The Tatmadaw and the entire people have become one and indivisible

Our Tatmadaw is a patriotic Tatmadaw that arose out of national politics. During the time of anti-fascist movement, our Tatmadaw hand in hand with the entire people, practised the people’s militia strategy. The Tatmadaw and the entire people have become one and indivisible.

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 58th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Shweli Hydel Power project will generate 400 megawatts

PM inspectts Hsinshweli special high yield hybrid paddy plantation, construction of Shweli Hydel Power project in Lashio

March—Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win together with member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Chairman of Shan (North) State Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials inspected Hsinshweli special high yield hybrid paddy plantation of North-East Command in Lashio on 18 March.

Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint reported on Hsinshweli special high yield hybrid paddy and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave a supplementary report.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo also reported on measures to be taken for high quality paddy and rice.

The Prime Minister and party observed a thriving two-acre Hsinshweli model farm. They went to the Hsinshweli special high yield hybrid paddy plantation of Shan State (North) Police Force.

Secretary of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw reported on yearly efforts for reaching the target per acre yield of 200 baskets in Lashio District.

Deputy Commander of Shan State (North) Police Col Win Naing reported on thriving of the paddy farms. The Prime Minister and party inspected Hsinshweli special high yield paddy farms and quality paddy Hsin-shwelihmwe and Hsinshweli sunflower.

Prime Minister and party proceeded to Kyaukkway Dam project site near Manhsu Village in Lashio Township. Deputy Director U Kyaw Win of Irrigation Department in Shan State (North) reported on objectives of the project and progress of work. (See page 6)

Kyaukkway Dam project will supply drinking water to the people of Lashio and irrigate 843 acres of summer and monsoon paddy. The Kyaukkway earth dam is 1,080 feet long and 116 feet high and will generate 100 kilowatts.
Eradication of narcotic drugs, a national duty

Narcotic drug problem is not a concern of a nation or a people only but that of all nations and the whole mankind. In reality, drug abuse is a social problem facing every nation of the world. Narcotic drugs can harm the national dignity and social values.

The Union of Myanmar is launching anti-drug campaigns as a national duty and constantly fighting the problem of growing poppy and producing opium and heroin and trafficking narcotic drugs. As a result, production of opium and heroin has been on the decrease year after year.

The fifth destruction of seized narcotic drugs, precursors, chemicals and paraphernalia of Shan State (North) organized by Shan State (North) Committee for Drug Abuse Control was held at the people’s sports grounds in Lashio on the morning of 19 March and it was attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

In his address on the occasion, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that Myanmar had a tradition of fighting the narcotic drug problem in the interests of its national people as well as of the peoples of the world, that it would continue its efforts to rid the danger of narcotic drugs with or without outside help and that great strides were being made in its anti-drug campaigns.

In the Union of Myanmar, cultivation of poppy and production of opium has remarkably dropped and it is due to the leadership of the government and the active cooperation of regional authorities, leaders of national races, local people and social organizations. The result is that the Mongla region of Shan State (East) was declared a drug-free zone in April 1997, and cultivation of poppy has come to a full stop in Kokang region since 2003. Other national races are enthusiastically essaying to be able to declare their regions as drug-free zones.

Myanmar has destroyed seized narcotic drugs 18 times in Yangon and 33 times in border areas and other cities. Moreover, according to the New Destiny Project, poppy growers surrendered poppy seeds and pods of their own accord and regional authorities have torched them 11 times.

It is our belief that, if all the national races seriously consider it a national duty to eradicate narcotic drugs and cooperate with the government, the danger of narcotic drug problem will be totally wiped out from our soil once and for all.

Parade columns carry on marching drills

Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Oo inspects the drill practising by the parade columns. — MNA

YANGON, 21 March — The parade columns comprising Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services and Red Cross Brigade participated in the drill practising by marching from the Myoma Grounds to the Resistance Park, here, from 5 am to 9 am today.

Under command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun, the parade columns — Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyansitha by Col Tha Aung, Bayinnaung by Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Nawade by Captain Aung Zaw Win (Navy), Aungzeya by Col Myo Win, Hsinbyushin by Col Khin Aung Myint, Bandoola by Col Khin Maung Oo, Myawady by Col Win Swe and Aung San by Col Thein Zaw — will take part in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.

Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Oo and senior military officers inspected the drills of the parade columns. — MNA

Dry Day Supervisory Committee meets

Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint addresses at meeting of Dry Day Supervisory Committee. — MNA

YANGON, 21 March — A coordination meeting No 1/2005 of Dry Day Supervisory Committee was held at Thiri Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Mines this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, members Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla and members, heads of department and officials.

Joint-Secretary of DDSC Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Force Police Force Lt-Col Aung Naing reported on progress of functions and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe gave necessary instructions.

After Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint had made concluding remarks, the meeting came to a close. — MNA
**60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives**

- To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- To exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks
- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes
- To build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw

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**Indonesia differs with Malaysia over East Asian Summit**

JAKARTA, 20 March — Indonesian has reiterated its stance on the presence of India, Australia and New Zealand in the first ever East Asian Summit in Kuala Lumpur in December this year, a local newspaper reported Saturday.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, Yuri Thamin, said a plan to exclude those countries from involvement in the East Asian Summit would make the group ineffective, reported The Jakarta Post newspaper.

“If the participants of the East Asia Summit and the current ASEAN-plus 3 are still the same, it will not be beneficial,”

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**Thais urged to use right visa when travelling to Japan**

BANGKOK, 20 March — The Thai Government has warned its citizens to get the right type of visa when travelling to Japan, which has recently tightened measures against illegal immigrants.

The Foreign Ministry called on Thai women not to seek student visas as a pretext for overstaying and working in Japan, otherwise they would face tough punitive measures, Bangkok Post reported on Saturday.

The ministry made such a warning after the Thai Embassy to Tokyo reported harsh measures taken by the Japanese authorities against schools that take in fake students.

Many Thais have gone to Japan for working with a student visa, which was applied with the help of certain agencies.

“We would like to beg and warn those with immoral objectives to think about the 95 per cent real Thai students and tourists experiencing more difficulty in getting visas approved,” a senior official was quoted as saying.

Around 5,000-10,000 out of a total of 30,000 Thai travellers to Japan each year end up in prostitution or illegal work, according to Bangkok Post.

Those Thais working illegally in Japan often face miserable living and working situation, due to lack of legal documents.

