Tatmadaw is serving the interests of the nation with sincere goodwill

With its allegiance to the nation and the people, our Tatmadaw is serving the interests of the nation with sincere goodwill. As the Tatmadaw, the Government and the people make concerted efforts in nation-building and national defence with a strength born of unity, our country has been achieving progress despite all sorts of restrictions, sanctions and onslaughts.

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 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

YANGON, 27 March — Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade in the Resistance Park on U Wisara Road here today. The following is the full text of the address:

Comrades,

Today is the sixtieth anniversary of the Armed Forces Day, when all the nationalities of our Union made history through their acts of courage and national pride. Ours is a patriotic Tatmadaw formed during the independence struggle period with the active participation of the people themselves. With one accord, the Tatmadawmen together with the entire people launched a concerted assault against the fascist menace on the 27th of March 1945. On the anniversary of this special day of historic significance when the glory of our nation and the people shone ever more brightly, I would like to have a few words with you on various matters of serious consequence.

Comrades,

While our country was under servitude, the colonialists sowed political discord, exploited us economically and subjected us to social inviglement. Upon seeking assistance in the anti-colonialist struggle, our country emerged from the frying pan of colonialist rule only to fall into the fire of fascism. Conditions under the harsh and brutal fascist rule can fairly be characterised as hell on earth. My purpose in briefly revisiting the bitter suffering under colonialist rule is to bring about a deeper appreciation of the value of independence and sovereignty.

Comrades,

Nowadays, the preferred method employed by a major power to (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Indian Minister of External Affairs concludes visit

YANGON, 27 March — Visiting Minister of External Affairs Mr K Natwar Singh of the Republic of India and delegation left here by air this afternoon.

The Indian delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian Embassy.

During their visit in Myanmar, they paid a cultural tour of the ancient city of Mandalay.

MNA

Dry Day Supervisory Committee makes inspection

YANGON, 27 March — Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and party inspect dry day inspection teams. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win sees off Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr K Natwar Singh at the airport.— MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back home

YANGON, 27 March — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa bound for the Seventh East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation, on Children and arrived at Siem Reap International Airport, Cambodia, on 22 March morning. The Myanmar delegation was welcomed by Secretary of State Ung Tea Seam and committee members and taken to Apsara Angkor Hotel.

The Myanmar delegation was hosted dinner by Executive Director of UNICEF Headquarters Ms Carol Bellamy at Apsara Angkor Hotel.

At the opening ceremony at Apsara Angkor Hotel on 23 March, Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, Minister of War Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation 1st Sam Heng and Executive Director of UNICEF Headquarters Ms Carol Bellamy made opening speeches. Present on the occasion were representatives from 27 countries of Asia and Pacific regions, UN organizations, UNICEF NGOs, officials and invited guests. Representatives of various countries made speeches on the occasion. Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa attended Young People Forum at City Angkor Hotel and dinner hosted by Minister 1st Sam Heng at Elephant Terrace, Angkor. At the second day’s meeting, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivered an address on progress in carrying out development of children in Myanmar reflecting global declaration and goals.

Next, the ministerial meeting followed. At the same time, Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaung and members attended meetings on Prevention of Violence Against Children and Siem Reap-Angkor declaration separately held.

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and party called on UNICEF Regional Director Ms Ampamara Rao Singh at Apsara Angkor Hotel and explained endeavours on children affairs of Myanmar. On third day, all participants of the meeting discussed and approved Siem Reap-Angkor declaration. They decided to hold the Eighth Meeting of East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation on Children to be held in 2007 at a Pacific island country. Later, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and party visited Painting and Sculpture School. The Myanmar delegation arrived back here yesterday evening. — MNA

Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwa being welcomed back at the airport.— 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

Experts discuss new television, broadcasting technologies

Beijing, 26 March — China Radio, Film and TV technology bimonthly journal organized a forum on new television and broadcasting technologies and development of media industry here on Thursday.

Liu Xiang, Vice-President of the China Association of Radio and Television said at the forum that many new technologies have already been introduced into TV programming broadcasting, data receiving and multi-media.

With those new advanced technologies, Liu said, players in the industry need to speed up commercialization of the technologies. — MNA/Xinhua

Next-generation TOEFL to be launched in China in 2006

Beijing, 26 March — The next-generation Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL), will be Internet-based, will be launched in China in 2006.

Maurice Cogan Hauck, assessment director of the US-based Educational Test Service (ETS), told Xinhua here Wednesday that the next-generation TOEFL, called TOEFL iBT, will test reading, listening, speaking and writing. Speech will take the place of grammar, in order to test the comprehensive communicating ability of the test takers. The content of the test will also include the kind of English used in higher education, such as in lectures, discussions, reading assignments and term papers.

According to Hauck, test takers will receive score reports from ETS experts, who will give detailed evaluations of all four parts of the test. “This will help the test takers know which part of their English learning should be improved,” he said.

Four on-line preparatory courses for the new TOEFL has been set up on the ETS’ official website, including TOEFL Practice Online, LanguEdge Courseware, TOEFL Academic Speaking Test (TAST) and Criterion Online Writing Evaluation.

Hauck said the new TOEFL will be launched in the United States in September, and later in Canada, France, Germany and many Italy. It will be launched in the rest of the world including China, next year.

The rollout schedule will be posted on the ETS’ website, including the TOEFL Practice Online. — Internet

1,527 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 26 March — As of Saturday, 26 March, 2005, at least 1,527 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,164 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST Friday. The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,389 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,055 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. — Internet

Indonesian Vice-President arrives in Aceh Province

BANDA ACEH (Indonesia), 26 March — Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla arrived in tsunami-hit Aceh Province on Saturday three months after the disaster to present community leaders a draft blueprint for the reconstruction of the area.

Kalla’s meeting with Acehnese officials, academics and clergy will be the last chance for the public to refine plans before the document is finalized. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is expected to sign the blueprint in the next several days.

“Hopefully, we can quickly wrap things up,” Planning Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, in charge of composing the blueprint, said after Kalla arrived in the provincial capital Banda Aceh.

A 26 December Indian Ocean earthquake sent killer waves smashing into many parts of Aceh, leaving some 220,000 dead or missing and half a million survivors homeless in the province on the northern tip of Sumatra Island.

In the past three months, a coalition of foreign troops, aid agencies, individuals and the Indonesian Government have worked to support survivors. The efforts prevented outbreaks of disease and famine.

