The loyal Tatmadaw

It can be said that the Tatmadaw was conceived in the anti-colonialist struggle and born of the anti-fascist resistance. As it was the rallying point of patriotic youths, it fitted into the good tradition of a patriotic Tatmadaw. As it maintained good military discipline, it became a disciplined Tatmadaw. Soon after Myanmar regained her independence in 1948, the fire of internal strife also started. Though there were many attempts to entice the Tatmadaw, it looked only to the face of the nation. It therefore gained the attribute of a loyal Tatmadaw.

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 52nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Drugs destroyed on 18 occasions between 1990-2004 valued at US 14452m
Fifth destruction of seized narcotic drugs, precursors, chemicals and paraphernalia held in Lashio

YANGON, 20 March — The fifth destruction of seized narcotic drugs, precursors, chemicals and paraphernalia of Shan State (North) organized by Shan State (North) Committee for Drug Abuse Control was held at the people’s sports grounds in Lashio yesterday morning, attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, the ministers, the deputy ministers, ambassadors of the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, the Russian Federation, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan and Singapore.

(See page 6)

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivers an address at the fifth ceremony to destroy narcotic drugs, chemical precursors, poppy seeds and paraphernalia.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Exert combined efforts on emergence of a modern, developed industrial nation

In a bid to shape a peaceful, modern and developed nation, which is the goal of the entire national people, the government is establishing industrial infrastructures essential for the country.

The government’s such efforts are aimed at paving the way for the drive to transform the country to a modern industrial nation from an agro-based one. A textile factory of the Myanmar Textile Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 was constructed near Kanhtaygyi village, two miles from Pwintbyu on Legai-Pwintbyu motor road in Pwintbyu township, Magway Division.

The opening ceremony was held at the factory on 19 March. Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win delivered an address at the opening ceremony.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said the newly-opened factory was living proof of bright prospects for continued development of the agricultural sector as well as for that of the industries based on agriculture in the country.

Irrigation facilities are being built across the country to make the most of land and water resources of the country. These endeavours have seen an increase in the sown acreage of monsoon paddy, summer paddy and other crops as farmland can be fed with a sufficient supply of irrigation water. Hope has been pinned on the simultaneous establishment of industries based on agriculture as the agricultural productivity is growing.

With the development of the agricultural sector and of the electric power sector, private factories, small and medium, based on agriculture are likely to emerge in years to come soon. The government places priority on the establishment of costly high-tech factories and workshops which the private sector cannot easily afford.

The industrial sector is second to the agricultural sector in terms of GDP. With 98 per cent ownership, the private sector tops in the industrial sector while the State’s ownership constitutes 1.5 per cent. Priority is therefore paid to the private sector.

Measures are being taken to simultaneously set up industries crucial for the country such as farm implement industries, import-substitute industries, finished goods industries, export industries, and agro-based heavy industries.

All in all, the onus is on the national people to render harmonious cooperation and participation with duty consciousness in the establishment of a modern, developed industrial nation under the leadership of the government.

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

Factories in Kyaukse region inspected

YANGON, 20 March — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by officials concerned, arrived at Fire Brick Factory Project, Kyaukse region, being implemented by Myanmar Ceramic Industries on 18 March.

During their arrival, the minister inspected progress in installation of hydraulic press, wet pan mill, mixing mill, cone crusher, dryers, and site chosen for construction of warehouse.

Next, he oversaw arrival of machines imported, assembling of electric transfer car and progress in building a kiln of the factory.

The bricks will be produced at industrial temperature ranging from 1650 to 1850 degree celsius. Afterwards, the minister proceeded to Bicycle Factory (Kyaukse) under the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries and inspected combination press machine, vertical miling seam welding machine, polishing machine and fixing machine. On arrival at Sewing Machine Factory (Kyaukse), the minister met foreign technicians and presented souvenirs to them.

Next, the minister inspected 18 machine parts produced at foundry workshop and various kinds of sport shirts and vests at Vest Factory (Kyaukse) of Myanmar Textile Industries and manufacturing of chocolate bars at Chocolate Factory (Kyaukse).

Myanmar delegation back from India

YANGON, 20 March — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun arrived back by air this morning after attending the meeting on information and communication of public relations departments and the finance sector held in New Delhi, India, from 16 to 18 March.

The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, heads of department under the ministry and officials concerned.

The meeting, organized by the World Bank, was held at Darbar Hall of Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi, India. Present on the occasion were finance ministers from 66 WB member countries, governors of central banks, invited guests and officials of NGOs. The Myanmar delegation comprised Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Managing Director of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications U Maung Maung Tin and Staff Officer of the Ministry of F&R U Min Han Soe. — MNA

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung views production process of Chocolate Factory (Kyaukse). — INDUSTRY-1

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and party attending meeting on information and communication of public relations departments and finance sector in New Delhi.— rkok

Headmistress Daw Sein Myaing presents completion certificate to a student at Bahan BEPS No 10 on 10 March for 2004-2005 academic year.— n
Malaysian FM urges S-E Asian countries to sharpen competitiveness

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 March — Southeast Asian countries must sharpen their competitive edge rather than relying on direct foreign investment as a formula for industrialization, a Malaysian minister said on Friday.

Although foreign investment was still a major contributor for industrial growth, Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said at the closing of the Second ASEAN Leadership Forum here.

The two-day forum, organized by the Secretariat of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Malaysia-based Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute, was attended by delegates and scholars of the member states.

