Prime Minister enjoys Gita Nandawun music concert

YANGON, 18 March
In honour of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Gita Nandawun music concert was staged at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyauk Street here at 7 pm today.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe enjoyed the concert.

Also present at the concert were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Aung and the Yangon mayor, general, the Yangon mayor and their wives, deputy ministers and wives, ambassadors and wives, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, maestros, enthusiasts, and guests.

Sponsored by the Myanmar National Development Company Group Ltd and organized by Bogalay Tint Aung and Gitalulin Maung Ko Ko, the concert was staged to commemorate the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

Famous pianists as well as young pianists who won gold medals at piano contests performed their artistic talents at the concert. Well-known vocalists and young singers will present entertainment to the accompaniment of modern musical instruments as well as ancient musical instruments of Mon and Myanmar. Moreover, visitors can enjoy hearty jokes of comedians.

The concert will take place at the same venue from 19 to 21 March.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe enjoy Gita Nandawun music concert at National Theatre. — MNA

For realization of the five rural development tasks

Rural economy is the national economy. Rural health and education is the national health and education. You will have to make efforts for ensuring better transport between rural and urban regions as well as among rural regions, for ensuring water supply for drinking and agricultural purpose, for enabling the rural people to be strong and educated and for ensuring development of rural economy. You will also have to make efforts with goodwill in realization of the five rural development tasks as the good sons of the people on whom the people can rely.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address at the graduation parade of 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy)

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects oil palm cultivation projects in Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 18 March—Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council Office, department heads, national entrepreneurs who are implementing the oil palm growing project in Taninthayi Division and those who wish to carry out oil palm plantation tasks, left here by air at 9.30 am on 15 March.

The General and party were welcomed at Kawthoung Airport by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Win of Khamaukgyi Station of Kawkhoun Township and departmental officials.

Next, the General and party attended the opening ceremony of Oil Palm Factory of Shwe Oil Palm Co Ltd. The factory which can produce 60,000 metric tons of oil palm fruit per year was established in 1914.

Established 1914

Circulation 22,600

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Friday, 19 March, 2004

Carry out township development work with collective responsibility

Now is the time when the State Peace and Development Council is working day and night for the Union of Myanmar to become a peaceful and developed nation and the entire national people are unitedly and actively lending themselves to all the national development endeavours. In order to raise the living standard of the people residing in all parts of the Union, the government is implementing the border area development plan, the 24-region development plan as well as building numerous social and economic infrastructures.

All the State-level officials, including the Head of State himself, from time to time tour all the regions throughout the Union so as to make a first-hand study of regional development plans and render necessary assistance thereupon. At such a time like this, township-level authorities and departmental personnel are to try their hardest with innovation, industry and goodwill.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party on 14 March went on a tour of Shwegyin and Nyaunglaybin in Bago Division, inspected the regional development tasks being implemented and fulfilled all the requirements. In his meeting with members of township peace and development council, departmental personnel and members of social organizations in Nyaunglaybin, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt exhorted them to effectively and speedily carry out township development tasks under collective leadership with and collective responsibility.

Situated on the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway, Nyaunglaybin enjoys favourable environment for social and economic development. As dams and embankments have been built, the acreage of farmland in this region has remarkably increased. As a result, not only summer paddy and monsoon paddy but also edible oil crops can be grown, thus ensuring self-sufficiency. Shwegyin township was far behind other townships in development due to the lack of regional peace and security. But now, with the prevalence of peace and stability all over the region, fundamental requirements for regional development and higher living standard for the local people can be fully met. As the Shwegyin-Madauk motor road and the Shwegyin-Madauk bridge have been constructed, transport of passengers and goods has become easy and smooth. Moreover, the Shwegyin hydroelectric power project is well under way.

We would like to call upon township-level authorities and departmental personnel to actively and unitedly carry out the development tasks in their respective townships as they play a very fundamental role in the implementation of regional and national development endeavours.

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”

Minister receives foreign guest

YANGON, 18 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Assistant General Manager of tph, The Printers House (P) Ltd Internationally Noted Businessman M Kharbanda at the former’s office on Theinbyu Road at 12 noon today. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads under the ministry and officials. — MNA

Jade sales earn over 9.1m euros

YANGON, 18 March — The 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium continued this morning for the third day here.

Local and foreign gem merchants bought 21 jade lots at 1,086,112 euros through competitive bidding system from 9 am to 5 pm today. A total of 470 jade lots worth 9.171,530 euros were sold from 16 March to today and the sales of jade lots continued this evening.

Twenty-one jade lots were sold at 3,475,791 euros from 5 pm to 10 pm yesterday and a total of 71 jade lots worth 4,827,777 euros were sold yesterday alone.

Drugs dealers sentenced

YANGON, 18 March — Acting on information, a combined team made up of members of local intelligence unit, Bago Anti-Drug Squad and Bago Police Station stopped and searched a bus with number plates 4Khaw6281 at Polan check point, the entrance to Bago, on 4 December, 2002. And the authorities seized 10.5 kilos of marijuana in the possession of passenger Soe Nyunt. In connection with the seizure, Bago No 1 Police Station filed Soe Nyunt, son of U Khin Pe of No 15 (B), Zeyathikha Street, Ward 2, Mayangyan Township, under Section 15/19(A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. After hearing the case on 29 January 2004, Bago District Court sentenced him to 30 years’ imprisonment under Section 19 (A). A similar team, acting on a tip-off, searched the suspect Soe Tun (a) Yu Nwut near Theingyi Market (C) Building on 20 February destroyed 5.5 acres of poppy plantation in Kyankongyi Village in Momeik Township, Shan State (North). A total of 7,181.73 acres of poppy plantation have been destroyed in this poppy cultivation season. MNA

People’s Desire

• Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
• Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
• Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
• Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Poppy plantation destroyed

YANGON, 18 March — Members of local intelligence unit and Myanmar Police Force on 21 and 22 February destroyed 5.5 acres of poppy plantation in Kyankongyi Village in Momeik Township, Shan State (North). A total of 7,181.73 acres of poppy plantation have been destroyed in this poppy cultivation season. MNA

The sales will continue tomorrow and on 20 March through the tender system and competitive bidding system.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Myanmar Gems Emporium Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein and officials presented certificates of honour to the gem merchants who attended the emporium for 25 years, 20 years, 15 years and 10 years consecutively.