Indonesia has set 26 March as the end of the relief phase and in the next stage promised to replace ad hoc coordination with a master plan to guide the massive reconstruction work, estimated to cost around five billion US dollars.

One sticking point is a proposal to have a 1.2-mile buffer zone between houses and the ocean, which would stop survivors who lived on the coast from returning to rebuild their homes and force those still living there to move out.

They fear that settling issues of ownership and compensation for their former homes would only compound their problems.

Chief Social Welfare Minister Alwi Shihab, in charge of post-tsunami relief and reconstruction, told reporters later on Friday that the broad-brush blueprint needs to be fine tuned.
YANGON, 27 March — To attend the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade, Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services Department and Myanmar Red Cross

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, garlands a Tatmadawman from a parade column.— NLM

Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, garlands a Tatmadawman from a parade column.— NLM

Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, garlands a Tatmadawman from a parade column.— NLM

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, garlands a Tatmadawman.— NLM

Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, garlands a Tatmadawman.— MNA

Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann, garlands a Tatmadawman.— MNA

Daw Aye Aye, wife of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, wife of Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wives of senior military officers offered Aungthabyay (eugenia sprigs) to Tatmadawmen of the military columns and members of MPF, Fire Services Department and MRCS and garlanded them. Moreover, thousands of people, service personnel of various ministries, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, families of Tatmadawmen, members of NGOs, MPF, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, nurses, teachers and students welcomed the Tatmadaw-men from the parade columns and offered Aungthabyay (eugenia sprigs) to them. MNA

Daw Kyaing Kyaing and public accord rousing welcome to Tatmadawmen of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade columns

Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun, this morning marched into the Resistance Park from Myoma Grounds along U Wisara Road. Thousands of people along the road

Society of Anawrahta Column, Kyansittha Column, Bayintnaung Column, Nawade Column, Aung Zeya Column, Hsinbyushin Column, Bandoola Column, Myawady Column and Aung San Column, led by Parade Commander Maung Aye, Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, wife of member of SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Daw Khin Hnin Wai, wife of member of SPDC Lt-Gen Aung Hwae, Daw Marlar Tint, wife of member of SPDC Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Daw Khin Lay Myint, wife of member of SPDC Lt-Gen Aung Maung Bo, Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thihwa Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Daw San San Yi, wife of Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Daw Aye Aye, wife of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, wife of Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wives of senior military officers offered Aungthabyay (eugenia sprigs) to Tatmadawmen of the military columns and members of MPF, Fire Services Department and MRCS and garlanded them. Moreover, thousands of people, service personnel of various ministries, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, families of Tatmadawmen, members of NGOs, MPF, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, nurses, teachers and students welcomed the Tatmadaw-men from the parade columns and offered Aungthabyay (eugenia sprigs) to them. MNA

Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, garlands a Tatmadawman of a parade column.— NLM

Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, garlands a Tatmadawman.— NLM

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YANGON, 27 March — After attending the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade held at the Resistance Park this morning, military attaches of foreign missions proceeded to the Memorial to Fallen Heroes on Azami Road in Bahan Township.

They were welcomed by Chairman of Maintenance Committee for the Memorial Yangon Station Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials.

Next, the military attaches led by Dean of the Military Attachés represented the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to Myanmar Col Onechanh Phetsalat paid tribute to the fallen heroes. Before departure, they signed in the visitors’ book.

**Prizes presented to best companies, columns in Armed Forces Day Parade**

The prize distribution to best companies and columns in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade took place at the Myoma Ground on U Wisara Road here this morning, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Soe Htwa, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Inspector-General Maj-Gen Thein Htaik, Chairman of the Working Committee for Scrutinizing best company Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers, Tatmadawmen from Anawrahta Column, Kyansittha Column, Bayintnaung Column, Nawade Column, Aungzeya Column, Hsinbyushin Column, Bandoolla Column, Myawady Column and Aung San Column led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun, members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society.

First, General Thura Shwe Mann took the salute of Tatmadawmen and members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society of respective columns led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented honorary prize to the Central Military Band and nine military bands; honorary bag-pipe prize to Bag-pipe Troupe, the third model prize to Aung San column to No 1 company representing Myanmar Red Cross Society, the second to No 2 company representing Myanmar Fire Brigade and the first prize to Guard of Honour of Aung San Column representing Myanmar Police Force; the consolation prizes for military discipline to the company representing the No 66 LID which won 5 military discipline prizes; to the company representing South West Command which won 4 military discipline prizes; to the company representing the North West Command which won 3 military discipline prizes; to the company representing the North East Command which won 2 military discipline prizes; and to the company representing the No 33 LID which won one military discipline prize, the third prize for military discipline to the company representing Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), second to the company representing Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the second to the company representing Directorate of Signals and the first to the company representing No 2 Company of Directorate of Artillery Force; to the company representing Directorate of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the consolation prizes for military song to the company representing Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) which won 5 prizes; to company representing Eastern Command which won 4 prizes; to the company representing Northern Command which won 3 prizes, to the company representing Coastal Region Command which won 2 prizes; to the company representing No 77 LID; the third prize for military song to the company representing Directorate of Military Engineers; the second to the company representing Yangon Command and the first prize to the company representing Directorate of Supply and Transport; third model award to the company representing Directorate of Medical Services; second model award to the company representing No-1 company representing Directorate of Artillery and first model award to the company representing Directorate of Armoured Force and the best column award to Kyansittha Column.

General Thura Shwe Mann presented the first prize for military parade to the company representing Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air); second to company representing Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and first to Directorate of Ordnance Services.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann presented the third prize for military band to the company representing the No 13 LID which won 3 parade awards; the company representing the No 14 LID which won 2 parade awards; the company representing the No 11 LID; third prize for second to military band of Kyansittha column, the first to military band of Bayintnaung column; the third prize for the standard banner company to Kyansittha column, the second to the standard banner company of Anawrahta column, the first to the standard banner company of Hsinbyushin column, the

**Military attaches of foreign missions pay tribute to fallen heroes**

Military Attachés of foreign missions led by Dean of the Military Attachés presented First Prize to Company of MPF representing Aung San Column.