ASEAN, now grouping 10 states in region, was set up in 1967 to boost regional cooperation. Syed Hamid said Southeast Asian countries should now focus on a new industrial strategy, based on stronger local capabilities.

Japan, Sri Lanka discuss warning system against tsunami

COLOMBO, 19 March — A Japanese team of Natural Hazard Management experts called on Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Thursday to discuss the establishment of an early warning system (EWS) for the region.

During the discussions Kumaratunga said Sri Lanka was not accustomed to natural disasters such as the 26 December tsunami which killed more than 30,000 in the country.

She emphasized measures needed to be put in place to minimize damage to life and property in the event of a similar catastrophe in the future.

In the Japanese team were Tatsuo Hamaguchi, director-general of the National Institute of Land and Infrastructure Management, Shuhei Kazusa, director of the Earthquake and Volcanic Disaster Management and several other senior officials.

The two sides discussed the importance of enhancing Sri Lanka’s technical know-how and the possible Japanese inputs in this regard.

Thousands protest Iraq war across Europe

LONDON, 19 March — Tens of thousands of anti-war protesters demonstrated across Europe on Saturday to mark the second anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq, with 45,000 Britons marching from London’s Hyde Park past the American Embassy to Trafalgar Square.

British elections expected in May lent an added charge to the largest protest, in London, where Prime Minister Tony Blair’s staunch backing of the war has diminished his base of support.

Police said about 45,000 demonstrators participated in a march; organizers put the number at 100,000. Several army veterans were among the crowd.

“I disagreed with (the war) to start with because I was suspicious of the weapons of mass destruction claims,” said Ray Hewitt, 34, a veteran of the 1991 Gulf War. “I saw the Iraqi army in 1991 and we destroyed it.”

In Istanbul, Turkey, an estimated 15,000 people — some carrying signs reading “Murderer Bush, get out!” — marched in the Kadikoy neighbourhood.

Two marchers dressed as US soldiers pretended to rough up a third, dressed as a detainee with a sack on his head in a mimed criticism of US abuse of prisoners.

In the southern Turkish city of Adana, home to a Turkish military base used by American forces, protesters laid a black wreath in front of the US consulate, the Anadolu news agency reported.

In Poland — which commands a multinational security force in Iraq that includes 1,700 Polish troops — about 500 protesters marched to the US Embassy in Warsaw, holding banners reading “Pull out from Iraq now” and “Poles back to Poland.”

“We are protesting this war in Iraq because it has no point. Only innocent people are killed, and nothing good results from it,” said Klaudia Kosciuska, a 17-year-old high school student.

At an anti-war march in the industrial city of Katowice, protesters — including one dressed up as a blindfolded Statue of Liberty — urged the United States and Britain to leave Iraq.

In Athens, about 3,000 trade unionists, members of peace groups and students, brought the city centre to a standstill for about three hours as they marched to the US Embassy.

In Sweden, about 300 protesters filled Sergel Square in downtown Stockholm, chanting: “USA, out of Iraq!” The protests were nowhere near as big as those in February 2003, just before the war when millions marched in cities around the world to urge President Bush and his allies not to attack.

In Oslo, Norway, about 400 people rallied to demand that the 10 Norwegian officials in Baghdad be sent home. Norway has previously withdrawn 150 soldiers from Iraq.

Wen Jiabao discusses milly cooperation with Russian Army chief

BEIJING, 19 March — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and visiting Russian Army chief discussed Sino-Russian relationship and the cooperation between the two Armed Forces here on Friday.

The meeting with Premier Wen was the high note in Russian Chief of General Staff Yury Baluyevsky’s trip to Beijing. It followed talks with senior Chinese military officers on a joint military exercise to be held later this year.

Baluyevsky called the joint military exercise “a new way of cooperation between the two Armed Forces,” which now have a close relationship that was unimaginable just a few years ago.

Both Wen and Baluyevsky agree that China-Russia relations are at the best ever stage as the countries have removed all possible obstacles to the relationship.

Baluyevsky arrived in Beijing Thursday morning for a four-day visit, the first international trip he has taken since his current post last July.

During his stay in Beijing, he met with his Chinese counterpart, Liang Guanglie, Thursday afternoon to further discuss details of joint military exercise.

Russia and China have agreed on the make-up of the troop, arms and equipment and military methods involved in the training. “Russian para-troopers, Marines and other forces will take part in the exercise,” Baluyevsky said.

The message about China-Russia military exercise first came with a memorandum of understanding between Chinese vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission Guo Boxiong and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov last July.

3
Yangon, 20 March —

The fifth meeting of the fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha was held at Maha Pasana Cave in Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Present at the meeting were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, member officials.

Five Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the fifth meeting of the fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha were elected.

Vice-Chairman of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Aung Mingala Sarthintak delivered the Ovadakathas.

Next, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious affairs.

Ovadakathas of the five Ovadacariya Sayadaws were read by Sayadaw Kesara presided over the meeting.

Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhaddandika Kumara presents the report of the committee.

First, the minister attended the opening of Myint Myat Library in Kwaygyi Village in Waw Township at 11 am. After inspecting the library, the minister attended to the needs. Next, he visited Myitkyo village to attend the opening of Zartimay Library which was built with the donations of U Thein Myint, Managing Director of Ayya Min Thet (Mandalay) Construction Co. The minister viewed round the keeping of books at the library and fulfilled the requirements. He also inspected progress in construction of the village high school.

Afterwards, USDA Secretariat member Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met local people at the hall of the village. At the meeting, donor U Thein Myint handed over documents related to the village library to Head of Waw Township Information and Public Relations Department U Htay Lwin.

The fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha held its fifth meeting. — MNA

Yangon, 20 March —

Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretariat member Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan this morning attended the opening of rural libraries in villages of Waw Township, Bago Division, and met with minister viewed round the keeping of books at the library and fulfilled the requirements. He also inspected progress in construction of the village high school.

Afterwards, USDA Secretariat member Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met local people at the hall of the village. In meeting with the local people from Kwaygyi and Myitkyo villages, USDA Secretariat member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said village libraries are being opened with a view to improving the knowledge of local rural people and learning the advancing technology of the world.

The Ministry of Information is opening libraries in rural areas. Now libraries have been opened in every village tract to realize the objective of the ministry in 2004-2005. So, it is necessary for the people, the minister urged, to cooperate in opening of libraries in all the villages of the country in 2005-2006.

MNA

USDA Secretariat member attends opening of village libraries

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicates on religious affairs at the fifth meeting of fifth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects library, Waw Township — MNA

Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhaddandika Kumara presents the report of the committee. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets local people in Myitkyo village, Waw Township — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

MNA
YANGON, 20 March — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win together with member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, the ministers, the deputy minister, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, arrived by helicopter at Thanlwin Bridge (Tarpar) in Kutkai on 18 March.

They were welcomed by Brig-Gen Than Win of Laukkai Station, officials, engineers, departmental personnel, local people and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Deputy Superintending Engineer U Than Swe of Bridge Construction Special Project Group-9 of Public Works reported to the Prime Minister on construction and progress of work.

Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported on arrival of construction materials for the project. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported on construction of approach roads.

Deputy Superintending Engineer U Than Swe of Bridge Construction Special Project Group-9 of Public Works reported to the Prime Minister on construction and progress of work.

Shan State Superintending Engineer of PW U Kyaw Min Thein reported on upgrading of 66-mile Kutkai-Monsi-Tarpar road and other rural roads.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on measures taken for progress of rural roads in the region.

Next, local national race leaders reported on difficulty when crossing the Thanlwin River and development prospects after completion of the bridge.

The Prime Minister then gave necessary instructions. He presented fruit baskets to those who participated in the construction of the bridge and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Than Swe. The Prime Minister inspected installation of suspender. The 600-foot Thanlwin Bridge (Tarpar), a suspension one, is on Kutkai-TarmoNye-Monsi Tarshwethan road. The motorway is 16 feet and 4 inches wide. It can stand 60 tons of load and 80 per cent of the project has now been completed.

and completion of the roads near the bridge.

Shan State Superintending Engineer of PW U Kyaw Min Thein reported on upgrading of 66-mile Kutkai-Monsi-Tarpar road and other rural roads.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on measures taken for progress of rural roads in the region.

Next, local national race leaders reported on difficulty when crossing the Thanlwin River and development prospects after completion of the bridge.

The Prime Minister then gave necessary instructions. He presented fruit baskets to those who participated in the construction of the bridge and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Than Swe. The Prime Minister inspected installation of suspender. The 600-foot Thanlwin Bridge (Tarpar), a suspension one, is on Kutkai-TarmoNye-Monsi-Tarshwethan road. The motorway is 16 feet and 4 inches wide. It can withstand 60 tons of loads and 80 per cent of the project has now been completed.

Next, local national race leaders reported on difficulty when crossing the Thanlwin River and development prospects after completion of the bridge.

The Prime Minister then gave necessary instructions. He presented fruit baskets to those who participated in the construction of the bridge and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Than Swe. The Prime Minister inspected installation of suspender. The 600-foot Thanlwin Bridge (Tarpar), a suspension one, is on Kutkai-TarmoNye-Monsi-Tarshwethan road. The motorway is 16 feet and 4 inches wide. It can withstand 60 tons of loads and 80 per cent of the project has now been completed.

YANGON, 20 March — Under the arrangement of Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee of National Convention Convening Management Committee, NC delegates paid a pilgrimage visit to Shwe-mawdaw Pagoda and observed Kanbawzathadi Palace in Bago Township, Bago Division yesterday morning.

Next, they donated cash K 66,820 to offer Shwethiank to the pagoda and went round the pagoda clock-wise and offered water, lights and joss sticks.

On arrival at Kanbawzathadi Palace, they were briefed on background history of the palace by assistant curator of Archaeological Department of the Ministry of Culture. They arrived at Nyaunghnapin Camp later in the morning. Similarly, Christian NC delegates together with officials of Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee visited Toungbukan Kayin Baptist and Lahu Baptist Churches in Insein Township yesterday morning.

Delegates to the National Convention visit Archaeological Museum at Kanbawzathadi Palace in Bago. — MNA
Drugs destroyed on 18 occasions …

(from page 1)

consuls of the People's Republic of China and Japan, the liaison officer of Australian Police Force, officials of US Drug Agency, WHO and UNODC, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the Secretary of CCDAC Director-General of Myanmar Police Force, local authorities, members of Shan State (North) CDAC, local national race leaders, members of USDA, local people and guests.

Daw Nan San Twam Khan of Lashio Township USDA, Professor Daw Myint Myint Than of Lashio Degree College and Sub-Police Inspector Sein Ma Ma of MPF acted as masters of ceremonies.

First, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address, saying that in today's world, the problems of narcotics are not confined to a sole country or a people but are the concern of all nations of the world all of humankind.