PRC delegation visits Kandawgyi

YANGON, 18 March — The visiting Chinese writers delegation led by Chairman of the Writers Association of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wang Chonghong, accompanied by officials, this morning studied all-round tasks for upgrading Kandawgyi Gardens here. No 4 Military Region Command Commander Col Yan Naing Os and officials welcomed them. Afterwards, the delegation visited National Museum on Pyay Road. Assistant Director of Department of Cultural Institute U Htay Myint and officials conducted them round the Museum. — MNA

Minister receives foreign guest

YANGON, 18 March — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Mr Yogesh M Kharbanda. — MNA

WUSHU ATHLETES HONOURED: A ceremony to honour Wushu athletes who won prizes in international events was held at Padonma sports ground in Yangon on Thursday. Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents a gift of honour to Khuang Khaug Maw who won one gold and one silver in the 7th World Wushu Championship held in Macao in 2003. — NLM

The delegation seen before departure at the airport. (in)

Delegation leaves for Bangkok

YANGON, 18 March — A 24-member delegation headed by Secretary of Plastics Entrepreneurs Association under Myanmar Industrial Producers Association U Tin Htet left by air this morning for Thailand to attend the T-Plas 2004 exhibition in Bangkok. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials. — MNA

The 5.5 acres of poppy plantation being destroyed by the combined team. — MNA
Kerry criticizes Bush’s ‘stubborn’ Iraq policy

WASHINGTON, 18 March— Democrat John Kerry, marking the first anniversary of the Iraq war, accused President Bush on Wednesday of stubbornly pursuing a failed policy that has weakened the military and driven away allies.

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee said there was “no end in sight” to the daily dangers faced by US soldiers in Iraq despite Bush’s declaration on an aircraft carrier last May of “mission accomplished.”

“We are still bogged down in Iraq — and the administration stubbornly holds to failed, unilateral policies that drive — allies away,” Kerry said in a speech at George Washington University.

“But the answer is not a stubborn pursuit of the same arrogant policies, the answer to failure is not more of the same,” he said. “Instead we have to return more effectively to the international community.”

Kerry, a decorated Vietnam War veteran who has been hampered by the Bush campaign for voting against various weapons programmes and $87 billion in spending to support operations in Iraq, said the US military was more extended than at any time in a generation.

“We are weaker today militarily than we should be, but this administration stubbornly refuses to admit it,” Kerry said. “Soldiers in Iraq are paying the price every day.”

Kerry’s speech was designed as a counter-balance to Vice President Dick Cheney who was giving a speech in California on Wednesday about the war which began a year ago Saturday. Informed by reporters on his campaign plan that Cheney planned to criticize him, Kerry said: “I’m flattered.”

Kerry was joined on stage by former Defence Secretary William Perry, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff John Shalikashvili.

Kerry said he would not hesitate to use force when needed in the war of terror.

Top Iraqi leader wants UN back in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 18 March — Iraq’s Shia leader distanced himself from Iraqis who oppose the return of the United Nations and said he wants the world body to play a role in the country’s future, a senior UN official said on Tuesday.

Lakhdar Brahimi, the former Algerian foreign minister, told a news conference that Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani sent a written message through an aide to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan “a few days ago” saying he had nothing to do with negative Press reports from some members of the Iraqi Governing Council.

Brahimi went to Baghdad last month with a UN team to study the feasibility of holding elections before June and to discuss proposals for an interim government when the US-led occupation ends on June 30.

He quoted Sistani as saying, “As I told Mr Brahimi, we do want the UN to play a role in Iraq. The note from Sistani denied he had anything to do with negative Press reports from some members of the Iraqi Governing Council.

Brahimi replaced Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono who resigned from his position last Thursday, to be more concentrate on the administration stubbornly holds to failed, unilateral policies that drive — allies away.

Hari Sabarno installed as Indonesian Security Minister

JAKARTA, 18 March — Indonesian Home Affairs Minister Hari Sabarno is officially installed as the new Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security Affairs on Tuesday.

Sabarno replaced Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono who resigned from his position last Thursday, to be more concentrate on the campaign for upcoming presidential elections.

Sabarno was appointed by Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri to the post because of his strong military background and his seniority among the ministers under the Coordinating Ministry of Politics and Security. But he still hold the post of the Home Affairs Ministry. The installation ceremony was held at the Coordinating Ministry of Politics and Security office.

Zapatero turns down Bush request to keep Spanish troops in Iraq

MADRID, 18 March — Spain’s prime minister-elect has rejected an appeal by US President George Bush to keep Spanish troops in Iraq.

Spanish elections winner Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero reiterated that he would need to pull his country’s troops out of Iraq.

“I will listen to Mr Bush but my position is very clear and very firm,” Zapatero told radio Onda Cero. “The occupation of (Iraq) is a fascist.”

Zapatero said on Monday, the day after his Socialist Party dealt a surprise election defeat to the pro-Bush Popular Party, that he would withdraw Spain’s 3,100 troops unless a United Nations force takes over there.

Bush responded by urging US allies to keep their troops in Iraq, as officials in Washington suggested they could propose a new UN resolution that would enable Spanish forces to stay.

Thailand publishes agro-tourism handbook for visitors

BANGKOK, 18 March — The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) joined hands with the Department of Agricultural Extension and the Department of Agriculture to publish a hand book for agro-tourism for visitors, according to the Thai News Agency Tuesday.

The handbook would provide information on 21 routes of agro-tourism all over the country. The four-colour hand book would be available in Thai and English version complete with map of each route and full details.

The handbook provides details on how to access to the tourist sites and mentions the significance of each site as well as the telephone number of the coordinators of the area.

Travellers would know when was the best season to visit the sites, and with the handbook, they could also learn the way of life of the farmers in different areas and the local agricultural products.

The handbook is now available at TAT’s head office and leading bookstores for 95 baht per copy, the agency reported.

Iraq hotel blast kills at least 29, injures 41

BAGHDAD, 17 March — A US military official says only a car bomb could cause the type of destruction seen Wednesday at a Baghdad hotel.

Officials say at least 29 people were killed and 41 others hurt when a car bomb exploded outside the Jabal Lebanon Hotel in central Baghdad. Americans and other foreigners were among those staying at the hotel.

The explosion left a crater eight feet wide and ten feet deep. In addition to the hotel, five smaller, adjacent buildings were badly damaged. Bricks, air conditioners, furniture, wires and other debris was blown hundreds of yards from the hotel.

Residents said they thought a rocket struck the building, but Private First Class Heath Balick with the Army’s First Armoured Division said, “no rocket could cause that amount of damage.”

