Take part in border areas development undertakings
The Tatmadaw has been placing unusual emphasis on development of border areas and national races since its assumption of State responsibilities. Nowadays, a series of significant achievements have been made in rural regions. You are to take part in development tasks with much of goodwill in wherever regions you are to raise the living standard of rural people.

Prime Minister inspects development projects in Bago Division

Yangon, 16 March — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, accompanied by of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, arrived at Nyaunglaybin via Shwegyin, Bago Division, on 14 March afternoon.

They were welcomed there by local authorities and departmental officials. The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Nyaunglaybin Township.

Prime Minister called on the departmental officials to effectively implement regional development. With the requisite measures and goodwill of the development momentum will be slow, he pointed out.

The more personnel concerned strive for people’s socio-economic development, while working hand in hand with them, the greater public cooperation and success they will achieve, he remarked.

With a view to ensuring harmonious efforts in implementing development of respective townships, respective committees have been formed in all areas, he said.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on the departmental officials to effectively implement regional development drive through collective leadership and responsibility.

(See page 11)
An uncut ruby weighing 1.13 kilograms (5,650 carat) is the most attractive stone at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium, being held for nine days from 13 to 21 March. It will be sold with a reserve price of 50,000 euro. The quality uncut stone with crimson colour can be cut into a fine ruby stone.

The reserve price for the gems and lots at the emporium, the reserve price of Lot No 1057 comprising two quality uncut jade with dark green colour is the highest at 1,810,000 euro. The lot has captivated the local and foreign merchants.

The reserve price for the 69 pieces of rare pearls of gold hue is 22,300 euro.

Invitations were sent to over 500 merchants of 26 countries and 30 international buyers as well as 254 lots of emporium where 2,554 lots of emporium will be sold through competitive bidding at a reserve price of 13.5 million euro. Moreover, 0.11 million euro worth of polished jade stones and figurines will be sold at fixed prices.

The 41st anniversary of Myanma Gems Emporium, being held from 13 to 21 March.

**59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives**

- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State’s seven-point policy programme.
- To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people’s militia strategy.
- To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people.
- To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold “Our Three Main National Causes”

**The 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium**

Article and photos by Thaung Win Bo

An uncut ruby weighing 1.13 kilograms (5,650 carat) is the most attractive stone at the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium, being held for nine days from 13 to 21 March. It will be sold with a reserve price of 50,000 euro. The quality uncut stone with crimson colour can be cut into a fine ruby stone.

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The 41st anniversary of Myanma Gems Emporium, being held from 13 to 21 March.
US casualty in Iraq sharply rises to 564

BAGHDAD, 16 March—564 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 385 died as a result of hostile action and 179 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 17; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, five; Ukraine, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, Estonia and Poland have reported one each.

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 426 US soldiers have died — 270 as a result of hostile action and 156 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,814 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s figures. Non-hostile injuries numbered 427. The latest identifications reported by public officials and family members:

... National Guard Spc Jocelyn Carrasquillo, 28, Wilmington, NC, killed Saturday when his convoy hit a land mine; assigned to 120th Division; Wilmington, NC.

Spain’s troops heading out of Iraq under Zapatero

MADRID, 16 March—Spain’s incoming leader Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero indicated on Monday he would pull his troops out of the “disastrous” occupation of Iraq in a major swing from his predecessor’s pro-American foreign policy.

The European Union (EU), concerned by growing signs that Thursday’s Madrid train bombings may have been carried out by Islamist militants, called emergency counter-terrorism talks. Spain also said it would host a meeting of anti-terrorist services from across the bloc in the next few days to coordinate the investigation and exchange information into the attacks.

Zapatero’s Socialists swept to power in Sunday’s shock victory over Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar’s conservatives.

Some analysts said it could be an alarming first case of Islamist militants influencing, by violence, the outcome of a major Western election.

But Zapatero called his triumph a first consequence of the Iraq war’s unpopularity with Spaniards. “The second will be that the Spanish troops will come back,” he told Spanish radio.

Spain has 1,300 soldiers in parts of south-central Iraq. Critics of the government have argued that the Madrid bombings were the price Spain paid for backing the Iraq occupation.

“We have been very clear about the risk and the threat that we were all facing with this illegal war in Iraq, and unfortunately Spain has paid the price,” Spain’s likely next foreign minister Miguel Angel Moratino said.

Sun exposure increases chance of developing cataracts

CANBERRA, 16 March—Australian scientists have discovered that exposure to the sun increases a person’s chances of developing eye cataracts, which was once thought to be caused by aging.

Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) scientists believe nuclear cataracts are caused by exposure to ultraviolet radiation. Eighty per cent of those who develop eye cataracts in the world have nuclear cataracts.

“Our results also suggest that the majority of ultraviolet induced lens damage occurs before 30 years of age,” said QIMR Associate Professor David Purdie.

“People who had high sun exposure in their 20s but low in subsequent decades had consistently higher risks than those with low exposure between 20 and 29,” he said.

The discovery is believed to be a breakthrough in how to prevent cataracts. “Our study indicates that cataracts may not be natural, but that they are preventable,” said Purdie.

Sun increase a person’s chances of developing eye cataracts, which was once thought to be caused by aging.

China, India could tackle problems left over from history

BEIJING, 16 March—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Sunday hailed the recent “healthy” pace of development in Sino-Indian ties and expressed confidence in resolving “problems” left over from history, including the boundary issue, amicably.

“As long as the two countries stick to peaceful co-existence, respect for each other and support understanding, China and India could tackle the problems left over from history and maintain lasting friendship and cooperation,” Wen told reporters at his annual Press conference on the sidelines of the Parliament session which concluded its annual sitting here.

Speaking highly of the recent positive developments in bilateral ties, Wen, who has completed one year in office this month, stressed the importance of the friendship between the two countries stretched for more than 2,000 years whereas conflicts between them lasted for only two years.

Recalling the visit of Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes to China in April last year, Wen said he told Fernandes during a meeting that throughout the India-China interactions over 2,000 years, the two countries have maintained their closeness and friendship. “It’s not good, but I don’t think it’s the end of democracy in Russia,” Powell said.

But the riposte of the Russian leader, who has forged a close personal relationship with Bush during the past four years, was low-key. He put Washington’s chiding down to the pressure of Bush’s own bid to win a second term in November. “We won’t overlook this critical observation. We will analyze it and if we find that there is something to reflect on. We won’t only take note of it, but also draw the appropriate conclusions,” Putin said.

No democracy is perfect, Putin tells America

MOSCOW, 16 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday rebuffed US criticism of his landslide re-election, saying no democracy was perfect, not even America’s.

Putin won a second Kremlin term on Sunday with over 70 per cent of the vote, but only after US Secretary of State Colin Powell said it was “not good” that Putin’s rivals had been denied equal access to the media during the campaign. “I think nobody has the right to think that if they criticize others, that they should be criticized themselves,” Putin told a post-election news conference.

