Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Economic and social indicators have greatly surpassed

The Tatmadaw and the people have been able to work hand in hand in constructing economic and social infrastructures in any direction you look all over the country. With the aim of constructing a comprehensive network of development that would cover the entire country, 24 Special Development Regions have been set up to promote the economic, education and health conditions and the advancement of the highly-qualified human resources. In addition, to ensure that there are no gaps in this development network, five rural development tasks are being vigorously implemented. As a result of these endeavours, economic and social indicators for the Union of Myanmar today show that the designated targets have greatly surpassed.

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

(From address delivered at the parade of the 58th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
To translate Armed Forces Day objectives into action

The Armed Forces Day, a day of significance in the history of our country, is observed with full political essence every year. The 59th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day is going to be observed soon with the following 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 remove tasks hindering the achievement of the objectives of the 59th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day
— To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold “Our Three Main National Causes”

The Tatmadaw Government is taking step-by-step measures to ensure a smooth and systematic transition to a genuine multi-party democracy suitable to our country and people. In line with the seven-step road map, the entire national people are to join hands with the Tatmadaw Government in striving for emergence of a new constitution and a new nation through the convening of the National Convention.

Nowadays, the neo-colonialists are instigating internal and external destructive elements and attacking the nation in political and economic spheres through various means with the purpose of installing a puppet government into power. For ensuring stability of the State, the Tatmadaw alone cannot wipe out all the internal and external destructive elements. The national people are to participate earnestly in this endeavour. Similarly, the participation of the people is also needed in defending the nation if there occurs alien intrusion. For a developing nation like Myanmar, the internal and external destructive elements plotting to disintegrate or to attack the Union should be crushed through people’s militia strategy.

The Tatmadaw today is making earnest endeavours for the national development. In so doing, efforts are being made to develop all the regions of the Union harmoniously. The special development projects are now being implemented with might and main in border areas which lagged behind in development due to internal insurances. As a result, the border areas where the national races are residing are achieving rapid development. Likewise, five rural development tasks are also being carried out by the Tatmadaw and the people for accelerating the development momentum in rural areas where the majority of the people live. We believe that the Tatmadaw with good traditions will successfully translate the above-mentioned objectives of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day into action.

List of prize winners announced

YANGON, 23 March — The list of prize winners for the 2003 Myawaddy colour photo competition as well as for the best manuscript award of Myawaddy News and Myawaddy magazines was released today. In the Myawaddy colour photo competition, Kyaw Kyaw Win (Myanmar Photography Society) and Ko Ko Sonny (Theingi Shweyi) stood second and third respectively. The best cartoon award for the 2003 Myawaddy annual magazine went to Soe San, the best poem award to Myinn Mu Mu Naing Moe, the most excellent award to Ye Tun (Military Science), the best short story award to Shwe Thinza, and the best novel award to Maung Yi Thway. The best cartoon award for Ngweyati annual magazine went to Aung Chan Myae (Mbak), the best poem award to Maung Hayma, the best article award to Tin Tun Oo (Culture), the best short story award to Win Nwe (Forestry), and the best novel award to Mudon Thunmo.

The prize-presentation ceremony will be held at Tatmadaw Television Broadcasting Unit, Hmawby, at 6.30 pm on 29 March. The winners are requested to contact Myawaddy Publishing House (# 181, 32nd Street, Pabedan Township, Tel: 282674 & 642203) not later than 6 pm on 28 March.

MoU signed for teaching Japanese

YANGON, 23 March — UMFCCI Education Committee Chairman U Sein Win Hlaing and President of Koeki Shoji Co Ltd Mr Masumaru Tsushima signed memorandum of understanding on teaching of Japanese language at the UMFCCI office here on Wednesday.

President U Win Myint spoke on the occasion. The two-year course on reading, writing and speaking skills of Japanese language will begin on 24 April. The graduates will get chance for further studying in Japan.

Two Myanmar golfers leave for India

YANGON, 23 March — Soe Kyaw Naing and Aung Win left here by air for India yesterday evening to take part in Royal Challenge Indian Open 2004 Golf Tournament to be held in Delhi Golf Club from 25 to 28 March. They took part in Myanmar Open 2004 Golf Tournament sponsored by Romans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd from 12 to 15 February and were invited to the Royal Challenge Indian Open. To launch the new Yangon-New Delhi air route, the professional golfers were sponsored by MAI.

Soe Kyaw Naing and Aung Win seen before departure for India. — XINHUA

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
14 British soldiers hurt in Iraq protests

BAGHDAD, 23 March—Fourteen British soldiers have been injured in clashes with demonstrators in southern Iraq. Thirteen were injured by explosives during the protests in Basra. The Ministry of Defence said three were seriously injured.

The attack happened at 13:46 local time. British troops fired baton rounds in self-defence after the trouble erupted. But the MoD denied reports live rounds or tear gas was used.

There were reports of demonstrators shouting slogans in support of deposed dictator Saddam Hussein and denouncing the killing by the Israeli of the spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. The MoD said there was no evidence the incident was terrorist related. It said the demonstrations centred on demands for further jobs with the new police and security forces.

An explosive device and a number of petrol bombs detonated close to British troops. The injured troops were taken to British military hospital at Shaibah. The situation was this evening described as ‘calm but tense’.

Major Tim Smith, the British military spokesman in Basra said: “Thankfully none of the soldiers is in a life-threatening condition. I want to commend their restraint under enormous pressure in dealing with the situation with the minimum of force. There is no evidence whatsoever to link this incident with any other, or with political events elsewhere. We are treating it only as a public order matter.”

Major Smith said such incidents were “extremely rare” in Basra. — Internet

578 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 March—As of Monday, 22 March, 578 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq a year ago, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 390 died as a result of hostile action and 188 died of non-hostile causes, the department said.

The 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, 440 US soldiers have died — 275 as a result of hostile action and 165 of non-hostile causes, according to the military. Since the start of military operations, 2,910 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. Non-hostile injured numbered 433. The latest deaths reported by the military:

— Marine Cpl David M. Vicente, 25, Methuen, Mass., died Friday due to enemy action near Hit, Iraq; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twenty Palms, Calif. Internet

A British soldier is covered by flames from a fuel bomb thrown during a violent protest in Basra. Iraq, on 22 March. Two explosions in the southern Iraqi city of Basra wounded 14 British soldiers on Monday, in an attack that followed the demonstration by Iraq youths, the British military said. — Reuters

Spain’s withdrawal from Iraq all but inevitable

MADRID, 23 March — Spain’s withdrawal from Iraq is all but inevitable, Prime Minister-elect Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said in an interview on Sunday, one day after Spanish protesters sent him a stark message to bring troops home.