While some countries face a problem caused by the cultivation of narcotic crops, some other countries are encountering the problems of psychotropic drugs produced from chemicals. Although some countries neither grow narcotic crops nor produce chemical narcotic drugs, they face problems of use or of being transit countries. The problem of drugs abuse is a serious social problem being faced by almost all countries.

Myanmar is also amongst the countries that are having to meet the challenges posed by the drugs problems. The main problem faced by Myanmar is the illegal cultivation of the opium poppy, production of Opium and Heroin and its trafficking and use. At a time when problems of producing methamphatamine has been started since 1996, however the production of Opium and Heroin had fallen remarkably. Issues related to the production while nations of the world are combating the drug menace through international legislation on the one hand, on the other hand they have ratified and are cooperating in controlling the drugs menace on the basis of the UN single conventions has promulgated the Law and rules related to Narcotic and Dangerous Drugs, the Law and Rules related to the Control of Money Laundering. The Law and Rules on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and is taking action in accordance with law. At the same time, it controls 25 chemicals used in the production of narcotic and psychotropic drugs. Myanmar has issued rules related to the supervision of controlled chemicals and it is actively engaged in eradication efforts.

In addition, Myanmar firmly believes that not only does the narcotic menace adversely affect national dignity and high social standards of the state, but it threatens our citizens and all humankind.

Since the time of the Myanmar kings, the successive governments of Myanmar have serious undertaken the tasks of combating narcotic abuse. During the time of the State Peace and Development Council, as a result of gaining mutual understanding and mutual fate among the national brethren, peace, stability and the rule of law have gradually extended up to the border regions and as a consequence many good opportunities were presented for serious fulfilling the developing needs of the border areas and national races. As a result from striving only to combat the narcotic menace we have now been able to seriously work for the alleviation of the foods, shelter and clothing of the local people through crops substitutions, animal husbandry and other regional development activities. In order to give momentum to these endeavours the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was established. By so doing, it is certain that the bad historical legacy of the drug problem can be eliminated effectively in the long term.

This is the reason also why the Government led by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has laid down strategies, tactics and measures for the elimination of the narcotic problem.

(See page 7)
Strategies include the destruction of theelimination of the drug menace as a national cause and to combat the menace from all angles, and to raise the living standards of the border areas and national races, thereby completely eradicating opium cultivation. These strategies are being implemented through symmetrical actions of the tactics of eradication, reduction of consumption, and interdiction.

In order to concretely carry out activities in conformity with the strategies and tactics, a plan of action comprising a 15-year plan sub-divided into three medium-term plans of five years each, beginning from 1999-2000 to 2013-2014, was established. We have completed the first 5-year plan and are implementing the second 5-year plan. It has being assessed that the objectives set for the designated plan period have been successfully realized.

To get an accurate picture of the illegal cultivation of opium poppy in Myanmar, Myanmar and the United States have cooperated in opium yield surveys for ten times beginning from 1993 up to 2004. The 2005 international report of the US Government on strategies of controlling narcotics states that opium in 2004 is less than 34 percent of 2004 and that production of opium in 2004 decreased 40 per cent compared to that of 2003, the production has dropped 89 per cent compared to opium production 8 years ago. Likewise, Myanmar and UNODC have cooperated since 2002 in annual field surveys and the result have shown a consistent reduction. According to the UNODC report, the acreage of opium cultivation in 2004 has dropped 29 per cent compared to 2003 and opium production has dropped 54 per cent.

The significant reduction of opium cultivation and production in Myanmar is attributable not only to elimination measures but also to widespread pragmatic activities such as opium substitution, vocational livelihood promotion, regional development activities which are all essential for the elimination of opium production. Of particular importance to the success is the fact that the leadership of the state regional authorities, leaders of national races and the national races of the regions, and social organizations have worked in close harmony and dynamic cooperation.

Under the programme of the government’s special project for development of the border areas, the government has spent to date over 60 billion kyats for projects of the development of remote border areas. Of this amount almost 80 per cent was utilized for activities associated with the eradication of opium cultivation such as opium crop substitution, animal husbandry and regional development. This is the reason why the situation in the border areas have significantly changed for the better when compared to the situation in the areas in the past. As the activities for the eradication of narcotic drugs gain intensity due to concerted efforts, Mongla region in Shan State (East) was able to declare itself as opium free zone in April 1997 and the Kokang region completely halted the cultivation of opium beginning 2003. Likewise, areas of other national races are energetically striving to have their respective areas and regions declared as opium free zones.

Drugs destroyed on 18 occasions...

(See page 8)
Drugs destroyed on 18…
throughout the ages have had to strive with great difficulty to achieve results. If the international community were to show understanding and render appropriate assistance, Myanmar’s efforts to eliminate narcotics would meet with success much sooner.

In any case, bearing in mind resolution of the 20th Special Session of the 1998 United Nations General Assembly designating the year 2008 as the year for total eradication of narcotic drugs throughout the world, and ASEAN’s objective of ASEAN Drugs Free Area by the year 2015, Myanmar has set the target of a Drug Free Myanmar by the year 2014 and is striving towards that end with its own plans and programmes.

Even as Myanmar had successfully reduced the cultivation and production of opium, the previously unheard menace of psychotropic tablets emerged in the country in 1996. It is well known that just as the chemical ephedrine used in the production of stimulant tablets cannot be produced in Myanmar, the country does not have ability to produce other chemicals that are used in processing of heroin and stimulant tablets. However, Myanmar is having to face criticism and accusations while drug traffickers transit Myanmar borders through neighbouring countries, producing and distributing heroin and stimulants to the international markets.

As narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances cannot be produced without chemicals, Myanmar is seeking to control these chemicals in cooperation with the neighboring countries of India, China, Laos and Thailand. In February 2003, trilateral meeting of Myanmar, India and China for the control of chemical substances was held in Yangon. The meeting reached an agreement to enhance cooperation in suppressing the smuggling of illegal chemicals in the border areas. In addition, as there is a need for closer cooperation with neighbouring countries in the control of chemical substances, a five-nation ministerial meeting to control the substances was held in Chiang Rai in July 2003. China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and India participated in the meeting. As a result of agreements reached at the meeting, closer cooperation ensured among the neighbouring countries with the result that in 2004 the illegal transportation of chemical substances was reduced.

Under the border areas drug control plan of Myanmar, China and UNODC border meetings were held and border liaison offices were opened. Information is being exchanged between the two countries. As a result of the cooperation programmes 36 fugitives wanted by the Chinese side were handed over for 14 times by the Myanmar authorities. Furthermore, under the Myanmar-Thailand drugs control programmes, border liaison offices were opened in Tachileik, Myawady and Kawthoung. Information exchanges between the two countries have

Drugs destroyed on 18…

 campaña designando el año 2008 como el año para la erradicación total de los narcóticos en todo el mundo, y el objetivo de ASEAN de la zona libre de drogas en el año 2015, Myanmar ha establecido el objetivo de un Myanmar libre de drogas para el año 2014 y está luchando por lograrlo con sus propios planes y programas.

A pesar de que Myanmar había reducido exitosamente la producción y el cultivo de la morfina, el peligro inédito de los psicofármacos se produjo en el país en 1996. Es bien conocido que justamente el ephedrina, el ingrediente utilizado en la producción de tabletas estimulantes, no puede producirse en Myanmar, y el país no tiene la capacidad para producir otros compuestos químicos utilizados en el procesamiento del heroína y las sustancias estimulantes. Sin embargo, Myanmar está enfrentando críticas y acusaciones mientras los tráfico de drogas transcurren por las fronteras de Myanmar y llegan a países vecinos.

Puesto que los narcóticos o psicofármacos no pueden ser producidos sin químicos, Myanmar está buscando controlar estos últimos en cooperación con los países vecinos. En febrero de 2003, se llevó a cabo una reunión trilateral de Myanmar, India y China para el control de los compuestos químicos. La reunión alcanzó un acuerdo para fortalecer la cooperación en la supresión del tráfico de drogas ilegales en las áreas fronterizas. Además, dada la necesidad de una cooperación más cercana con los países vecinos en el control de los compuestos químicos, se llevó a cabo una reunión ministerial de cinco países para controlar esos compuestos, que se llevó a cabo en Chiang Rai en julio de 2003. China, Laos, Myanmar, Tailandia y India participaron en la reunión. Como resultado de los acuerdos logrados en la reunión, se fortaleció la colaboración mutua entre los países vecinos, logrando el resultado de la reducción del tráfico de sustancias químicas ilegales en 2004.

Bajo el plan de control de drogas de las áreas fronterizas de Myanmar, China y UNODC, se llevaron a cabo reuniones de frontera y se abrieron oficinas de liaison en la frontera. Se intercambió información entre los países. Como resultado de los programas de cooperación, 36 fugitivos buscados por la policía china fueron entregados a Myanmar en 14 ocasiones. Además, bajo los programas de control de drogas Myanmar-Thailand, se establecieron oficinas de liaison en Tachileik, Myawady y Kawthoung. Se intercambiaron informativos entre los dos países.
Drugs destroyed on 18…

(From page 8)

However, even if assistance is not forthcoming, we will continue our struggle with all our abilities as it is a manner which threatens humankind. The Head of State therefore stated Myanmar’s unswerving determination in the battle against narcotic drugs. In conclusion, I would like to say that Myanmar has fine traditions in implementing and carrying out its national interest and in carrying out dutifully and unostentatiously the national interest and the interest of humankind. In addition, either with the assistance or without the assistance from outside, and no matter what the criticism and opposition, Myanmar has fine traditions of unswervingly striving to successfully fulfill its objectives. As a result of the fine traditions, success has been achieved in the efforts against the drug menace. In the future also the State, the people and the Tatmadaw will join hands together and strive further to achieve successes. I would also like to record my appreciation to all those persons who helped in making this ceremony the destruction of seized narcotic drugs, precursor chemicals and paraphernalia a success. I would also like to say that in seeking to resolve the drugs problems which threaten humankind, just as it is important to uncover the real causes it is equally important that all nations of the world and all people actively cooperate in the endeavour with clear and noble state of mind.

Next, Chairman of Shan State (North) Committee for Drug Abuse Control Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing said that at this ceremony is burning the narcotic drugs which endanger all human beings and we have again shown practically that we have been carrying out the task of drugs eradication as a national duty not only for our Northern Shan State but also for Myanmar Naing-rgan. Ceremonies like this have already been held in Northern Shan State thrice in 2002 once in 2003 and the total number is 5 times including this one.

To implement the task of drugs eradication with the guidance of the Head of State with a 15-year project for drugs eradication, with new destiny project of CCDAC and cooperation of local authorities, national brethren and regional po-
Prime Minister attends ceremony...

(from page 16)

Later, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers and well-wishers presented steel strings and supports of Shwehtidaw, other religious objects and offerings to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, State Ovadacariya Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees Ovadacariya Presiding Sayadaw of Bahan Chaikhtatgyi Kyaunhtaik Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandobhasa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits accrued.