“We have a saying that some people, who see a speck of dust in the eye of another, don’t see the log in their own eye. “In many so-called developed democracies there are also many problems with their own democratic and voting procedures. And we, nearly four years ago, saw in amazement how the American system voting system suffered glitches.”

Putin was referring to the cliffhanger US presidential election in 2000, when George W Bush beat Al Gore only after a series of court rulings over the validity of punch-card ballots in the swing state of Florida.

Powell told Fox News Sunday he did not understand why opposition candidates had been prevented from taking full part in the Russian presidential race. “It’s not good, but I don’t think it’s the end of democracy in Russia,” Powell said.

Three US civilians killed in Iraq shooting

BAGHDAD, 16 March—Three American relief workers were killed and two were wounded in a drive-by shooting Monday in the northern city of Mosul, the US military said. Hospital officials said two of the dead were women.

The victims worked for a non-governmental organization, said Air Force Lt Col Tom Gilroy, a military spokesman in Baghdad. No identity was given in the name of the organization for which the victims worked.

Lt Col Joseph Piek, a spokesman for American forces in Mosul, said in an e-mail that the victims were travelling in one car on the eastern side of the city when they were attacked. An off-duty Iraqi policeman found the car shortly after the late afternoon shooting, and took the wounded to an Iraqi Hospital. US Army air medevac helicopters later transported them to a combat support hospital in Mosul.

“One person is currently in surgery; the other is in the intensive care unit in guarded condition,” Piek said.

Iraqi officials at Al-Razi hospital in Mosul said one man and two women were killed.

“All five US citizens belong to a private volunteer organization. Coalition Forces are working to contact the organization. When appropriate next of kin notification is complete, more information will be provided,” Piek said.

“We do not know what the five US citizens were doing at the time of the attack, but we do know they were in the Mosul area to deliver relief supplies,” he said.

Iraqi police and the FBI were involved in the investigation. The victims were attacked by two or three men in a car, witnesses said.

China and India could tackle problems left over from history
Toll rises as Iraq guerillas use new bombing tactics

Baghdad, 16 March—Guerilla bombmakers, whose roadside explosives claimed the lives of six more American soldiers at the weekend, have adopted new and grimly devious tactics.

The tactics include setting multiple charges along convoy routes, disguising bombs inside animal carcasses and planting hollow artillery shells to draw troops into an ambush, military officers said.

One American soldier was killed on Sunday when his convoy west of Baghdad was blasted by a roadside explosion. Three soldiers died late on Saturday when their patrol in southeast Baghdad also fell victim to a homemade bomb.

Those deaths, announced by a military spokesman on Sunday, followed an attack on Saturday with an improvised spokesman on Sunday, followed an attack on Saturday with an improvised explosive device.

Aggregates of forces and surveillance planes put the pressure on this labour-intensive strategy of concealing booby traps, the guerillas learnt to create smaller bombs that could be planted quickly, military officers said.

“We call them ‘drop and pop,’” said an American officer in Iraq who briefly arrived on the threat from the improvised explosive devices.

“We used to be able to look for a signature,” the officer said. “Anybody out doing road work before the sun rose was probably digging a hole to plant a bomb. Now, they just roll by or walk alongside and dump them out.”

Guerillas have also adopted a tactic of planting empty shell casings and wiring them in an obvious spot to draw American forces.

The fake explosives appear intended to waste the time of explosive disposal squads or to draw soldiers into an ambush of small-arms fire.

Soldier explains why he refused to return to Iraq

Baghdad, 16 March—This week marks the one-year anniversary of the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although the US bombing of Iraq was short-lived, the war is proving to have far-reaching consequences both abroad, and at home.

NewCentre Five’s not to continue to do the thing for duty in Iraq, I was doing in Iraq. I’m not here to say that a certain commander or a certain leader over there was evil or was making me do bad things.

I have to say it is war itself is evil, and violence only leads to more violence, and I have chosen not to be a part of it,” said Mejia.

Mejia made his statement at the Peace Abbey, a centre for non-violence in Sherborn surrounded by supporters and family. A native of Nicaragua who holds a green card, Mejia served in the Army for three years. He served five years in the National Guard in Florida when his unit was activated for duty in Iraq.

“It’s very different when you have an abstract idea of what war is like, and when you don’t know what it’s like to push your principles to the limit as when you go there, and you actually see human beings are dying. And when you find justification for it, all you find is lies. All you find is this thing about mass destruction which we never found,” said Mejia.

Kerry challenged over comments on foreign leaders

Bethlehem (Pennsylvania), 16 March—Democratic White House candidate John Kerry was challenged on Sunday over his comments that some foreign leaders wanted him to beat President George W Bush, but he refused to reveal any of them.

Reacting to comments made by Secretary of State Colin Powell in a television interview and a question raised by a persistent Republican at a town hall meeting in Pennsylvania, Kerry repeated his contention that foreign leaders were encouraging his presidential bid because of unapathness with US policy.

But he refused to name the leaders and said some of the conversations were by telephone, not face-to-face.

“No leader would publicly share a conversation if I started listing them,” Kerry told reporters after Powell suggested he named names or stop implying foreign leaders wanted him to beat Bush.

“I don’t think Colin Powell or the President would start listing names of people who had said something critical of something or somebody. I’m not going to do that,” he said.

Kerry, who visited Pennsylvania to criticize Bush’s health care policy, said last week he had “met foreign leaders who can’t say this publicly, but boy they look at you and say ‘you’ve got to win this, you’ve got to beat this guy, we need a new policy.”

Powell took issue with the comments on Fox News Sunday, saying, “if he seems to be that important an assertion to make, he ought to list some names. If he can’t list names, then perhaps he should find something else to talk about.”

The Massachusetts senator also was challenged by Cindy Brown, owner of a small business in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and a registered Republican who denounced at a town hall meeting to know who the leaders were.

Kerry, who last visited overseas in late 2002, insisted to reporters that he both talked to and met with foreign leaders who were rooting for him. He said during the town hall that he talked to “several” in the past week. He said the leaders were “at all different levels” of government and said their support was fuelled by dissatisfaction with US unilateralism and an “arrogant foreign policy.”

“I’m talking about our allies, I’m talking about people we’ve talked to for months,” Kerry told Brown. “I’m talking about people who ought to be on our side in Iraq and aren’t because this administration has pushed them away.”

New Spanish leader lashes out at Bush, Blair over Iraq war

MADRID, 16 March—US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair “need to engage in some self-criticism” on their decision to launch a war against Iraq, Spain’s prime minister-elect Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero warned.

Mr Bush and Mr Blair need to engage in some self-criticism. “You can’t just go ahead and do things. You can’t bombard a people just in case” they pose a perceived threat,” Zapatero said.

US troops in armoured vehicles patrol the Baghdad to Fallujah highway.