MNA

MNA
Li-Gen Kyaw Win presents prizes to winners in 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative literary and arts contests

YANGON, 27 March — A ceremony to present prizes to winners in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative literary and arts competitions was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this afternoon, attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the committee for organizing the literary and arts competitions member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, the chairman of Yangon City Development Committee the mayor, Vice-Chairman of the Organizing Committee for 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative literary and arts competitions Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, deputy ministers, senior military officers, members of the committee, work committee and sub-committees for the competitions, departmental heads, officials and prize winners.

First, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win delivered an address.

Next, he presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the long poem (grade I and II) and short poem (grade I and II) contests. Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented first, second and third prizes for short story contest and novel contest; Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, for article contest and essay contest at university, college and institute level and at middle and high school level; Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, for poem contests at university, college and institute level and at middle and high school level; Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein, for article contest at the professional level, for painting contests at pre-primary level, junior primary level and senior primary school level; Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, for painting contests (middle school level, high school level and open level); Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, for the open level wooden sculpture contest and open level plaster sculpture contest, colour photo contest (progressive Myanmar) (senior division) and (novice division); Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, for colour photo contest (preserve cultural heritage) (senior division) and (novice division), for marching song contest, song composing contests (grade I) and (grade II); Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, for extempore talks contest organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association and extempore talks contests at the central level, basic education high level and middle level, TV quiz contests (university, college and institute level) and (basic education level); Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun, for computer drawing contests at the high and middle school levels and computer application contest at the high school level and for the computer quiz on knowledge about Tatmadaw and 12 objectives contest to the winners respectively.

On behalf of the winners, first prize winner at the novel contest Aung Soe (Pannyodaw) expressed gratitude.

MNA
**Defence Services Commander-in-Chief**

(from page 10) winners, trainees from the Public Relations and Information Management Course No 5 organized by Union Solidarity and Development Association, members of Japan-Myanmar History and Culture Association and winners in the contests to mark the Armed Forces Day, local and foreign journalists.

Members of the parade columns assembled at the Myoma Grounds at 5 am to march towards the Resistance Park. At 5.45 am, Parade Adjutant Lt-Col Aung Hsan Win (Air) presented the nine parade columns to Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun. The bag-pipe platoon led by Sgt Kyaw Naing Oo and the Central Military Band led by Sgt Myat Kyaw Thu of the Guard of Honour and the Military Band Company marched to the Resistance Park in advance and took the designated places.

Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun led the military columns, followed by Parade Adjutant Lt-Col Aung Hsan Win (Air), the standard bearers of Union Flag and flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) led by Maj Hein Lin and the military band led by Sgt Tun Soe.

Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo ushered Anawrahta Column which was made up of standard bearers with the flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) led by Maj Htay Lwin, the military band led by PO Kyaw Kyaw of Naval Band, Guard of Honour of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy)’s Office led by Lt-Cmdr Win Latt, Commanding Officer Cdr Maung Maung Latt, parade company of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy)’s Office led by Lt-Cmdr Zaw Latt, parade company of Directorate of Signals led by Maj Soe Htuk, parade company-3 of Triangle Region Command led by Maj Tin Moe Kyaw, parade company-2 of Western Command led by Maj Wai Lin Aung, parade company of No 22 LID led by Maj Myo Myint Aung and parade company-2 of North-West Command led by Maj Thet Naing.

Column Commander Col Tha Aung led the Kyansitha Column which was made up of the standard bearers with the flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) led by Maj Win Naing Soe, the military band led by Sgty Kyaw Yinsal No 11 LID, Guard of Honour representing Directorate of Armoured Force led by Maj Thein Kyaw, Commanding Officer Lt-Col Aye Win, parade company of No 11 LID led by Maj Zaw Myo Tin, parade company of Eastern Command led by Maj Thura Hlaing Tun Oo, parade company of Western Command led by Maj Moe Zaw, parade company-3 of South-East Command led by Maj Win Naing Oo, parade company-2 of Triangle Region Command led by Maj Khin Maung Naing and parade company of Directorate of Military Engineers led by Maj Htin Aung.

Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo ushered Bayintnaung Column which was made up of the standard bearers with the flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) led by Maj Htay Lwin, the military band led by WO Htaw Win of No 4 Basic Military Training Depot, Guard of Honour of Artillery Force led by Maj Aung Tun Then, Commanding Officer Lt-Col Soe Lwin, parade company of North-East Command led by Maj Nay Myo Oo, parade company of Triangle Region Command led by Maj Nyi Nyi, parade company of No 88 LID led by Maj Tun Min, parade company-2 of Coastal Region Command led by Maj Wai Lin Aung, parade company of No 22 LID led by Maj Myo Myint Aung and parade company-2 of North-West Command led by Maj Thet Naing.

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**Prizes presented for Military code of conduct and extempore talks contests**

Li-Gen Kyaw Win delivered a speech. Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, presented prizes to winners of military code of conduct contest (private level) and extempore talks contest (private level); Maj-Gen Thein Htak to winners of military code of conduct contest (cpl level) and extempore talks contest (cpl level); Maj-Gen Myint Swe to winners of military code of conduct contest (warrant officer level) and extempore talks contest (warrant officer level).

Next, Li-Gen Kyaw Win presented prizes to winners of military code of conduct contest (officer level) and extempore talks contest (officer level).

**Conslolation prizes presented to winners in Literary and Arts Competitions**

Yangon, 27 March — A ceremony to present consolation prizes to the winners in the Literary and Arts Competitions to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at U Ba Lwin Hall of Dagon Basic Education High School No 2 in Dagon Township this afternoon, attended by Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, senior military officers, and prize winners. Li-Gen Kyaw Win presented a prize to Captain Kyaw Zaw Lin. — MNA

Yangon, 27 March — 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 Li-Gen Kyaw Win attended the prize-distribution ceremony for the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative military code of conduct and extempore talks contests (central level) which took place at Yangon Command Headquarters this morning and gave away prizes to winners.

Also present on the occasion were Judge Advocate General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Defence Services Inspector General Maj-Gen Thein Htak, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Chairman of Work Committee for Prize Distribution and Finance of Military code of conduct and extempore talks contests Vice-Adjointant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers, and prize winners. Li-Gen Kyaw Win delivered a speech. Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, presented prizes to winners of military code of conduct contest (private level) and extempore talks contest (private level); Maj-Gen Thein Htak to winners of military code of conduct contest (cpl level) and extempore talks contest (cpl level); Maj-Gen Myint Swe to winners of military code of conduct contest (warrant officer level) and extempore talks contest (warrant officer level).