Zapatero, whose Socialists ousted the centre-right government in a shock election victory a week ago, has vowed to stand by his pre-election pledge to withdraw 1,100 troops from Iraq, unless the United Nations takes control by mid-year. His election came three days after the March 11 suspected al-Qaeda-linked bombings, which revived anti-war sentiment. “A lot would have to change (in Iraq). The return of Spanish troops is a decision that will be difficult to avoid,” Zapatero told El Pais newspaper.

Zapatero said he believed the US could take charge of Iraq by the June 30 deadline for a planned US handover of sovereignty to Iraq.

Two Finnish businessmen shot and killed in Iraq

HELSEINIIK, 23 March — Two Finnish businessmen were shot and killed in Baghdad early Monday, a government spokesman said. They are the first Finns to die in Iraq since the US-led invasion a year ago.

The men, part of a Finnish technological delegation visiting the Iraqi capital, were shot outside the Ministry of Electricity, said Markus Lyra from the Finnish Foreign Ministry.

“The men were on their way to the Ministry of Electricity to make business contacts as part of a larger group,” Lyra said. He did not identify the victims.

The ministry had no information about who shot them, Lyra said.

The delegation, which arrived over the weekend to renew preswar contacts in Iraq, likely will cut short its visit and return to Finland, Lyra said. Neutral Finland, which opposed the invasion of Iraq, has no troops in the country.

Last week, Wartuala, a leading manufacturer of ship turbines and heavy engines, said it had signed a deal to supply the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity with two power stations, a contract worth $450 million US.

Wartuala officials on Monday said the two killed men were not their employees.

Ex-adviser says Bush ignored terror threats

NEW YORK, 23 March — A former White House anti-terrorism adviser has accused US President George W. Bush of ignoring terror threats before the September 11 attacks and of making America less safe.

Richard Clarke, Bush’s top official on counter-terrorism who headed a cyber-security board, told CBS’ ‘60 Minutes’ in an interview to be aired on Sunday he thought Bush had “done a terrible job on the war against terrorism”.

“Tfind it outrageous that the President is running for re-election on the grounds that he’s done such great things about terrorism. He ignored it. He ignored terrorism for months, when maybe we could have done something to stop 9/11,” Clarke told CBS.

Clarke, who was an adviser to four presidents, says in a book to be published next week that the Bush Administration should have taken out al-Qaeda and its training camps in Afghanistan long before the September 11 attacks, for which the militant network was blamed.

“I think the way he has responded to al-Qaeda, both before 9/11 by doing nothing, and by what he’s done after 9/11, has made us less safe,” Clarke told CBS.

Clarke asserts in his book, Against All Enemies, that Bush ignored ominous intelligence “chatter” in 2001 about possible terror attacks, but Bush’s National Security Counsel, Stephen Hadley, said Bush did hear those warnings and was impatient for intelligence chiefs to develop a new strategy to eliminate al-Qaeda.

“The chatter was of an attack, a potential al-Qaeda attack overseas. But interestingly enough, the President got concerned about whether there was the possibility of an attack on the homeland.” Hadley told CBS.

He said: “the President put us on battle stations. He asked the intelligence community: Look hard. See if we’re missing something about a threat to the homeland.”

— MNA/Reuters
British minister voices concern over Parliament security

London, 23 March—A senior British Cabinet minister on Sunday voiced concern over the British Parliament, urging an investigation into how anti-war demonstrators breached security.HM Opposition leader Big Ben during protests on Saturday.

“It is a huge embarrassment to the House authorities and the policing arrangements,” Peter Hain, leader of the House of Commons, said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation.

“Twenty or 30 years ago an audacious protest like that by Greenpeace would have been seen for exactly that. But what if these had been suicide bombers,” Hain said.

Two Greenpeace protestors on Saturday morning scaled Big Ben, the famous landmark near the British Houses of Parliament, unfurling a banner saying “Time for Truth” on the first anniversary of the Iraq war.

Hain said he had been very concerned about security in the Commons, and had held a detailed planning meeting to review security measures to protect the House only last week.

A US soldier killed in Iraq blast

Baghdad, 23 March—A US soldier and an Iraqi interpreter were killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad overnight, and nine soldiers were wounded in attacks in the Iraqi capital, the military said yesterday.

“A Task Force 1st Armoured Division Soldier and an Iraqi interpreter were killed and three other soldiers were wounded during an IED (improvised explosive device) attack March 21,” a statement said.

“The incident is under investigation.”

Added to an official Pentagon tally, the latest death raises to 281 the number of US soldiers killed in action since US President George W Bush declared major hostilities in Iraq over on May 1.

Two more soldiers were lightly wounded in attacks from a rocket-propelled grenade, small arms fire and homemade bomb. While sweeping for insurgents and weapons in Baghdad, the army said, adding that they had returned to duty.

An Iraqi judge was killed when his car blew up over the weekend in the city of Hilla, 100 kilometres (miles) south of Baghdad, a spokesperson from the regional Babylon court said yesterday.

“On Saturday at 6.30 pm (1530 GMT) the judge, Abdul Amir al-Rubaiie was killed when his car blew up after he started the ignition,” said the spokesperson, Khaled al-Feyhain.

Philippines, Russia to co-host transport safety meeting

Manila, 23 March—The Philippines and Russia will co-host in Manila at the end of this month a regional meeting focusing on transport security in relation to counter-terrorism.

The 2nd Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crime would be held on March 31. Russian Foreign Undersecretary for Policy Sonia Catsumbera-Bryby said, without releasing more details, about the event.

“Transport safety is a major concern for the Philippines. We have to ensure that our transport systems are safe from terrorist attacks.” Brady said.

In December 2000, a start of the Light Rail Transit in Manila was bombed, along with four other sites, which left 20 people killed and scores wounded.

In March and April 2003, the Davao International Airport and the Davao Seaport were both bombed, causing dozens of casualties.

A 2000 bombing attack was later traced to the Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah, a terror group allied with the al-Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden, while the latter were blamed on local rebels.

Abu Sayyaf, another terror group linked with al-Qaeda, has also claimed responsibility for the explosion that half-sunk the SuperFerry 14 on Manila Bay last month, killing at least 100 people.

Russia, meanwhile, saw attacks on its rail system perpetrated by the Chechen secessionist rebels, with a commuter train in Stavropol near Chechnya bombed for the second time in December 2003, killing at least 36 people and wounding more than 100 others. And several bombing attacks mounted in the troubled region’s capital Grozny as well as in the Russian capital Moscow.

The safety meeting was fixed at the 9th Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum in Brune in July 2002 to provide a venue for the interaction and networking among law enforcement officials as well as tackling the practical concerns of counter-terrorism.

The inaugural meeting, co-chaired by Malaysia and the United States, was held in Karambunia, Sabah, Malaysia on March 21-22, 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

Ethiopia, South Africa to further enhance cooperation

Addis Ababa, 23 March—Ethiopia and South Africa have reiterated their commitment to enhancing cooperation between their countries in various fields, the Ethiopian News Agency reported Sunday.