Iran rebuffs US complaints about Iraq border

TEHERAN, 16 March — Iran insisted on Sunday it had strict border controls with Iraq, a day after US officials accused it of doing too little to keep out “undeclared” suspects it suspecting of mounting attacks on occupying forces in Iraq.

US officials said on Saturday they would close all but three of Iraq’s 19 official border crossings with Iran. Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman denied Iran’s border controls were too lax and pinned the blame for any security lapses on the US-led forces in Iraq.

“We control our borders and prevent any illegal border crossing,” Hamid Reza Asefi told a weekly news conference.

“America and other occupiers have control of the other side of the border and it is their responsibility to close the border and they should do it,” Asefi said.

Asefi said Iran would discuss border issues with a visiting delegation of Iraq’s US-appointed Governing Council which arrived in Teheran on Saturday.

MENA/Reuters
Spanish election costs Blair his main
EU ally on Iraq

LONDON, 16 March—Britain said it will be business as usual with Spain's incoming Socialist government, despite the stunning defeat of Prime Minister Tony Blair’s main ally in Europe on Iraq and the war on terror.

Blair was on telephone the incoming Spanish leader Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero during the day to congratulate him on his Socialists' trouncing of Jose Maria Aznar's centre-right People's Party.

Aznar, defying Spanish public opinion, stood four square behind the US and British invasion of Iraq last year. Within the European Union he was Blair's principal ally both on Iraq and the US-led campaign against Al-Qaeda.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw played down any negative consequences of Sunday's elections, recalling that the Spanish Socialists and Blair's Labour party have "very good fraternal relations."

"It is actually quite a forward looking, modernist social-ist party so we look forward to doing business with them," he said.

Editorials said the Spanish election results would create shockwaves in Downing Street, as Blair aims to seek a third term in office in elections likely to be held in the first half of next year.

The Daily Telegraph said: "The (Spanish) election will be remembered as heralding the rise of 'euro isolationism'... Large numbers of Spanish voters succumbed to the delusion that if Mr Aznar had not lent support for the Anglo-American coalition (in Iraq), then their homeland would be safer."

Zapatero will probably pull
troops from Iraq

MADRID, 16 March—Election winner Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said on Monday he would probably withdraw Spain's 1,300 troops from the "disaster" in Iraq and attacked US and British leaders George W Bush and Tony Blair.

He also indicated a swing away from Madrid’s recent pro-American stance to wards a "pro-European" foreign policy.

"The war has been a disaster, the occupa tion continues to be a disaster. It has only caused violence," Zapatero said in his first interview after a surprise triumph on Sun day.

"There must be consequences. There has been one already — the election result. The second will be that the Spanish troops will come back," he said.

"Mr Blair and Mr Bush must do some reflection and self-criticism. You can’t bomb a people, you can’t organise a war with lies," he added in a lengthy chat with Spain’s Cadena SER radio.

While he sounded definitive in parts of his interview, at others Zapatero repeated a previous campaign pledge to pull out troops if the United Nations does not take charge by mid year.

"If there is no new developments, the soldiers will return on July 1," he said, adding he did not expect any new develop ments on a UN takeover.

At another point, however, Zapatero said no precise pullout plan would be set until he was in power and without wide political consultation.

The Socialists are not expected to take office for around a month until overseas votes are counted, legislators take their seats in parliament and Zapatero receives the approval of King Juan Carlos to form a government.

Under Aznar, Spain became a staunch ally of the United States but Zapatero said one of his chief foreign policy priorities would be to deepen relations with Europe.

"I want Europe to see us again as pro-European, my feeling is that the election result has caused surprise but a lot of satis faction in Europe," he said.

He pledged to try to help break the diplomatic deadlock over a new European Constitution. "I think we can reach an agree ment which will maintain the balance of power for an enlarged Europe," he said.

Huge car bomb found near US Consulate
in Pakistan

KARACHI, 16 March—A van packed with explosives was found outside the US Consulate in the Pakistani city of Karachi on Monday, two days before US Secretary of State Colin Powell visits the country, police said.

The car bomb was dis covered by police and towed away from the consulate to a sports ground where investig ators defused it, police in the volatile port city said.

"If this exploded it would have caused massive de struction. God saved us," said Munir Ahmed Sheikh, a sub-inspector at the city's bomb disposal unit.

A 750-litre drum con tained a mixture of chemi cals, including ammonium nitrate, he said.

A car bomb outside the same consulate killed 12 Pakistanis and wounded 45 in June 2002. Powell is due to visit the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, but not Karachi on Wednesday.

A young man had parked the van in front of the consulate, telling guards the vehi cle had broken down. He then drove away in another car, police said.

Police were called and discovered the detonators and the drum of chemicals. The van was taken to the sports ground, about one mile from the consulate.

Powell is visiting Paki stan this week on a tour that also takes him to India and Afghanistan.

Two Fort Riley
soldiers killed in Iraq

KANSAS, 16 March—Two Fort Riley, Kan., soldiers were killed last Thursday in Fallujah, Iraqwhen their vehicle was hit by improvised explosives.

Staff Sgt Joe L. Dunagan, 37, of Belton, Texas, and Spc Christopher K Hill, 26, of Ventura, Calif., were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

Both men were deployed to Iraq in September 2003. Officials said that 30 Fort Riley soldiers have died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Six die in blaze near Cape Town

JOHANNESBURG, 16 March—Six people died and two others were reported missing after a fire razed about 1,000 informal housing structures in the Joe Slovo settlement in (Image 387x747 to 550x795)
Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion

Civilian deaths

Up to March this year, more than 10,000 Iraqi civilians have died due to US-led invasion against Iraq and Iraqi civilians are facing many difficulties under alien’s occupation.

Civilian deaths up to March (2004)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cluster bomb (From March to April 2003)</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air strikes (From March to September 2003)</td>
<td>1169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunfire (From March 2003 to February 2004)</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortor round (In February 2004)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tank round (In February 2004)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (From March 2003 to March 2004)</td>
<td>8349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10093</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An Iraqi man lies injured inside a hospital in the Kazmiya district of Baghdad, Iraq on 3 March, 2004. He was injured in the suicide attacks which killed 58 people.

A crowd of Iraqis look over the scene of an explosion at a police station in Iskandariyah, south of Baghdad, on 18 Feb, 2004.

An Iraqi man lies injured inside a hospital in the Kazmiya district of Baghdad, Iraq on 3 March, 2004. He was injured in the suicide attacks which killed 58 people.

A crowd of Iraqis look over the scene of an explosion at a police station in Iskandariyah, south of Baghdad, on 18 Feb, 2004.

An Iraqi doctor treats a wounded man who was injured in a cross fire between US troops and Iraqi guerrillas on 8 March 2004 in Mosul, 400 kilometers north of Baghdad, Iraq.

At least 55 people were killed and 65 wounded when a suicide bomber detonated a pick-up truck packed with explosives outside a police station south of Baghdad on 17 Feb, 2004.