Next, Li-Gen Kyaw Win presented prizes to winners of military code of conduct contest (officer level) and extempore talks contest (officer level).

MNA

Patriotic Fighter, Victorious Warrior

* Patriotic Fighter, Victorious warrior
Beloved noble, sacrificing life
Dare to repay, with strong tenacity
Won’t down the flag, even if hell’s left
Smash the enemy, with firm resolve
This is love of kin, for sure.

* Patriotic fighter, truly brave
Unworthy scheme, to tarnish pride
Even if one, to pick a fight
If he starts it, with insults
A word, rebuff as if with knife
Using true strength, will rebuff
With love for the nation, true.

* O, know it friend, know it
We own our land, we know it
Won’t pander for shade, won’t interfere
If he interferes, he shall be beaten
He will be done over
On Myanmar land, when need cries
Blood set together, tumultuously
With hoof-drops strong, Shwebo steed
Will ascend, come to life
From history book, he rises
Will come forth at once, before Myanmar
Unfrighened, old time
As it aven, it hurts my heart
Patriotic fighter, victorious warrior.

* Blood always red, in my heart
Will continue raising national pride.

Soe Moe (Trs)

Honouring the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

**POEM**

Patriotic Fighter, Victorious Warrior

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Soe Moe (Trs)
Political reforms have gained acceptance...
(from page 1)

In today’s international relations, every country is endeavouring to give priority to its own national interests. There is a proverb in Myanmar that says, “When push comes to shove, even a mother puts herself before her own son.” We have to be prepared to rely on ourselves and the first priority in every sector has to be self-reliance and self-sufficiency. The next stage is to enhance our economic strength in order to keep abreast of the world’s nations.

In today’s international relations, every country is political, economic or social subjugation rather than outright attack and occupation. In today’s international relations, every country is endeavouring to give priority to its own national interests.

There is a proverb in Myanmar that says, “When push comes to shove, even a mother puts herself before her own son.” We have to be prepared to rely on ourselves and the first priority in every sector has to be self-reliance and self-sufficiency. The next stage is to enhance our economic strength in order to keep abreast of the world’s nations.

Excerpts from the speech delivered by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe

* After ensuring peace and tranquility in the nation, our Tatmadaw proceeded to engage in nation-building endeavours with great perseverance, industry and diligence.

* The terrible lessons from the horrors of anarchic chaos that all of us experienced should inform our transition to a democratic system with fully institutionalized discipline, where both discipline and the core values of democracy are guaranteed.

* Our Tatmadaw has laid down and consistently upheld as the national policy the historic lessons of non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national unity and perpetuation of sovereignty, which are Our Three Main National Causes.

Parade Columns comprising Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society seen at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade at the Resistance Park.—MNA
Political reforms have gained acceptance...

(from page 8)

Comrades,

As instances of anarchism and brutality appeared in our country, the Tatmadaw had no other alternative but to assume the responsibilities of the State in order to ensure the rule of independence and sovereignty. Loomed large, our Tatmadaw, true to its origins in the history of the independence struggle, repelled this threat as well.

Comrades,

Our Tatmadaw assumed the responsibility of the State amidst ruins. It is true to its origins in the history of the independence struggle, repelled this threat as well.

Our Tatmadaw assumed the responsibility of the State amidst ruins. It was intrepid in surmounting innumerable obstacles. After ensuring peace and tranquility in the nation, our Tatmadaw proceeded to engage in nation-building endeavours with great perseverance, industry and diligence.

The terrible lessons from the horrors of anarchic chaos that all of us experienced should inform our transition to a democratic system with fully institutionalized discipline, where both discipline and the core values of democracy are guaranteed. The transition process constitutes a subtle and delicate but necessary process.

The Tatmadaw stood tall in front of the people and eradicated all destructive elements above ground and underground, domestic and foreign, who were instigating and inciting unrest. Moreover, as the risk of losing our national independence and sovereignty loomed large, our Tatmadaw, true to its origins in the history of the independence struggle, repelled this threat as well.

Comrades,

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The terrible lessons from the horrors of anarchic chaos that all of us experienced should inform our transition to a democratic system with fully institutionalized discipline. The transition process constitutes a subtle and delicate but necessary process.
Political reforms have gained acceptance...

From page 9

Comrades,

Our Tatmadaw has laid down and consistently upheld as the national policy the historic lessons of non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national unity and perpetuation of sovereignty, which are our Three Main National Causes. As working guidelines, our Tatmadaw has laid down wherever necessary as part of the endeavour to increase the acreage of cultivated land, enhance agricultural production, achieve target yields, and mechanize agriculture for the development of the agricultural sector. As part of the industrial development programme, efforts are being made for the full-capacity production of existing factories, the construction of new factories and the establishment of private industrial zones for import substitute production. Special endeavours are also being made for the development of electricity generation and energy production, which are indispensable in building an industrialized nation.

With regard to the social sector, concerted efforts are being made to ensure the dynamism of the patriotic spirit and the upgrading of the education standards of the entire people, which are essential not only for the development of the country but also for a functioning democracy. Under a democratic system, only high education standards can ensure discipline and a clear perception of right from wrong. Similarly, without the dynamism of patriotic spirit, it is impossible to face the challenges from abroad that come from all directions.

Inferior education standards lead to a reduced capacity to discern right from wrong and make for gullibility and unprincipled poor choices based on various biases. This would open the door to the kind of chaos and disorder that prevailed during the post-independence parliamentary democracy period, which may eventually lead to the collapse of the democratic system. For this reason, endeavours are being made to develop human resources simultaneously all over the country.

Comrades,

With its allegiance to the nation and the people, our Tatmadaw is serving the interests of the nation with sincere goodwill. As the Tatmadaw, the Government and the people make concerted efforts in nation-building and national defence with a strength born of unity, our country has been achieving progress despite all sorts of restrictions, sanctions and onslaughts. Our political reforms have gained acceptance not only among our neighbours and nations within the region but also among all positive-thinking countries. This is the direct result of our Tatmadaw, discharging its national duties with sincerity and goodwill, adhering to its Twelve Traditions, hand in hand with the people.

On the economic front, clusters of dams, reservoirs and irrigation canals are being built wherever necessary as part of the endeavour to increase the acreage of cultivated land, enhance agricultural production, achieve target yields, and mechanize agriculture for the development of the agricultural sector.