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**45 dead in Iraq unrest**

BAGHDAD, 21 March — At least 45 people have died in violence in Iraq, including a US soldier, as Washington defended its decision to lead an invasion exactly two years ago amid protests around the world.

With talks on a new governing coalition still dragging on seven weeks since landmark January elections, Iraq was plunged into a diplomatic crisis with neighbouring Jordan as the two countries recalled their respective envoys after accusations of a Jordanian's involvement in a deadly suicide bombing.

Guerrillas struck around Iraq yesterday hitting the fledgling security forces hard at a time when the US Government is channeling all its resources into training and equipping them to pave the way for the exit of US-led troops.

In the main northern city of Mosul, a suicide bomber with a fake badge slipped into a building housing the provincial anti-corruption department and blew himself up inside the office of its chief, General Walid Kachmoula, killing him and two of his guards.

Attackers struck again hours later opening fire on the procession bearing Kachmoula's coffin as it made its way to the cemetery, killing two people and wounding 14, hospital sources said.

In another flashpoint town, gunmen attacked a police station in Baquba killing at least four policemen and wounding two as a truck bomb rammed into the entrance of an Iraqi army barrack, wounding 17 people, a police official said.

In the capital, 24 Iraqi guerrillas were killed and six coalition soldiers wounded in a firefight, the US military said.

In the northern oil centre of Kirkuk, a US soldier was killed and three others wounded when a roadside bomb hit their patrol, the US military said.

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**China donates giant excavators to Cambodia**

PHnom Penh, 20 March — The Chinese Government on Friday donated 20 units of giant excavators to Cambodia to support the country's construction and development.

At a handing-over ceremony, Cambodia's Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology Lim Kean Huor thanked China's assistance.

Lim said Cambodia and China are two friendly neighbours. "We, Cambodian people, will never forget the consistently help and support offered by the Chinese Government and people in our political, economic and other fields."

He expressed the belief that the excavators will play an important role in Cambodia's national construction and development.

Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Hu Qianwen said the donation demonstrated again the importance the Chinese Government has attached to the traditional friendly relations between the two countries.

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A shopkeeper checks items featuring pictures of Mount Everest in Kathmandu recently. A group of Chinese researchers have set off on an expedition to check a theory that Mount Everest is growing by about one centimetre (0.4 inch) a year, state media reported.—INTERNET
Over K 17 million and US $ 100 donated for Armed Forces Day Parade

YANGON, 21 March —
Honouring the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day cash and kind was donated for the third time for the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here at 3.30 pm today.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended the ceremony and accepted the donations.

Also present on the occasion were the Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, MNA, Brig-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice-Chairman of Armed Forces Training and commands, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted cash and kind donated by wellwishers to parade columns of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. — MNA

60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice-Adjoint-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, senior military officers and well-wishers.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted the donations and presented certificates of thanks to the well-wishers.

The donations included 5,000 cans of sardine worth K 1 million by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries; 10,000 cans of sardine worth K 2 million by Marine Fisheries Product Co; 25 bags of rice worth K 225,000 by Chairman of Thakaya 500,001 by U Maung Shwe (Goings family); bottles of purified drinking water worth K 500,000 by PGS Co Ltd; K 500,000 each by Eagle Garden Restaurant, Nanhaik Tawin Shweyanshwa Transport, Tomo Bank, U Hla Shwe-Daw Khin Htay Htay and U Win Kyaw-Daw Khin Mya; K 106,000 by (U Nan Oo)-Daw Sein Sein; K 100,000 each by U Aung Shwe Saw-Daw Nwe Win and U Aung Thu; K 50,000 by U Tin Ngwe-Daw Nilor Mon; K 20,000 by U Kyaw Tint; K 15000 by U Win Myint; K 20,000 by U Kyaw Nyin-Daw Aye Aye Tint; K 51100 by (All Myanmar Hidu Religious Association); K 25,000 by U Ba Bi; K 50,000 by U Khin Aung-Daw Khin Myint Thu; K 10,000 each by U Shan Lwin, U Myo Aung and U Kyaw Tint; K 50000 by Daw Khin San Htwe; K 30000 by Haji U Min Win; K 35000 by U Aung Tha Ha; K 20000 by (Li-Col Maung Hwee)-Daw Tin Myint; and K 100,000 each by U Myint Tun and Police Li-Col Sai Aung Min (Retd).

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win spoke words of thanks and of the ceremony ended. The donations amounted to K 17,055,361 including K 7043161 and kind worth K 101,000.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected arrangements to stage literary competition and show to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road and attended to the needs. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash and kind donated by a well-wisher to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. — MNA

Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win accepts cash and kind donated by wellwishers to parade columns of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. — MNA

YANGON, 21 March — The Fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha continued its meeting in Maha Pasana Cave at Kaba Aye, here today.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe supplicated on all-round renovation of the Maha Wiriyada Pagoda.

Vice-Chairman of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathu Guru Bhaddanta Aciinabivansa presided over the meeting and Joint Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathu Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivansa acted as master of ceremonies.

Sayadaw discussed the report covering Vinaya, religious affairs, and religious education, of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

The meeting elected Secretary of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathu Guru Bhaddanta Agga Maha Saddhatama Joitka Bhaddanta Kumara of Maha Wiriyada Pagoda and Htawmya Pagoda as chairman of the two religious bodies.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, age 82 and vasa 63, was elected by the Sayadaws of the two bodies. The meeting then elected Joint Secretary of the two bodies Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathu Guru Bhaddanta Osadhabhivansa as the secretary. The meeting also elected Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhatama Joitkadhaja Bhaddanta Candarasi as the joint secretary.

U Aung Din and family of No 48, 4th Street, Ngwekyayam Ward 3, South Okkalapa Township, offered day meal to the Sayadaws of the State Osvadacaraya, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and other monks attending the meeting.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials also attended the meeting, which continues on 22 March.

Wellwisher Mr Ran Jan Dutta and Dipit Dutta of Calcutta, India presents cash donation K 110,000 to Secretary U Soe Myat Aung to build Myanmar monasteries in France. — MNA

Army Forces Day Exhibition to be opened

YANGON, 21 March — The 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Exhibition will be staged on a grand scale at the Defence Services Museum from 26 March to 4 April 2005.

The exhibition includes booths of the ministries, the office of Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the office of Commander-in-Chief (Air), the office of Chief of Armed Forces Training and commands, booth on 12 State objectives, booths on nation-building tasks implemented by ministries concerned, booths of Yangon City Development Committee and Mandalay City Development Committee and booth on history of the Tatmadaw.