Iraqis walk around destroyed cars south of Baghdad on 19 Feb 2004.
Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:
Tatmadaw always striving for national development in the interest of the people

Roads constructed or upgraded with the endeavours of Tatmadawmen

North-East Command Headquarters

- Mongyai-Namlaung: 24 miles
- Hsipaw-Namlan-Tonlaw: 53.25 miles
- Tangyan-Mongkaung-Monghsu: 55 miles

Eastern Command Headquarters

- Loilem-Leikha-Mongkai-Panketu-Tonlaw: 102 miles
- Leikha-Mongnaung: 46 miles
- Mongnaung-Kehsi-Panketu: 52 miles
- Kholan-Wanhsin-Mongnaung-Pachee (Phakhee)-Monghsu: 77 miles
- Pachee (Phakhee)-Wanhai-Kenglun-Namlaung: 27 miles
- Kehsi-Nampok: 16 miles

A Tatmadaw which always upholds Our Three Main National Causes

Map showing the project for upgrading Loilem-Leikha-Mongkai-Panketu-Tonlaw-Hsipaw Road for better transport between Shan State (North) and (South).
The Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) in perpetual service of the people

It was around 1970-71 when the Tatmadaw was building and safeguarding the nation after taking up the State responsibilities forming the Revolutionary Council. The Tatmadaw and local people made combined and concerted efforts in crushing the Burma Communist Party Headquarters in Bago Yoma Mountain Range. Meanwhile, the ex-patrate BCP established its branch in Indawkyaukgu patriate BCP established its Range. Meanwhile, the ex-communist Party Headquarters crushing the Burma Council.

As a result, it had been able to mobilize up to over 3,000 men in the North-East region. The BCP waged a fierce battle with the Tatmadaw in Kunlong region. The battle lasted forty days from 19 November until 28 December 1971. Under the political, and military strategy laid down in 1971, the BCP launched military operations with the aim of establishing the liberated area on the west bank of Thanlwin River after occupying Kunlong. In its bid to translate the oath “I will sacrifice my life for the sake of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw” provided supporting artillery fire for the Tatmadaw members. The Tatmadaw faced opposition from groups of some 200 men, and the Tatmadaw members confronted their attack on Lwemanka camp. The Tatmadaw put up a strong resistance in which eight bayonet fights were involved. Upholding the oath “I will sacrifice my life for the sake of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw”, the Tatmadaw members had made a strong determination to defeat the BCP.

Strategic aim into action, starting from 13 November 1971, the BCP launched military operations in the region on east bank of Thanlwin River, the Tatmadaw members had made a strong determination to defeat the BCP. The 363 members and about 200 women. And they began their attack on Kunlong on 19 November 1971. During the period, Kunlon and its environs were reverberated day and night with the sounds of firing of assorted weapons. At dawn on 20 November, the BCP started the attack on Lwemanka camp. The Tatmadaw put up a strong resistance in which eight bayonet fights were involved. Upholding the oath “I will sacrifice my life for the sake of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw”, the Tatmadaw members had made a strong determination to defeat the BCP. The Tatmadaw members confronted their attack on Lwemanka camp. The Tatmadaw put up a strong resistance in which eight bayonet fights were involved. Upholding the oath “I will sacrifice my life for the sake of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw”, the Tatmadaw members had made a strong determination to defeat the BCP.

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Victorious Tatmadaw

The Haikakkampa Camp battle reflected the twelve noble traditions of the Tatmadaw — a patriotic Tatmadaw, a Tatmadaw with good discipline, a loyal Tatmadaw, a united Tatmadaw, an efficient Tatmadaw, a Tatmadaw which makes heroic sacrifices, a Tatmadaw which does not seek personal gain, a Tatmadaw of noble spirit and high morale, a Tatmadaw which possesses true quality of overcoming obstacles, a Tatmadaw which can endure hardship, a tenacious and persevering Tatmadaw and a Tatmadaw which always upholds Our Three Main National Causes.

Shaunthilin camp that stands at an altitude of over 6,000 feet on 26 November. On 30 November 1971, the Tatmadaw members were engaged in the decisive battle at the Haikakkampa camp. Meanwhile, Tatmadaw reinforces on Lwe-manka and Panyethan mountain range. They used all their strength and other ranks of the Tatmadaw always made concerted efforts to defend and safeguard the nation and the people.

Therefore, the Tatmadaw members confronted the BCP insurgents and penetrated into them and crushed them. The insurgents were in no position to carry the dead and wounded of their men. They had to flee in disarray.

The Tatmadaw crushed the BCP offensive and recaptured the Haikakkampa Camp. Then, the State Flag was fluttering at the camp. The Haikakkampa Camp battle reflected the twelve noble traditions of the Tatmadaw — a patriotic Tatmadaw, a Tatmadaw with good discipline, a loyal Tatmadaw, an efficient Tatmadaw, an efficient Tatmadaw, an efficient Tatmadaw, a Tatmadaw which makes heroic sacrifices, a Tatmadaw which does not seek personal gain, a Tatmadaw of noble spirit and high morale, a Tatmadaw which possesses true quality of overcoming obstacles, a Tatmadaw which can endure hardship, a tenacious and persevering Tatmadaw and a Tatmadaw which always upholds Our Three Main National Causes.

The Tatmadaw members had to shoot the incoming waves after waves of the BCP insurgents. A total of 85 officers and 274, their limbs. Through patriotism and nationalistic spirit, the Tatmadaw has the fine tradition of overcoming the dangers posed from inside and outside the country. This has been due to its patriotism, nationalistic spirit, abundance of the military codes of conduct, the concept to defend and safeguard the nation, the people and the Tatmadaw at risk to life, always building up national solidarity and unity in the Tatmadaw, and always making concerted efforts to fortify military skill, administrative skill and organizing skill.

(See page 9)
A total of 13 Tatmadaw officers and 113 other ranks lost their lives and 237 Tatmadaw members their limbs.

In fact, the victory over the BCP that was much stronger in fire power and manpower indicated and reflected the might of the Tatmadaw fully equipped with ten noble strengths — loyalty, obedience, strong morale and perserverance, good discipline, being well-trained, possessing brilliant combat skill, health and fitness, having esprit de corps, making sacrifices and endeavouring to meet the aim with strong determination.

The map showing Chushwe-Pankok battle of “Operation Ye Min Aung”.

The Tatmadaw members attacking the forts of the BCP.

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

About Soldiers

* His clothes... In tatters, drab.
* His shoes Torn leather, opening up Mud-covered, pierced by nails.
* His bedding... No proper place, anywhere for a nap By bush, on lawn and in bunker
Or farmer’s hut, monastery compound On battleground, just anywhere
* His food... Whatever is curry, may be stuck in throat
Bereft of oil, gravy, what cooks quick
White rice balls, anything to gush down
Sometimes boiled rice, no proper setting.
* His features Hair disheveled, rendered reddish poor
Dirtied, sticky, rough-skinned
Gun-powder burned, blackened
With torn bandages
Beard overgrown, bristled
Likened to dump of trees.
* His life... With little money, with family
Having just enough, and in emergency
Depart from loved ones, for days and months.
* His work... For people’s peace, not endangered
To battlefront, in search of danger
To thoroughly
Crush them.
* His morale... High and noble, souring sky-high
For personal gain, there’s not a bit
Even then, in the people’s interest
Going near-death, on military advances
Uncomplaining, though danger-prone
Facing poverty, yet knowing duty
Dare to sacrifice...
Belief is truly bravery.