A joint communique, issued here on Saturday at 6:30 pm (1530 GMT) by the Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Seyoum Mesfin on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The two foreign ministers underlined the mutual benefit that both countries could draw benefits from the deepening of their bilateral ties.

The two ministers signed a general co-operation agreement in the fields of trade, investment, agriculture, education and capacity building. During a four-day visit to Ethiopia, Zuma had held discussions with Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sogyam Mesfin on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Thousands of anti-war protesters march through the streets of Vancouver, British Columbia on 20 March. Anti-war protests are taking place in many cities around the world on the anniversary of US-led war in Iraq.—INTERNET

UAE, Iranian firms jointly win $66.7m contract

Abu Dhabi, 23 March—The joint alliance of Abu Dhabi-based Gulf Co. (GPC) and Iran’s Petrochemical Industries Design and Engineering Co. (PedeC) has won a 66.7-million US-dollar contract from the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), reported the newspaper Gulf News on Sunday.

The contract involves engineering, procurement, fabrication, testing, pre-commissioning, transportation to offshore, installation, hook-up and commissioning of the Kharg Island Gas Gathering and NGL Recovery Project in Iran, the report said.

The project includes new gas compression platform (4-BCP) with a bridge link to the existing oil production platform in the Bahregansar offshore production complex, located 113 kilometres northwest of Kharg Island, and a new Aboozar AB gas compression platform (AB-BCP) with a bridge link to the existing Aboozar AB oil production platform, 75 kilometres west of Kharg Island. — MNA/Xinhua

Syria says sanctions would hurt US interests

Damascus, 23 March—Syrian Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam said on Sunday the United States would only be hurting US interests if it went ahead with planned sanctions against Damascus.

Legislation signed by US President George W Bush in December authorizing sanctions against Syria “has no impact on Syria whatsoever”, Khaddam told reporters in Damascus.

“No one can punish Syria. There is no country that can punish another.” This country (the United States) “can take measures but these have to be in line with the US law and the US interests,” he said. — MNA/Reuters
Baghdad cemetery finds no peace in postwar Iraq

Baghdad, 23 March — Anti-American guerillas killed a US soldier and an Iraqi interpreter with a roadside bomb as they were carrying out a patrol west of Baghdad, the US military said on Monday.

The incident took place on Saturday evening as a group of soldiers were moving through the volatile district of Abu Ghraib on the western outskirts of the capital.

"A Task Force 1st Armoured Division soldier and an Iraqi interpreter were killed and three other soldiers were wounded during an (improvised explosive device) attack on March 21," a statement from the US military said.

The deaths raise to 396 the number of US soldiers and Marines killed in action since American forces invaded Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein a year ago.

 improvised explosive devices, in which explosive charges are hidden in soft drink cans, animal carcasses or other disguises and wired to a simple detonator, have become the most common and deadly technique used by guerillas to attack US forces. — MNA/Reuters

Iraqi children with heart problems treated in southern India

Chennai, 23 March — Twenty Iraqi children, operated upon for complex congenital heart problems free of cost at a private hospital in this southern Indian city during the past few days, are ready to leave for their homes on Sunday, having recovered fully.

Tamil film actor Kamal Hassan and actress Lakshmi separately visited the International Institute of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Medicine and distributed medicines and gifts to the children and their parents.

"It is a proud moment for India. All the Iraqi children were successfully operated on and have returned to normalcy," well-known cardiac surgeon and chief of the hospital, Dr K M Cherian, who had performed over 27,000 open-heart surgeries in the past 30 years, said.

Film actor Kamal echoed Cherian’s view, saying the surgeons had brought fame and pride to the country by undertaking the complex surgeries free of cost.

These children, all blue babies, had undergone surgery at the rate of two per day from March 1. They have been convalescing in the hospital for the past 10 days. — MNA/PTI

Chinese Vice-Premier vows to boost sustainable development

Beijing, 23 March — China would make efforts to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development based on a scientific concept of development, Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyuan vowed here Sunday.

Zeng made the remark when addressing the opening ceremony for the 2004 China Development Forum.

He said China would actively establish a new concept for sustainable development and continue improving the economic structure for the socialist market-oriented economy.

China would take effective and decisive actions to boost rural development and increase farmers’ income, stressed Zeng, adding that promoting the economic and social development in China’s vast west region as well as the northeast area is also among the top agenda of the Chinese Government.

China would be firm on the path to the new industrialization and promote economic and social development, Zeng noted.

Zeng said learning the lessons and experience of other countries on national development was of special importance for China to follow the development path with Chinese characteristics toward future prosperity.

He expressed the hope that the Chinese and foreign experts who attended the forum could make valuable contributions to China’s social and economic development. — MNA/Xinhua

ECOWAS sets up Elders’ Committee on peace

Accra, 23 March — The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has established an “Elders’ Committee” in a bid to stem conflicts in the region.

Nigerian President’s special adviser Ralph Usunche said at the weekend.

Usunche said the 16-member committee inaugurated on Friday comprised “former heads of government, top judicial officials and respected technocrats” of member countries.

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China values military ties with neighbouring countries

Beijing, 23 March — The Chinese Army is committed to consolidating military exchanges and cooperation with neighbouring countries and these kinds of relations maintain good momentum, said Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan here Sunday.

Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and a state councillor, made the remarks in an interview with Xinhua before starting his official goodwill visit to Pakistan, India and Thailand this month at the invitation of the three countries’ defence ministers.

He said the visit is in line with China’s diplomatic efforts to build a good neighbourly relationship and partnership with neighbouring countries, and aims to consolidate and develop mutual understanding and trust, as well as deepen friendship and cooperation between China and the three countries.

“China is willing to actively create a harmonious, stable and peaceful regional political and security environment with all Asian countries, including Pakistan, India and Thailand,” Cao said.

He said he will meet with government and military leaders of the three countries and exchange views with them on issues of common concern.

China and Pakistan signed a joint declaration on bilateral cooperation last November, and when asked to comment on the relations between China and Pakistan and their Armed Forces, Cao said the Sino-Pakistani friendship has maintained continuous growth since the establishment of diplomatic relations despite the fast-changing international situation.

The Chinese Government appreciates Pakistan’s unsparing support in international affairs, he said, adding that China is ready to further deepen the bilateral cooperative relationship with Pakistan in various fields, so as to inject new vitality into bilateral friendly relations. — MNA/Xinhua
US and allies invaded Iraq starting from 20 March 2003. The Iraqi guerrillas have resisted the intruders and as a result the Americans have suffered a heavy toll of casualty in Iraq.

Military Fatalities: By Month:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-2003</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-2003</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-2003</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-2003</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-2004</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>680</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

US soldiers stand next to the remains of a car destroyed in a bomb blast in the suburbs of Iraqi capital Baghdad, on 16 February, 2004.
Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Nation-building undertakings jointly carried out by the Tatmadaw and the people

The government is placing great emphasis on tasks for eradication of narcotic drugs which pose danger to the entire mankind. The Tatmadaw has played a key role in the process. Local people and members of Myanmar Police Force are jointly launching operations for elimination of narcotic drugs in the nation.

