Build a modern Tatmadaw

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

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 57th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Bangladeshi President

YANGON, 26 March—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26 March 2005, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project emerges from 30-year long-term project for national all-round development

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends ceremony to inaugurate Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project

YANGON, 25 March — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, left here by helicopter and arrived in Pyinmana of Mandalay Division yesterday evening. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party were welcomed by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, ministers, deputy ministers, Brig-Gen Win Myint of Pyinmana Station and officials.

(See page 16)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive for development of transport infrastructures

The government with its own resources has been making all-out efforts for ensuring better transport, a prerequisite for national development.

Construction of new airports and upgrading of old ones, construction and renovation of motor roads, railroads, bridges large and small and jetties are being undertaken across the nation through creation and innovation of Myanmar engineers under the leadership of the government.

With better transport, national races residing in the Union have been able to travel from one place to another with peace of mind and are reaping the greatest number of successes in social and trade sectors.

The government is doing so with the aim of ensuring the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and of enhancing the socio-economic life of the entire people.

Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Manhsaung bailey suspension bridge on Tiddim-Reed Lake Road in Tiddim Township, Chin State was commissioned into service on 20 March with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

The bridge is the 195th of its kind in the nation and is the fourth of its kind built in Chin State in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

Priority is being given to ensuring better transport which has become a powerful impetus to development of Chin State. All-weather roads such as Kalay-Falam-Haka road, Haka-Gangaw road, Haka-Matupi road and Mindat-Matupi road are being built in the region.

Unprecedented progress has been made in Chin State with the emergence of the four roads as well as other roads, which prove to be the MMCWA functions and expressed words of thanks.

After exchanging gifts with the delegation members, Daw Khin Khin Win posed for photo together with them. Together with the MMCWA president and central executive committee members, the delegation of the Girl Scouting in Japan watched the photos portraying the activities of the MMCWA. — MNA

Forensic Minister receives Indian counterpart

YANGON, 25 March — Forensic Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally opened the furniture factory of Johnny Brothers Co Ltd in Dagon East Industrial Zone today.

Johnny Brother Co Ltd in Dagon East Industrial Zone.— MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win visited Myanma Timber Enterprise, Myothit (East) Township this morning. Similarly, the minister attended the opening ceremony of Wood-Based Industrial Training Centre in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.'
Vietnam opens investment office in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 24 March — The Vietnam House, the country’s official agency in charge of the Investment Trade and Promotion Centre (ITPPC) of Ho Chi Minh City, opened in Singapore on Tuesday.

The office will help Vietnamese companies export and expand to the international market through Singapore and encourage cooperation between businesses from the two countries, according to Heng Chee How, Singapore’s Minister of Trade and Industry.

The opening of the Vietnam House is part of the Vietnam-Singapore Economic Connectivity initiative, a win-win proposal put forward by Singapore’s then Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong a year ago during Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai’s visit to the island state. — MNA/Xinhua

WB selects 40 projects in Nepal to compete for grants

KATHMANDU, 24 March — The World Bank Nepal Office on Tuesday made public the 40 finalists from 1,103 entries pending to compete for the innovation grants in a bid to effectively deliver basic services to the poor living in conflict affected areas of Nepal.

The 40 will be invited to compete in a national competition scheduled for 5 May. Afterwards, at least 30 winners will each receive a grant award of 20,000 US dollars to test their ideas over a one year period beginning from 1 July, 2005, Rajib Upadhyay, senior external affairs specialist of the World Bank, told reporters.

“Of the 1,103 proposals, the 40 finalists were chosen on the basis of their creativity, coordination, innovation, effectiveness and economy promised in the proposals,” Upadhyay said. — MNA/Xinhua

Hundreds of thousands march on second anniversary of Iraq invasion

WASHINGTON, 24 March — In more than 1,000 cities across the country and around the world, protesters took to the streets on the second anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq. In San Francisco on Saturday, 25,000 marched, and 20,000 marched in Los Angeles. Both demonstrations were sponsored by the ANSWER Coalition (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), which supported and helped to organize many of the other protests around the US.