Ko (Tekkatho) (Trs)

Poem

(Translation: MS)
Minister stresses cost-effective publishing of textbooks

YANGON, 16 March — The Textbook Publishing Committee held its work coordination meeting at the Ministry of Information here this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Committee Chairman Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that in accord with the guidance of Head of State, textbooks should be distributed right into the hands of students swiftly and systematically. Moreover, officials concerned should try to reduce the publishing and distribution cost, he said. The subcommittees will have to coordinate with respective ministries to distribute textbooks to remote places in time, he stressed. He also spoke of the need to use all possible means to reduce their prices.

Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Myint Thein read out the minutes of the previous meeting. Chairman of the Textbook Printing Sub-committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and Chairman of the Textbook Distribution Sub-committee Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min explained the arrangements of their respective bodies, followed by a general round of discussions.

The minister looked into the requirements. — MNA

Jade lots fetch over 2m euro

YANGON, 16 March — Patron of the Central Committee for organizing the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium Minister for Mines U Aung Kyi visited this afternoon the 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here. On arrival the minister was welcomed by Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Secretary Myanmar Gems Enterprise Managing Director U Khin Ohn and members of the central committee. On the ground floor, the minister viewed round the private gems and jewellery shops, and greeted foreign gem merchants.

Next, the minister looked into jade lots which are being sold through tender system and left the emporium. Up to 5 pm today, 160 lots of jade worth 2,059,987 euros were sold, and 1062 gem merchants — 2,059,987 euros were sold, and 1062 gem merchants — MNA

MAI launches new route to New Delhi

YANGON, 16 March — Myanmar Airways Interna
tional (MAI) launched a new route to New Delhi in India from Yangon yesterday evening at a ceremony held at Airport Restaurant of Yangon International Airport.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe attended the ceremony and launched the new route by cutting a ribbon. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, departmental heads, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, responsible personnel of the Indian Embassy here, officials from tourism industries and airlines, and guests.

First, MAI Chairman U Maung Maung Ohn gave an account of the background history of MAI, its existing air routes, and the newly launched Yangon-New Delhi- Yangon air route. Next, the minister and party greeted passengers on board. The plane No 8M 601 carrying 70 passengers flew to New Delhi at 9.35 pm. The airline will leave Yangon for New Delhi at 9.35 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday every week and return to Yangon from New Delhi at 1.50 am on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday every week.

The Yangon-New Delhi-Yangon flight is a new service MAI has extended in 2004. Until recently, MAI also spread its wings to Hong Kong. — MNA

Seminar on fertilizer for oil palm

YANGON, 16 March — A seminar on “Hy-Kay Ptu”, the No 1 fertilizer for oil palm was held at the Traders Hotel here this morning. Managing Director of Pengerdar Bhan Pertanian Sdn Bhd Mr Peter Sze delivered a welcome address. Next, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato Cheah San Kip delivered an address. Dr David Lee of PBP gave an overview of PBP (Kuok group) which is one of the leaders involved in various sectors such as shipping, hotels, plantation, industrial, trading and manufacturing. — (H)

UMFCCI official leaves for Japan

YANGON, 16 March — General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry U Sein Win Hlaing left here by air yesterday evening for Japan to attend COI networking meeting in Tokyo from 17 to 19 March. UMFCCI President U Win Myint and officials saw him off at the Yangon International Airport.

UMFCCI Calls

U Sein Win Hlaing together with Joint-Secretary-2 Dr Maung Maung Lay and CEC members met with Min-
ister Counsellor (economic section) of Indonesian embassy in Yangon Mr Johannes Sunarto at the UMFCCI head office yesterday morning. They discussed investment and economic cooperation between the two countries. The 8- member delegation headed by the vice-chairman of Jiangsu Provincial Committee of the Chinese Political Consultative Conference also called on U Sein Win Hlaing, Dr Maung Maung Lay and CEC members at the UMFCCI head office yesterday afternoon. They discussed investment, trade, and industrial cooperation. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe launches MAI’s new air route to New Delhi by cutting a ribbon at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA
Prime Minister attends ceremony to present Ma Myat Lay Scholarship

YANGON, 16 March.—A ceremony to present Ma Myat Lay Scholarship was held in conjunction with the ceremony to raise the trust fund at the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) in Kamayut Township, Thanlyin, and attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of Myanmar State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, and the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, the MEC members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, scholar- wellisher Daw Thein Hsaing (pen-name Ma Myat Lay) and family, the scholarship winners, guests and others.

First, family member of Daw Thein Hsaing (Ma Myat Lay) Col Nyan Tun Co-explained matters related to the emergence of Ma Myat Lay scholarship. Next, scholarship wellisher Daw Thein Hsaing (Ma Myat Lay) explained the purpose of the presentation of the scholarship. After that, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt accepted K 300,000 presented by Daw Thein Hsaing (Ma Myat Lay) for the trust fund. Next, Daw Thein Hsaing (Ma Myat Lay) presented scholarships to scholarship winners. On behalf of scholarship winners, scholarship winner Ma Yu Yu Tin of Yangon University spoke words of thanks and the ceremony ended.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers and scholarship wellisher Daw Thein Hsaing (Ma Myat Lay) had a group photo taken together with scholarship winners.—MNA

Prime Minister inspects development...

From page 1

YANGON—The Prime Minister and his family, as well as interest and the population of Myanmar Education Com- mittee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers and scholarship wellisher Daw Thein Hsaing (Ma Myat Lay) paid a visit to the respective departments for re- covery arrangements to be made for thirdly supervisory the basic levels to ensure a step-by-step supervisory system to realize the edu- cation aims. Later, those present at the meeting approved of the resolutions passed at the meeting No 2/2003 of the Myanmar Education Com- mittee.

Next, Minister for Edu- cation U Than Aung, in his report, masters related to the progress of higher education sector in the 2003-2004 fis- cal year, said as regards the education sector, the number of teachers, as measures are being taken for supply of more water for the lake after damming for supply of more water for 15th Century artifacts found in Myeik Township. Before, the sanctuary is ben- eficial to the emergence of 15th Century artifacts found in Myeik Township. Before, the sanctuary is ben- eficial to the emergence of 15th Century artifacts found in Myeik Township. Before, the sanctuary is ben- eficial to the emergence of 15th Century artifacts found in Myeik Township. Before, the sanctuary is ben- eficial to the emergence of 15th Century artifacts found in Myeik Township. Before, the sanctuary is ben- eficial to the emergence of 15th Century artifacts found in Myeik Township. 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Traffic accident kills 11 in W China

Xi’an, 16 March — Eleven people died in a traffic accident on Saturday after-noon in west China’s Shaanxi Province, local police said. A truck carrying 14 workers turned over at 3 p.m. Saturday in Chencang District of Baqiu City, killing 10 at the scene and injuring four others, one seriously.