To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementing the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of a peacefull modern developed and disciplined flourishing democratic nation - to exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks - to strive hand in hand with the people for the successful realization of The Twelve Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes, and - to build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw. With this I conclude my speech.

MNA

The Twelve Objectives, comprising the four political objectives, the four economic objectives and the four social objectives, is working toward the goal of building a new modern peaceful developed nation.

In this endeavour, the sovereign power of the people has to be returned to its original owners, the people, for the emergence of a new democratic nation where political discipline is fully institutionalized. In order to effect a systematic, peaceful and proper transfer, the National Convention, which is the first stage of the seven-point Road Map, has now been reconvened.
Defence Services

Commander-in-Chief...

(from page 7)

Column Commander Col Myo Win ushered Aungzeya Column which was made up of the standard bearers with the flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) led by Maj Myint Naing, the military band led by Sgt Thant Zin of North-East Command, Maj Myint Maung Oo, parade company of No 101 LID led by Maj Sein Win, parade company-2 of Yangon Command led by Maj Khin Maung Maung and parade company-3 of North-East Command led by Maj Kyaw Kyaw Oo.
Column Commander Col Khin Aung Myint (Air)

Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Office led by Maj Aung Naing Oo (Air), Commanding Officer Lt-Col Ohn Lwin (Air), parade company of the Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Office led by Maj Kyaw Sein Tun (Air), parade company of the Directorate of Electric and Mechanical Engineers led by Maj Myint Toe, parade company of the Southern Command led by Col Win Swe.

Column Commander Col Khin Maung Oo ushered Bandoola Column which was made up of the standard bearers with the flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) led by Maj Maung Maung Kyaw, the military band led by Sgtn Aung Min Naing of Yangon Command Band, Guard of Honour of Yangon Command led by Maj Zaw Min Aye, Commanding Officer Lt-Col Tin Maung Htay, parade company of the Directorate of Ordnance Services led by Maj Hnin Kyaw, parade company of South-West Command led by Maj Zaw Min, parade company of No 44 LID led by Maj Toe Yi, parade company-2 of North-East Command led by Maj San Wai, parade company-4 of Coastal Region Command led by Maj Kyaw Lin Oo and parade company-4 of Eastern Command led by Maj Aye Tun.

Column Commander Col Win Swe ushered Myawady Column which was made up of the standard bearers with the flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) led by Maj Zaw Tun, parade company of No 66 LID led by Maj Zaw Zaw Naing, parade company-2 of South-East Command led by Maj Nay Tun and parade company-3 of Coastal Region Command led by Maj Hsan Nyunt Zaw.

Guard of Honour of Directorate of Artillery Force led by Maj Lin Htun, Commanding Officer Lt-Col Kyaw Soe, parade company of the North-West Command led by Maj Thein Win, parade company-3 of Eastern Command led by Maj Myawady Column which was made up of the standard bearers with the flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) led by Maj Thein Htun (Air), the military band led by Sgtn Myint Soe of Air Force Band, Guard of Honour of the Maj Zaw Tun, parade company of No 66 LID led by Maj Zaw Zaw Naing, parade company-2 of South-East Command led by Maj Nay Tun and parade company-3 of Coastal Region Command led by Maj Hsan Nyunt Zaw.

Mawgun Award winners seen at 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade — MNA

Prize winners seen at 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade — MNA

USDA members seen at 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and senior military officers attend 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade. — MNA

Mawgun Award winners seen at 60th Armed Forces Day Parade. — MNA

standard bearers with the flags of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services Department and pany-1 of MRCS led by Company Commander Khin Maung Myint, (See page 15)

Guard of Honour of Directorate of Artillery Force led by Maj Lin Htun, Commanding Officer Lt-Col Kyaw Soe, parade company of the North-West Command led by Maj Thein Win, parade company-3 of Eastern Command led by Maj Myawady Column which was made up of the standard bearers with the flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) led by Maj Thein Htun (Air), the military band led by Sgtn Myint Soe of Air Force Band, Guard of Honour of the Maj Zaw Tun, parade company of No 66 LID led by Maj Zaw Zaw Naing, parade company-2 of South-East Command led by Maj Nay Tun and parade company-3 of Coastal Region Command led by Maj Hsan Nyunt Zaw.
Ukraine’s Govt scores victory in driving to impose reforms

Kiev, 26 March — Ukraine’s government scored a big victory on Friday in its drive to impose reforms when Parliament approved, with no dissenters, a revised 2005 budget praised by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko as a “breakthrough for every citizen”.

Tymoshenko, a leader of the last year’s Orange Revolution against electoral fraud, said the draft cutting the deficit and scrapping tax breaks was a first step in a broader programme to stamp out corruption and curb the shadow economy.

Tymoshenko, 44, clearly had her eye on a March 2006 parliamentary election, pointing to provisions for higher wages and pensions and substantial benefits for orphans, mothers and the handicapped.

“This will be a breakthrough for every Ukrainian. By purchasing voting power, we will support every sector of the economy,” she told the chamber in an emotional address minutes before the vote.

Later, a beaming Tymoshenko told reporters: “I am overwhelmed by emotions. This is not only a victory for the government. We can now see how a new presidential and parliamentary team was born. It can produce results for every citizen.”

A total of 376 deputies in the 450-seat chamber — the others abstained — backed the draft, which cuts the deficit to about 1.56 per cent of gross domestic product from 2.2 per cent previously.

Revenues were set at 108.5 billion hryvnias (20.5 billion US dollars), with spending at 115.3 billion.

The government, put in place after Viktor Yuschenko won the re-run of a rigged presidential election last year, is grappling with huge obligations taken on by its predecessor.

Restoring financial discipline and passing the budget with only a modest deficit are key to investors.

Some economists have expressed doubts about the increase in social benefits, saying the budget was aimed solidly at winning votes in next year’s election.

But Tymoshenko said the budget would help to curb inflation and reiterated her forecast of about 9 per cent for the year. Inflation reached a four-year high of 12.3 per cent in 2004.

The final version of the revised budget emerged from two days of talks between the government and parliamentarians, many of whom opposed a plan to scrap tax breaks for industrialists.