The blast shook the nearby Palestine Hotel, where many foreign contractors and journalists are based.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan offered prayers for the victims but said, “Democracy is taking root in Iraq, and there is no turning back.”

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Washington concerned at increasing casualties in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 18 March — The growing number of casualties in Iraq is worrying for President George W. Bush, at a time when US troops are suffering an average of between 18-22 attacks a day, according to a report in The Los Angeles Times yesterday.

The White House had boasted an alleged drop in the number of attacks by the Iraqi resistance, but in the first two weeks of March alone, the attacks have caused the deaths of 15 US soldiers, the daily stated.

Over the last five days, those at- tacks have cost the lives of nine of the Pentagon’s soldiers, including a mem- ber of the National Guard who had only just arrived in that Arab country.

The Bush government had empha- sized a reduction in the number of deaths at a point when Iraqi police officers and local officials under US control had become the targets of bomb attacks.

According to reports from the Pen- tagon, 47 US soldiers died in January — exceeding the December figure of 40 — although this figure is far from the re- cord number of 82 fatalities last November.

In February, the figure dropped to 20, a number that Bush used as a posi- tive sign in the face of criticism from Democrats of the war and occupa- tion of Iraq.

March’s casualties include two US civilians who were working with the Coalition Provisional Authority.

Iraqi police are in- vestigating the circumstances in which the two US citizens were killed.

This situation calls attention to the fact that the losses seem to coincide with the rotation and arrival of fresh troops less familiar with the setting.

The US command itself in Baghdad indicated there have been a gradual reduction in the number of deaths, al- though it stressed that this could be reversed, taking into account that the number of attacks against troops have averaged between 18 and 22 per day for the last few months.

As the first anniversary of the war approaches (this Saturday), the situa- tion in the Arab nation continues to be markedly insecure, particularly for the occupiers.
Shock hotel guest escapes Baghdad bomb blast

Baghdad, 18 March — Lebanese businessman Jihad Abi Musleh was watching television in a second-floor room of Baghdad’s Mount Lebanon Hotel when a powerful car bomb ripped through the building, killing at least 27 people.

"When the explosion took place I was lying on the bed and watching a religious programme on television," Abi Musleh said as he lay on a hospital stretcher, his face swollen and splotched with blood.

"I started frantically racing around the room and then rushed down the stairs," the 53-year-old said. "My brain was numb to the full impact of the explosion."

Abi Musleh said he saw the hotel receptionist and the Lebanese hotel manager in the lobby covered in blood. "Oh God, help me please," the manager moaned.

Abi Musleh said the whole street was on fire when he went outside. "I was surprised that there were not many people this morning and I heard the company employees had taken a villa," he said. "The hotel was nearly empty without them."

Abi Musleh, whose country has gone through a bloody civil war, said he prayed to God for an end to Iraqis' suffering. "It reminded me of Lebanon," he said.

Minister says coalition forces fail to protect Iraqs

Geneva, 18 March — US-led coalition forces are not doing enough to ensure the security of Iraq's rulers, said a member of Iraq's ruling Governing Council on Tuesday in a rare criticism of the coalition.

"Violence and explosions have become the identity of days in Iraq. This is the opposite of what the Iraqis were expecting," he said, according to an English translation of his address. "I started frantically racing around the room and then rushed down the stairs," the 53-year-old said. "The walls of the hotel were demolished." Buildings on both sides of the street were ablaze, in the ethnically mixed neighbourhood that is home to many relatively poor families along with commercial offices.

Iraqis were clawing at the rubble, searching for survivors. "It reminded me of Lebanon," he said. "It was surprising that there were not many people this morning and I heard the company employees had taken a villa," he said. "The hotel was nearly empty without them." Abi Musleh, whose country has gone through a bloody civil war, said he prayed to God for an end to Iraqis' suffering. "It reminded me of Lebanon," he said.

Argentine, Brazil call for changes in int'l lending rules

Rio de Janeiro, 18 March — Visiting Argentine President Nestor Kirchner and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva proposed a change in the rules used by international financial organizations to negotiate with developing countries.

Securing a loan to pay its debts requires negotiating with the world’s largest nations, the two leaders argued. "It’s time to change the rules," Lula da Silva said.

Foreign restaurants do good business in China

Beijing, 18 March — Five foreign and joint venture restaurants in the top 100 restaurants in China reported an operating revenue of 15.84 billion yuan (1.92 billion US dollars) last year.

Oil prices hit fresh one-year highs

London, 18 March — Oil prices hit fresh one-year highs on Tuesday as consumers voiced growing concern over the economic repercussions of higher energy costs. US light crude rose 36 cents to hit a new 12-month peak at 37.80 US dollars per barrel, extending strong gains.

US Brent crude for May delivery was down eight cents to hit a new one-month peak at 37.97 US dollars per barrel, extending strong gains.

"There is growing concern among consumers over higher energy costs," said Piers Forrester, an oil expert at the Energy Intelligence Group. "The race is on to see who will pass on the higher costs to consumers." People are already paying more at the pumps and are getting used to prices in the high 30s.

British lawmakers criticize govt failure in postwar Iraq

London, 18 March — The British Government severely misjudged what would be required to stabilize and rebuild postwar Iraq, a parliamentary report published on Tuesday concluded.

"The report, which was particularly scathing of the government’s failure to anticipate the total disintegration of Iraqi civil authoritiy," it said, "the collapse of diplomacy has failed to prepare its troops properly for the postwar situation in Iraq, stretching the force to its limit and costing it goodwill with Iraqis."

The report was released after a meeting of the Commons Defence Select Committee the failure of the government to ensure that the Iraqi military were not destroyed. The report was published in the wake of the US-led invasion of Iraq, which has caused huge suffering to the country.

Oil prices hit fresh one-year highs

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Portuguese oppsn demands troop pullout from Iraq

Lisbon, 18 March — The opposition Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) and the Left Bloc (BEP) urged the government Tuesday to immediately bring home the members of the Republican National Guard (GRN) deployed in Iraq.

"The PCP and the Left Bloc said they will file a parliamentary motion to ask the government to withdraw the Portuguese troops from Iraq," the party said in a statement.

The Portuguese Government had sent 128 GRN members to Iraq last November, despite continued attacks against the coalition forces and criticism of the portuguese presence in Iraq.

Foreign restaurants do good business in China

Beijing, 18 March — Five foreign and joint venture restaurants in the top 100 restaurants in China reported an operating revenue of 15.84 billion yuan (1.92 billion US dollars) last year.