One more died later in hospital, said the police. An investigation of the accident is underway.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Notice is given that Beiersdorf AG, a German company of Hamburg, Germany, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trade Mark:

EUCERIN

used in connection with:

Soap, preparations for body and beauty care, especially preparations for skin and face care in the form of creams, gels and lotions; deodorants; shaving products and after-shave; preparations for the care, cleaning and embellishment of hair; additives for bath and shower; preparations for use in sun tanning or for the treat-ment of the effects of sun.

A Declaration of Owner-ship of the said Mark has been registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar of Deeds and Assurances, Yangon, being No. 710/2003.

WARNING is hereby given that any fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark in any manner whatsoever will be dealt with according to Law.

Win Ma Tin,
for Beiersdorf AG
P.O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 17 March, 2004

IOG gives Greece two-week deadline

Athens, 16 March — The IOG gave Greece’s new government a two-week deadline on Saturday to take tough decisions on delayed Athens Olympic projects.

While praising Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis’ efforts in his first week in office and giving an upbeat forecast that Athens could deliver on time, the head of the official Greek Olympic Committee Presi-dent Jacques Rogge said the time had come for “right decisions.”

He said concerns existed about arrangements for the August 13 to 29 Games and the IOG had told Karamanlis a file listing its greatest worries including a delay in building a roof over the main Olympic Stadium.

Other worries were about a roof over the swimming pool as well as new tram and train lines to ease transport movement in a capital notorious for its traffic congestion that will be flooded by a million visitors.

“There is a window of opportunity of about two weeks to study the file and take decisions. But our experts are adamant that there is still enough time to finish everything and have a suc-cess,” Rogge said.

Britain to become Vietnam’s biggest ODA donor

HANOI, 16 March — Britain intends to increase its official development assistance (ODA) for Vietnam by 35 per cent to about 100 million US dollars this year, making it the biggest donor, local newspaper La-bour on Monday quoted a British official as saying.

Mike O’Brien, the state secretary of the British Min-istry of Foreign Affairs, is to pay a visit to Vietnam on March 15-18, aiming to strengthen the good relation-ship between the two coun-tries. During the visit, the state secretary is scheduled to work with officials of Vietnamese Ministries of Planning and Investment, Trade, and Foreign Affairs on issues regarding Britain’s investment in Vietnam, nego-tiations on Vietnam’s en-trance to the World Trade Or-ganization, and organization of the Asia-Europe Meeting to be held in Hanoi late this year.

Britain is now Vietnam’s second biggest trade partner within the European Union with the two-way trade in-creasing 25 per cent to over one billion dollars last year. By the end of February 2004, Britain had a total of 53 projects worth roughly 1.2 billion dollars, ranking the 10th among 64 countries and regions having invest-ment in Vietnam.

DONATE BLOOD

Windstorm destroys 68 buildings in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 16 March — A short but powerful wind-storm destroyed 68 buildings in the Indonesian town of Kupang on Monday morning, surging and an elementary school student was seriously injured after a tree collapsed on him.

The strong wind, which lasted only one minute, blew away the roofs of houses and many public buildings, in-cluding police station, hos-pital, churches and schools, reported Detik.com online news service.
Wen Jiabao pledges continuous support to HK

BEIJING, 16 March — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Sunday that the central government will do everything conducive to the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and to the common development of Hong Kong and the inland of China.

Wen made the remarks during a meeting with the Press following the closing session of the annual session of the National People’s Congress.

“Our principle is that whatever is conducive to the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, to the common development of Hong Kong and the inland, we will actively do it and give our full support to it,” he said when answering a question from Hong Kong Press.

The Premier said the central government holds an active attitude toward the upcoming issuance of 20billion Hong Kong dollars of bonds in Hong Kong.

Wen reiterated that the central government will unspiringly uphold the principles of “one country, two systems”, “Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong” and a high degree of autonomy as well as the Basic Law of Hong Kong.

The Premier hoped that Hong Kong residents can take into consideration the broad situation of the long-term prosperity and stability as well as the long-term and fundamental interests of Hong Kong residents, be united and work together for a better future.

“I sincerely hope that Hong Kong residents can take into consideration the broad situation of the long-term prosperity and stability as well as the long-term and fundamental interests of Hong Kong residents, be united and work together for a better future,” he said.

According to Wen, China’s growing economy and the quickening pace of development all over the country, attracted by the new-found oil wealth and the development of canapic economy, are "sound momentum" in Sino-Russian Strategic Partnership.

Chinese Premier confident in energy cooperation with Russia

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More Ghanaians evacuated from Equatorial Guinea

ACCRA, 16 March — Ghana’s Foreign Affairs Minister, Andrew Kofi Atta, on Monday, announced that more than 40 of its citizens have been evacuated from Equatorial Guinea on Sunday and will send a Navy ship to fetch more if a third group, numbering down on foreigners in the former Spanish colony, the government said.

According to the tiny oil-rich nation of Equatorial Guinea launched a crackdown on immigrants last weekend amid talk of a coup, locking up dozens of Africans from neighbouring countries and spreading hundreds more.

“This is the second group to be evacuated. The first batch of 37 came back yesterday,” said Kwabena Agyepong spokesman for President John Kufuor. “We’re expecting a second batch to arrive on Monday … to bring some more of our citizens.

Once an impoverished central African nation, Equatorial Guinea began pumping crude in the 1990s and is now the third biggest producer in sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria and Angola.

Thousands of foreigners from neighbouring countries in the Gulf of Guinea fled to the country, attracted by the new-found oil wealth and the prospects of work.

Powerful mudslide kills 28

ALMATY, 16 March — The death toll of a powerful mudslide in southeastern Kazakhstan rose to 28 on Monday and Emergencies Agency officials said 20 people were still missing.

The mudslide of over one million cubic metres, triggered by heavy rains, swept two-floor apartment buildings in the town of Taldybulak, in the Tien Shan mountains close to Kazakhstan’s frontier with Kyrgyzstan.

“Turezhanov said those lives may still be buried under the mud,” he said.

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“Turezhanov said those lives may still be buried under the mud,” he said.
Deportivo defeat opens door to Barcelona

MADRID, 16 March—Third-placed Deportivo Coruna missed their chance to make up ground on leaders Real Madrid when they went down 4-2 at struggling Real Mallorca in the Primera Liga on Sunday.