Army Forces Day Chairman of two highest religious bodies
Proposal on detailed basic principles...

(from page 16)

and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Luang Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen of subcommittees and officials, representatives of the Kachin Democratic and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mro (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of national races, representatives of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State Service Personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President’s Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General’s Office, the Auditor-General’s Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Civil Servant Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministers, other invited delegates, delegates of 17 armed groups which exchanged arms for peace, and representatives of other organizations.

Dependent representatives-elect, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mro (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State Service Personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President’s Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General’s Office, the Auditor-General’s Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Civil Servant Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministers, other invited delegates, delegates of 17 armed groups which exchanged arms for peace, and representatives of other organizations.

He said to lay down detailed basic principles for drafting an enduring State constitution, the National Convention resumed on 17 February this year. On 3 March, detailed basic principles on power sharing of legislation and formation of the financial commission were laid down.

On time for the delegate groups to read out their proposal papers that include power sharing of executive and judicial sectors.


Afterwards, the plenary session of the National Convention concluded at 11.35 am.
Shweli Hydel Power project will generate 400 megawatts...

The Prime Minister and party went to Humon dam and 116 feet high and will generate 100 kilowatts.

The Kyaukkway earth dam is 1,080 feet long of summer and monsoon paddy.

regional development and boosting production in supply. The Prime Minister gave instructions on supply. The Prime Minister gave instructions on power from it. CEC member of USDA Brig-Gen of drinking water from the dam and generation of power from it. CEC member of USDA Brig-Gen Pyi Sone gave a supplementary report on power from it. CEC member of USDA Brig-Gen Pyi Sone formally opened the new office.

Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing on construction of road from Hinlon Village to the project site and Shweli Bridge (Namkham). In his address, the Prime Minister said with the high standard of living of the people, power consumption is on the increase. It is true that generating of power has increased, but it is not sufficient for the people yet. That is why electric power projects are being implemented in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Shweli Hydel Power project is an important one.

Power project and data, Deputy Director-General U Re Win reported on success of model farm of regional battalion. Commanding Officer Lt-Col Tin Win reported on success of the farm. They inspected feeding of fertilizer.

They proceeded to special high yield hybrid paddy model farm of regional battalion. Commanding Officer Lt-Col Tin Win reported on success of the farm. They inspected feeding of fertilizer.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win gave a supplementary report on power from it. CEC member of USDA Brig-Gen Pyi Sone gave a supplementary report on power from it. CEC member of USDA Brig-Gen Pyi Sone formally opened the new office.

USDA Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Secretary General of USDA Maj-Gen Htay Oo and CEC member Brig-Gen Pyi Sone formally opened the new office.

Member of Central Panel of Patrons of USDA Pyi Sone gave a supplementary report on power from it. CEC member of USDA Brig-Gen Pyi Sone formally opened the new office.

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Next, Member of Central Panel of Patrons of USDA Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered a speech. On 19 March, the Prime Minister and party went to Shweli Hydel Power project site in Namkham Township by helicopter. They were welcomed by Col General Staff of North Command Col Zaw Min, the director-general of Hydro-electric Power Department, Chairman of Namkham Township Peace and Development Council Major Aung Zaw Latt and officials.

Director-General of Hydro-electric Power Department U Win Kyaw reported on Shweli Hydel Power project and data, Deputy Director-General U Aung Hlaing on progress of work and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing on construction of road from Hinlon Village to the project site and Shweli Bridge (Namkham).

Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported on construction of Shweli Bridge (Namkham). In his address, the Prime Minister said with the high standard of living of the people, power consumption is on the increase. It is true that generating of power has increased, but it is not sufficient for the people yet. That is why electric power projects are being implemented in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Shweli Hydel Power project is an important one.

Staff in the project are to work hard based on their expertise and experience.

(See page 7)
Shweli Hydel Power project will generate 400 megawatts... (from page 6)

Next, the Prime Minister presented fruit baskets to Chairman of Board of Directors and President Mr Feng Ke of Yunnan Machinery and Equipment Import/Export Co of the People’s Republic of China and Deputy Director U Aung Hlaing of Hydro-electric Power Department.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the project area, construction of intake tunnel and diversion tunnel and they posed for documentary photos together with officials and Chinese technicians. They also inspected progress of work of the diversion tunnel. Shweli Hydel Power project that can generate 400 megawatts is being built on Shweli River near Mantet Village, 17 miles south west of Namkham. The 25 miles and seven furlong long gravel road linking the Union Highway and the project site was built by Asia World Co Ltd. It was completed in June 2004.

The 600 feet long Shweli Bridge (Nam-kham) on Mandalay-Lashio-Namkham-Bhamo Road is being built by Public Works. It is a suspension Bridge.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back here in the evening on 19 March.

On 18 March, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo inspected Lashio Hospital and Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min No 6 Basic Education High School.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win formally unveils the signboard of Shan State (North) USDA office. — MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win formally unveils the singboard of Shan State (North) USDA office. — MNA

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win and party views round new building to mark 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Shan State (North). — MNA

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win and party inspect thriving special high yield Hsinshweli sunflower in Lashio Township. — MNA

Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win makes an introductory speech at opening of USDA’s building in Shan State (North). — MNA
Thanlyin in 1647. In the letter in the town of Rangoon, the British governor-general sent an insulting ultimatum to the British government to decide the case only by Myanmar people politically, economically, and socially. Politically, they crushed anti-colonialist heroes and activists. When caught, they were beheaded in public. The British even showed the cut heads with the aim of the British colonialists. Similarly, how much the BOC company of the British colonialists exploited the crude oil, the major resource of Myanmar, can be seen in the Table A, which shows how much the

### Table A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Profit from crude oil sale (£)</th>
<th>Total profit from crude oil and its products (£)</th>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
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### The country like a fish in little water in the absence of the Tatmadaw

The British colonialists waged the first aggressive war on Myanmar in 1824 and occupied Rakhine and Taninthayi; waged the second aggressive war in 1852 and occupied Bago of Lower Myanmar including Yangon; and waged the third aggressive war in 1885 and occupied the Upper Myanmar including Yadanabon Palace in Mandalay.

Myanmar lost her independence and sovereignty on 29 November 1885. In the Konbaung Period, the third Myanmar Empire was enslaved. The crying of the people with their fists clenched and their lips tightened wafted across Gau Wein jetty. The way the wavelets moved on the surface of the river at the jetty was like bidding the surface of the river at the wavelets moved on the people with their fists and it sowed confusion and dissension among national brethren. Furthermore, it provided some national races with arms and cash assistance and set them against one another. In this way, the colonialists showed their true colour. Therefore, King Alaungphaya ordered the closure of the company on the island.