Drugs eradication tasks jointly carried out by the people and the Tatmadaw

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drugs eradication tasks</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destroyed poppy plantation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>over 150000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroyed opium refinery</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incineration of seized drugs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3 times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deterred poppy sown acre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>72700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Narcotic drugs prevention and control tasks are being carried out as one of the national tasks. The people and Tatmadaw members destroying poppy plantations in Pinlaung Township, Shan State.

Combined teams comprising Tatmadawmen of local regiments and units and members of Myanmar Police Force found out and destroyed poppy plantations in 2002-2003 poppy cultivation season. A combined team seen destroying poppy plantations in Kyaukme Township, Shan State (North), in February 2003.

Poppy-substitute measures taken by the people and the Tatmadaw

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poppy-substitute crop acre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>over 24000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrusted poppy seed</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>62047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>small baskets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppy-substitute perennial crop</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppy-substitute seasonal crop</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>64108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppy-substitute perennial crop</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1726468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>saplings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) in perpetual service of the people

Previously governments had made endeavours to build up national re-consolidation, but they could not achieve success as much as the present government has done. In 1989, the government launched the Border Areas and National Races Development Project, which has never been laid down in other nations up to now. The government could win greater trust of national races through implementation of the project, which indicated the government’s loving-kindness, compassion and goodwill.

Passing through decades

When I grew up, I sympathized with his feelings. Just like the expression, “Or those to exist in secrecy. Those persons. During the 40-year period, many villages in the region became deserted ones or those to exist in secrecy. There were no health care services for the people. It took the villagers a long time to reach the hospital because of poor transport. Local people did not enjoy any fruitful results in 40 years. A thorough study of all the armed conflicts occurred throughout the history of the Union of Myanmar will show the instigators. At last, they had to grant Myanmar’s independence, but they had plotted schemes for more than 100 years in advance to cause disintegration of national solidarity. As a result, Myanmar has suffered evil consequences of disintegration of national solidarity for over 40 years. They drove a wedge, created instigations and sowed discord and hatred among the national races.

Who has removed those walls of suspicion and rebuilt national solidarity in Myanmar?

(See page 9)
Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

It is the Tatmadaw. After its assumption of the State’s responsibilities, the Tatmadaw Government gave the top priority to national re-consolidation. It is sure that normal trust could not persuade the armed groups to give up their armed opposition that they had stuck to for about 40 years. They trusted in the national policies without exception being practised by the government upholding “Our Three Main National Causes”. Therefore, so far altogether 17 armed groups have returned to the legal fold so as to carry out tasks hand in hand with the government for national and regional development.

Previous governments had made endeavours to build up national re-consolidation, but they could not achieve success as much as the present government has done. In 1989, the government launched the Border Areas and National Races Development Project, which has never been laid down in other nations up to now. The government could win greater trust of national races through implementation of the project, which indicated the government’s loving-kindness, compassion and goodwill.

The Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races chaired by Head of State Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races chaired by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, region-wise work committees and subcommittees have been formed in order to accomplish this. The government is growing year by year. In the entire nation, self-reliant roads, schools, clinics and hydropower plants have emerged one after another. The national groups gave up armed insurgency and have been making efforts with might and main for regional development. They have also given up production and trafficking of narcotic drugs. In the past, this industry was the source of income of some armed groups. But, now the government is providing tremendous assistance for accomplishment of poppy-substitute agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. Simultaneously, it is also placing great emphasis on running poppy-substitute businesses. Consequently, Myanmar could announce some of the regions as opium free zones to the world.

We have passed through the decades of bitter experiences on record for each time through one decade after another. We put our experiences on record for each decade. It is incumbent upon all of us to perform good deeds throughout our lives. We have passed through the decades of bitter experiences. Whenever the country suffered bitter experience, the Tatmadaw always stood by the nation and the people. Thanks to the noble traditions and genuine goodwill of the Tatmadaw, the nation has enjoyed unprecedented fruitful results of peace and stability. Therefore, let us the Tatmadaw and the people go on joining hands in marching forward in order to shape the brighter future of the nation.

(Translation: MS)

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 7 March, 2004 9

Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Poem

Heroic Son

* For the nation... Sacrifice life
For defence... Make a vow
Like repeating Gospel... the duties
Must dutifully discharge... with this aim
We enlisted... We soldiers.

* Cold, hot or moist... natural danger
Must go confront... Must compete
The hard... journey’s way
Cross unhesitating... Not afraid of death
Do good to nation... We soldiers.

* For Independence... With a belief
It has emerged... The Tatmadaw
Twelve Traditions... Held steadfastly
Morale, discipline... Correct faith
Three capabilities... Be harmonized
Five Qualities... Must be possessed
Will keep us shining... We Soldiers.

* Nation and race... For their interests
To flourish... With added strength
Must try hard... And work together
In a way... May look forward
To modernization... And progress
We soldiers.

Saw Aung (Tikyit) (Trs)

We all are passing time through one decade after another. We put our experiences on record for each decade. It is incumbent upon all of us to perform good deeds throughout our lives. We have passed through the decades of bitter experiences. Whenever the country suffered bitter experience, the Tatmadaw always stood by the nation and the people.
Vice-Senior General …

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected full dress rehearsal of Tatmadawmen from Anawratha column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyaukthit column led by Column Commander Col Thein Tan, Bayintnaung Column led by Column Commander Col Than Win, Nawadya Column led by Column Commander Capt Aung Thaw, Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander Col Tin Way, Sixbyusin Column led by Column Commander Col Oo Kyaw, Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Col Myint Ko Ko, Myawady Column led by Column Commander Col Kan Nyunt and Aung San Column led by Column Commander Col Maung Maung Than under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein, who arrived from Myoma Grounds to Resistance Park.

After giving necessary instructions to officials, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye left Resistance Park at 8 am.

After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, where they were welcomed by members of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition Committee and officials.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the booths on the 12 objectives of the State to be displayed in commemoration of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed round the booths of the ministries, booths of the Ministry of Defence, booths of the military commands, Tatmadaw (Navy) and Tatmadaw (Air) and gave necessary instructions. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road where they were welcomed by members of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary and Arts Exhibition Organizing Committee and the work committee members.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary and Arts Exhibition booths to be displayed in commemoration of 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. After giving necessary instructions, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party left there in the morning.

Mongseik-Kaunghsai and…

It also means translation of the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe into reality — narrowing the development gap between rural and urban areas, and upgrading the transport sector of the regions which lagged behind in development.

In its attempt to build up a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the government has been striving for all-round development of every part of the country by implementing the 24 development regions in States and Divisions.

It has constructed Panglong University, Government Technological College, Government Comptroller College and a 500-line auto exchange in Panglong region, a 200-bed hospital in Loilem, an airport in Namhsan Township and hydropower plants in Kongtawng Township.