The Galicians, who qualified for the quarterfinals of the Champions League with a 2-0 aggregate win over Juventus in midweek, did not look comfortable about facing a falling behind to a Fernando Correa goal in the seventh minute. They pulled level when winger Pedro Munites netted from close range on 23 minutes, but a headed goal from defender Ivan Ramis and a penalty from Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o pulled back to 2-1. Deportivo substitute Djalminha pulled another back nine minutes from time, but Mallorca forward Jesus Pera put the result beyond doubt with a well-taken effort after 73 minutes.

Barcelona can replace Deportivo third if they win their match against basement side Murcia later on Sunday.

Champions Real Madrid, who were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Racing Santander on Saturday, lead the table on 61 points.

Valencia, who play arch-rivals Atletico de Madrid in Sunday’s late match, have 54 and Depor are a further three points adrift in third.

Lippi gives up chase after Juve lose to Milan

TURIN (ITALY), 16 March—Dutch international Clarence Seedorf scored twice as AC Milan tightened their grip at the top of Serie A with a convincing 3-1 win over basement side Murcia later on Sunday.

Seedorf, wholyscored a penalty and a free-kick from Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o put the home side 3-1 up on the hour. Deportivo substitute Djalminha pulled one back nine minutes from time, but Mallorca forward Jesus Pera put the result beyond doubt with a well-taken effort after 73 minutes.

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MNA/Reuters

Larsson strike preserves Celtic home record

GLASGOW, 16 March—Substitute Henrik Larsson helped preserve Celtic’s 15-match unbeaten home record with a goal on 20 minutes from time to earn a 1-1 draw against Motherwell on Sunday.

The point extended Celt- ic’s lead over champions Rangers, who drew 1-1 with Hearts on Saturday, to 26 points with both sides having played 27 games.

Celtic boss Martin O’Neill rested several regulars and a shadow home side fell behind to a 26th minute goal from Derek Adams.

But Celtic raised the pace after Larsson’s arrival early in the second half and the Scottish striker head them level 20 minutes from time from Ross Wallace’s corner.

It was Celtic’s first dropped points since their 5-3 loss to Motherwell in August 1999.

Roma’s title challenge dented by 0-0 draw with Reggina

ROMA, 16 March—A Roma’s chal- lenge for the Serie A title was dealt a heavy blow as they drew 0-0 with relegation- threatened Reggina on Sunday.

The result gave the 2001 champions 7 points from 25 games, four behind Milan, who have the opportunity to increase their cushion at the top of the division by beating champions Juventus in a later match.

Roma’s city rivals Lazio held on to fourth place with a lively 2-2 draw against Udinese.

Their challenge for Italy’s final Champions League berth was helped by former European and World Footballer of the Year Roberto Baggio, who struck the 200th Serie A goal of his career to help Brescia to 2-2 with fifth-placed Parma.

MNA/Reuters

Bahrain upset Japan 1-0 in Asian Olympic soccer qualifier

TOKYO, 16 March—Defender Abdulla Abbas Abd Al-Aziz scored a lone goal to pace an upset for Bahrain over Japan in the Asian Olympic soccer qualifier in Saitama, Japan on Sunday.

Under heavy pressure from the Japanese side, Bahrain only managed to score one goal when Bahraini defender Juan Pablo Angel nipped in bravely to hook the ball past Juve keeper Paolo Cigolli after Juve’s Danish keeper Thomas Sorensen.

With the win, Bahrain kept themselves alive as they collected seven points from two wins, one draw and one defeat, the same record as Japan and the United Arab Emirates in the four-team Group B round robin.

MNA/Reuters

City end Man Utd’s title hopes with 4-1 win

LONDON, 16 March—Manchester United’s slim hopes of retaining the Premier League title disappeared in the most painful way possible on Sunday when they were beaten 4-1 by arch rivals Manchester City.

With 10 games left United, who were knocked out of the Champions League on Tuesday, are now 12 points behind league leaders Arsenal and three behind second- placed Chelsea.

Unbeaten Arsenal were 2-0 winners at Blackburn Rovers on Saturday while Chelsea triumphed 2-0 at Bolton Wanderers.

After Sunday’s defeat in the first derby to be played at the new City of Manchester Stadium, United have only the FA Cup, where they face Arsenal in the semifinals, as a realistic chance of silverware this season.

Earlier on Sunday Aston Villa cruised to an easy 4-0 win at Midlands rivals Wolver- hampton Wanderers.

In later games Torquay Hotspur host Newcastle United while Liverpool visit Southampton.

The game of the day was at the City of Manchester Stadium, however, and United will wonder how they ended up losing 4-1 after making most of the running.

City took a surprise lead with a close-range goal by Robbie Fowler after three minutes and, after United looked to be tak- ing control, doubled the lead when former Old Trafford trainee Jon Macken hooked the ball in from just inside the box after 32 minutes.

United pulled one back three minutes later when superb work by Ryan Giggs set up Paul Scholes to drive home his fourth goal in three games against City this season. Gigg could have had himself with better finishing while Cristian Ronaldo, who was a constant threat on the left, saw a sublime curler rebound off the bar just after Scholes’ reply.

The second half was tighter but City found a way through after a blunder by Mikey Silvestre allowed Trevor Sinclair a chance he gleefully took in the 73rd minute.

The home team finished in style when Shaun Wright-Phillips lashed a spectacular shot into the roof of the net from wide on the right in stoppage time.

As the City fans danced in celebration of their second successive home derby win — they won the last to be played at Maine Road 3-1 last season — United’s players trudged off after a week they want to forget.

Earlier Wolves were blown away by Villa in a one-sided Midlands derby.

They took the lead after six minutes when German midfield Andrei Hiltscher ri- fled home a left-foot drive and made it 2-0 in the 18th minute when Swedish defender Olof Mellberg scored with a free header from a Hitzlerkopfer corner after Wolves’ keeper Paul Jones failed to connect.

Another blunder by the home side six minutes later gifted Villa a third goal as Colombian striker Juan Pablo Angel nipped in bravely to hook the ball past Jones after a mix-up between the struggling Wolves keeper and his defender Lee Naylor.

Midfielder Lee Hendrie almost made it four when his curling shot rattled the bar while Wolves then missed the chance to cut the deficit when loan Gana’s penalty was expertly tipped round the post by Villa’s Danish keeper Thomas Sorensen.

MNA/Reuters

Stuttgart close in on Champions League spot

BERLIN, 16 March—VfB Stuttgart kept alive their hopes of returning to the Champions League next season with a 2-0 victory over troubled TSV 1860 Munich on Sunday.

Stuttgart, in their first outing since losing to Chelsea in the first knockout round of the Champions League, re- mained third but closed up the second place, the direct route into the showcase competition, to just three points.

Second-placed champions Bayern Munich, who also exited the Champions League by going down to local Mal- drid, fell nine points behind leaders Werder Bremen with a 3-3 home draw with Hansa Rostock on Saturday.

Leiders Werder closed in on the title with a 3-2 win over bottom club Cologne, also on Saturday.

Stuttgart set up their win with first-half goals in quick succession from midfielder Zvonimir Soldo and striker Marco Streller.