Their operating revenue accounted for around one-third of the total of the top 100 restaurants, said the China Cuisine Association (CCA) here. The top 100 restaurants in China earned 52.8 billion yuan (6.38 billion US dollars) in 2003, a year-on-year rise of 31.3 per cent, and contributed to around 8.7 per cent of the industry’s total operating revenue, the CCA source said.

Foreign restaurant companies have increased turnover in China, the CCA source said. Yum!Brands Inc., running KFC and Pizza Hut, released an operating revenue of 9.3 billion yuan (1.12 billion US dollars) in China last year, up 31 per cent over 2002, the CCA said. It added 231 chain restaurants to its 1,130 in China last year, among which some 1,000 were KFC outlets. Its major rival MacDonald’s also expanded business from big cities to medium and small cities in China, the CCA source said.
Iraq under US and allies’ occupation
Civilian deaths under US occupation of Iraq

The only superpower should recognize that, far from disturbing, it should contribute to the creation of a peaceful world entitled to both justice and development for all. But, those with the most ability to prevent and remove the threats to peace are the ones causing the war today and as a result innocent civilians like many Iraqi people are becoming the victim of war.

Iraqi deaths up to 17 March 2004

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<th>No</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Death toll</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Iraqi service personnel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Civilian</td>
<td>10,430</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20,430</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Injured people are sent to hospital in Baghdad, capital of Iraq following a bomb attack.

Blood and debris are scattered on the road in the Khadimya district of Baghdad following a powerful explosion recently in Iraq.

An Iraqi man who was injured in an attack recently receives treatment. The attack killed at least 50 people.

Iraqis, carrying the wounded, run from the explosions in Kerbala, Iraq, on 2 March, 2004.

One person was injured in an explosion in Baqouba, 34 miles northwest of Baghdad, Iraq on 10 March 2004. The attack also knocked the wall down.
**Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:**

**Nation-building tasks jointly implemented by the Tatmadaw and the people**

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The view of Tein Bridge being constructed by the Tatmadaw in Mingin Township.

Tatmadaw members in action at a bridge project site on Monywa-Kalewa Road.

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### Bridges built by Tatmadawmen which will be opened soon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Bridge</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Foot</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Myoma</td>
<td>Sagaing Division, Kani</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tein</td>
<td>Sagaing Division, Mingin Township, Monywa-Kalewa Road</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The map showing the location of Tein Bridge.

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The Tein Bridge being built by the Tatmadaw will be opened soon.

### Bridges constructed by the Tatmadaw

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Bridge</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Foot</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pathaung</td>
<td>Myeik Township, Taninthayi Division</td>
<td>810</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dawlan</td>
<td>Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Ngamoe</td>
<td>Yangon Township, Yangon Division</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Pahtolon</td>
<td>Kani, Sagaing Division</td>
<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lapin</td>
<td>Sagaing Division, Kalewa</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The Myoma Bridge in Kani. It will be inaugurated soon.
The Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) in perpetual service of the people

The Tatmadaw has been discharging national-defence duties. The Tatmadaw has crushed every destructive force violating security and sovereignty of the State. It had to launch the 40-day Kunlong battle, Hopang, Chushwe, Pankok and Panlon battles with the Burma Communist Party (BCP) in the northeast of Myanmar.

The Sisiwan-Tarpang battle launched against the BCP in 1986 was a significant one in the military history of Myanmar. The battle reflected the great courage of Tatmadaw members as they engaged in the battle at risk to their lives.

An interview with hero pilot

Sein Shwe Hlaing

Q: I learnt that you commanded and controlled the air raids in Sisiwan-Tarpang battle. What were your experiences about the battle?

A: Geographically, Sisiwan-Tarpang region is crucial for domination of Muse and Namkham regions. Under the strategy, the BCP tried to take stronghold in Sisiwan-Tarpang region and then to extend its domains to nearby areas. In order to effectively stop the BCP from taking foothold in Sisiwan-Tarpang region, the North-East Command Headquarters, No 33 Light Infantry Division and No 99 Light Infantry Division had to fight against the insurgents with tenacity.

In response to an urgent request for supporting fire, I had to lead four PC-7 fighters and one PC-6 fighter to give a heavy casualty during the Sisiwan-Tarpang battle that lasted about one month. Thanks to the harmonious cooperation of the ground troops, the air force and the artillery unit along with the support and encouragement of local people, 617 BCP insurgents were killed, 159 surrendered and 172 captured. Col Khin Maung Win was awarded Thura medal for his bravery, outstanding performance and systematic command and control in the battle. Thura medal was also awarded to Captain Tint Ko who discharged national defence duty at risk to his life in the battle.

Q: I would like to know your experiences about the battle.


The Tatmadaw has crushed every destructive force violating security and sovereignty of the State. It had to launch the 40-day Kunlong battle, Hopang, Chushwe, Pankok and Panlon battles with the Burma Communist Party (BCP) in the northeast of Myanmar.

The Sisiwan-Tarpang battle launched against the BCP in 1986 was a significant one in the military history of Myanmar. The battle reflected the great courage of Tatmadaw members as they engaged in the battle at risk to their lives.
**Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day**

(From page 8)

supporting fire for the Tatmadaw members on 17 November 1986. On 22 November, we made a close air raid on Mongaw, the insurgents’ headquarters. We saw that some 30 buildings of the insurgents were ablaze. We flew four PC-7 aircraft equipping ourselves with bombs, rockets and machineguns to launch air raids on the Tatmadaw. Since founded, the Tatmadaw’s first priority has been to serve the country and the people, and so have been the second and the third. Never has the Tatmadawmen felt reluctant to sacrifice their lives for that purpose. It is man that shall die one day. We, Tatmadawmen, have deemed it noble to die in action for the country and able to date in the world are the desperate plight of the peoples whose countries possess weak armed forces. It can also be found frequently the act of some big powers practising hegemonism and interfering in the internal affairs of small nations.

Myanmar also needs to have a modern and efficient Tatmadaw capable of reacting such attempts should the independence and sovereignty of the country be encroached upon and internal affairs interfered. Only when the Tatmadaw is strong will the nation be strong.

The Tatmadaw has to react in concert with the people any attempts to disparage the dignity of the country and the prestige of the Tatmadaw.

The Tatmadaw’s victory over Sisiwan-Tarpang battle had been due to the cooperation of national people. Indivisible are the Tatmadaw and the people just as a saying goes, ‘No line can be drawn in water’.