The crowd in San Francisco swelled as, miraculously, the rain subsided after several gray, wet days and the sun broke through in the late morn-
Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying, “There cannot be any development if the nature is left unattended. And there will be development only if we add value to the nature with human labour. Development undertakings and the natural environment have interrelations. We cannot carry out regional development endeavours as we wish unless there is a good natural environment, so we will have to protect and conserve the forest, water and land resources.” As the Government has been building dams and implementing electric power development projects, the people on their part, should accept the words as a guideline and should collectively protect, conserve and develop the forest resources.

The 56-megawatt Kinta Hydel Power Dam and the 25-megawatt Hsedawgyi hydel power stations are covered by the national grid.

At 280-megawatt generation capacity, the Paunglaung is the largest hydel power plant in Myanmar, and even larger than the 196-megawatt Lawpita Hydel Power Station harnessing the waters of Bulu Creek.

A number of underground tunnels were built to harness the Paunglaung flowing 3.3 million acre-feet of water annually. Hardships were faced in building the power station according to its design. Advanced heavy machinery were used in building it. The rock fill dam is 430 feet high. As the work volume was large, the project needed sophisticated technology. Jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Electric Power, it is an important project for the nation, built with the constant supervision of the State level officials.

In addition to the high rock fill dam, the A&I Ministry had built the four-step spillway with much difficulty. The EP Ministry had built two diversion tunnels, the intake structure and the power plant and cables including 37 large and small underground tunnels. The Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project is the symbol of engineering development in Myanmar to reach the higher level of technology. The victory was achieved not with individual talent, but through cooperation of all institutions concerned. Starting from the coming rainy season, the project will generate power at full capacity and the electricity will be distributed through the national grid. Arrangements are under way to build the spillway and feeder canals. The project will help create 35,000 more acres of crops in the surrounding areas of Pyinmana and together with Yezin and Ngalnik dams, it will green large acres of Pyinmana region. The Paunglaung will benefit both the nation and the region.

Paunglaung multi-purpose dam was built at Paunglaung River near Kyitaung-Khawma, about ten miles from the east of Pyinmana, Yamethin District, Mandalay Division.

* The dam is 3,100 feet in length and 430 feet in height.
* The power plant can generate 280 megawatts and the dam will benefit 35,000 acres of farmland.
* Water storage capacity of the Paunglaung Dam is 560,000 acre feet.
It is a common knowledge that the Government has been striving to the 75-megawatt Shwekyin Hydel Power Project, 30-megawatt Khaboung Hydel Power Project, the 40-megawatt Phyucaung Hydel power Project in Shan State, Buywa and Kyion-Kyiwa hydel power projects in Magway Division are gaining momentum. The energy sector is important for the national economy. So also, the new hydel stations can be built only if the economy is robust. Thus, what is important is just to strengthen the national economy. Rather than placing reliance on outside assistance, the nation should do its best with its own capital and strength. Only then will she be able to enjoy a higher dignity and greater strength. Thus, the most important national duty at present is to march to the national goal with the united strength of the entire people. The local people should love, protect and conserve the trees, and in this way they will help maintain the hydel only water but power far water resources, environmental conservation tasks.

Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam…

(From page 4)

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Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam…

Best of its ability to fulfil the nation’s power requirement in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. There are projects being implemented by other ministries in addition to the ones under construction by the A&I Ministry and EP Ministry.

Upstream the Paunglaung River is the Ahtet Paunglaung Hydel Power Project, being implemented by the EP Ministry to generate 140 megawatts and supply water to the present Paunglaung Dam downstream the river. The ministry is also implementing the Yeywa Hydel Power Dam Project on Dokhtawady River, which will become the largest power station in Myanmar at 790 megawatts.

It is sure that hydel power projects larger than the Paunglaung and the Yeywa will emerge in the near future. Dreams will come true as the 7,100-megawatt Tarhsan Dam Hydel Power Project will be implemented on Thanlwin River, and the 1,200-megawatt Htamanthi Dam Hydel Power Project, on Chindwin River.