Later on in the time of King Bodawphaya, the East India Company asked for the lease of the island. The request was dismissed on grounds of unscrupulous acts they conducted in the time of King Alaungphaya. The Indian governor-general of the British government released a false announcement to the Indian governor-general that Myanmar killed 40 British subjects. The British government used it for their own benefit and waged the second aggressive war against Myanmar and occupied Pathein, Yangon, Bago, Toungoo and Pyay.

In 1885, the British Bombay Burma Company doctored the number of timber logs it had extracted. They showed 30,000 logs of timber. In reality, they extracted 80,000 logs, and they stole 50,000 logs. Therefore, the Myanmar king punished the company with a fine. As the company disobeyed the king, Myanmar confiscated elephants and properties belonging to the company according to law. The company complained to the Indian governor-general of the matter. The Indian governor-general sent an official to open a trial. He also sent an ultimatum to the British government to let the official alone hear the case. Myanmar replied to the Indian governor that a certain ally of the British and Myanmar should hear the case. The Indian governor-general sent an insulting ultimatum to the British government to decide the case only by

Kyai Phyut moved to Hainggyi island near Pathein. However, the East India Company did not carry out business transactions honestly. Instead, it sowed confusion and dissension among national brethren. Furthermore, it provided some national races with arms and cash assistance and set them against one another. In this way, the colonialists showed their true colour. Therefore, King Alaungphaya ordered the closure of the company on the island.

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The British official and Myanmar officers, to protect the British official during the trial, to let a British troop station in Mandalay, and to place Myanmar’s foreign relations matters under the British. Later, the British occupied Upper Myanmar including the Yadanabon Mandalay Palace.

Myanmar armies fought the British colonialists bravely during the three aggressive wars. However, Myanmar was not in a position to compete with the British in terms of weaponry. So, Myanmar lost her independence and sovereignty. If Myanmar had had the weaponry the same as the British’s, Myanmar would have defeated the aggressive wars.

After colonizing Myanmar, the British government suppressed the British official and Myanmar officers, to protect the British official during the trial, to let a British troop station in Mandalay, and to place Myanmar’s foreign relations matters under the British. Later, the British occupied Upper Myanmar including the Yadanabon Mandalay Palace.

Myanmar armies fought the British colonialists bravely during the three aggressive wars. However, Myanmar was not in a position to compete with the British in terms of weaponry. So, Myanmar lost her independence and sovereignty. If Myanmar had had the weaponry the same as the British’s, Myanmar would have defeated the aggressive wars.

After colonizing Myanmar, the British government suppressed the anti-colonialist sentiment. The British committed inhumane atrocities. The British also introduced the ‘divide-and-rule’ policy to destroy the unity and amity flourishing among Myanmar nationals.

Throughout the colonialist era, the British government made Myanmar farmers grow paddy, cotton, groundnut, sesame, maize, sugarcane and so on. There were only 600,000 acres of farmland across the country in 1852-53. The sown acreage rose to 12,009,717 in 1935. The sown acreage of other crops also rose.

The British government’s extension of sown acreage was not in the interest of Myanmar farmers, but in the interest of foreign capitalist companies including Steel Brothers Company.

### The Yangon mayor and his party that punished the colonialists with fines for their failure to pay duty.

The Yangon mayor and his party that punished the colonialists with fines for their failure to pay duty.

The British colonialists had exploited the crude oil. After occupying Myanmar, the British government also exploited rubies and precious stones besides crude oil. The value of rubies they exploited reached one-sixteenth of the value of crude oil in 1919 as they employed modern techniques in exploiting the gems. In 1914, the Namatu mine yielded 2,300 tons of tungsten. During that time, Myanmar ranked fifth in the world output of tin. However abundant were the gems, they were not in the interest of Myanmar nationals. Myanmar people were struck in the vicious circle of deep poverty. British government-run companies and partners were the only ones who enjoyed the benefits and privileges.

(See page 9)
The country like a fish in little water in the absence of the Tatmadaw

(from page 8)

The life of Myanmar farmers was in the sea of debt. Moreover, they had to succumb their ancestral farmland to Indian profiteers if they could not settle their debts. The 1930 world economic recession put Myanmar farmers below the poverty line. Table B shows the loss of farmland by Myanmar farmers.

In this way, the socio-economic life of Myanmar farmers and workers living under the yoke of colonialist rule was at its lowest stage.

Table C shows how much the British capitalist companies like Steel Brothers exploited the national economy.

In like manner, Table D shows how much the British capitalist companies like BBTC and Makrika exploited the teak, the second major product in Myanmar. The British capitalist companies disbursed loans to Myanmar farmers at high interest rates to leave them in deeper sea of debt. If the loaned money could not be settled their debts, the British banks like Dawson Bank came to possess lots of farmland. British banks did not disburse loans directly to farmers, who had to borrow the money from Chiteers. Chiteers drew money from British banks at one per cent interest rate. However, they lent money to farmers at as high as 20 per cent interest rate. In this way, Myanmar farmers endured the impact of poverty.

The British government did not provide Myanmar nationals with education. In particular, they lowered the level of education to prolong the economic life of the national people in such a covetous way, but it absolutely restricted all the ways that could raise the nation’s education standard. In 1885-1886, three government basic education high schools and eight middle schools were all the nation got in the education sector. It opened Yangon Teachers Training School in 1871, and a medical institute (the same level as health assistant course at present) in 1907. Of the 44 students that went to the institute in 1912, more than half the number were not Myanmar nationals. It opened an institute of forestry in Thayawady in 1899, and shifted the faculty to Pyinmmana in 1910. The colonialists opened five survey institutes in 1844-1845. It also opened some technical institutes in some cities. The intention of these technical institutes and some vocational training schools was to contribute towards the colonial economy and administration. Up to 1920, there was no university in the nation.

The invader enraged the 1920 Yangon University Act (draft) to establish the former “Thakhingyi” (master). Besides, the British colonialists established mission schools to deeply inculcate Myanmar generation youths with western culture and to entice them to think highly of it. The British colonialist government exploited the economic life of the national people in such a covetous way, but it absolutely restricted all the ways that could raise the nation’s education standard. In 1885-1886, three government basic education high schools and eight middle schools were all the nation got in the education sector. It opened Yangon Teachers Training School in 1871, and a medical institute (the same level as health assistant course at present) in 1907. Of the 44 students that went to the institute in 1912, more than half the number were not Myanmar nationals. It opened an institute of forestry in Thayawady in 1899, and shifted the faculty to Pyinmmana in 1910. The colonialists opened five survey institutes in 1844-1845. It also opened some technical institutes in some cities. The intention of these technical institutes and some vocational training schools was to contribute towards the colonial economy and administration. Up to 1920, there was no university in the nation.