On completion, Daseik Water Pumping Station in Langhkio Township will irrigate some 3,000 acres. So, good education, health and economic foundations have been laid in Shan State.

Combined efforts of the Ministry of Rail Transportation, local people and Tatmadaw members have resulted in emergence of Shwenyaung-Taunggyi-Phamon-Banyin-Hsaik-kaung-Pyinthaya railroads in Shan State (South).

Furthermore, the 19.19-mile Namhsan-Mongsek Mongseik Railroad was opened on 21-7-2002, and 31-mile Namhsan-Mongnai Railroad on 1-5-1995. Continued efforts are being made for earlier completion of 52.48-mile Hthi-Kaunghsai railroad through Pont Creek crossing bridge for direct link of Shwenyaung-Taunggyi and Namhsan by train.

With the emergence of new railroads, local people have enjoyed fruitful results of smooth transport and fast commodity flow in a short time with less expenses. Realizing the goodwill of the Head of State in facilitating more and more schools, universities, degree colleges, hospitals and clinics for raising the living standard, local people are to collectively maintain the facility for its durability.

Namhsan-Mongseik railroad will be upgraded into a tarred one soon.

Next, the minister said that in 1988, the total length of railroads was 1976.35 miles and it has increased to 3,011.98 miles. The 52.48-mile Hthi-Kaunghsai section of Shwenyaung-Namhsan Railroad, 26-mile Yaymyet-U-Pakokkku-Gangaw-Kale Road, 3.33-mile Okpou-Thanlyin University railroad and 3.3-mile Kyayuni-Chauk railway are being built.

The commander and the minister formally opened Mongseik-Kaunghsai section and posed for a documentary photo together with local people. The commander, the minister and the deputy minister together with local people took the first trip of the train along the section.

The opening of Pyithaya-Htiri section was held yesterday morning in front of Pyintha Station. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min formally delivered a speeches on the occasion and cut the ribbon to open the section. They posed for a documentary photo together with local people.

The commander, the minister, the deputy minister, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people took the first trip along the section. A total of ten small and large bridges had to be constructed to complete the 4.30-mile Pyintha-Htiri section.
Plan coordinated to run private industries with advanced machinery

YANGON, 23 March — Chairman of Industrial Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, the Mandalay Mayor, deputy commander of Central Command and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Secretary-1 viewed production of auto parts at a factory of Asia-Myanmar Group at the zone.

Officials of the company reported to the Secretary-1 and party on the installation and use of a 250-ton machine and other equipment for manufacturing of auto parts. At Golden Triangle Industries, the Secretary-1 and party inspected good dryers, turbines and parts and other machines. The Secretary-1 inspected the chosen sites to build a foundry plant and a machine plant and gave instructions to officials concerned.

In Mandalay Industrial Zone 1, he inspected assembling of 10-ton trucks and designs of passengers buses at MTO Automobile Producers; 42-seater buses assembled by Mandalay Industrial Zone 1 Auto Production Committee, and pumps and compressors manufactured by Nyan Yin and Brothers Industries.

At Kanaung Hall, the Secretary-1 met with heads of the industrial zones in Mandalay and industrialists. A local authority reported to the Secretary-1 on the accomplishments in trying to realize the guidance and instructions given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and State level officials during their tours of the zones, the use of automation and computerized machines to further improve the quality of goods and the extension of import substitute goods. The commander explained plans to raise power supply to the zones and setting up of industries run through CMP system.

The Secretary-1 said that the Government has already built infrastructures in various sectors for all-round development of the nation. It has also set up industrial zones, and rendered assistance to the private sector phase by phase for its only if there is development in the agricultural sector and industrial sector.

The ratio of the industrial sector’s contribution to the gross domestic production is increasing in accord with the target of the annual plans. But efforts are still needed to extend the industrial sector’s participation in the GDP in accord with the aim of the 30-year long-term plan. In this regard, the Government has been giving extra impetus to the progress of the industrial sector since the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Coordination has been made with entrepreneurs in regard, the Government has been giving extra impetus to the progress of the industrial sector since the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Coordination has been made with entrepreneurs.

The Secretary-1 said that the Government has already built infrastructures in various sectors for all-round development of the nation. It has also set up industrial zones, and rendered assistance to the private sector phase by phase for its development of the nation’s industrial sector. Words alone will not develop the sector.

In addition to the advanced machinery, the State is also providing assistance to produce skilled workers and supply raw materials. Projects are being implemented to supply enough power as electricity is an essential requirement for industries and to raise the living standards. There will be rise in power generation as the Paunglaung Hydro Power Project, Mone Creek Hydro Power Project, and Tikyit Coal-Burn Power Project will be completed soon. Industrialists will have to develop their industries with skill, efforts, innovation, sincerity and strictness. If one gives too much priority to self-interest, they will not achieve long-term development. They will have to work with goodwill and efficiency for development of Mandalay Industrial Zone.

The Government will eagerly provide all necessary assistance. Officials and industrialists presented requirements for development of the zone. The Secretary-1 looked into the requirements.

Later, he inspected powered trailers, fire engines, furniture, finished wood products, parquets and manufacturing machines.

Information Minister tours Sagaing and Magway Divisions

YANGON, 23 March — Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan went to the towns and villages of Sagaing and Magway Divisions and met with USDAs members from 19 to 22 March.

On 19 March morning, the minister met officials of USDAs from Sagaing, Myinmu and Myaung townships at the office of Sagaing Division USDA and gave instructions on opening of summer courses for youths. He next donated K 50,000 each for the three townships.

Next, the minister paid homage to Monywa Hsamunygi Pagoda and donated K 20,000 to the funds of the pagoda. Shopkeepers of Myathula Market also donated K 250,000 for the pagoda. At 1.30 pm, the minister met officials of USDAs from Monywa District, Monywa township and Salin townships at the office of Monywa Division USDA and presented officials with K 450,000 for opening of summer courses. The minister then gave instructions on opening of courses such as culture and moral lesson course, music course, painting course and computer application course.

The minister went to Kyakzhimw village in Yinnabin township where he paid homage to Aung Bawdi Monastery Sayadaw U Panna Jota, supplicated on religious affairs and presented offerriages. At the Dhammayon of the monastery, the minister met with 700 people of eight villages, and said with the concerted efforts of the State, there have been fruitful results in education, health, transport and communications and agriculture in Sagaing Division and Monywa District. He added that in a bid to implement the seven-point policy programme of the State, all the people are urged to actively cooperate in the drive.

Next, the minister presented K 500,000 for Kyakzhimw village library, exercise books, school text books and journals and magazines to the chairman of Village Peace and Development Council and officials. Then for the library, Sagaing Division USDA Secretary U Htay Aung donated K 10,000, Monywa Division PDC Secretary Major Ye Tun donated worth K 15,000, and Monywa District IPRD Staff Officer U Tin Thaw and Monywa Division USDA Secretary U Tin Win Myint donated K 5,000.