Covered by the Paunglaung Project are the

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents cash awards for the staff of the project. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets the assistant-governor of Yunnan Province of China. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents cash awards for the staff of the project. — MNA

Paunglaung Hydro power station that can generate 280 megawatts of electricity. — MNA

Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam…

Now the Government has started to materialize the motto “Let us built a haven on this earth with electricity”. As a hydel power project consumes time and capital, the people should understand the Government, and should collectively strive for strengthening the nation’s financial power.

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Covered by the Paunglaung Project are the
Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam…
(from page 5)

plans to carry out increase of agricultural produces in the respective regions.

Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut spoke on the occasion. He said that power consumption increases with momentum annually according to the evidences on extension of factories, construction of housing estates, implementation of the river water pumping projects and use of modern electronic equipment of the people.

The Ministry of Electric Power had opened Zaungtu Hydel Power Plant on Bago River near Bago, Thaphanseik Hydel Power Plant on Mu River in Sagaing Division and Mone Creek Hydel Power Plants in Magway Division totalling 30 hydel power plants including the newly-inaugurated Paunglaung Hydel Power Plant.

The Paunglaung Hydel Power Plant is the first underground hydel power plant in the country. All (See page 13)
Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects final rehearsal of parade drills

**YANGON, 25 March —** Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, Chairman of the Parade Working Committee Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and senior military officers, inspected marching drills of final rehearsal of the parade columns from the Myoma Grounds to the Re-...
The Tatmadaw born of the struggle to regain the nation’s sovereignty and independence becomes stronger and more efficient for crushing the dangers and threats posed by internal and external destructive elements in order not to lose the independence again. The Tatmadaw is indeed just the people’s force fully imbued with nationalistic fervour and patriotism.

The Tatmadaw was absolutely united and harmonious with the entire people in the independence struggles such as anti-colonialists, anti-fascists, and national liberation struggles. In addition, it has played a major role many times in the national defence and security duties as well as in the national political leadership. The Tatmadaw conscientiously shouldered the State responsibilities in the periods of 1949-1952 and 1958-1960 in which the ruling governments no longer could deal with the political and military crises being faced by the entire nation. In an arduous effort to remedy the political and military hardships in the period from 1949 to 1952, the Tatmadaw after sacrificing a lot of lives of its members managed to recapture the cities of almost the entire nation that had fallen to the hands of a variety of insurgents including the Burma Communist Party.

At that time, the Tatmadaw was not fully equipped with arms and ammunition. Some strong battalions made up of respective national races were rebelling the ruling government, the AFPFL party, resulting from the fact that the colonialists drove a wedge among the national races. To create such an awful situation so as to trouble the nation, the imperialists had resorted to various ways and means since the period of independence struggle to politically and racially inculcate the battalions of national races with extreme spirits. The wicked also armed the internal insurgents to help the latter to be powerful and to enable them to rise against the government.

The colonialists’ political and military attempt was to weaken the Myanmar’s Tatmadaw and then to cause the disintegration of the nation. They did so intentionally. In other words, the colonialists took all possible advantages to prevent all the Tatmadaw’s endeavours to become a strong force. However, in the end, the Tatmadaw managed to tackle all the political and military crises facing the nation in the periods of 1949-1952 and 1958-1960 in a bid to safeguard and protect the independence.

Throughout the history of the nation, the Tatmadaw has stood as a strong and united na-
So, each and every nation is placing emphasis on measures for enhancing their military and economic powers.

A glance at the present international situation reveals that some super powers are putting political, economic and military pressures on small developing countries to hold sway over them. They also establish anti-government elements to stir internal strife in small countries that do not dance to their tune.

They are flagrantly taking military action and invasion on some countries. However, the western big powers do not dare to insult some countries which are against them since these countries possess modern and strong armies equipped with sophisticated weaponry, in other words, their defense is robust and unbreakable.

The current world affairs stand witness to the fact that some countries which are against big powers but do not have strong defence force are subject to the blatant and various accusations, invasion and interference of super powers.

History proves it that Myanmar, after regaining independence, was faced with several attacks of foreign-backed insurgent groups. However, Myanma Tatmadaw always provides training to its members to acquire three capabilities in line with its fine tradition.