The invaders enraged the 1920 Yangon University Act (draft) to establish Yangon University as an independent education facility in the nation in 1920. However, the facility remained a British colonialist administration. In such a well-organized way, the intruders oppressed the national people in numerous fields especially in social, education and cultural areas. The whole economic life of the national people went downhill in the colonial days.

If one studies the situations in that period, one will find out the completely bitter experiences. In order not to face such evil experiences, the Tatmadaw and the people are to be one in crushing all the situations that can put the nation under alien subjugation to make Myanmar lose her independence again. To do so, it is necessary to take an analytical approach to the cause of being enslaved. Why so? The lack of a Tatmadaw which is strong enough to crush the danger of the colonialists and the internal and external destructive elements. In other words, due to the lack of a strong Tatmadaw at that time, the strength of the nation weakened. As a result, the national people were similar to the motherless child and the fish in little water. National people were drowned in the sea of aggression and insults of the colonialists. This being the case, it is necessary to have a Tatmadaw that is strong enough to remove all the danger within and without the country.

Only then will the national people not encounter the bitter nightmare the same as their ancestors suffered once.

Moreover, in line with the saying that goes “the higher the level of water, the more splendid the beauty of lotus flower”, all the danger can be warded off and removed as long as the Tatmadaw and the people stand in solidarity. It is necessary for the national people to render their cooperation and assistance to strengthen the Tatmadaw. Here goes another slogan: “With Tatmadaw and the people in eternal unity, who will dare to challenge?”.
Manhsaung suspension bridge on Tiddim-Reed Lake Road...

(from page 16)

In addition to the roads linking the north and south of the nation, new roads connecting the east and west of the nation have emerged.

In his guidance, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said that roads and bridges, the infrastructures for national development, have been built one after another on self-reliant basis. With the assistance of the Government, Myanmar engineers are building new transport infrastructures and upgrading the existing ones.

Thanks to the infrastructures built by the Government, Chin State has seen progress in all sectors. As the Government has been building transport infrastructures with goodwill, the people will have to strive for all-round development of the economic sector. Moreover the facilities have helped national races of the different regions to contact one another and share knowledge among themselves. The Transport infrastructures have been built in the entire nation to further strengthen Union Spirit and national solidarity.

Sagai Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye said, the construction of Manhsaung Bridge started on 18 December 2002 and was completed on 30 June 2004. A local, on behalf of the entire region, thanked the Ministry of Construction and the Government for the bridge.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun gave clarifications on building of Manhsaung suspension bridge in Tiddim Township, Chin State. — MNA

Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla formally opened the bridge. Li-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone plaque of the bridge.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye addresses opening of Manhsaung suspension bridge in Tiddim Township, Chin State. — MNA

Panoramic view of Manhsaung suspension bridge in Tiddim Township, Chin State. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun gives clarifications on building of Manhsaung suspension bridge in Tiddim Township, Chin State. — MNA

Li-Gen Ye Myint formally unveils stone plaque of the Manhsaung suspension bridge in Tiddim Township, Chin State. — MNA

Li-Gen Ye Myint addresses the opening of Manhsaung suspension bridge in Tiddim Township, Chin State. — MNA
Some are observing events based on the subjective personal opinions instead of dealing with the prevailing situations and events just as they are. One should search for the truth in one’s unaffected life if one would like. At this point, truth means right understanding of prevailing situations and events. Misunderstanding means that one is deducing things wrongly. Some have correct understanding while some have wrong understanding. According to the social science, misunderstanding means one fails to understand things in the right way and one understands things based on one’s wishes and desire.

The fall of the Burma Communist Party was due to the fact that the BCP members had failed to remedy their mistakes and destructive acts through correct understanding, but remedied their misdeeds in a wrong way; they mistakenly acknowledged that the fall of party chairman Thakhan Than Tun and vice-chairmen Thakhan Zin and Thakhan Chit contributed towards their political conviction. The BCP’s down-fall was because of completely ignoring the prevailing situations and clinging on to their misconceptions. Similarly, in the history of Myanmar’s politics, so-called politicians had committed leftist and leftist blunders resulting from concepts that were not in conformity with the prevailing conditions of the nation.

Nowadays, certain groups are holding negative views and opposing the Tatmadaw Government’s drive for democracy transition in the nation. It is indeed like the opposition to the government promoted by anarchic tendency. And it just reflects their destructive attitude. Holding negative attitude, they are absolutely opposing whatever the government does. Such anti-government elements are not capable at all of nation-building works, and are entirely caught in a circle of destructive acts and negative views to the government. The relations between Myanmar and international community are yielding constructive results, but they are still clinging on to negative attitude.

The Tatmadaw Government has been making unremitting efforts to put into reality the 12 Road Map is well under way to transform the nation that previous governments had never done. So, the entire nation including border areas has enjoyed considerable development with peace and stability. Now, the State’s seven-point Road Map is well under way to transform the nation into a democratic one. The National Convention, the basic and the most important step of the Road Map, is being held on a grander scale with the delegates representing the entire national people.

When the nation regained its independence in 1948, Myanmar communists thought that the independence was just a sham and rebelled against the government, leading to internal armed conflicts. Thus the entire national people faced the evil consequences and disintegration of national solidarity. It is a very valuable lesson the people should take from historic events.

The entire national people are to be united and harmonious in building discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accordance with the seven-point programme. Only then, will there be the desired nation through the least extent of hardship and adversity.

According to the social science, man cannot establish new eras of their choice. There needs material preconditions to flourish an era or system. Therefore, respective human societies practise the policies that are in conformity with their way of living.

There is tangible proof that the seven-point Road Map is based on the wishes of the entire people. More than 1,000 delegates from various national races and all strata of life are representing the entire people at the National Convention. The State Constitution will be drafted in consistency with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles to be laid down by the National Convention. And the State Constitution (draft) will be approved through a referendum. (It depicts approval for the State Constitution in accordance with the wishes of the entire national people.)

In conclusion, I would say the purpose of this article is to enable the destructive elements, who ignore the nation’s developments and are holding negative views to the drive for democratic reform, to realize the truth.