Next, he next presented officials with K 1 million for the implementation of the self-reliant hydel power project in Hunbingon village in Bilin township in Gangaw District. The project will generate 15 kilo watts of electricity.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, on 20 March morning attended the meeting of local people held at Lattaunggyi Village BEHS (Branch) in Pale Township and made a speech. He next presented officials with K 1 million for construction of a new building of Pale BEHS, K 1 million for construction of a new building of Lattaunggyi Village BEHS (Branch), K 200,000 for renovation of Pale Township USDA office, K 50,000 for opening of USDA’s courses, text books and exercise books for schools in Pale township and journals and magazines for village libraries. Monywa Division IPRD and USDA also donated books on various subjects for the libraries.

The minister then inspected Pyinnya Alin Library of Pale Township IPRD and construction of a two-storey building of Pale BEHS. The minister next headed for the project site of Monykaung village self-reliant hydro-electric power station and attended to the needs.

In meeting the rural people, the minister said owing to efforts of the State for the development of the country and the people, major construction tasks have been carried out. And the people are now enjoying the fruitful results. Based on these already-achieved results, the State is striving for the emergence of a peaceful and developed democratic nation in conformity with the seven-point policy programme of the State. Therefore, all the national people are to actively participate in the task.
China to launch lunar probe satellite on “Long March III”

Beijing, 23 March — China has decided to use a Long March III A carrier rocket to launch the satellite in its lunar probe project, said sources with the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT).

The Long March III A was chosen for this mission because it enjoys the highest success rate among the Long March series of launch vehicles, according to the CALT.

Cen Zheng, chief Commander of Long March III A, said that some technological improvements need to be made to this type of carrier rocket so as to meet the demands of the lunar probe satellite for a successful launch.

The rocket, improvements of which expected to be completed in two years, is now being further developed and some modules and its main body have been put into production.

China’s lunar probe project, also known as the Chang’e Programme, referring to a goddess who reached the moon in an ancient Chinese fairy tale, will be divided into three phases.

The first phase of the programme, with funding of 1.4 billion yuan (about 170 million US dollars), has got underway for sending a satellite to orbit the moon by 2007.

It would be followed by the landing of an unmanned vehicle on the moon in the second stage by 2010 and collecting samples of lunar soil with an unmanned vehicle by 2020 in the third phase.

The satellite would obtain three-dimensional images of the lunar surface, analyze the content of useful elements and materials, and probe the depth of the lunar soil and the space environment between the Earth and the moon.

MNA/Xinhua

Official says China should boost development of service sector

Beijing, 23 March — China should focus on the development of the service sector in its effort to shift from extensive to intensive growth, said a senior Chinese official Sunday at a forum.

Ma Kai, Minister-in-charge of the National Development and Reform Commission, said that China’s economy grows still in an extensive way, featuring high investment, high-energy consumption and low efficiency.

Energy shortage and employment pressure are both problems hindering China’s current development.

China has determined to increase its economic growth in an intensive way. Large capital-intensive companies tend to save energy and natural resources while labour-intensive small and medium-sized enterprises could provide more jobs.

At present it is still necessary for China to develop labour-intensive businesses, Ma said.

Ma said the problems could be addressed simultaneously only by boosting the development of the service sector, which is generally labour-intensive and consumes less energy and natural resources than other industries.

MNA/Xinhua

India’s exports to ASEAN could reach $30b

India’s exports to ASEAN can reach the desired level of 30 billion US dollars by 2007, according to the Paper on Enhancing India-ASEAN Trade issued by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Monday.

The paper says that the potential sectors for investment and trade in India are drugs and pharmaceuticals, healthcare, engineering goods, auto components, leather, gems and jewellery, processed food items, textiles and apparel and plastics.

The paper also states that the services sector has also great significance.

ASEAN-India trade in the 2002-03 fiscal was about 9.78 billion dollars, with ASEAN accounting for 8.5 per cent of India’s global trade.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (607)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT Voy No (607) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-3-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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 11.20 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

India’s exports to ASEAN

India’s exports to ASEAN include oil meals, gems and jewellery, meat and meat preparations, cotton yam, fabrics, makeup, engineering goods, transport equipment, machinery and instruments, electronic goods, marine products, fruits and vegetables, rice, drugs and pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

India’s imports mainly consist of artificial resins, plastic material, natural rubber, wood and wood products, electronic goods, non-ferrous metals, metal-liferous ores and metal scrap, organic chemicals, edible oils, coal and fertilizers. The paper observes that India’s trade with the world in 2003 stood at $114.15 billion dollars, with ASEAN accounting for 8.5 per cent of India’s global trade.

MNA/Xinhua
Rise in “superbug” infections in British children

London, 23 March—Infections caused by a drug-resistant “superbug” have risen steadily over the past decade in British children and steps must be taken to curtail it, researchers said on Monday.

They called for better controls in hospital paediatric wards because cases of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), an antibiotic-resistant strain of bacteria, climbed from 1 per cent in 1990 to 13 per cent in 2000 in younger infants under 15 years old. Although MRSA amongst adults has been increasing steadily since the early 1990s, we are now seeing for the first time evidence of an emerging problem in children,” said Dr. Georgius Duckworth, St. George’s Hospital in London.

Patients in hospitals are especially vulnerable to the infection, although children are usually already sick when they are infected with MRSA and it is difficult to track the route of infection. Duckworth and her colleagues said better controls in hospital could limit its spread.

“The levels of MRSA infection in children are still very low relative to older age groups, but we must take steps to ensure that MRSA infection in children does not increase to the same levels as adults,” Duckworth said in a statement.

Deaths involving the “superbug” in adults increased 15-fold between 1993 and 2002.

Duckworth, who reported the findings in the journal Archives of Disease in Childhood, said 53 per cent of the 376 cases reviewed in the study were in babies less than a year old. “We recommend an urgent national review investigating the risk factors for MRSA acquisition in neonatal and paediatric units, and the infection control measures in place,” she added.

MNA/Reuters

Japan’s bullet trains halted by security scare

Tokyo, 23 March—Several Japanese bullet trains were halted on Monday after a suspicious object was found on one of them amid heightened security in the nation’s sprawling railway network.

Police and railway officials said bullet trains bound for Hiroshima from Tokyo were stopped for several minutes after the object was found on a train in the city of Atami.

Several police officers rushed to the scene for further checks, with the anti-theft alarm raised going off in a trash can, they said.

The false alarm comes at a time Japan has tightened security around railways and subways nationwide after a letter purportedly from al-Qaeda mentioned Japan as a possible target last week.

Japan, a key US ally in Asia, has been on full alert since late last year after deciding to send troops to rebuild Iraq, but bomb attacks on trains in Madrid earlier this month and reports of new al-Qaeda threats have raised tensions.