It also strengthens itself based on the experiences it gained from military operations launched in defence of the country. As the Tatmadaw is full of experience, it could crush insurgents who acted as stooges of alien countries. Moreover, the Tatmadaw could nip in the bud their deliberate attempts to occupy the country bit by bit.

Myanma Tatmadaw secured victories as the people assisted the Tatmadaw for its serving the interest of the country and the race to the best of its ability. The fact that ‘only when the Tatmadaw is strong will the nation be strong’ will become more meaningful, given what has been mentioned above. Therefore, building Myanma Tatmadaw into an efficient and modern one is in a sense strengthening the nation. During the periods around 2001 and 2002, Myanma Tatmadaw was faced with challenges in which it was put to the test. SURA opium-smuggling insurgent group relying on external elements attacked Tatmadaw’s outposts at the border to assess the military might of the Tatmadaw. Their motive was to invade and occupy the border areas. Their dream was broken as the Tatmadaw showed clearly its strength and quelled them effectively.

Had the Tatmadaw not been capable of showing its strength and capacity at that time, there would not have been any respect and admiration for the country and the Tatmadaw in the region. The country and the Tatmadaw would be regarded and treated as unimportant.

However, Myanma Tatmadaw could build itself into a strong and modern one. Only when the Tatmadaw is modern and strong will the nation be respected and admired in the international community.

Some big powers are making attempts to press small developing countries politically, economically and militarily as they are displeased with some nations building modern armies to defend themselves. By accusing small countries of developing atomic bombs and biochemical weapons that can destroy the mankind and by threatening an invasion, some big powers are practising hegemonism, a neo-colonialist policy, to ensure that no country in the world can strengthen its army.

In truth, these super powers are the countries which produce and sell a variety of sophisticated arms. Moreover, they are not signatories to the international treaties that ban the production of sophisticated weaponry for the sake of world peace. This being the case, the sovereignty and independence of the country can be guaranteed by the establishment of Myanma Tatmadaw as a strong, efficient and modern one, given the current international affairs. Only then will the country be able to stand amid world nations as a stable, peaceful, and developed nation.
Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Indian Minister

YANGON, 25 March — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win received Indian External Affairs Minister Mr K Natwar Singh and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinththa this evening.

Also present at the call were Foreign Minister U Nyan Win, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Director-General U Soe Tint at the Government’s Office, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia.

Proposals on detailed basic principles on sharing of executive and judicial powers submitted to NC plenary session

YANGON, 25 March — The plenary session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Delegate groups read out proposals 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.

Present at the plenary session were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein 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 Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairman of sub-committees and officials, representatives of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization and independent representatives, delegates of national races 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 peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), (See page 11)
Proposition on detailed…
(from page 10)
Shan (North) and Shan (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 Of- over the plenary session together with members of the Panel of Chairmen NCCWC member U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam of Delegates of Po- litical Parties, U Law Hsin Kwam of Delegates of Representatives-elect, U Kyi Tin of Delegates of Peasant, U Bo Thein of Delegates of Worker, Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) of Delegates of Intellectuals and Intel- ligentsia, Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khan of Delegates of State Service Personnel and Dr Manan Tu Ja of Delegates of Other In- vited Persons. Director (Meeting) U Than Aung of the NCCWC Office

Before the plenary session, NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj- Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the sub-com- mittees, representatives of political parties, rep- resentatives-elect, del- egates of national races, delegates of peasants, intellectuals and intelli- gentia, delegates of State service personnel and other invited dele- gates signed the attend- ance registers at the Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall for the National Convention delegates.

U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Yai of Delegates of National Races presided over the plenary session together with members of the Panel of Chairmen NCCWC member U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam of Delegates of Political Parties, U Law Hsin Kwam of Delegates of Representatives-elect, U Kyi Tin of Delegates of Peasant, U Bo Thein of Delegates of Worker, Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) of Delegates of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khan of Delegates of State Service Personnel and Dr Manan Tu Ja of Delegates of Other Invited Persons. Director (Meeting) U Than Aung of the NCCWC Office

First, the MC an- nounced the validity of the meeting as 1,070 out of 1,081 delegates at- tended the meeting, ac- counting for 98.98 per cent.