**Prize that is his**

* While engaged in studies Taking it as necessity for the nation Went to the battleground, this youth.

* Felt comfort in war, though it took long Intruding enemies, those insurgents To crush them all, with a vow Continued to find comfort in battle By time, he became middle-aged.

* Two stations in life With no self-interest, serving the nation Long military service, leading to a time With many war-wounds, one hand sacrificed. Satisfactorily allowed to retire.  * War veteran Grandad

Had sacrificed his young life

Pride of education

He had none, handicapped.

* War veteran Grandad

Was dutiful in his youth

Pride of property

He had none, bereft.

* O, War Veteran Grandad

Self-sacrificed, for whole life

Inadequate education, propertyless

Morale undeterred, if need arises

Will take up arms, in service of nation

In all his life, Pride of Patriotism

This he had, this is his.

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Translation: MS + KTY

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The artillery unit giving supporting fire for Tatmadaw members in Sisiwan-Tarpang battle.

At that time, we could not clearly see the targets on the ground because of bad weather and the clouds. So, we flew under the clouds. As the fighter planes of the Tatmadaw (Air) gave supporting fire for the Tatmadaw members in Sisiwan-Tarpang region on 9 January 1987.

Q — I salute the courage and sacrifice you all showed in an unyielding spirit although knowing that you all were to face mortal dangers. So, could you tell me something about the medals awarded by the State?

A — That’s what is called the fine traditions of the people. Besides loyalty to the country, obedience, determination, courage and discipline of all the Tatmadawmen involved in that entire military operation, the support of the local people and the people’s militia, the Red Cross brigade and the fire brigade were all that put an end to the 40-year-long armed revolt of BCP against the country.

Q — Could you explain the important role of the armed forces in a country?

A — The role of the armed forces is very crucial for a country. Still notice—

Born of the people, the Tatmadawmen with daring spirit did crush and overcome every danger encroaching upon the integrity and sovereignty of the country.

With the ten strengths—loyalty, obedience, strong morale and perseverance, good discipline, being well-trained, possessing brilliant combat skill, healthiness and fitness, having exquisit de corps, making sacrifices, and endeavouring to meet the aim with strong determination, the Tatmadaw wins victories always.

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Translation: MS + KTY
Cash donated to hospitals and social organizations

YANGON, 18 March — As a gesture of honouring the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the families of the All-Bus Lines Control Committee (Yangon) donated cash to the funds of all-round renovation of Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda, hospitals and social organizations at a ceremony held at Dhamma Rakkha Dhammanyay in Maha Wizaya Pagoda this afternoon. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony and accepted the donations.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, commanders of military regions, local authorities, personnel from hospitals concerned, Chairman of ALCC (Yangon) Brig-Gen Myint Swe (Red), officials and guests. Brig-Gen Myint Swe (Red) explained the purposes of making donations. Donations made to the funds of all-round renovation of Maha Wizaya Pagoda were: K 4 million by bus owners of ALCC (Yangon); K 1,001,622 by ALCC (Yangon); and K 7.7 million by Kyaik Kyaw Aye and Daw Khin Nyunt. Donations made to Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) were: K 2.2 million by bus owners of ALCC (Yangon) and K 500,000 by ALCC (Yangon), Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted the donations. ALCC (Yangon) also donated K 300,000 each to Defence Services General Hospital (Mingaladon), No 8 Military Hospital (500 beds), Yangon People’s Hospital, Thingangan Sanpya Hospital, North Okkala People’s Hospital, Insein People’s Hospital, and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central); K 150,000 each to Defence Services Obstetric, Gynaecological and Paediatric Hospital, Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital, Physical Rehabilitation Hospital, Yangon People’s Hospital, Kyimyindaung Paediatric Hospital, and Paediatric Hospital; K 100,000 each to Hsinbyuha People’s Hospital, Dagon Myothit (South) People’s Hospital, Dagon Myothit (North) People’s Hospital, Parahita boys’ school, Hninbinzaw hospital for the aged, Marie Chapman Primary School, Khuwarwe Chin School for the Blind, Myaungchau Parahita Geha, the Station Hospital at Mayanghaung village, Jivita Sadanga Hospital and Free Service Association for Funeral (Yangon); and K 50,000 each to Shwepyitha People’s Hospital, Hmawbwe People’s Hospital, Hliegu People’s Hospital, and Defence Services Orthopaedic and Dupain Station Hospital. Medical Superintendent of North Okkala People’s Hospital Dr Mya Thaung spoke words of thanks. Today’s donations amounted to K 20,201,622. — MNA

Thaungta Taman magazine comes out

YANGON, 18 March — Thaungta Taman (Envoy, the good son of the nation), annual magazine of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs came out on 17-3-2004. It includes significant features of Ko (Tektakho), Tektakho Min Maung, Myint Maung Naing Moe, Maung Chan Aye, Maung Chaw Myint (Thagata), Sithu Nyein Aye, Thura U Aung Htet, Dr Khin Maung Win, Dr Kyaw Sein, Hla Tun (Twantay), Thaung Oo, Aye Kyaw Lwin together with excellent works of cartoonists Maung Maung, Pozar, Swe Min (Dambyu) and Thant Zin. — MNA

Myanmar Trade Fair 2004 to be held

YANGON, 18 March — With the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, Quartz Int’l Co Ltd will organize Myanmar Trade Fair 2004 at Yangon Trade Centre from 2 to 5 April. On display at the fair will be local and foreign cosmetics and consumer’s goods, textiles, plastics, foodstuff, electric and electronic appliances, construction materials, household utensils, paper, stationery, packing machines, small machinery and traditional and western medicines. — MNA

66 Italian tourists arrive

YANGON, 18 March — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, assistance provided by the Ministry of Transport and organized by Myanmar Kipling Tours Co Ltd, a charter plane carrying 66 tourists arrived at Yangon International Airport from Milan of Italy at 12 noon today. They were welcomed there by officials of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Myanmar Kipling Tours Co Ltd and traditional cultural troupes of Myanmar Tourism Service. While in Yangon, the tourists will visit Yangon, Bago, Mandalay, Popa, Bagan, Heho, Pindaya and Inlay. — MNA

Tubewells opened for rural development

YANGON, 18 March — Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, ceremonies to open tube-wells in Thanlyin Township were held at the designated places this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Also present on the occasion were Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi, Director of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee U Kyaw Daing Aung and departmental officials, local authorities and people. First, the 2" tube-well was opened in Kyayik Villlage. The commander opened the tap of the tube-well. It was a 2-inch diameter and 220 feet deep tube-well which can pump out 2,000 gallons an hour. It was installed with 7.25 Hp diesel engine.

