.
Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung reported on production of high quality fabric products from the factory.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address. He said as the factory is equipped with 600 weaving machines, it can produce substantial amount of textiles and clothing. There have been job opportunities in Pwintbyu region, and the factory has been staffed with nearly 4,000 local people. In addition, technical efficiency of factory workers will improve, for they will have to cope with modern machinery installed to the factory.

The Prime Minister said irrigation acreage of Pwintbyu region, Minbu (Sagu) region and Salin region had been extended as Mone Multi-Purpose Dam, Mann Dam and Salin Dam were constructed. As a result, double cropping could be carried out and incomes of local farmers are now improving. At the same time, Mone Multi-Purpose Dam is generating 75 megawatts of electricity for regional power supply, he added.

Buywa dam project and Kyeeonkyewa dam project are being implemented to expand irrigation acreage and generate more electricity. In a matter of three years, the Prime Minister remarked, cultivation acreage of monsoon and summer paddy and cotton along Mone Creek will be extended thanks to these dam projects.

He went on to say that the country needs to establish an agro-based industry through the development of agricultural sector. So, the State built such a greatly invested textile factory. In years to come, private-owned small and medium factories will emerge based on agriculture sector, noted the Prime Minister. Now, the arid regions of Minbu (Sagu) and Salin including Pwintbyu on the western bank of the Ayeyawady River that had difficulty in transport in the past are seeing progress in all aspects as the State has been building bridges, dams, river-water pumping stations and factories there.

During his inspection tour in Magway in December, the Head of State gave guidance that Magway Division would develop with greater momentum in four or five years based on better foundations created by the State.

Despite difficulties, the government is making efforts for development of not only Magway Division but also all parts of the country. It is doing so with the concept of progress of the nation and its people.

The Prime Minister spoke of the need for the people in Magway Division to realize the goodwill and noble objectives and to be loyal to the State and patriotic and to work hard.

He also called on local people to maintain the factory for durability and to grow cotton needed mainly for the factory.

He said Pakokku and Salingyi Textile Plants are under construction. The new and old factories under the Ministry of Industry must produce 30 million viss of cotton every year. There are about 800,000 acres of cotton in the country including Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions. And about 90 million viss of cotton can be produced. Production of cotton in the country has met with the local demand for State-run factories and privately-owned ones.
Nowadays, the governmental bodies including the Ministry of Industry-1 are engaged in land reclamation to satisfy the demand of raw materials on their own arrangements. This being the case, there emerged acres of new State-run cotton plantations countable by the thousand in Magway Division.

Therefore, local farmers who are engaged in meeting the demand of cotton raw materials in the market are to acquire new techniques applying in new cotton plantations. All in all, the agricultural sector of the State has been in the offing and so has the industry that is based on the agriculture. The Pwintbyu Factory has stood witness to it.

The industrial sector is the second greatest in terms of GDP of the State after the agricultural sector. The industrial sector constitutes about 98 per cent of private industries and 1.5 per cent of State industries. The State is giving priority to establishment of mills and factories which need a great deal of capital and high technology.

The government is setting up the industries that are crucial for the State while establishing the agro-based industries. It is doing so with the aim of paving the way for transforming an agro-based national into a modern industrial one.

In other words, the government is building the industrial infrastructures needed for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation. On the other hand, with the aim of bringing about equitable development across the nation including Magway Division and of narrowing the development gaps among the regions, it has laid down electric power projects dispensable for industrial development.

With the establishment of infrastructures required for national development including development of economic and transport sectors and for the emergence of highly-qualified human resources, work programmes for mobilizing the transition to democracy to be in line with tradition and cultures of own State and own people have been laid down and are being implemented.

Integrated and well-coordinated efforts are of paramount importance in successful realization of political, economic and social objectives of the State. The future work programmes of the State are to be implemented by means of the active participation of the entire national people.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on officials concerned and local people to make concerted efforts for the emergence of a modern and developed nation, maintaining the fine traditions of Magway Division that has made marked progress through united efforts of local people and departmental officials under the leadership of the government.

Next, U Tin Min of Pwintbyu Township, on behalf of local people expressed thanks for construction of Textiles Factory (Pwintbyu) in Pwintbyu region.