The first session of the ceremony ended with the recitation of Buddha Sasanan Ciram Titthatu.

The second session of the ceremony started with the conveying of steel strings and supports of Shwehtidaw that were to be hoisted atop the pagoda.

The prime minister and party, well-wishers, religious associations led by Sayadaws conveyed steel strings and supports of Shwehtidaw clock-wise and to upper terrace of the pagoda.

Next, State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, the prime minister and party and well-wishers offered soon, fruits, water and flowers to Padamya Myetshin Buddha Image kept on the upper terrace.

A ceremony to install steel strings and supports of Shwehtidaw of Shwedagon Pagoda was held with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

At the auspicious time, the prime minister and party paid homage to Padamya Myetshin Buddha Image on upper terrace of Shwedagon Pagoda.

— MNA
Lt-Gen Ye Myint on inspection…

(from page 16)

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited Tiddim Silk Factory of Sericulture Enterprise in the township. U Ban Tun of the MCSE and factory manager U Hsan Mann reported on facts about the factory, annual production of silk, target production of silk for 2004-2005 and production process.

After inspecting the production line of silk at the factory, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions to officials. Next, he visited Tiddim People’s Hospital in the evening and looked into the extendi

ng construction of the hospital and wards, medical store and operations of the Sangha. On arrival at the training school for development of border areas and national races of the Education and Training Department, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party were welcomed by Principal U Aung Myint and teachers and trainees.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the training of courses and gave necessary instructions. Next, he gave away gifts to the trainees and viewed round the school building.

In the evening Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with military officers and their families in the local battalion of the township and gave necessary instructions to officials.
China, Azerbaijan have vast prospects in economic cooperation

BEIJING, 19 March — Visiting Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said here on Friday that fast-developing China and Azerbaijan have a "vast range" of prospects in economic and trade cooperation and that Azerbaijan will create "sound conditions" to attract more Chinese investment.

Aliyev made the remarks at Friday's China-Azerbaijan Economic (Investment) Forum. He said the two countries could expand cooperation in agriculture, petrochemical, tourism and construction, after having conducted well cooperation in energy. In three or four years, Azerbaijan's oil exporting capacity will double, which will be helpful to the Chinese economy in growing need of oil, said Aliyev.

He welcomed Chinese companies to invest in Azerbaijan. "This country will offer attractive conditions in laws and other areas to lay a solid foundation for cooperation of mutual benefits, with the forum as a good turning point."

Aliyev said the current bilateral trade as very active and benefiting from the friendly and bilateral political relations.

"The two countries have a lot in common, and the overall development of bilateral trade is in the common interests of the two countries and the two peoples," Aliyev said, suggesting the two countries continue to strengthen and consolidate "sound and dependable partnership of cooperation".

World's first buffalo cloned from somatic cells born in S China

NAOGAN, 19 March — The world's first water buffalo cloned from somatic cells was born on Thursday morning in south China's Guangxi.

Zhuang Autonomos Region.

The buffalo's heart rate, temperature and breathing were normal. About 2 minutes after birth, the calf stood up and nursed, said Dr. Shi Dushan, head of the research project at Guangxi University.

The calf, which was born at 4:15 a.m., weighs 23 kilos and is 86 centimetres tall, said Shi.

The calf was cloned with ovary cells that were taken from an adult native buffalo and were transplanted into the 12-year-old female buffalo on April 10, 2004.

"The birth of the calf proves that our somatic cell clone technology is mature and this technology will greatly promote cattle breeding in China," said the doctor.

"Our university has another two buffaloes pregnant with babies cloned with somatic cells and they are expected to be born this year," he said.

Last November, a buffalo also gave birth to a cloned calf at the same research center, but the calf suffocated when amniotic fluid choked in its respiratory system shortly after birth. — MNA/Xinhua

Flight movements in HK expected to break record at Easter

HONG KONG, 19 March — The Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is expected to handle a record number of 790 flight movements in a single day on March 25 or first day of the Easter holidays.

"The number of flight movements expected on March 25 represents an increase of more than 8 per cent compared with an average of 730 movements a day," a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) said on Thursday.

During the period from March 23 to April 5, 107 additional scheduled and ad-hoc charter flights (a total of 214 flight movements) will be operated by 15 airlines to 10 destinations in the Chinese Mainland, 10 destinations in Northeast Asia and eight destinations in Southeast Asia. Beijing is the most popular destination, followed by Seoul, Shanghai and Osaka.

"To cope with the extra traffic, the runway capacity will be increased from 50 to 52 flight movements per hour starting from March 23", Sufficient manpower will also be deployed in the Air Traffic Control Office and the Air Traffic Control Tower to ensure smooth air traffic operations," the spokesman said.

The previous record of 746 flight movements in a single day occurred on February 9, 2005, which was Lunar New Year's Day. — MNA/Xinhua

China marks anniversary of hero in Anti-Japanese War

BUIRUSO, 19 March — A seminar was held here Friday to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Zhang Quan, a general of the Communist Party of China (CPC)-led Army and a well-known Chinese hero of the Anti-Japanese War (1937-45).

Guo Boxiong, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), addressed the meeting and recalled the glorious life of Zuq, one of the Chinese Army officers trained in the Soviet Union.

Zuo joined the CPC in 1925 and held a series of military positions in the North, South and Eighth Route Army until he died in a major battle against the Japanese troops in 1942, Guo said.

Guo called for "learning from the anti-Japanese hero for his loyalty to the Party, the motherland, and people, as well as his firm belief in the Communist ideal."