 Ministers say Schroeder’s coalition must stop

Bonn, 26 March — Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder’s coalition must stop destroying itself and focus on winning a key May state election in North Rhine-Westphalia, two ministers from the Social Democrats and their Greens partner said on Friday.

Battered by scandals, strategy blunders, rising unemployment and crumbling discipline, Schroeder’s centre-left coalition has taken a beating in voter surveys and a similar alliance in North Rhine-Westphalia State (NRW) faces a rout in a May 22 election.

Economy Minister Wolfgang Clement, a leader in Schroeder’s SPD, and Environment Minister Juergen Trittin, one of three Greens ministers in the government, said in separate interviews that better cooperation was needed to hold the key state in May.

“I would urge everyone in the coalition to concentrate their energies on winning the NRW election in May,” Trittin told Der Spiegel news magazine. Opinion polls show the opposition ahead of the SPD-Greens in Germany’s most populous state.

“We’ve got to stop being occupied with ourselves,” he said. “We Greens can’t afford to be complacent and the SPD can’t afford to destroy itself.”

Surveys show SPD support falling, both in North Rhine-Westphalia and nationwide, while the Greens are holding steady despite an immigration scandal dogging Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer.

“Both parties have to do everything to get their voters to the polls,” said Trittin, addressing fears many SPD voters in the left-wing bastion will stay home.

Mexican police arrest four drug cartel hit men

TIJUANA, (Mexico), 25 March — Mexican police said on Wednesday they had arrested four drug cartel hit men who used acid-filled tubs to dissolve their victims’ remains.

Police, who made the arrests in Tijuana, south of San Diego, California, late on Tuesday, said the men confessed to carrying out at least 15 murders for the Arellano-Felix drug cartel and to using acid to dissolve some of their victims’ bodies.

Police and prosecutors said they found metal tubs of concentrated hydrochloric acid in a raid on a warehouse used by the men in Tijuana, which also yielded 4.5 tons of marijuana and an arms cache including 11 assault rifles and ammunition.

Federal police spokesman Abraham Sarabia told Reuters authorities believed the gang dumped the bodies of some of their victims in the tubs of the highly corrosive acid in a bid to erase all trace of their crime.

“Hydrochloric acid dissolves the victims bodies in a matter of minutes. It’s instantaneous. No remains are found as all that’s left just goes down the drain,” Sarabia said.

The highly corrosive agent is widely available in Mexico and the United States. It has a range of more common applications including etching glass and regulating the chemical balance in swimming pools.

Drug-related kidnappings and slayings have become increasingly common on the US-Mexico border in recent months, as rivers of cartel traffic for turf.

Hit men generally leave the corpses where they fall or dump them on the roadside.

Earlier this year reports out of eastern Tamaulipas State suggested enforcers for the rival Gulf cartel occasionally fed their victims to lions. It was not clear whether the lions were held in a zoo or in a private menagerie.

Phangnga to hold tsunami memorial day

BANGKOK, 26 March — A memorial event is to be held in the southern province of Phangnga to mark 100 days since the devastating 26 December tsunami hit Thailand’s southern Andaman coast, killing thousands of people.

Governor Udomsak Assawarangkura of neighbouring Phuket Province was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying Thursday that the commemoration would be held from 2-4 April at Khaolak, the hardest hit area of the coast.

Thousands of tourists were vacationing at Khaolak in Phangnga when the deadly waves smashed into the scenic coastal town.

Local authorities and event organizers said the memorial was aimed at offering moral support to the victims as well as calling for the sustainable livelihood for the affected communities.

The Phuket governor also said the event should help to highlight the revival of local tourist facilities and encourage the return of visitors.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

INVITATION TO TENDER

(TENDER NO. 16(T) MPE/HSD (14/2004-2005)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the Supply of (6,000+10%) metric Tons HSD (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).

2. Tender Closing Date: 5-4-2005 at 12:00 noon.

3. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-Ye-Kyaw-Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hour commencing 28-3-2005 on payment of one hundred (100) FEC per set.

4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Eight killed by chickenpox in US, 2004

WASHINGTON, 26 March — Chickenpox killed at least eight adults and children in the United States in 2003 and 2004 combined, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on Thursday.

The CDC described the cases of three of the victims — a 12-year-old boy, a 10-year-old girl and a 14-month-old baby — to highlight the fact that the virus can kill even older, robust children despite its reputation as a benign childhood disease.

The findings in this report underscore the importance of timely routine vaccination of children aged 12 to 18 months and catch-up vaccination of older susceptible children and adolescents according to current recommendations and the need for timely and complete national varicella (chickenpox) death surveillance,” the CDC said in its weekly report on sickness and death.

The three detailed cases, from Arizona, Arkansas, and New York City, involved previously healthy children who had not been vaccinated.

In three others who died had immune system compromises that made them vulnerable to infection.

March 2005

Young Chinese students practise their English with a foreigner at an open-air English Corner in Shanghai on 25 March, 2005. —INTERNET

— The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 28 March, 2005
Bush to visit Latvia, Netherlands, Russia, Georgia in May

President George W. Bush will visit Latvia, the Netherlands, Russia, and Georgia in May to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II and to back democratic changes in former Soviet republics, the White House announced on Thursday.

The White House said in a statement that the 6-10 May trip will include talks with the presidents of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in Riga, Latvia. Lithuania and Estonia, which associate the war’s end with Soviet occupation of the Baltic states until 1991, have turned down invitations to visit Moscow for the commemorations. Latvia’s President has announced plans to attend.

Bush will hold bilateral talks in the Netherlands and visit the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial at Margraten near Maastricht. He will then travel to Moscow to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin to take part in a World War II ceremony.

Bush will wrap up his trip in Tbilisi, Georgia “to underscore his support for democracy, historic reform, and peaceful conflict resolution”, the White House said. Bush has urged Moscow to abandon two Soviet-era military bases in Georgia since a bloodless revolution brought Western-leaning President Mikhail Saakashvili to power.

Sizemore sentenced to 21 months in jail for beating ex-girlfriend

Los Angeles, 26 March — Actor Tom Sizemore was sentenced on Thursday to 21 months in jail on a probation violation stemming from his conviction for beating his ex-girlfriend, former “Hollywood madam” Heidi Fleiss.

Sizemore, 43, who played combat-hardened soldiers in the war films “Saving Private Ryan” and “Blackhawk Down,” remains free on 25,000 US dollars bail pending the outcome of his appeal in the Fleiss case, but he was ordered by a second judge to enroll in a court-approved drug rehab programme within three weeks.