Later, U Saw Ohn Tin, Daw Mary Yan and Daw Nyunt Nyunt Win read proposal papers of the Delegates of National Races. The plenary ses- sion went to recess. At 10.30 am, U Ein Lin, Daw Nan Aye Tint and Dr Khin Shwe submit- ted proposal of the Del- egates of National Races.

The plenary ses- sion of the National Convention concluded at 11.35 am.

The plenary ses- sion continues on 28 March morning.

Proposal on detailed…
(from page 10)
Shan (North) and Shan (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 Of- over the plenary session together with members of the Panel of Chairmen NCCWC member U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam of Delegates of Politi- cal Parties, U Law Hsin Kwam of Delegates of Representatives-elect, U Kyi Tin of Delegates of Peasant, U Bo Thein of Delegates of Worker, Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) of Delegates of Intellectuals and Intelli- gentia, Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khan of Delegates of State Service Personnel and Dr Manan Tu Ja of Delegates of Other Invited Persons. Director (Meeting) U Than Aung of the NCCWC Office

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The plenary session of the National Convention in progress.

Members of the panel of chairmen in the plenary session.

NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs the attendance book.
Britain tightens control on processing of secret intelligence

LONDON, 24 March — Britain has tightened controls on the processing of secret intelligence, the government said on Wednesday, after Prime Minister Tony Blair attacked Iraq partly on the basis of what he has acknowledged was wrong information.

Iraq’s banned arms stockpiles were the primary Anglo-American motive for the war but no weapons of mass destruction have been found and London has since withdrawn two key lines of flawed pre-war intelligence. Since the row over Iraq, the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), also known as MI6, and other spy agencies have adopted new safeguards, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said.

“Secret Intelligence Service has developed new procedures, provided additional resources and revised line management arrangements to improve evaluation and to oversee the quality of intelligence,” Straw said in a statement to parliament. The statement said that intelligence used to compile a September dossier on Iraq was “very flawed pre-war intelligence.”

The debate over Iraq’s weapons plunged Blair into one of the rockiest periods of his premiership following the suicide of government weapons inspector David Kelly. Kelly was the source of a contested BBC radio report that accused the government of hyping the case for war.

Blair’s public trust and popularity ratings took a nose dive over Iraq and the issue could erode support for Blair in a general election expected in May, which he looks set to win. Butler cleared Blair of deceiving Parliament and the public over the intelligence on Iraq but identified collective shortcomings in the gathering and presentation of intelligence.

Straw said the procedures of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), which compiled the September dossier, had been “reviewed and tightened up” since the Butler report.

He said further work was under way to improve the analytical support provided to the intelligence community. The government has agreed to appoint a professional head of intelligence analysis and analysts will be better trained. The government also plans to expand the 28-strong assessments staff — which analyses the work of intelligence services for ministers — by about one third, allowing for more rigorous checking of JIC reports.

Explosion in Texas refinery kills 14, injures 100

TEXAS CITY (Texas), 24 March — An explosion rocked BP’s sprawling refining complex in Texas City, Texas, on Wednesday, killing at least 14 and causing extensive damage, the company said. “We believe 14 people lost their lives as a result of the fire,” BP site director Don Parus told reporters.

An estimated 100 people were injured. The blast was powerful, but shattered windows and shook buildings for miles around, BP and area health officials said. Of the injured, more than 70 were working at the facility, plant spokesman Bill Stephens said.

“It was a sad day for BP,” Parus said from the third-largest US crude oil refinery. The blast sent a huge plume of black smoke billowing into the sky near the city of Galveston. The plant is about 35 miles southeast of downtown Houston.

The explosion took place on the western side of the sprawling 1,200-acre complex in one of the units used to make high-octane fuel. Company officials said the cause was not immediately known.

BP said it did not suspect a terrorist attack but did not rule out the blast, which caused several scattered fires at the plant that took firefighters about two hours to extinguish.

A female lemur plays with a camera lens with her primate related to simians, which is more arboreal, as much as in the past, their survival is threatened because their natural forest habitats are being cut. A female lemur plays with a camera lens with her primate related to simians, which is more arboreal, as much as in the past, their survival is threatened because their natural forest habitats are being cut.
power plant cannot produce power with full capacity in the rainy season. So, Ahtet Paunglaung Hydel Project is being implemented on Paunglaung River, 32 miles from the today’s project.