Present at the seminar were CMC vice-chairmen Cao Gangchuan and Xu Caihou and CMC members Liang Guanghui, Li Jinai, Liao Xilong, Chen Bingde and Jing Zhiyuan.

MNA/Xinhua
Mechanism to be set up to ensure efficiency in post-tsunami aid

MANILA, 20 March — Officials from both donor countries and tsunami-hit countries agreed on Friday to support the establishment of a mechanism that would allow efficient and transparent tracking of the donations to the victims of the five disaster-stricken countries.

The plan, agreed upon at the high-level conference hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) here, proposed developing a consolidated, transparent database in the form of a tracking matrix at the country level.

The United Nations Development Programme and ADB will later work together with the governments concerned to develop a system to allow the data from the country level matrices to flow into a consolidated regional tracking mechanism, according to ADB.

The database will capture all forms of assistance including official development assistance, non-governmental organizations, and private sector support.

“The tracking mechanism presented today will provide a comprehensive overview of operations on the ground and help ensure efficiency, effectiveness and accountability as we work together in rebuilding hundreds of devastated communities in the affected countries,” ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda said.

The one-day conference was attended by more than 200 delegates, including ministers from the five tsunami affected countries — India, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand — senior officials from donor countries, and representatives of international agencies.

Delegates from civil society organizations and the private sector also attended the conference.

The meeting aimed to maintain the momentum and build stronger coordination on the rebuilding process for the countries devastated by the December 26 earthquake and tsunami disaster and help keep the overall rebuilding effort on track.

Participants also highlighted the important role that the private sector and NGOs can play during rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Private sector representatives indicated their willingness to explore how they might help the economies of communities and regions get back on their feet and work with local government and business leaders in ensuring long-term prospects for economic growth.

77 died in Angola after outbreak of disease

LUANDA, 20 March — At least 77 people, most of them children, have died in northern Angola after an outbreak of a disease the World Health Organization (WHO) suspects to be acute haemorrhagic fever, officials said on Friday.

They have ruled out the Ebola virus — a type of haemorrhagic fever and one of the world’s deadliest diseases — but are urging people to avoid travel to Uige, about 140 miles north of Luanda.

“Most of the city has been affected, but some areas are worse hit than others. We ruled out Ebola on Monday,” Health Ministry spokesman Carlos Alberto said.

Diplomatic sources in Luanda said they understood the airport in Uige had been closed.

Jose Caetano, a WHO spokesman in Angola, said most of the victims were children with symptoms including fever, vomiting and diarrhoea. He said at least 77 of the total of 83 people believed infected had died. “The situation is now under control. Our problem is trying to get the sick to go to health centres. We are trying to encourage people who feel any of the symptoms to get medical attention as quickly as possible,” he told Reuters in Luanda.

A performer drives the Japanese automaker Toyota Motor Corp’s new type mobility ‘i-foot’ to walk at Toyota Group Pavilion during a press preview of the Aichi Expo 2005 in Nagakute, central Japan, on 18 March, 2005. —INTERNET

HK develops Novel gene therapy for colon cancer

HONG KONG, 20 March — The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong announced on Friday its discovery of a Novel method of gene therapy for Colon Cancer.

Researchers of the faculty have packaged a mutant survivin gene into the adenov-associated virus (AAV) system, and tested the product in colon cancer. AAV-mediated survivin mutant was proved to inhibit tumor growth. The report has been published in the February 2005 issue of Gastroenterology in America.

AAV vector is a gene delivery system, which can facilitate gene transfer to cancer cells with better safety, efficiency, consistency and sustainability than other available gene delivery systems. According to the researchers, survivin is a protein which inhibits the apoptosis of the cell. It exists in most of the common human cancers but not in normal adult differentiated tissues. Suppression of survivin function resulted in spontaneous apoptosis, enhancement of druginduced cell death, and inhibition of tumor growth in vitro and in vivo.

Colon cancer is one of the commonest cancers in the world. In Hong Kong, it is the second most common cancer after lung cancer. The incidence of colon cancer had increased from 2,900 in 1997 to over 3,300 new cases a year, representing an increase of around 13 per cent.

Treatment for early diseases includes surgery and/or chemotheraphy and radiotherapy. However, the results of chemotheraphy and radiotherapy for advanced stage patients are usually not satisfactory. Therefore, new treatment is needed.

A frozen mammoth discovered in the permafrost in Siberia is displayed during a preview of the Expo 2005 in Nagakute, Japan recently.—INTERNET

About 30 killed in bus blast in east China

NANCHANG, 19 March — About 30 people were killed in a bus explosion early on Thursday morning in East China’s Jiangxi Province, local police said.

A double-decker bus destined to eastern Zhejiang Province, blasted at about 4:00 am on a local expressway near Shenzhen City, also causing damage to nearby houses and injuries to local people.

Currently seven injured people are hospitalized.

Police said that the exact cause of the blast was still hard to tell now, as victims were exploded into pieces. The expressway is currently blocked and investigation is going on.—MNA/Xinhua

Health charity shows obesity increases risk of diabetes

LONDON, 20 March — People who are obese are up to 80 times more likely to develop diabetes, a leading health charity said on Friday.

In Britain, which has the fastest growing rate of obesity in the developed world, one in five adults has a serious weight problem.

Obesity is not the only risk factor for diabetes but Diabetes UK chief executive Douglas Smallwood said in a report that people who have a body mass index (BMI) of more than 30 are 10 times more likely to develop the illness.