And free and fair elections will be held according to the new State Constitution for forming Hluttaws (legislative bodies). (It reflects elections by the people.) Hluttaw meetings will be held with the Hluttaw representatives in accordance with the new State Constitution. Then, State leaders elected by the people, i.e., the Hluttaw and the government and administrative bodies formed by the Hluttaw will have to take over the responsibilities to build a modern and developed democratic nation.

Now is therefore the most opportune time for all the national forces to make endeavours in concert to translate into reality the open market-economic system in the economic sphere; to enable the entire national people to become good citizens of the new democratic nation and to inculcate them with a sense of duty, awareness and self-reliant mentality in the social sphere; and to ensure the national reconsolidation and introduce the genuine multi-party democracy system in the political sphere.

Turning a blind eye to these measures, international and domestic destructive elements are resorting to any means to obstruct and block the drive for the nation’s democratic transition. However, just and fair neighbouring countries, ASEAN countries, Asian countries and world countries, holding a positive attitude, have taken a correct approach to and support the nation’s democratic transition that has come up since 1988.

In order to enable those holding negative views to get clear outlook on Myanmar, I would like to present as much as I remember the replies of Myanmar affairs expert Professor Robert Taylor of Britain in an interview by the BBC.

When asked if it was true that the National Convention represented the entire national people as it was in progress without the NLD that won the majority of votes in the elections held in 1990, the SNLD and the ALD, Professor Robert Taylor said that it was referred just to the election results of more than 14 years ago. He said he did not think the governments in the world were based on elections held 14 years ago.

The BBC said that there were comments on the representation of the delegates to the National Convention. Some were pointing out that the delegates did not represent correctly and widely the public and the national races. It asked if the comments were firm or not.

In response, Professor Robert Taylor said that more than 1,000 delegates were attending the National Convention. Of the delegates, 60 per cent were Bamar and 40 per cent, national races. On average, it was in proportion with the ratio of the nation’s population of national races. It was very hard to meet such correct proportion of population in drawing a constitution. The proportion of the delegates of tribes in framing of the US State Constitution was not as proportionate as that of the National Convention.

The BBC said that some assumed that the Tatmadaw Government’s efforts to write the State Constitution through the National Convention meant implementation of the drive to become an official government. It asked him if he thought that the National Convention would make the present government become a legal one. He said that it did not matter whether the government would become legal or not. It concerned with just the framing of the State Constitution. It was the matter of framing of the State Constitution for how a government would be formed in future. He thought that it would need to hold coordination and discussions for the emergence of the State Constitution, and it was to be in conformity with the changes. But, whatever constitution would emerge, it was better than the condition without a constitution, he said. Professor Robert Taylor is a Myanmar affairs expert and simply understands the nation’s prevailing situations. He replied to the queries raised by the BBC, being free from sectarianism and subjective sensation.

In conclusion, I would say the purpose of this article is to enable the destructive elements, who ignore the nation’s developments and are holding negative views to the drive for democratic reform, to realize the truth.

Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 21-3-2005

Study group goes on field trips to Lashio, Muse

YANGON, 21 March — A study group comprising Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Patron of Foreign Diplomatic Corps Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Mme Phobe A Gomez and ambassadors, diplomats and representatives of UN organizations concerned with Myanmar affairs and officials concerned of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs left here by special flight at Yangon International on 17 March and arrived at Lashio Airport. They were welcomed at Lashio Airport by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Maj-Col Hlaing Hlaing Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, senior military officers and national race leaders. Next, they paid homage to Tilawkawziya Pagoda in Lashio and observed water supply to public. Afterwards, they visited Myoma Market and took rest at Lashio Township. Members of the study group, on 19 March morning, attended fifth ceremony to incinerate narcotic drugs, precursors and poppy seeds seized in Lashio Township Sports Grounds and took part in the ceremony. On their way to Muse, they were welcomed by Director of Border Trade Department Li-Col Hla Maung Oo and officials at Mongyu (105) mile post of border trade check point and arrived at Muse and went round there. Members of the study group, on 20 March, went to Nandaw Gate (Star 1) at Myanmar-China border and Nandaw Travel Centre for a day-long field trips. They were seen off at Lashio Airport by Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, senior military officers and national race leaders and arrived at Yangon by Tatmadaw Special Flight. — MNA
**British tabloid reporter breaches Parliament’s security**

**LONDON, 20 March —** A British tabloid reporter said Friday he had used false references to get a job at Britain’s Parliament and was even given Prime Minister Tony Blair’s direct office telephone number.

“I spent six days working as a switchboard operator at the Houses of Parliament, a job obtained with false references and giving access to virtually all areas,” Daniel Boffey wrote in Friday’s Daily Mirror newspaper he works for.

“I was never searched and was asked to show my pass just once. Office, mobile and pager numbers of Cabinet ministers, MP (member of Parliament) and peers were at hand,” he said.

“I was given Tony Blair’s direct office number and came face-to-face with Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Charles Clarke,” said Boffey.

He said he got the job in Parliament last week with two bogus references and lies about his educational background.

The parliamentary authorities had 92 days to make checks, including a simple Internet search that would have uncovered the hundreds of assignments that he had carried out for the Daily Mirror, said the journalist.

The newspaper quoted the House of Commons Administration office as saying that Boffey was given the pass because he had not been considered a security risk.

“All applicants for parliamentary clearance to the appropriate level and subjected to a criminal records check,” said the office.

“The fact that Mr Boffey was issued with a pass indicates that he was not a security risk,” it said.

MNA/Xinhua

**Cost of goods imported into US rose in February**

**NEW YORK, 20 March —** The cost of goods imported into the United States rose in February as oil prices soared, and higher prices at the gas pump in recent weeks put a damper on consumer confidence, economic data showed on Friday.

Oil prices fell 39 cents per barrel last month and were nearly 30 per cent higher than a year earlier. Higher prices for commodities also fuelled a 2 per cent rise in industrial supply prices from the previous month and a 19.2-per-cent increase on the year.

MNA/Xinhua

**Oil prices hold within $1 of record price of $57.60**

**LONDON, 20 March —** Oil prices held within a dollar of the record on Friday as traders doubted OPEC’s moves to hike production would be enough to quench the world’s growing thirst for crude.

A refinery glitch at BP’s Texas City plant — one of the largest in the United States — added to fears of possible short supply during the high-demand summer, dealers said.