Still, the actor was jubilant as he walked out of the Los Angeles courthouse between the two sentencing hearings, declaring, “I’m free, I win. Free at last!” He also had devised words for Assistant City Attorney Robert Cha, the prosecutor in the Fleiss matter, saying, “He’s a chump, he’s a C-student, he’s a piece of garbage.

His remarks to reporters contrasted sharply with his behaviour, had refused to accept responsibility for it and deserved the maximum punishment. “The defendant has been coddled and enabled, based on his celebrity,” Cha said.

“He’s deflecting blame.” Sizemore reacted with visible derision during much of the hearing, rolling his eyes, mocking the prosecutor and making gestures of exasperation.

Japanese doctor sentenced to three years for removing breathing tube

Tokyo, 27 March — A Japanese court ruling handing a suspended sentence to a doctor who removed a comatose patient’s breathing tube and injected him with a muscle relaxant is raising questions on when to end life support.

Friday’s ruling came as the United States was gripped by a highly politicized confrontation over the case of Terri Schiavo, a brain-damaged Florida woman at the centre of an national debate over the right to die.

In a Yokohama court near Tokyo, convicted Setsuko Soda, 50, of taking the life of a 58-year-old comatose man and neglecting her duties as a doctor, and sentenced her to three years in prison, suspended for five years. Prosecutors had demanded five years in jail.

Soda pleaded not guilty, and her defence team said she had acted in line with the family’s wishes by removing the breathing tube several weeks after the man was admitted with cardiac and respiratory failure following a severe asthma attack. The family denied asking her to remove the tube. Soda injected the muscle relaxant to ease the patient’s breathing difficulties after the tube was removed. Passing sentence, the presiding judge said that Soda had failed in her duties as a doctor because it was too early to say the patient would not have recovered and to stop treatment.
Israel hold 1-1 draw with Ireland

TUL, AVIV, 27 March — A 90th minute goal from substitute Abbas Suan earned Israel a 1-1 draw with Ireland in their European World Cup Group Four qualifier on Saturday. Saul's powerful low strike from 20 metres was a fitting consolation for the packed National Stadium crowd who were stunned into silence by Clinton Morrison's early goal.

Israel and Ireland now have nine points from five matches with France, who were hosting Switzerland later on Saturday third with eight points from four games.

The match never met the expectations of the 44,000 crowd, however, as Israel failed to create clear chances for top striker Yossi Benayoun. Ireland's Roy Keane and Kevin Kilbane were solid in midfield and snuffed out any Israel moves.

Morrison put Ireland ahead after just four minutes with a rising shot from an acute angle on the left after defensive mistakes by Israel's Tal Ben Ilion and Shimon Gershon. — MNA/Reuters

Poland crush Azerbaijan 8-0

WARSAW, 27 March — Striker Tomasz Frankowski struck a hat-trick as Poland crushed Azerbaijan 8-0 in their World Cup Group Six qualifier on Saturday.

Poland remain second in the group with 12 points from five games, one point less than leaders England, who beat Northern Ireland 4-0 in Manchester earlier in the day. The victory was just short of Poland's record 9-0 win over Norway in a friendly in 1963.

“The score is cause for joy, because I can't recall the Polish team winning so big recently,” coach Pawel Janas said. “I must admit, however, that our performance was ultimately not really what I would have liked. I hope the squad will mobilise itself before Wednesday's match, because today Austria won and is chasing us and nothing in the table has changed.” Austria beat Wales 2-0 in Cardiff and are third in the group four points behind Poland, who are at home to Northern Ireland on Wednesday.

Psychologically today's score will surely have a beneficial influence on my players, if only they don't unwind too much. To me it isn't important if this was the highest Polish win in the history of the World Cup.”

Frankowski put Poland ahead in the 12th minute with a left-footed shot inside the near post after the Azeri defence failed to clear from the right.

He completed his hat-trick with two goals in three minutes just past the hour, turning home a left wing cross from midfielder Jacek Krzynowek then rifling in his sixth in nine internationals.

Poland had gone 2-0 up after 16 minutes when Maciej Zurawski's cross from deep on the right was deflected, keeper Dmitry Kramarenko failed to catch the ball on his line and it went in off surprised Azeri defender Aftandil Hajiyev. — MNA/Reuters

Cocu and Babel's goals give Netherlands 2-0 win in Romania

BUCAREST, 27 March — A goal after only 38 seconds from Phillip Cocu and one for debutant Ryan Babel six minutes from time gave the Netherlands a huge 2-0 World Cup qualifying win in Romania.

But the victory could prove costly as Arjen Robben suffered what coach Marco van Basten described as a “serious” injury to his calf. Cocu headed home a Robben corner to give the Dutch a dream start in the top-of-the-table Group One clash.

But Robben came off at 23 minutes with an injury to his calf.

“I am not exactly sure how bad the injury is, except that it looks serious,” van Basten said. If the injury is as bad as expected he will miss Wednesday's match.

Senzagl thrash Liberia 6-1

DAXAR, 27 March — Senegal strengthened their hold on their World Cup qualifying group with a 6-1 thrashing of Liberia on Saturday.

The home side's flabby performance was led by in-form striker El Hadji Diouf but it was his Bolton Wanderers team mate Khalilou Fadiga who opened the scoring, hammering the ball home from a free kick just outside the penalty area on 17 minutes.

Senegal's second came from a zinging Diouf cross, which hit a post and a follow-up from substitute Mandjia Niang saw the ball fly in.

Liberia, who failed to find a way to the ball in their foreign-based contingent, crumbled completely after halftime allowing Abdoulaye Diagne Faye, Henri Camara and Moussa Ndiaye to add their names to the scoresheet.

Diagne Faye sprung to the end of a curling Diouf pass, heading the ball into the corner of the net before the keeper could react. — MNA/Reuters

Pirlo’s goals give Italy 2-0 win over Scotland

MILAN, 27 March — Andrea Pirlo struck twice with free kicks to give Italy a 2-0 win over Scotland in their World Cup qualifier on Saturday.

Marcello Lippi’s side had a series of chances in the opening half hour before Pirlo’s curling effort in the 35th minute put them ahead.