In his address, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint said that Mandalay Division has a dense population and it is producing all the 10 main crops of the State. Thanks to 42 dams and 70 river water pumping projects implemented by the government, numbers of sown acreage increase in Mandalay Division year after year. In future, Mandalay Division can be upgraded from food insufficiency region to a food sufficient one.

Experiences from the Paunglaung Project can contribute towards implementation of Yeywa Hydel Power Project in Mandalay Division. And, all the people in Mandalay Division are to safeguard the dam and plant.

Next, U Khin Maung Htay of Kyitgaung Village in Pyinmana Township express thanks for opening the project.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye made a speech. He said that the State Peace and Development Council has been exerting utmost efforts for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation, adding that in the process, is taking systematic measures in line with the 12 political, economic and social objectives while placing in the fore Our Three Main National Causes that are the national policy.

Meanwhile, the 24 special development zones have been designated and work is well under way to bring about harmonious and equitable development the length and breadth of the nation. In addition, steps are being taken for development of education, health and transport sectors. The government has laid down and is implementing projects for development of border areas and national races who are residing in border areas which had made little headway in the past to narrow development gap among the regions.

Moreover, the five rural development tasks have been laid down and are being implemented for enhancing socio-economic life of the rural people who are the majority of the population.

Remarkable progress has been made across the nation in the agricultural sector, the paddy production in the nation has surpassed the amount the population to consume and plans are under way to meet the demand of growing population of about 30 years to come.

Paunglaung Multipurpose Dam Project have emerged from the 30-year long-term project that is being implemented, with the aim of ensuring all-round development in the nation.

The successful implementation of the long-term project will contribute much to emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Prevalence of peace and tranquillity in the nation enables the government and the people to make concerted efforts for national development.

In conclusion, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye called on local people and officials concerned to strive for running of the hydel power plant with full capacity and to safeguard it for its durability.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented cash awards for the staff who participated in the dam construc-
Peru not afraid of Brazil

LIMA, 24 March — Peru say they are not afraid of world champions Brazil and will face them as equals when they travel to Goiania for Sunday's World Cup qualifier.

"We know they have a team full of great players but we have to face them without trembling, without fear," PSV Eindhoven striker Jefferson Farfan told reporters.

Fullback Juan Vargas, who scored a superb individual goal for his Argentine club Colon at the weekend, added: "Everyone has come with a winning mentality, it is a difficult match but not impossible."

Peru, whose coach Pablo Autuori is Brazilian, are seventh in the 10-nation South American qualifying group with 13 points from 11 games. They also face Ecuador at home on March 30. — MNA/Reuters

Beckenbauer interested in becoming next UEFA president

BERLIN, 24 March — Germany's Franz Beckenbauer said on Wednesday he was interested in becoming the next UEFA president and was ready for a "fair and clean election battle" with France's candidate Michel Platini.

"The interest is there," said Beckenbauer, 59, who led West Germany to World Cup victory as captain in 1974 and coach in 1990 but has remained coy until now about whether he would run to lead European soccer's governing body.

"I've taken responsibility all my life and never worried about possibly failing," he said in an interview with the German football association's (DFB) website. "The presidency of such a successful organization as UEFA would be an appealing challenge."

The charismatic Beckenbauer said, however, he wanted to wait to make sure UEFA president Lennart Johansson would definitely retire before formally announcing his candidacy. Beckenbauer won unanimous backing last week from the DFB's executive last week.

"I'm in favour of going one step at a time," Beckenbauer said. "Whether (Johansson) definitely steps down at the end of the current term is, as far as I know, not yet clear. I'd never run against Lennart. I admire him, and I'm a friend of his."

Beckenbauer, leading Germany's 2006 World Cup organizing committee, has long dropped hints that he wanted to succeed Johansson who has held office for 14 years and will be 76 by the time he completes his fourth term in 2006. — MNA/Reuters

Chelsea to respond any charges to CAS

LONDON, 25 March — Premier League leaders Chelsea have responded to what they describe as an "unprecedented attack" by Europe's governing body UEFA, saying they will fight any charges all the way to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Chelsea have been charged with bringing the game into disrepute after their manager Jose Mourinho's accusation that Swedish referee Anders Frisk mistreated Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard at halftime during the first leg of the clubs' Champions League first knockout round on February 23.