US light crude settled up 32 cents at 56.72 US dollars after hitting 56.15 US dollars earlier. The US light crude settled within a dollar of the all-time peak of 57.60 US dollars.

“The (MoD) is no longer proposing to fill this gap and this will potentially increase risks, including the risk of overstretching maintenance and pilots,” the report said.

MNA/Reuters
Yangon, 21 March—The Printing Course No 1/2005 organized by Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information concluded at the training hall of the GTC Printing Press in Aung San, Insein Township this morning with an address by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein.

Also present on the occasion were heads of department and officials of the ministry, officials of PPE, course instructors and trainees.

In his address, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein said that the government has adopted and is taking a series of important measures for the nation to keep abreast of the international community in the knowledge age like today.

He added that printing plays a greater role in an effort to ensure a constant learning society. That is why the printing course has been conducted to produce new generation technicians in the printing field, he noted. The deputy minister called on trainees who attended the course to strive to be able to effectively use the knowledge of printing in practical field and continue pursuing the advanced printing that keeps pace with changes and developments.

Next, the deputy minister presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Altogether 35 trainees from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Cooperatives, the Union Solidarity and Development Association and Myanmar Red Cross Society attended the 6-week course.—MNA

At the Mandalay Zaycho market, the minister met factory managers and divisional heads in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions under Myanmar Foodstuff Industry at the Mandalay Brewery and gave necessary instructions.

Next, Secretariat member U Aung Thaung met secretaries and executives of Kyaukse, PyinOoLwin, Myingyan, NyaungU, Yamethin USDAs and Township USDAs in Mandalay District and fulfilled the requirements.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Minister U Aung Thaung inspected progress of construction at the Industrial Zone Upgrading Project in Pyigyitagan Township.

At the foundry shop, the minister inspected the installation of power tank, air tank, dust collectors and related machines and arrival of machines.

Later, the minister met members of the Zone Supervisory Committee and the Board of Directors and attended to their needs.

MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presents a computer set to U Aye Thaung and U Sai Aung Pwint. (News on page 1) — MNA

Brig-Gen Pyi Sone accepts cash donation made by Director U Kye of Asia World Co Ltd. (News on page 1) — MNA

Director U Kye of Asia World Co Ltd presents documents relating to USDA building to Maj-Gen Htay Oo. (News on page 1) — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Brig-Gen Pyi Sone open the new building of USDA in the presence of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. (News on page 1) — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presents a report on thriving Hsinshweli strain paddy. (News on page 1) — MNA
Bekele retains world cross country men's short course title
ST ETIENNE (France), 21 March—Kenenisa Bekele, still devastated by the sudden death of his teenage fiancee, retained the world cross country men’s short course title on Saturday in what he declared was the most momentous victory of his glittering career. The 22-year-old Ethiopian sped away from the field in the second and final lap of the 4-kilometre race on a hot, sunny day in southern France to complete the first half of what promises to be his fourth consecutive long and short course double.
No other male athlete has ever won both events once since the short course race was introduced in 1998.
Bekele, the male athlete of the year in 2004 after winning the Olympic 10,000 metres gold and breaking the world 5,000 and 10,000 metres records, said Saturday’s win overshadowed even his Athens triumph.—MNA/Reuters

Liverpool close gap on Everton to four points
LONDON, 21 March—Liverpool revived their hopes of qualifying for next season’s Champions League with a 2-1 victory over Everton in a passionate Merseyside derby on Sunday.
Liverpool led through first-half goals by captain Steven Gerrard and Spanish playmaker Luis Garcia before a 77th-minute equaliser by Michael Threepenny nine minutes later earned Mainz a valuable win in their battle to avoid the drop.

FSV Mainz defeat Schalke 04 2-1
FRANKFURT, 21 March—Schalke 04 handed the Bundesliga title initiative straight back to Bayern Munich on Sunday when they suffered a 2-1 defeat at struggling FSV Mainz.
Schalke, who beat Bayern 1-0 last weekend to take over at the top, found the role of front-runners a lot tougher to play and Mainz took the lead within 60 seconds via a Fabian Gerber header.
Lincoln pulled Schalke level from the penalty spot in the 70th minute but a Michael Threepenny volley nine minutes later earned Mainz a valuable win in their battle to avoid the drop.

Russian wins Women’s gold medal at world skate c’ships
MOSCOW, 21 March—Local favourite Irina Slutskaya of Russia won the women’s gold medal at the world championships on Saturday after a near-perfect free skate.
Slutskaya’s accurate jumps and flowing movements earned her a personal best from the judges and with a final score of 222.71 she finished a comfortable eight points clear of her nearest rival. “I’m really overwhelmed, my hands are still shaking and tears are still running down my cheeks,” Slutskaya told reporters.

“lt will be the most precious (medal) in my collection — you can hardly find an athlete here who has suffered and worthwhile so much,” she added, referring to the last couple of years in which she has been plagued by injury and illness.

Last year’s silver medallist, US skater Sasha Cohen, secured another silver despite a couple of stumbles during her artistic routine to Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker.—MNA/Reuters

Arsenal cruise to 1-0 victory at Blackburn
LONDON, 20 March—A patched-up Arsenal side cruised to a 1-0 victory at Blackburn Rovers on Saturday in a dress rehearsal of next month’s FA Cup semifinal.
Trailing leaders Chelsea by 13 points and already missing the likes of Dennis Bergkamp, Thierry Henry and Robert Pires, the champions were dealt a further blow minutes before kickoff when Freddie Ljungberg was ruled out by injury in the warm-up.
However the Swede’s misfortune gave a late starting berth to Dutch striker Robin van Persie and the former Feyenoord player seized the chance to impress manager Arsene Wenger by scoring the game’s only goal.
Three minutes before the end of a low-key first half van Persie received an incisive pass from Ashley Cole, spun and then glided round goalkeeper Brad Friedel to slide the Gunners ahead.
Spaniard Jose Antonio Reyes should have increased Arsenal’s lead in the opening minutes of the second half, shooting tamely at Friedel after a storming run by compatriot Francesc Fabregas.
Arsenal’s superior movement began to pick holes in Blackburn’s defence and van Persie was unlucky to see a curling left-foot shot from the right edge of the area glance the crossbar.
Rovers, who are still scraping to stay clear of the relegation zone, barely mustered a shot on target although some late pressure could have brought them an undeserved point.
Brett Emerton lashed one shot wide nine minutes from time while Steven Reid had a much better opportunity, shooting harmlessly wide after racing through in stoppage time.
Arsenal’s 10th away victory of the season moved them temporarly into second place with 64 points, 10 behind Chelsea who were in later action against Crystal Palace. Manchester United, on 63 points, can reclaim second spot if they beat Fulham.—MNA/Reuters

Clijsters beats Davenport to win Pacific Life Open
INDIAN WELLS (California), 21 March—Belgium’s Kim Clijsters beat world number one Lindsay Davenport 6-4, 6-6, 62 to win the Pacific Life Open on Saturday as she capped a remarkable comeback to the top level of the game following wrist surgery.