Japan has sent hundreds of troops to Samawa in southern Iraq for a humanitarian mission that could eventually involve up to 1,000 military personnel in Iraq and the nearby region.—MNA/Reuters

Egypt wants treasure from British Museum

London (Egypt), 23 March—First it was the Greeks wanting their Elgin Marbles back. Now Egypt wants the British Museum to return one of its ancient treasures too.

Egypt’s antiquities chief said on Sunday he wanted the British Museum to return the carved face of pharaoh Ramses VI, now housed in the British Museum in London.

The face of Ramses VI, who ruled around 1156 to 1151 BC, was robbed from the Valley of the Kings and his sarcophagus was broken into hundreds of pieces.

A project funded by the US Agency for International Development gathered about 250 pieces to reassemble much of the sarcophagus. But the team had to use a cast of the face because the original has been in the British Museum since 1823.

“We were able to bring a cast from the original face that was put here but I hope that the British Museum, one day, will be able to return us the original,” said Zahi Hawass, chief of Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities. He was speaking at the unveiling of the stone coffin rebuilt by the American Research Centre in Egypt. The cast of the face is displayed in Ramses VI’s tomb which lies at the end of an ornate 330-foot shaft dug into the hillside.

“I really believe that it is good for both countries to return the item to Egypt,” Hawass said. No formal request has been made yet, he added.

MNA/Reuters

Police launch campaign to prevent London attack

London, 23 March—British police on Monday urged citizens to report individuals they suspected of being terrorists to help prevent an attack on London.

As Britain’s top policeman, Sir John Stevens, called for a more coordinated European security effort in the wake of the Madrid train bombings, the public was asked to register any suspicious activity by calling a hotline.

Stevens has already said an attack on London was “inevitable”, urging people to report unattended bags on trains, in pubs and other public places.

But the “Life Savers” campaign goes further by asking people to consider whether the behaviour of those they encounter, through work or socially, gives them reason to suspect they might be involved in planning terror attacks.

“We want to make London one of the most hostile environments for anyone committed to providing financial or logistical support to terrorists, or carrying out terrorist attacks themselves,” Assistant Commissioner David Veness said.

The death of the terrorist branch, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke, urged landlords, hotels and motor traders to report suspicions about customers who might seek short-term accommodation or pay lots of money for vehicles.

He also said people should watch out for individuals being unusually preoccupied with their identity or anyone paying an unusual amount of attention to security measures at public buildings, shopping centres or train stations.

Banks should be on alert for people trying to set up a bogus bank account or using cloned credit cards, Clarke said.

Stevens said last week British police were investigating a “definitive link” between the bombers that killed 202 people in the attacks on Madrid this month and al-Qaeda supporters based in Britain.

Anti-terrorist detectives and MI5 intelligence officers are trying to establish whether Islamic militants in Britain gave money and logistical support to the Madrid bombers.—MNA/Reuters

Russia seizes China-bound truck with 800 bear paws

Russian Customs seized a truck heading for China after agents uncovered a load of nearly 800 bear paws, prized for exotic dishes.

Russian media reported on Saturday that the illicit cargo, concealed beneath piles of used car batteries and boxes of food, also included assorted antlers, pelts of fur-bearing animals and dried sea cucumbers.

Poaching is rampant in many parts of Russia, particularly in poorer Siberian and far eastern regions.

Twelve years after the collapse of Soviet rule, widespread poverty often overshadows ecological and environmental concerns, a low priority in public opinion and in government policy.

NTV said the Chinese driver of the truck had been detained pending further investigation.—MNA/Reuters
Portsmouth gain vital win in south-coast derby

London, 23 March — Portsmouth gave their Premier League survival hopes a huge boost on Sunday with a 1-0 victory over bitter rivals Southampton at Fratton Park.

Nigeria's Ayegbeni Yakubu was the match-winner, pouncing in the 68th minute to steer home a pinpoint low cross from former England international Steve Stone.

The goal was enough to clinch the first south-coast derby at Fratton Park since 1987 and hand the south coast team their first home win over Southampton since 1963.

Portsmouth now have 27 points, the same as fourth-from-bottom Leicester City, although they stay in the relegation zone on goal difference.

Leeds United, who play Manchester City on Monday, are at bottom with 22 points, with West Ham United on 20.

Portsmouth displayed more urgency throughout a scrappy game but looked as though they would rue first-half misses by striker Yakubu and veteran Teddy Sheringham.

Southampton offered precious little in attack but seemed set for a draw until midfielder Stephen Bywater was sent off.

Arsenal's Thierry Henry (L) vies for the ball with an unidentified Bolton player during their FA Premier League football match at Highbury in London on 20 March, 2004.—Reuters

Celta remain in trouble after action-packed 4-4 draw

Madrid, 23 March — Relegation-threatened Celta Vigo remain in deep trouble after they were held to a 4-4 draw at Racing Santander on Sunday in an action-packed Primera Liga match that saw two sendings off and four penalties.

Celta were awarded a late penalty that could have given Radomir Antia's side a priceless win but striker Savo Milosevic blasted the ball over the bar three minutes into injury time. The result leaves Celta four points behind Real Mallorca in 10th position in the 20-team division.

Celta had fallen behind to a Cristian Alvarez penalty on 18 minutes but Milosevic soon after levelled when the visitors were reduced to 10 men when defender Juan Regueiro was sent off late in the first half but the home side restored their lead just three minutes later when Javi Guerrero scored from a tight angle at the second attempt.

Celta then went 2-4 up in the second half thanks to a well-taken double from Russian internacional Steve Stone.

On Sunday, unbeaten Arsenal maintained their Premier League survival hopes a huge boost on Saturday when racing into a 4-1 lead at the top of the table by defeating Andre Agassi, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, as they walk off the court with the tennis court after their semi-final match of Pacific Life Open on 20 March, 2004 in Indian Wells, Calif.

INTERNET

Switzerland's Roger Federer, right, celebrates after defeating Andre Agassi, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, as they walk of the court after their semi-final match of Pacific Life Open on 20 March, 2004 in Indian Wells, Calif.

INTERNET

Valencia one point behind Real after 5-1 win

Madrid, 23 March — Valencia's in-form striker Mista grabbed a hat-trick as they blasted their way to a 5-1 victory over Real Mallorca that took them within a point of leaders Real Madrid in the Primera Liga on Sunday.

Mista put his side in front at the end of an evenly balanced first half but Valencia took complete control after the break and ended up crushing the islanders as they struck four more goals in the space of 10 second-half minutes.

Real Madrid, who lost Wednesday's King's Cup final against Real Zaragoza, ended a miserable week with a morale-sapping 2-0 defeat at an inspired Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

Real have frustrated away their comfortable eight-point lead in the space of just three games. MNA/Reuters

Organizers said work on the roof for the outdoor pool was stopped after consulting with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Swimming Federation (FINA).