Myanmar Sports and Health Foundation Chairman Bo Ye Htut (Thirty Comrades) presents medal to Myanmar Wushu Federation President U Khin Maung Lay at the ceremony to present prizes to outstanding athletes on 19-3-2005. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein views Computer Art and Application Contest. — MNA

YANGON, 13 March — Organized by Work Committee for Holding the Booths of Twelve Objectives of the State, the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative computer quiz 2005 continued at Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute, Dagon Township this morning.

First, Chairman of Work Committee Lt-Col Aung Gyi of Directorate of Resettlement of the Ministry of Defence explained the purpose of holding the computer quiz to members of township Union Solidarity and Development Associations and Lecture of Yangon Institute of Computer Studies did its rules. A total of 75 participants of Lammadaw, Dagon Myothit (South) and Hlinethaya townships took part in the quiz.

Armed Forces Day commemorative computer quiz goes on

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Mubarak calls for rallying Arab efforts to confront challenges

CAIRO, 18 March— Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday called for rallying Arab efforts to render the upcoming Arab Summit in Algiers successful so as to confront challenges facing the region.

Mubarak made the call during his meeting in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Shcikh with visiting Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin Jasim Bin Jabr Al-Thani.

Presidential Spokesman Suliman Awwad told the official MENA news agency that the Egyptian-Qatari talks covered the latest Arab conditions and the agenda of the Tuesday Algiers Arab League summit.

President Mubarak reaffirmed his intention to attend the Arab Summit, Awwad added.

The 22-member Arab League is expected to celebrate its 60th birthday at the upcoming summit, due in the Algerian capital Algiers on Tuesday.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit had said that the upcoming Arab summit in Algeria will consider reforms of the decision-making mechanism of the League to active unified Arab action.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran will not give back three British naval boats

TEHERAN, 18 March— Iran will never return three British naval boats it seized last year on its border with Iraq, a senior military official was quoted as saying on Thursday.

Britain has demanded Teheran hand over the boats which were captured last June along with eight British serviceman in the narrow Shatt al-Arab waterway which divides southwestern Iran from Iraq. The men were freed after three days.

Earlier this month London lodged a formal protest with Teheran about plans to display the boats as part of a military exhibition in southern Iran.

Iran has shown little sign of backing down. “Iran will not give back the three British naval boats seized in the Shatt al-Arab and is putting them on display,” the semi-official Fars news agency quoted Mirfaisal Baqerzadeh, described as a senior Chief Staff of Armed Forces official, as saying. “For the same reasons we did not give back the American helicopters, we won’t give back the aggressive British naval boats,” Baqerzadeh said.

MNA/Reuters

American’s life expectancy could shrink due to obesity

BOSTON, 18 March— For the first time in generations, Americans’ average life expectancy because of diet and smoking has been reduced by an obesity epidemic sweeping the United States, researchers said on Wednesday.

In an analysis that weighed in on the debate over reforming Social Security, health experts concluded that the nation’s steady rise in longevity may end in coming decades as more people die early from obesity-related health problems like heart disease, diabetes and kidney failure.

Led by Jay Olshansky of the University of Illinois in Chicago, the researchers said obesity among adults rose by 50 per cent per decade during the 1980s and 1990s to the point that nearly one in three Americans now obese. The team suggested the methods used to establish life expectancy — long based on historic trends — must be reassessed in light of the growing population of obese Americans.

A review is described as a senior time when Social Security reform is consuming US politics, the researchers noted that the question of longevity is not just academic but has major public policy implications. The Social Security Administration has estimated that life expectancy in the United States will continue to rise steadily, reaching the mid-80s later this century.

The Olshansky team called the projection flawed because it did not factor in the health consequences of being overweight.

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
Growing number of LA residents “stunningly unhappy”

LOS ANGELES, 18 March — California may be the golden state but a growing number of Los Angeles residents are “stunningly unhappy” with their quality of life, according to a survey released on Wednesday.

Traffic and housing costs are such a concern that one-third of those interviewed said they expected to leave Los Angeles County in the next five years—almost double the numbers of those who said they planned to leave in the last survey in 2003.

“More LA city residents say they plan to leave the county than voted in last week’s mayoral race,” said Mark Baldassare, director of the Public Policy Institute of California which questioned 2,003 adult residents for the survey.