In only her second tournament after spending most of the past year recovering from an operation on her left wrist, 2003 champion Clijsters played confidently and aggressively to beat her American opponent in two hours and five minutes.
The unseeded 21-year-old Belgian matched number one seed Davenport blow for blow from inside the baseline and accurately found the corners on the big points.
“It’s incredible,” said Clijsters after winning her second Pacific Life Open title. “It couldn’t be any better.”
Davenport came out firing in the first set, racing to a 4-0 lead and extending her streak of consecutive games won to 24.
The Americans had won the final seven games of their quarterfinal against Natasha Derby and then shocked Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova 6-0, 6-0 in the semifinals.
But the Belgian began to find her consistency, showing her legendary speed and tripping up Davenport in lengthy rallies.
Clijsters won seven straight games before Davenport held serve for 1-1 in the second set.—MNA/Reuters

Blackburn Rovers’ Brett Emerton, left, challenges Arsenal’s goalkeeper Jens Lehmann and Lauren, centre, during their English Premiership soccer match at Ewood Park, Blackburn, England, on 19 March, 2005.—INTERNET
US estimates over 2.2 million Ethiopians will need aid

Adviser Ababa, 21 March—The United States estimates that more Ethiopians will need food aid this year than the 2.2 million the Ethiopian Government said in an aid appeal, a US humanitarian affairs official said.

The Ethiopian Government said in December that 2.2 million people were in need of emergency food assistance estimated at 387,482 tons and that more than five million others were chronically food insecure.

But Tony Hall, the US Ambassador to the World Food Programme, said on a visit to the Horn of Africa country that Ethiopia’s harvest had been disappointing and more people could face food shortages.

“I think the 2.2 million figure … was probably an underestimate,” Hall told a Press conference late on Friday night.

“I think many of the figures that came out relative to the people that needed help was an estimate before the harvest came in and the harvest did not show the kind of production they expected,” he added without giving any figures.

The UN Office of Humanitarian Affairs warned last month that the number of needy people was expected to increase from the current 2.4 million in March to 3.1 million in April and warned that cereal stocks could run out soon. Hall said the United States would provide “substantial support” to Ethiopia and urged authorities to review the situation to ensure that the rural poor are not put in danger. The United States gave Ethiopian aid worth 500 million US dollars in 2004—MNA/Reuters

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Col Tin Hla formally open Mauhsaung suspension bridge in Tiddim Township, Chin State, on 20-3-05. (News on page 16)—MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 22 March—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Friedrich Hamburger as the Head of Delegation of the European Commission to the Union of Myanmar.

Born in 1943, Mr Friedrich Hamburger obtained his Doctorate in Law from the University of Vienna in 1969 and the Diploma in International Affairs for the Vienna Diplomatic Academy in 1971. He joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Austria in 1971. Subsequently, he served at the various home and foreign diplomatic postings. His foreign postings included the Austrian Embassies at Pretoria, Ottawa, and London. He has been in the service of the European Commission since 1995.

Ambassador Friedrich Hamburger will reside in Bangkok and serve concurrently as the Head of Delegation of the European Commission to the Union of Myanmar.

MNA

WEATHER

Monday, 21 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been widespread in Kachin State, scattered in upper Sagai Division, isolated in lower Sagai Division and weather has been generally fine to the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was (1.29) inches in Patau. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Chin and Mon States, lower Sagai, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, (15°C) to (6°C) above normal in Magway, Ayeyawady and Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in Kachin State and upper Sagai Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) in Magway, (41°C) each in Myingyan, Pyin Oo Lwin and Minbu.

Minimum temperature on 20-3-2005 was 102°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-3-2005 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 20-3-2005 was (8.7) hours approx. Rainfalls on 21-3-2005 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. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (10:30) hours MST on 20-3-2005.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy in South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 22-3-2005: Scattered rain or thunder showers are likely in Kachin, Northern Shan States, upper Sagai Division, isolated rain or thunderstorms in Mandalay and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be generally fair to 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: Continuation of rain or thunder showers are likely in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-3-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Proposal papers on detailed basic principles on sharing of executive and judicial powers read at NC plenary session

YANGON, 21 March — The plenary session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning. Discussions of the delegate groups concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution were read out.

Present at the plenary session were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein

(See page 5)

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

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

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

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

Manhsaung suspension bridge on Tiddim-Reed Lake Road in Tiddim Township, Chin State, was commissioned into service yesterday.

YANGON, 21 March — Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Manhsaung suspension bridge on Tiddim-Reed Lake Road in Tiddim Township, Chin State, was commissioned into service yesterday.

Spanning Manipur River, the reinforced concrete bridge is 460 feet long and has a 16 feet wide motor road. The bridge’s clearance is 320 feet wide and 30 feet high and maximum loading capacity is 30 tons.

At the opening ceremony held at the pandal near the bridge, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence said that it is the 195th over-180-feet bridge built after 1988 in the nation, and the fourth major bridge in Chin State. The four main roads in Chin State — Kale-Falam-Haka road, Haka-Gangaw road, Haka-Matupi road, and Mindat-Matupi road — have been upgraded into all-weather roads. In addition to the four main roads, other new roads have been built and upgraded in the state to facilitate the regional transport. Mindat-Kyauktu-Pauk road, the gateway to southern Chin State has been tarring at present and bridges are being built on it. Now, Mindat is only six hours drive from Pakokku. Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa road linking northern Chin State has already been opened. Thus, northern Chin State can be reached from Mandalay within 12 hours.

Thanks to the facilities, Chin State is achieving rapid development as the state can extend mutual trade with Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions. Tiddim-Reed Lake road is being upgraded to a gravel road for the Reed to become a border trade town. Tiddim is 32 miles three furlongs away from Reed located at India-Myanmar border. Only light cars could travel on the old Manhsaung bridge in the past. Thanks to the new bridge, 30-ton trucks can travel on the road till reaching Reed. The bridge will benefit 14,689 people of 17 villages in the area.