"Chelsea is both surprised and disappointed that at least one individual within UEFA appears to have launched an unprecedented attack on the club, regardless of the fact that Chelsea has cooperated fully with the enquiries related to the charges," said club's chief executive Peter Kenyon said in a statement.

Frisk subsequently received death threats and announced his immediate retirement from refereeing, leading to condemnation of Chelsea by UEFA, which accused the London club of making false declarations and creating a "negative ambiance."

UEFA's head of refereeing Volker Roth also responded by describing Mourinho as "an enemy of football." — MNA/Intern

Ashley Cole, Mourinho charged over "tapping-up" row

LONDON, 24 March — Arsenal defender Ashley Cole, Chelsea and their manager Jose Mourinho have been charged over the long-running "tapping-up" row, the Premier League said on Wednesday.

League leaders Chelsea have been charged with a breach of Rule K3 over an illegal approach to Cole, said to have taken place in a London hotel in January, while Mourinho has been charged over a breach of managers' conduct.

England international Cole, who is contracted to Arsenal until 2007, faces charges over breaking Rule K5, which governs approaches by players to other clubs.

The Premier League Board has asked for a formal response to the charges within 14 days and has begun the process of appointing a three-person independent commission to determine the matter.

Mourinho's agent, Jonathan Barnett, and Pini Zahavi, who acts for Cole, are outside the jurisdiction of the Premier League, although the statement said the Board would forward information gathered during the inquiry to the Football Association with regard to their actions in the matter.

Chelsea issued a statement saying: "(the club) acknowledges receipt of the Premier League charges and will continue to cooperate fully with the commission process."

Mourinho initially denied that he and Chelsea's executive Peter Kenyon had met Cole, saying he was in Milan speaking with (Inter Milan) striker Adriano when the meeting supposedly took place.

Cole has never denied that the meeting took place, although the circumstances remain unclear.

His manager Arsene Wenger, however, has gone on record blaming Chelsea for the episode. — MNA/Reuters

Beckham puts question mark over future at Real Madrid

MANCHESTER (England), 24 March — David Beckham has put a question mark over his future at Real Madrid after two of his children were targeted by paparazzi.

The England captain told reporters on Wednesday day of two incidents earlier this month which he felt went beyond what was acceptable even for such a high-profile player and his former Spice Girl Victoria.

"I'm at the point where I don't know what to do, because it's my children now and that's different," Beckham said at the England team hotel as he prepared for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland.

"I've had a couple of incidents in the last two weeks that have made me sit back and think."

"I believe that when my children are going to primary school, nursery or football school they should not be left alone. And they're not. And they're not even with their parents. "So, for me, it's becoming a big problem," said the 29-year-old father of three.

"Detailing the recent incidents, Beckham said: "My eldest son, Brooklyn, goes to a football school. I was working at the time and Victoria was working, or looking after Cruz, and paparazzi showed up and harassed him and chased him into the football school."

"This is a six-year-old little boy. For me, that's crossing the line. And, of course, that affected him."

Real coach defends Beckham as hardest working player

MADRID, 24 March — Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo has defended England captain David Beckham, describing him as the hardest working player at the Spanish club.

"He works more than any other player here and, what's more, he's playing out of position," Luxemburgo told Spanish sports daily AS on Wednesday.

"He is prepared to sacrifice himself for the team."

Beckham, like several of his high-profile 'Galactico' teammates at Real, has been subjected to heavy criticism in recent weeks following the team's poor form in the Primera Liga and their elimination from the Champions League.


Arsenal's Ashley Cole, left. — INTERNET

Chelsea soccer club manager Jose Mourinho. — INTERNET
Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam...

(from page 13)

At the opening of Paunglaung underground power plant, the Minister formally unveiled the stone inscription, and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, the vice-governor and officials sprinkled scented water on it. Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Htu Oo, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut, and Vice-Governor Maung Tang Lulu formally opened the plant. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party posed for a documentary photo together with the vice-governor and officials before the plant.