Some 74 per cent, up from 67 per cent two years ago, of those questioned put traffic congestion on the freeways that crisscross the area as their biggest concern. Some 64 per cent, compared to 54 per cent two years ago, cited the lack of affordable housing in a region that has seen house prices boom over the last two years.

Despite giving good ratings to the county’s economy, 37 per cent said they believed that Los Angeles County would be a worse place, rather than a better place (24 per cent) to live in 20 years time.

MNA/Reuters

BETTER TESTING KEY TO FIGHT AIDS PANDEMIC

BEIJING, 19 March — Better testing is the key to fighting the global AIDS pandemic, Richard Holbrooke said on Friday in Beijing, where he was in town to encourage Chinese businesses to play a role in stopping the spread of the disease.

“The former ambassador to the United Nations who now heads the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS also had harsh words for the World Health Organization, saying its emphasis on providing anti-retrovirals was misplaced when most of those with the disease did not know they were infected.”

“Better testing key to fight AIDS pandemic”

MNA/Reuters

Biologist documents new species of fairy shrimp in Idaho

SALMON (Idaho), 18 March — A military biologist has documented a new species of fairy shrimp in Idaho, one of only four species among hundreds that are longer than an inch and eat their relatives, officials said on Wednesday.

Dana Quinney, a biologist with the Idaho National Guard, said the new species most closely resembled a “feathery preying mantis with an attitude”. Unlike the vast majority of fairy shrimp, the new species is armed with spines and ready to rumble with its smaller counterparts, said Quinney, adding, “This guy is a carnivore, grabbing onto little guys and eating them.”

The three-inch, flesh-coloured crustacean can lie dormant for years, even decades, in egg form, emerging only when infrequent rains and runoff fill the desert lakes of southwestern Idaho. Then it goes amok, eating, mating and laying eggs before another dry spell descends.

In recent times, the mega-sized fairy shrimp—which sports hooked arms, a forked tail and turquoise-coloured reproductive organs—clamps its fairy shrimp cousins to its abdomen to store for future dining. It’s a very cool critter,” said Quinney.

MNA/Reuters

New York, 19 March — New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art said on Thursday it had acquired 8,500 photographs collected by industrialist Howard Gilman, whose archive it said had helped define the history of photography.

“It’s the preeminent private collection in this area. It’s been the dream of the Met to acquire it,” said Malcolm Daniel, curator of photography.

MNA/Reuters

Better testing key to fight AIDS pandemic

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The former ambassador to the United Nations who now heads the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS also had harsh words for the World Health Organization, saying its emphasis on providing anti-retrovirals was misplaced when most of those with the disease did not know they were infected.

“The failure to test is the weakest link in the policy. If testing is not encouraged, AIDS will become, worldwide, the ultimate weapon of mass destruction,” he told a news conference.

Holbrooke praised China’s efforts to fight AIDS, saying the SARS outbreak in 2003 had been critical to changing central government’s attitudes toward the disease by highlighting the economic consequences of allowing its spread.

Holbrooke said testing should be carried out routinely for patients undergoing operations, couples getting married and for pregnant women, but he acknowledged compliance with such a policy would be difficult without guarantees of confidentiality.

That presents a challenge for China, where the government was slow to acknowledge the epidemic and says it has fewer than 1 million cases—a figure many AIDS organizations say is a gross underestimate.

At the highest levels, the government’s attitude has changed.

“The government will further enhance legislation on prevention and treatment and invest additional resources in this work,” Health Minister Chen Zhu and Vice-Premier Wu Yi said.

MNA/Reuters
Parma defeat Sevilla 1-0

ROME, 18 March — Parma’s rollercoaster season continued on Thursday, when a goal by defender Giuseppe Cardone sealed a 1-0 win on aggregate over Sevilla to send them into the quarterfinals of the UEFA Cup.

The two-times UEFA Cup winners, who are battling relegation in Serie A, were lucky not to fall behind in the early stages of the match when visiting midfielder Adriano curled a free kick against the bar.

In the 19th minute Sevilla’s defence failed to clear a corner, allowing Cardone to fire in the only goal of the tie from close range.