A similar ceremony was held in Myayayoe Village, Thanlyin Township, to open a 2-inch diameter and 280 feet deep tube-well. The tube-well installed with 7.25 Hp engine can produce 2,000 gallons an hour. Next, the commander and party arrived at the construction site of Kawdun Creek Bridge on the road linking Pandaw Kyaukmae Jetty and Thanlyin in Kyaukmyar Township. The commander heard reports on construction of the bridge and gave necessary instructions. On completion, Pandaw Valley can access to Mayanbey Village in Kyaukmyar Township by car through the beach.

The commander inspected education Mid-grade School (Branch) in Zweba Kondan Village and gave necessary instructions. Afterwards, the commander saw over the site for construction of 16-bed Meepya Station Hospital. In Meepya Village, the commander inspected development tasks of the village. Next, he accepted K 200,000 each for construction of the hospital donated by Daw Kyin Kha of Meepya Village; U Kyauk Khe Dawk Kyin Ngwe of Kyauktan; and U A Loo Daw Saw Kyu. Later, the commander paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Patañavamsa of Kyaukmygyi Monastery in Meepya Village. — MNA

26th ISD Golf Team Championship continues

YANGON, 18 March — The 26th Inter-State/Division Golf Team Championship, organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Golf Federation was underway in Maha Dhammayon at Maha Wizaya Pagoda. Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) donated cash to Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon). Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted cash donation from a wellwisher. — MNA

Jade lots being sold through competitive bidding at the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium. (News on page 2) — MNA

Jude lots being sold through competitive bidding at the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium. (News on page 2) — MNA

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day: Book Fair

Sarpya Belikan

# 378,384 Upper Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon

19 to 28 March 2004 (from 9 am to 5 pm)
General Thura Shwe Mann inspects oil palm cultivation projects in Taninthayi...

(from page 16)

On arrival at Myeik in the evening, General Thura Shwe Mann and Party were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Coastal Region Command Col Hone Ngaing, local authorities and departmental officials.

On 16 March morning, the General and party proceeded to Katan Island of Kyunsu Township from Myeik. At the hall of State-owned Katan Rubber Farm of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise, Township Manager U Myint Oo of MPCE reported on oil palm plantations and has planted over 5,000 acres of oil palm plantations. In addition, the company manages to build the raw oil mill.

Managing Director U Myint Oo of MPCE reported on attention to be paid on cultivation of oil palm and the commander gave a supplementary report.

At the oil palm plantation project of Asia World Integrated Farms Ltd in Myeik Township, the General and party heard a report on plantation of oil palm at Khonmaw and Tonbyawgyi villages on Myeik-Taninthayi road, plantation of 3,300 acres of the target of 10,000 acres, plans to put the crops on the market, and control measures presented by Managing Director of the company U Tun Myint Naing and Manager U Wunna.

Managing Director of Myan Naing Myint Company U Maung Maung reported to them on plans to cultivate oil palm in Taninthayi Township and putting of 2,300 acres of land under the oil palm.

Speaking on the occasion, General Thura Shwe Mann said he has already inspected the oil palm cultivation projects of national race companies in Kawthoung, Bokpyin, Taninthayi and Myeik townships.

The climatic and geographical condition of the Taninthayi Division is suitable to grow oil palm. The government will provide assistance for the entrepreneurs in land reclamation and other matters to the best of its ability.

Officials of the private companies presented reports on company-wise plantation projects and feasibility programmes.

The managing director of Myan Naing Myint Company explained arrangements to form an organization for oil palm plantation entrepreneurs. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin gave a supplementary report.

The General looked into their requirements.

MNA
China reports slight growth in farm produce prices last month

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

**UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER**

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Rail Road Diesel Engine Oil for Locomotives Engine RDO - 40 and SAE - 40 which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11(T2/MR/ML)</td>
<td>(1) Rail Road Diesel Oil for Locomotives</td>
<td>600 Drums 2003-2004</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Engine RDO - 40 (or) Equivalent</td>
<td>600 Drums</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>(2) SAE - 40</td>
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</tbody>
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Closing Date: 23.3.2004 (Tuesday) (12:00) Hours
Opening Date: 23.3.2004 (Tuesday) (14:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 19.3.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext: 602, 605.612.

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon.

China reports slight growth in farm produce prices last month

**MARRIAGE**

It is announced that Thang Khan Tuang Sukte (BSME, Drexel University, Pennsylvania), the youngest son of (Rev. Sukte T. Hau Go) & Daw Luan Za Cing of Lantih Yeiktha, Lamdawad and Nang San Nuam (B.A Geography, University of East Yangon), the youngest daughter of U Gine Khan Cing & Daw Huai Khaw Man of Lawbiul, Tedin were United in Holy Matrimony by Rev. Danm Suan Munng and Rev. Dr. Do Suau Mung in the presence of both families, relatives and friends on March 6, 2004 at Traders Hotel, Yangon.

THANK YOU

We are honored by your presence at our wedding and thank you for your prayers from friends and family far and near.

May God bless you.

Thang Khan Tuang Sukte

Nang San Nuam

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (348)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR Voy No (348) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-3-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. & Co which it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS EAGLE CORPORATION**

Phone No: 256908/378136/376797

**ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV “BAGO” VOY NO BG 765/N**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BAGO” Voy No BG 765/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 19-03-2004 and all cargo of Consignees of MV “BAGO” Voy No BG 765/N and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Yangon Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

China, Kenya sign tourism MoU

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**

Notice is given that Beiersdorf AG, (a German company) of Ungarnstrasse 48, 20525 Hamburg, GERMANY, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Mark:-

**LABELLO**

used in connection with:- “Cosmetic preparations.”

A Declaration of Ownership of the said Mark has been registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar of Deeds and Assurances, Yangon, being No. 7111/2003.

**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 Mu Tin, M.A, H.C.P. D.B.I. for Beiersdorf AG P.O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 19 March, 2004

**Singapore tightening air pollutant regulations**

SINGAPORE, 18 March — Singapore will tighten environmental regulations in 2006 to meet a European air pollution standard that would sharply reduce dangerous fuel emissions, a government official said on Tuesday.

Singapore, whose air is already among Asia’s cleanest, plans to adopt by October 2006 the “Euro-4” fuel standard that Europe will implement in 2005 to halve permitted poisonous emissions levels, a move that could raise Singapore’s transportation costs.