At the hall of the plant, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the scale model of the plant. The vice-governor formally opened a signboard which reads ‘Perpetual Flow of Paunglaung River and perpetual amity between the two’ written in Myanmar Chinese bilingual. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and the Chinese vice-governor exchanged the souvenirs. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected generating of electricity by the use of four turbines, and the control tower. Minister Maj-Gen Htu Oo and Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on implementation of Paunglaung multi-purpose dam project. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye next gave instructions on conservation of the forest and plants growing in this environment of the dam and measures to be taken for generating the full capacity of electricity.

Paunglaung multi-purpose dam was built at Paunglaung River near Kyitaung-Khawma, about ten miles from the east of Pyaymuma, Yamethin District, Mandalay Division. The dam is 3,100 feet in length and 430 feet in height. The power plant can generate 280 megawatts of electricity and the dam will benefit 35,000 acres of farmland. Water storage capacity of the Paunglaung Dam is 560,000 acre-feet. The project was implemented by the Construction-5 of the Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Construction-1 of the Hydro Electric Power Department, Ministry of Electric Power.

After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party went to the site of Atlet Paunglaung hydel power project. First, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint reported on facts about the project and construction work and Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut on the area where the project is being implemented, condition of transport and purchase of machinery. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the construction work. The project is being implemented at Paunglaung River, 32 miles from Paunglaung Dam project. The hydro-electric power project is being implemented by the Construction-1 of the Hydro Electric Power Department. It will generate 140 megawatts of electricity and support water for Paunglaung dam. Later, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived back here in the evening after inspecting the project work. — MVA

Hassanali Bolkia Trophy U-21 Invitational Football final match

YANGON, 25 March—The final match of the second Hassanali Bolkia Trophy Under-21 Invitational Football Tournament (2005) took place at Bandar Sri Begawan in Brunei at 6:45 Myanmar local time.

In the match, Thailand beat Myanmar 3-0. — MVA

WEATHER

Friday, 25 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: Dry air persisted. Rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Chin and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.71) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Tannyahti Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division, (6°C) below normal in Kachin State, upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (40°C) each in Mibinu, Pathein and Hmawbi.

Maximum temperature on 24-3-2005 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 25-3-2005 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-3-2005 was 64%. Total sunshine hours on 24-3-2005 was (10.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 25-3-2005 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 (8) mph from North-west at (16:30) hours MST on 24-3-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 26-3-2005: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated and scattered in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions and 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: Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-3-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Further outlook for week-end of March 2005: During the coming weekend, isolated rain or thundershowers are possible in Mandalay Division. Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 10:30 hours M.S.T on 25-3-2005)

An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.9) Rich- ter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (900) miles south of Kaba-Aye Seismological Observatory was recorded at (07) hrs (37) min (30) sec M.S.T on 25th March 2005.

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 26 March, 2005 15
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
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Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project emerges from 30-year long-term project for national all-round development...

(from page 1)

This morning, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attended the ceremony to inaugurate Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project near Kyitaung-Khawma Village of Pyinmana Township as a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. Also present on the occasion were Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, ministers, Assistant Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Tang Lilu and Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun, officials, local authorities, social organization members and local people.

The ceremony to open the Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project was held at the pandal near the dam. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win said that Mandalay Division is one of the most important regions of Myanmar as well as her economic hub. Because of the dry weather, agriculture is a hard work in the most populous region of the states and divisions of the nation. After studying the flow of water in the rivers and creeks of the division, dams and diversion weirs have been built in the region to harness the water resources to the most possible degree, and hydel power stations attached to them if possible. Mandalay Division now has 42 dams and 70 water pumping stations.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party pose for a documentary photo together with the assistant-governor of Yunnan Province of PRC. — MNA

Paunglaung Dam in Pyinmana township, Yamethin District, Mandalay Division. — MNA

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INSIDE
The current world affairs stand witness to the fact that some countries which are against big powers and do not have strong defence force are subject to the blatant and various accusations, invasion and interference of super powers.

(Page 8) — Kyai Phyu