Sevilla pushed forward after the break but struggled to breakdown Parma’s defence. Their best chance to equalize came 13 minutes from time, when Antonio slid a dangerous ball across the face of goal only for fellow striker Julio Baptista to send his shot high over the bar.

Sporting Lisbon beat Middlesbrough 1-0

LONDON, 18 March — Sporting Lisbon stayed on course to play this year’s UEFA Cup final in their own Jose Alvalade Stadium when they beat Middlesbrough 1-0 to reach the quarterfinals 2-4 on aggregate on Thursday.

Partizan Belgrade who finished with nine men after Nenad Djordjevic and Ivan Tomic were sent off in the last seven minutes.

Daniel Carvalho (69th) and Vagner Love (85th pen) scored the goals that secured CSKA’s progression.

Austria Vienna qualified for the last eight with a 2-0 first leg victory over Real Zaragoza in a match that ended 2-2 on the night for a 3-3 aggregate result.

The Austrians raced into a 2-0 lead after only 12 minutes with goals from Sasa Papac and Tosin Dosunmu, but the balance of the match changed when goalkeeper Joel Didulica was red-carded by Luxembourg referee Alain Hamer after 31 minutes for a late challenge on Brazilian forward Savio.

Zaragoza eventually fought their way back with second-half goals from David Villa (58th) and Luciano Galletti (62nd) but could not get a third past substitute goalkeeper Sabolocs Safar.

CSKA Moscow sent into UEFA Cup quarters

MOSCOW, 18 March — Brazilian duo Vagner Love and Daniel Carvalho scored a goal each to send CSKA Moscow into the UEFA Cup quarterfinals with a 2-0 victory over Partizan Belgrade on Thursday.

Carvalho’s goal on the counter-attack and Love’s 85th-minute penalty sealed 3-1 aggregate win for the Russians after their 1-1 draw last week in the Serbian capital.

Partizanplayed the last five minutes with nine players. Nenad Djordjevic was sent off in the 83rd minute for bringing down Carvalho in the area, leading to the penalty, and Ivan Tomic was shown the red card two minutes later for dissent.

CSKA took the lead on 69 minutes when Love snapped up a mistimed clearance and put compatriot Carvalho through on goal.

Carvalho’s celebrations — involving strumping off his shirt — were deemed a little too exuberant by the referee, who booked him.

Love’s penalty stroke was not his most assured and Partizan goalkeeper Ivica Kralj reached the ball but it had enough power to force it way under his body.

The match was moved to the southern city of Krasnodar because Moscow’s weather in mid-March was too cold.
Charles de Gaulle Airport to be reopened in winter of 2007-08

PARIS, 19 March—A futuristic terminal roof at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, which killed four people when it collapsed last May will now be reconstructed, authorities said on Thursday.

A new domed roof on Terminal 2E was the best way to guarantee security for passengers and airport workers, Aeroports de Paris (ADP) said in a statement.

An official report last month concluded that the terminal roof had been weakened by temperature changes that had caused the building’s outer shell to shift by one or two centimetres daily and wore down the concrete roof.

The terminal, used mainly by national carrier Air France, has been only partially reopened.

“Based on internal and external studies, Aeroports de Paris has chosen to reconstruct the roof,” it said in a statement. “Only a reconstruction, guided by the principle of precaution, can assure fully the need for security.”

The statement said ADP hoped to reopen all of Terminal 2E during the winter of 2007/2008. It said the lower levels of the terminal were safe and could be kept intact while the roof was rebuilt.

The French Government said last month it planned to press ahead with selling off shares in ADP, which helped build the terminal at a cost of 750 million euros (973.2 million US dollars). It is designed to handle 10 million passengers a year.

MNA/Reuters

Cuba, Sao Tome & Prince sign sports agreement

HAVANA, 19 March—Cuban coaches will soon travel to Sao Tome & Prince to collaborate with this country in the formation of physical education and sports professors.

This comes as a result of the bilateral cooperation agreement signed here by the minister of the sector of the West African country, Jose de Gracia Viegas, and the President of the Cuban Sports, Physical Education and Leisure Institute (INDER), Humberto Rodriguez. The agreement includes to send Cuban specialists in several sports like athletics, volleyball and canoeing, said Viegas to the Press.