To meet Euro-4 requirements, many of the world’s carmakers are adding complex filter systems to diesel engines to reduce tiny pollutants of 2.5 microns or less (PM2.5).

Those pollutants, about 128th the diameter of a strand of hair, are small enough to bypass the respiratory system and burrow deep into human lungs, reducing the body’s ability to fight infection, health experts say.

Singapore’s 137,000 diesel vehicles contribute about 10 per cent of the PM2.5 levels found in Singapore’s air, said Jacqueline See, a spokeswoman at the National Environment Agency. UN statistics show that six of the world’s 15 most polluted cities are in Asia, and the region gene rates a third of the world’s carbon dioxide emissions.

MNA/Reuters
China speeds up eradication of solid clay bricks

BEIJING, 18 March— Four central government ministries have jointly released a circular demanding China’s local governments speed up moves to ban the use of solid clay bricks in construction.

The rapid growth in construction has caused a boom in demand for bricks, which led to other problems such as soil loss, air pollution and energy waste. The ban on the use of solid clay bricks aims to protect limited land resources and the environment. The government has strictly limited the use of farmland for kilns since 1998.

The government initiated in 2000 the ban on solid clay bricks and tiles in new buildings in all major cities. But most mid-sized cities in coastal areas, and cities in provinces where per capita farmland is less than 0.05 hectares, are open “for Aristide.”

Most cities have implemented the ban, but a few had failed to achieve the goal, said an official of the State Development and Reform Commission.

The next 20 years would be a crucial time for China to construct a well-off society, which would produce a huge demand for building materials, so the ban on solid clay bricks was urgently required, he said.

The circular said cities that had met the goal should extend the ban to the other kinds of clay bricks, and cities that fail to meet the goal should do so by the end of the year. Studies show that using hollow bricks, recycled waste and other new building materials instead of solid clay bricks could reduce 30 to 50 per cent of the energy in producing wall materials and 30 to 50 per cent of the heating energy, called “green bricks.”

China has totally closed about 6,000 small brick kilns. Compared with 26 per cent in 1995, new materials now account for 35 per cent of the total wall materials in China. —MNA/Xinhua

China’s Armed Forces to enhance cooperation with Zimbabwe

BEIJING, 18 March—The Chinese Army will continue its efforts to enhance friendly cooperative relations with Zimbabwe’s Armed Forces, said Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan here Tuesday.

Cao, also a vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and a state councillor, made the remark in a meeting with CG Chivengwa, commander of Zimbabwe’s defence forces.

Cao said China and Zimbabwe had carried out fruitful cooperation in various fields since they forged diplomatic relations.

Chivengwa said the Zimbabwean Government’s adherence to the one-China policy and its consistent support for China on the human rights issue and other international issues.

Both sides also exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest.

Prime Minister picked a Cabinet on Tuesday that excludes allies of ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a source close to the new government said.

“The government has been selected this afternoon,” an aide to Prime Minister Germaine Latourte told Reuters. He gave no further information except to say the new Cabinet would be sworn in on Wednesday afternoon at the National Palace. Sources close to the new Cabinet.

China’s first liver transplant patient to give birth

CHENGDU, 18 March—A young Chinese woman who had a liver transplant four years ago will give birth next month.

This will be the first childbirth by a liver transplant patient in China. The woman, Luo Iwei, had suffered from sclerosing cholangitis and liver abscesses. When the 25-year-old patient was transferred to Huaxi Hospital in Sichuan Province in September 2000, she was on the verge of death. Without a liver transplant, she would have survived only one month, said Yan Lunan, a physician in charge of the liver transplant operation.

In the wake of group consultation, Luo’s husband turned to the Huaxi Hospital to have her liver transplanted to save her life.
United’s Fortune faces claim from former agent

CAPE TOWN, 18 March—A claim against Manchester United’s Quinton Fortune by his former agent remains unresolved. Fortune lost a High Court case in which he claimed that his agent, Geo, was acting against his will. Fortune does not believe that his former agent acted in his best interests.

Millwall beat Tranmere to reach FA Cup semis

LONDON, 18 March — English First Division club Millwall reached the last four of the FA Cup for the first time in 67 years when they beat Tranmere Rovers 2-1 in a quarterfinal replay at Prenton Park on Tuesday.

Goals from Tim Cahill and Neil Harris in the first 16 minutes were enough to send the London club through to a tie at Old Trafford on April 4 against First Division rivals Sunderland, who beat Millwall 2-1 in the semifinals in 1937.

Sunderland went on to win the FA Cup for the first time that year but the winner of the tie next month face the daunting task of taking on Manchester United or Arsenal in the final in Cardiff.

The south London club’s player manager Dennis Wise, who captured the FA Cup with Wimbledon and twice with Chelsea, said his side should have beaten their Second Division opponents in the first leg 10 days ago, which finished 0-0.

Millwall started the match determined to make up for their profligacy at the New Den. But once Gary Jones got a goal back for the home side just before halftime, they were left clinging on to their lead as their tenacious opponents searched for an equalizer.

After 11 minutes, Danny Dichio’s header put Cahill behind the Tranmere defence and the Australian midfielder controlled the ball with his first touch and put the ball past John Achterberg with his second.

Dichio was also provider for the second goal five minutes later as Cahill’s effort was one route simplicity itself, Neil Harris’ strike was anything but.

Receiving the ball just outside the area from Dichio’s chest-down, Harris conjured up a sublime hooked volley that left Dutchman Achterberg with no chance.

Tranmere gradually worked their way back into the tie and Jones provided their reward with a headed goal four minutes before the break from a third from internationals

The home side started the second half the way they finished the first and caused Millwall plenty of problems on the flanks.

Substitute striker Eugene Dadi put their best chance past the post and there was to be no repeat of Tranmere’s famous FA Cup quarterfinal comeback of 2001 when they went down 3-0 to Premier League Southampton only to win 4-3.

Zaragoza seal thrilling Cup victory over Real Madrid

BARCELONA, 18 March—Real Zaragoza fought their way back from a goal and a man down to claim an extra-time victory over Real Madrid in a thrilling King’s Cup final at the Montjuic Olympic Stadium on Wednesday.

Argentine midfielder Luciano Galaretta grabbed the winning goal nine minutes before the end of extra time with a stinging shot from the fringe of the area to give Zaragoza their third Cup triumph in 10 years and put them on their way to the dream of a treble.

English captain David Beckham put Real ahead with a superbly struck free kick from the halfway line in the first half, but Zaragoza fought back to take the lead.