"We have come to the conclusion that the timely completion of the roof was not guaranteed and this could jeopardize the running of the competitions," Olympics organizers said in a statement.

The IOC has been informed and immediately asked the Greek Government and ATHOC to work on contingency plans... to ensure there will be no negative effects for athletes, the sport and broadcasters," it said.

The roof had been planned to shade swimmers from Athens' searing summer temperatures and allow high-quality broadcasting of events. MNA/Reuters

Athens pool roof scrapped due to time pressure

Athens, 23 March — Plans to build a roof over the main swimming pool for the Olympics have been abandoned because it would not be finished in time for the start of the Games in August, Athens Olympics organizers said on Saturday.

Crowd trouble flares as West Ham lose 4-1 to Millwall

London, 23 March— Crowd trouble marred an English First Division match between Millwall and West Ham United on Sunday.

Mounted police were needed to restore order at Millwall's New Den Stadium as trouble flared in the second half of the crucial promotion battle between the London rivals. According to BBC radio, West Ham fans tried to invade the pitch when Millwall, leading 3-1, were awarded a penalty and West Ham goalkeeper Stephen Bywater was sent off.

The match had attracted a massive security operation, with a reported 1,000 police officers on duty and around the stadium close by the River Thames. FA Cup semi-finalists Millwall, who missed two penalties, won the game 4-1 to boost their chances of reaching the promotion playoffs.

The south London club are now seventh in the table with 49 points, level with Sunderland and Ipswich and just one behind fifth-placed West Ham with two games in hand. MNA/Reuters

A general view of the main tennis field is seen at the Olympic complex in Athens on 20 March, 2004. Tennis test event will take place ahead of the Aug 13-29 Olympics.—INTERNET

Inter end winless streak as Ancona equal record

Milan, 23 March — Inter Milan ended their five-match winless run with a 2-0 victory at Ancona which allowed Serie A's bottom club into the relegation zone.
Mongyi-Namlaung special development road opened in northern Shan State

YANGON, 23 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and officials, attended the opening ceremony of Mongyi-Namlaung special development road held at the Pyidaungsu Hall in Mongyi on 23 March morning.

In delivering an address at the opening ceremony, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said that the Government is making all-out efforts for the welfare of the poorer section of the country and the road project would help promote the economic and social development of the region.

The six roads are the 24-mile Mongyai-Shan State during the four-year plan from 2002-2003 to 2005-2006. In fact, these roads are to be built within three years, he disclosed. The six roads are the 24-mile Mongyai-Namlaung road; the 55-mile Tangyan-Mongkay-Mongbu road; the 77-mile Kholan-Wasin-Mongnaw-Mongbu road; the 46-mile Leikha-Mongnaw road and the 52-mile Namlaung-Keshi-Pankayu road.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye said the region gets better transportation and road constructions, which will benefit the Shan people and Shan State.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win attended opening of 25-ton bran oil mill...

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The bran oil mill was built with the assistance of Veendep Oiltek Exports Co of the Republic of India experts of MAPT and the rice mill was built by local experts.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye said the region gets fair transportation and road constructions. People of the Shan State are further strengthened and solidarity among the national brethren. While the Government is making efforts for development of all the regions in the Union, the local populace on their part are to participate enthusiastically.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing expressed planned matters on the upgrading of the Mongyi-Namlaung road. Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented gifts and cash award of K 300,000 to Tammadawmen who built the road. Col Khin Maung Myint of Tammagyi Station accepted them. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also presented gifts and cash award of K 100,000 for staff of Public Works. Shan State Chief Engineer U Kyaw Min Thein accepted them.

Next, national race leader U Loli Mawng spoke words of thanks. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and U Loli Mawng then formally opened the new road by cutting a ribbon.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to the briefing hall of the Mongyi-Namlaung road project. Officials concerned reported matters on the construction of the road. Along the road, 13 bridges which can bear 60 tons of weight have been built and plans are under way to build five more such bridges. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party also inspected construction of Namlaung bridge on the road section.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 23 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Day temperatures were about normal in Rakeine State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperatures were (42°C) each in Mibub and Magway.

Maximum temperature on 23-3-2004 was 38.5°C (101°F). Minimum temperature on 23-3-2004 was 18.6°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9-30 hrs MST on 23-3-2004 was 70%. Total sun shine hours on 22-3-2004 was (9.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 23-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Northwest at (13:30) hours MST on 22-3-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and gene-rally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24-3-2004: Except for the possibility of isolated light rain or thunderstorms in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%). State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in the remaining areas.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-3-2004: Fair weather. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-3-2004: Fair weather.
Mongseik-Kaunghsai and Pyinthaya-Htiri sections of Shwenyaung-Namhsan Railroad inaugurated in Shan State (South)

YANGON, 23 March — As a gesture hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the inauguration of Mongseik-Kaunghsai section of Shwenyaung-Namhsan Railroad was inaugurated in Shan State (South) at Mongseik railway station on 20 March morning. It was constructed by Tatmadaw members of local regiments and units under arrangements of the Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation and supervision of the Eastern Command Headquarters.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Minister U Pe Than, senior military officers, officials, local authorities, local organizations and others totalling over 20,000.

On the occasion, the commander delivered an address. In his address, he said that the inauguration is part of Shwenyaung-Namhsan Railroad Project, and it links Mongseik and Kaunghsai stations in Loilem District.

The State Peace and Development Council has been implementing projects in all sectors to enable the nation to catch up with the world nations, to improve national economic life, to uplift the living standard of the people and to build up a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

The purpose of the opening of 10.23-mile Mongseik-Kaunghsai section is to ensure better transport in villages south of Taunggyi and Loilem District in southern part of Kaunghsai section is to ensure better transport in villages south of Taunggyi and Loilem District in Kaunghsai section.

The State Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win welcomes Chinese Vice Premier HE Madam Wu Yi at the airport. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win attends opening of 25-ton bran oil mill and 50-ton rice mill

YANGON, 23 March — At the invitation of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win, Vice Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China HE Madam Wu Yi arrived at Yangon International Airport this evening on an official visit to the Union of Myanmar.

Visiting Chinese Vice Premier Madam Wu Yi and party were welcomed at the airport by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win welcomes Chinese Vice Premier HE Madam Wu Yi at the airport. — MNA

Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China arrives on official visit

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The visiting Chinese Vice Premier was accompanied by Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Wang Yi, Deputy Secretary-General of the State Council Mr Xu Shaoshi, President of the Export & Import Bank of China Mr Yang Zilin, Vice Governor of the Yunnan Province Mr Shao Qwezi and responsible officials of the PRC.

Ministry of Rail Transportation and supervision of the Eastern Command Headquarters.

Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister U Pe Than, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Rail Transportation and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command.

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— ANGON

Shwebo, Mandalay Division.

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(See page 10)

The 25-ton bran oil mill of the Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading in Shwebo, Mandalay Division. — ANGON

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