TSV 1860 Munich, whose president Karl-Heinz Waldmoser is suspected of bribery relating to the construc- tion of a new city stadium and was released from prison on bail on Friday, dipped to 14th place just two spots above the relegation zone.

The “other” Munich club had defender Fernando sent off after a second booking in the 76th minute.

Surprise package VfL Bochum needed an own goal from defender Sladan Asanin with two minutes left to beat strugg- ling Borussia Moenchengladbach 1-0 in Sunday’s other game. — MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

Sampordia’s Morris Carrozzi, left, and Bologna’s Ili Ture of Albania challenge for a ball during the Italian League soccer match between Sampordia and Bologna in Genova, northern Italy, on 13 March, 2004. Sampordia beat Bologna 3-2.—Reuters
Sitagu Sayadaw leaves for Lao PDR

Yangon, 16 March — In honour of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to launch Ziwaka Mobile Health Train jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Rail Transportation and the Ministry of Health was held at the No 1 Platform of Yangon Central Railway Station this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Myint Swye. Also present on the occasion were Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn, deputy ministers, officials of the ministries concerned and guests.

First, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech. He said that with the aim of providing health care services to the people of rural areas which is the guidance of the Head of State, the ceremony to launch Ziwaka Mobile Health Train selected by donations of the Ministry of Rail Transportation and the Ministry of Health was held in honour of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

With the train, professors, heads of department and specialists left here today for Nyaunglaybin to provide health care services to the people there; that the medical team on the train comprises EENT specialists, musculo-skeletal specialists, dental and oral specialists, OG specialists, radiologists, paediatricians, pathologists and anesthesiologists supported by technicians and nurses; that the health train full of specialists and medical professionals will serve like a specialist hospital and it will give medical treatment to patients free of charge, he added.

The health train will also leave for other states and divisions where it will provide health care services to both urban and rural people and conduct educative talks on health at every opportunity, he stressed.

He said that in Myanmar, it is the first time that the specialists and medical professionals at central levels make field trips right down to grassroots levels and give medical treatment by train; that he thanks the Ministry of Rail Transportation and the Ministry of Health for successful launching of the mobile health train.

Afterwards, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint formally opened the ceremony to launch the mobile health train. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Myint Swye and deputy ministers, deputy ministers and officials inspected the mobile health train. Later, the mobile health train with Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin, the directors-general of the Ministry of Health, professors, heads of department, specialists and officials on board left Yangon Central Railway Station for Nyaunglaybin at 8.30 am. The health train arrived at 12.15 pm in Nyaunglaybin Station where it was welcomed by the chairmen of Bago District and Nyaunglaybin Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, Nyaunglaybin Township USDA members, red cross members, the medical superintendent of Nyaunglaybin Hospital and health staff, officials of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Rail Transportation and local people.

Starting from 12.30 pm, the mobile health team gave medical treatment to patients. They will continue to give medical treatment in Nyaunglaybin region up to tomorrow evening. — MNA

WEATHER

Tuesday, 16 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Shan State and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (7°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions, (3°C) above normal in Bago Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was (24°C) in Magway, Aunglan and (41°C) at M’Paw.

Maximum temperature on 15-3-2004 was 38.5°C (101.3°F). Minimum temperature on 16-3-2004 was 20.3°C (68.6°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-3-2004 was 77%. Total sun shine hours on 15-3-2004 was (9.0) hours approx. Rainfall on 16-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 min (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from South-Southwest at (10-30) hours MST on 16-3-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-3-2004: Weather will be generally fair in the whole country. State of the sea: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight chances of day temperature are likely in the whole country.

Modern, developed nation can be reached only if education sees quantitative as well as qualitative development

Myanmar Education Committee holds meeting

YANGON, 16 March — The Myanmar Education Committee held its No 1/2004 meeting at the Universities Central Council here this afternoon, with an address delivered by Chairman of MEC Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Also present were Vice-Chairmen of the MEC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Tha Sein, member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the deputy ministers, MEC members, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department and officials.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said after laying down the seven-point future political programme for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the Government has been fulfilling all the requirements. The rule of law and the community peace and tranquillity are the most basic requirements for successful implementation of the political programme. The second requirement is the sound economic foundations flourishing harmoniously in all branches of economy. And the third is a balanced development of all sectors. The Government has been striving in all sectors for fulfilling the three most basic requirements.

All the personnel concerned of the education sector should understand the cardinal importance of the human resources development in the nation’s march towards the goal. The Government has been extending and upgrading institutions of higher learning and basic education schools in combination with the launching of the education promotion programmes for human resources development. And the Government has not made any regional discrimination in doing so. Its conviction is for ensuring a proportionate improvement in the education standard in the whole nation from the plains and the hill regions to the remote corners and the inner regions of the nation.

In addition, the Government has been spending a large amount foreign exchange in launching the special four-year education promotion project in order to provide all teaching aids and other necessities to the institutions of higher learning and schools. Hence, the Government is conducting PhD courses in the nation and producing a greater number of doctorate degree holders. But more doctorate degree holders are needed if their number is compared with the nation’s population.

(See page 11)

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects development of Pathein region

YANGON, 16 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, accompanied by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tha Sein, member of the State Peace and Development Council Commanders-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commanders-in-Chief (Local) Maj-Gen Myint Thein, of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments arrived at the site of Pathein Bridge being constructed on Pathein-Shwemyintin-Wayachaung Road on 14 March after attending the opening of the runway of Pathein Airport.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected construction of the bridge on Pathein side. Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported on the project. Ayeyawady Division Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Khin Maung Win and Superintendent Engineer U Soe Tint on bore piling, construction of pillars installation of iron crosses and frames and approach roads.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing gave a supplementary report.

General Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions on supply of construction materials, safety at the worksite and working with goodwill.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected regiments and units and toured Pathein.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party went to Eya Shwewewa Co Ltd in Darka Village in Kangyaudauk Township and met farmers. General Thura Shwe Mann discussed cultivation of paddy and oil crops in low-lying areas, Thaubaung, Kyaunggon, Yekyi and Kangyaudauk Townships.

The commander and farmers reported on conditions of cultivation. They then inspected Shwemyintin biofertilizer produced by Eya Shewewa Co Ltd.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party went to Shwemyintin Swan-ar-pyi fertilizer plant and inspected the production process.

They proceeded to Kyaunggon Bridge in Kyaunggon Township and met officials of departments and social organizations.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party arrived at Bo Myat Tun Bridge in Nyaungdon Township, Maubin District Senior Engineer U Sai Kyaw Moe reported on maintenance for durability of the bridge. Deputy Minister U Pe Than gave a supplementary report.

General Thura Shwe Mann called for durability of the bridge. Deputy Minister U Pe Than reported in detail on preventive measures against bank erosion on Kyeinbinse side being undertaken by Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

Next, General Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions.

The General and party arrived back here in the evening. — MNA