Scotland, playing their first game under new manager Walter Smith, went close to an equalizer after the break when Nigel Quashie and then Kenny Miller tested Gianluigi Buffon during a rush of pressure. Pirlo made sure of the win, five minutes from the end, with an even better free kick from 20 metres.

The result leaves Italy comfortably on top of Group Five with 12 points from five games while Scotland are second from bottom with just two points from four games.

In front of a large Scottish travelling support at a rain-drenched San Siro, Italy were comfortably in charge of the game from the outset.

Defender Giorgio Chiellini went close with a deflected shot in the 10th minute, then Francesco Totti forced Rab Douglas into action again when he tried a lob after latching on to a pinpoint pass from the Milan midfielder.

After Alberto Gilardino had a diving header saved well by Douglas, Pirlo split the Scots’ defence open again to find Cassano who turned the ball home but his effort was ruled out for offside.

Ten minutes before the break Pirlo put the Italians ahead with a curling free kick as Douglas took two steps in the wrong direction before a belated dive.

Douglas was then substituted with what appeared to be a leg injury and Hearts keeper Craig Gordon took over in the Scottish goal. — MNA/Reuters

England storms 4-0 victory over N Ireland

MANCHESTER (England), 27 March — England stormed to a 4-0 World Cup qualifying victory over Northern Ireland at Old Trafford on Saturday as the Group Six leaders unleashed a second-half goal blitz.

Deadlocked at the break despite laying siege to the Northern Ireland goal, England scored four times in 17 minutes to leave their neighbours reeling.

Joe Cole, who produced a superb performance in his first competitive start, got things moving with a 47th minute strike.

Michael Owen added the second five minutes later, an own goal by Northern Ireland defender Baird after great work by Wayne Rooney made it 3-0 and Frank Lampard turned victory into rout after 62 minutes.

Victory ensured Eng- land stay top of the group and also provided an ideal way for manager Sven-Goran Eriksson to cel- ebrate his 50th game in charge.

England were made to wait for their victory over a side who have plum- meted in the world rankings to 111th but whose keeper Mark Taylor was in inspired form in the first half.

However, the gulf in class between the likes of Rooney, who had a hand in both of the goals, and a side drawn mainly from clubs outside the Premier League eventually made itself felt.

The winning margin could easily have been much wider and will clearly have Eriksson’s men looking forward to Wednesday’s qualifier against Azerbaijan at Newcastle.

England began well, with Cole rising to the occasion with a series of darting runs from left midfield.

Northern Ireland de- fended in numbers but Lawrie Sanchez’s men were fortunate not to be two or three goals behind midway through the match.

Owen was put clean through by Lampard for a shot which Taylor smothered and Rooney was twice denied with a header which hit a post and a fierce drive that was palmed away for a corner.

Other England efforts simply cannoned off players of both sides in an over-populated final third as the hosts pushed forward re- lentlessly.

Any England nerves were settled just after the re-start when a poor clear- ance went straight to Cole just outside the penalty area and he drilled a low shot past Taylor and into the right-hand corner.

Lampard set up the second two minutes later, working a one-two with Rooney and allowing the ball to fall for Owen to flick in.

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

Four Shadowed Ear Lurch Galatea Nog villaging Avaried Edie Parachute Trivial Penile Lees

Claidson Maldonado (L) of Chilean national soccer team fights for the ball with Uruguayan player Marcelo Zalayeta during their World Cup qualifying soccer match in Santiago, on 26 March, 2005. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. — INTERNET
Defence Services Commander-in-Chief …

Commander-in-Chief and Tatmadawmen and Brigade members, officers Defence, Tatmadawmen, and officers Tatmadawmen and their families of Yangon Command and No 11 LID, Yangon and Mingaladon Stations, Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command Headquarters, students and local people who waved the miniature flags, presented flowers and garlands to the parade members.

Singing military songs, the parade columns entered the No 1 Gate of the Resistance Park.

At 7.30 am, Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, arrived at the park where they were welcomed and ushered to the dais by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Chairman of the Leading Committee Chief of Armed Forces Training Li-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Li-Gen Myat Hein.

After Senior General Than Shwe had taken the position on the dais, the columns saluted him. Next, Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun presented the columns to the Senior General.

Afterwards, the Senior General inspected the columns. The Central Military Band played the National Anthem while those present saluted the Flag of the Union of Myanmar. After paying tribute to the fallen leaders and members of the Tatmadaw, the columns members took the four oaths. The Senior General delivered an address. (Reported separately)

The columns led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun marched past the Senior General and left the park through No 1 Gate of the Resistance Park for the Myoma Grounds.

Afterwards, the Senior General left there and the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade ended at 8.45 am.

Various signboards with mottoes of the Tatmadaw and flags of the Union of Myanmar and the Tatmadaw were erected at the road corners, parks, gardens and roundabouts. The Resistance Park was illuminated in the evening.

‘MNA’

WEATHER

Sunday, 27 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers has been widespread in upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Kachin, Mon States and Tanintharyi Division, isolated in Ayeyawady Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (4.56 inches). Day temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) below normal in Chin State and lower Sagaing Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures was Minbu (41°C).

Maximum temperature on 26-3-2005 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 27-3-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-3-2005 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 26-3-2005 was (9.99) hours approx. Rainfalls on 27-3-2005 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 (11) mph from Southwest at (17:30) hours MST on 26-3-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 28-3-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Mon States, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi 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: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in Deltaic areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-3-2005: Partly cloudy.
Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day reception and dinner

YANGON, 27 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted the reception and dinner to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha here this evening.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived at the venue of the reception and dinner at 7 pm.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, accompanied by 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, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council, and Chairman of the leading committee for observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe, cordially greeted military attaches and their wives and guests who attended the reception and dinner.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted a dinner to the guests. Also present on the occasion were Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife (See page 6)

Defense Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe attends 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade

YANGON, 27 March — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade at the Resistance Park on U Wisara Road, here, this morning.

The 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held in accord with the 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 successful realization of The Twelve Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes; and to build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw.

Also present at the parade were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thitha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Defence Services Inspector-General Maj-Gen Thein Htak, ministers, senior military officers, deputy ministers, military attaches of foreign missions, departmental heads, senior police officers, senior officers of Fire Services Department, Mawgun Award (See page 7)

Inside

Tatmadaw is to strive together with the people for national development while safeguarding the independence and national sovereignty.

(Pages 2, 5, 6)