Viegas said “we don’t aim at professional sport for the moment, but we’re taking steps in that direction, though.”—MNA/Ninhas

Asleep in Jesus U Saw Miraw

U Maung Lay Age 93 years (Toungoo)

U Saw Miraw (U Maung Lay), the eldest son of U Gwe Gyi and Daw Soe, husband of (Daw Khin Aye), father of U A Tin Miint-Daw May Kyi Lay, Daw Bernadette, Daw Marie, U Saw Damian (SMART/FRONTIER DRILL) Daw Nn Khin Khin Aye, grandfather of Ma Hnin Hnin Ei, Ma Aye Mi Mi Htet-U Moe Maw, Sai John, Sai Aung Thu, great grandfather of Ma Htet Eindare Lin, passed away peacefully at 62, Kyunmyaung St, East Kyunmyaung Qu. Tamway, at 4:55 pm on 18-3-05 (Friday). The funeral Mass will be held on 20-3-05 (Sunday) at 1:00 pm at Yayaw Kyaw Christiam Cemetery. Buses will leave at 12:00 pm on that day at the above residence.

Bereaved family

WEATHER

Saturday, 19 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been windespread in Kachin State and isolated in upper Sapaing Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was (0.43) inch in Putao. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhae, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sangaing and Ayeawaddy Divisions. 5°C above normal in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) in Magway and (40°C) in Minbu, Aunglan, Pyinmana and Hpa-an each.

Maximum temperature on 18-3-2005 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 19-3-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-3-2005 was 64%. Total sunshine hours on 18-3-2005 was (9.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 19-3-05 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.59) inch at Yangon Airport, (1.54) inches at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Yangon wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (21:30) hours MST on 18-3-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20-3-2005: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thunderstorms in Kachin State and upper Sapaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. 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 thunderstorms in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

Strong wind warning

(Issued on 19th March, 2005)

During the hot-day season, beginning from now to about the middle of May, as day temperatures rise markedly all over the country, strong wind are likely locally in the afternoon/evening over the most of the areas. Surface wind speed may reach (40) to (50) mph and it may also be accompanied at times by squalls and hails in some places.
**Myitnge bridge 80 per cent complete**

YANGON, 19 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Magway Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Chairman of Magway Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials, left Magway for Pakokku by helicopter yesterday morning.

At the hall of the local LID, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with departmental officials and gave instructions on extended cultivation of paddy in Pakokku District. Col Phone Maw Shwe and Chairman of Pakokku District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Hay Aung reported on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, local food sufficiency, land reclamation and water supply.

Chairman of Sagaing Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye briefed Lt-Gen Ye Myint on land reclamation in Gangaw District. After hearing a report, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to them.

In Pakokku District, 80,722 acres of land have been put under monsoon paddy against the target of 86,604 acres in 2004-2005 and 4,523 acres of summer paddy against the target of 12,147 acres. Similarly, the district has been able to put 462,326 acres of pulses and beans against the target of 457,280 acres accounting for 101 per cent; 417,116 acres of edible oil crops against the target of 445,727; 21,994 acres of kitchen crops out of 23,000 acres; 42,853 acres of cotton out of 50,400 acres; and 40,731 acres of maize against the target of 42,475 acres.

At Yedagun Hall of the local LID, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with officers and other ranks and their families. Next, he flew from Pakokku to inspect thriving summer paddy in the watershed area of Ngathayauk river water pumping project in NyaungU Township and onion plantation near Hsindewa Bridge. He also inspected progress of Yangon-Mandalay Six-lane Union Highway.

**Ngamoeyeik water supply project for capital in top gear**

YANGON, 19 March — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Yangon City Development Committee Chair- man Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin arrived at the site of Ngamoeyeik water supply project in Ahtayu Village in Hmawby Township this morning. The commander and the mayor heard reports by YCDC member Col Tin Soe on the construction of the sub-power station and power supply tasks.

Afterwards, the com- mander and the mayor were conducted around the construction of siphon across Ngamoeyeik Creek and the progress of con- structing concrete channel for water intake.

Next, they inspected the tasks being carried out and gave instructions on timely completion of the construction tasks, mini- mizing loss and wastage and making supervision at different levels.