Zaragoza hit back with a classy strike from Dani, the former Real Madrid and Barcelona striker cracking into the top corner after controlling a Savio cross with his knee.

Beckham almost put Real ahead again in the 92nd minute but a carbon copy of his first free kick five minutes before the break, this time Roberto Carlos netting with a trademark rocket shot from 25 metres out to put both teams into penalties.

But Real were denied another goal when Lainez made an acrobatic save to turn a Zidane header past the post, but Zaragoza were dealt a major blow with Cam’s dismissal for a second booking.

Owen scores twice as Liverpool trounce Portsmouth

LONDON, 18 March—Liverpool and Michael Owen put their run of poor form behind them as the England striker scored twice in an easy 3-0 home win over relegation strugglers Portsmouth in the Premier League on Wednesday.

The victory takes Liverpool up three places to fifth with 42 points from 28 games as they chase fourth spot and a Champions League place. Portsmouth stay third from bottom with 24 points, two points adrift of Leicester City and the safety zone.

Liverpool were desperate to put on a convincing display after a shock FA Cup replay defeat to Portsmouh, a frustrating draw with Olympique Marseille in the UEFA Cup and a sloppy Premier League loss at Southampton.

But Germany midfielder Hamann settled the home side’s nerves with a splendid goal after just six minutes when he met an Owen cross on the volley that flew into the net from 20 metres.

Fiore double gives Lazio Italian Cup final edge

Rome, 18 March—Lazio midfielder Stefano Fiore struck two second-half goals to hand the Rome side a 2-0 win over Juventus in the first leg of the Italian Cup final on Wednesday.

The Italian international broke the deadlock in the 59th minute, taking advantage of a nod-on by teammate Fernano Couto to volley past keeper Antonio Chimenti. He followed up with an acrobatic header from Dichio’s chest-down, Harris conjuring up the ball into the first half of extra time to give Zaragoza a 2-1 lead before the break thanks to a well-timed header from Dani and a deep-lying penalty from fellow striker David Villa.

Real salvaged a free kick from Roberto Carlos three minutes after the break and Zaragoza suffered a further setback when they were reduced to 10 men after Cani was sent off in the 67th minute.

But Real could not press home their numerical advantage and they too went down a man when Guti was sent off six minutes into the first period of extra time.

Zaragoza made a break start at the Olympic stadium and gave Real an early wake-up call when defender Cani fired a shot over the bar.

But Real gradually warmed to the task and with Zinedine Zidane and Gianluigi Buffon to the fore they began to probe the Zaragoza defence. Luis Figo was a constant threat with his jinking runs on the right.

After some sustained pressure, Raul won his side a free kick four metres outside the area. Beckham stepped up and curled an unstoppable shot into the post beyond the reach of Lainer, to score his first goal from a free kick in three months.

But the Real fans were still celebrating when Zaragoza hit back with a classy strike from Dani, the former Real Madrid and Barcelona striker cracking into the top corner after controlling a Savio cross with his knee.

Beckham almost put Real ahead once more with a carbon copy of his first free kick five minutes before the break, but this time he skimmed the post with his dipping shot.

Zaragoza rose to the occasion and they took the lead in the final minute of the first half when Villas scored from the penalty spot after he was felled by Guti as the two challenged for the ball.

Real back three minutes into the second half with another goal from a free kick, this time Roberto Carlos netting with a trademark rocket shot from 25 metres out to put both teams into penalties.

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Barcelona, who beat Millwall 2-1 in the semi-final, were left clinging on to their lead as their tenacious opponents searched for an equalizer.

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Zaragoza rose to the occasion and they took the lead in the final minute of the first half when Villas scored from the penalty spot after he was felled by Guti as the two challenged for the ball.

Real back three minutes into the second half with another goal from a free kick, this time Roberto Carlos netting with a trademark rocket shot from 25 metres out to put both teams into penalties.

But Real were denied another goal when Lainez made an acrobatic save to turn a Zidane header past the post, but Zaragoza were dealt a major blow with Cam’s dismissal for a second booking.

Barcelona, who beat Millwall 2-1 in the semi-final, were left clinging on to their lead as their tenacious opponents searched for an equalizer.

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General Thura Shwe Mann inspects oil palm plantations along the road.

First, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Shwe Oil Palm Co Ltd Managing Director Dr Ko Ko Htwe formally opened the factory.

The General performed the rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the opening ceremony and inspected the factory.

Next, the General greeted members of the National Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, dance troupes and students who attended the opening ceremony.

At the briefing hall, Dr Ko Ko Htwe reported on production of bunches of oil palm from their farm at 150 mile of Kawthoung and construction of the factory.

Tetnay Co Managing Director Daw Than Aye reported on implementation of oil palm plantation project and running of the crude palm oil mill.

After hearing the reports, General Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions and signed in the visitors’ book of Shwe Oil Palm Co Ltd.

Mr. U Aye Maung reported on their business.

Next, the General and party headed for Taungdagon Oil Palm Co in Mahe Camp in Bokpyin Township.

Shwe Oil Palm Co Ltd Managing Director Dr Ko Ko Htwe reported on plans to establish hydropower plants which can contribute towards regional development and oil palm industry in the sites adjacent to oil palm projects.

Colonel Than Aung and entrepreneurs reported on their business. Next, the General and party left Mahe Camp in Bokpyin Township for Myeik and inspected progress of oil palm plantations of the entrepreneurs by helicopter.

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Chairman of the company U Aye Maung reported on progress in building the crude palm oil mill that can mill crude palm oil.

At the briefing hall, Dr Ko Ko Htwe reported on production of bunches of oil palm from their farm at 150 mile of Kawthoung and construction of the factory.

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After hearing the reports, General Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions and signed in the visitors’ book of Shwe Oil Palm Co Ltd.

Mr. U Aye Maung reported on their business.

Next, the General and party headed for Taungdagon Oil Palm Co in Mahe Camp in Bokpyin Township.

Chairman of the company U Aye Maung reported on progress in building the crude palm oil mill that can mill 7.5 tons per a day.

At the briefing hall, South Dagon Oil Palm Co Managing Director U Aung Htwe reported on planting of over 4,500 acres of oil palm in Bokpyin Township.

Regarding the reports, the General gave instructions and signed in the visitors’ book.

The General and party proceeded to the opening ceremony and in the visitors’ book of Shwe Oil Palm Co Ltd.

The General gave necessary instructions and signed in the visitors’ book.

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