If the BMI is above 35 for 10 years, the risk increases to 80 times compared to a person of average weight.

“These figures show the shocking extent to which obesity increases the risk of diabetes,” said Diabetes UK chief executive Douglas Smallwood.

“Diabetes can lead to serious complications such as heart disease, stroke and blindness,” he added in a statement. “In short, obesity can take years off people’s lives.”

Scientists use the BMI, calculated by dividing weight in kilos by height in metres squared, to measure weight and obesity. A BMI of 30 or more is considered obese.

— MNA/Xinhua

A frozen mammoth discovered in the permafrost in Siberia is displayed during a preview of the Expo 2005 in Nagakute, Japan recently.—INTERNET

HK develops Novel gene therapy for colon cancer

HONG KONG, 20 March — The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong announced on Friday its discovery of a Novel method of gene therapy for Colon Cancer.

Researchers of the faculty have packaged a mutant survivin gene into the adenov-associated virus (AAV) system, and tested the product in colon cancer. AAV-mediated survivin mutant was proved to inhibit tumor growth. The report has been published in the February 2005 issue of Gastroenterology in America.

AAV vector is a gene delivery system, which can facilitate gene transfer to cancer cells with better safety, efficiency, consistency and sustainability than other available gene delivery systems. According to the researchers, survivin is a protein which inhibits the apoptosis of the cell. It exists in most of the common human cancers but not in normal adult differentiated tissues. Suppression of survivin function resulted in spontaneous apoptosis, enhancement of druginduced cell death, and inhibition of tumor growth in vitro and in vivo.

Colon cancer is one of the commonest cancers in the world. In Hong Kong, it is the second most common cancer after lung cancer. The incidence of colon cancer had increased from 2,900 in 1997 to over 3,300 new cases a year, representing an increase of around 13 per cent.

Treatment for early diseases includes surgery and/or chemotheraphy and radiotherapy. However, the results of chemotheraphy and radiotherapy for advanced stage patients are usually not satisfactory. Therefore, new treatment is needed.

A frozen mammoth discovered in the permafrost in Siberia is displayed during a preview of the Expo 2005 in Nagakute, Japan recently.—INTERNET

About 30 killed in bus blast in east China

NANCHANG, 19 March — About 30 people were killed in a bus explosion early on Thursday morning in East China’s Jiangxi Province, local police said.

A double-decker bus destined to eastern Zhejiang Province, blasted at about 4:00 am on a local expressway near Shenzhen City, also causing damage to nearby houses and injuries to local people.

Currently seven injured people are hospitalized.

Police said that the exact cause of the blast was still hard to tell now, as victims were exploded into pieces. The expressway is currently blocked and investigation is going on.—MNA/Xinhua

Health charity shows obesity increases risk of diabetes

LONDON, 20 March — People who are obese are up to 80 times more likely to develop diabetes, a leading health charity said on Friday.

In Britain, which has the fastest growing rate of obesity in the developed world, one in five adults has a serious weight problem.

Obesity is not the only risk factor for diabetes but Diabetes UK chief executive Douglas Smallwood said in a report that people who have a body mass index (BMI) of more than 30 are 10 times more likely to develop the illness.

If the BMI is above 35 for 10 years, the risk increases to 80 times compared to a person of average weight.

“These figures show the shocking extent to which obesity increases the risk of diabetes,” said Diabetes UK chief executive Douglas Smallwood.

“Diabetes can lead to serious complications such as heart disease, stroke and blindness,” he added in a statement. “In short, obesity can take years off people’s lives.”

Scientists use the BMI, calculated by dividing weight in kilos by height in metres squared, to measure weight and obesity. A BMI of 30 or more is considered obese. — MNA/Xinhua

About 30 killed in bus blast in east China

NANCHANG, 19 March — About 30 people were killed in a bus explosion early on Thursday morning in East China’s Jiangxi Province, local police said.

A double-decker bus destined to eastern Zhejiang Province, blasted at about 4:00 am on a local expressway near Shenzhen City, also causing damage to nearby houses and injuries to local people.

Currently seven injured people are hospitalized.

Police said that the exact cause of the blast was still hard to tell now, as victims were exploded into pieces. The expressway is currently blocked and investigation is going on.—MNA/Xinhua
Maldini signs new contract with AC Milan

Milan, 19 March—AC Milan’s 36-year-old captain Paolo Maldini has signed a new contract to keep him at the club until June 2007. Maldini’s current deal with Milan was due to expire in June 2006 but on Friday the club announced a one-year extension had been signed.

The defender, Italy’s most capped player with 126 appearances for the Azzurri before his international retirement after the 2002 World Cup, has been in excellent form for the Italian champions.

A one club player, Maldini made his debut for Milan in January 1985 and has won seven Italian league titles and four European Cups during his time at the club.

The Milan skipper will be almost 39 when his new contract runs out.

His long-term defensive partner Alessandro Costacurta, a back-up player these days, signed a new deal in January that will keep him with the club past his 40th birthday. — MNA/Reuters

Ferguson believes can forge exciting future for United

MANCHESTER (England), 19 March — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson says he cannot predict when his Old Trafford reign might end and has willed his captain Roy Keane to remain by his side.

Ferguson, who was appointed in 1986, starts a 12-month rolling contract after this campaign and hinted that Keane could play on beyond the end of his deal in June 2006.

“I’m fit and there’s no reason why I should be thinking about trying to retire just now,” Ferguson, 63, told reporters on Friday. “You’ve got to make sure that if you’re fit and healthy then there’s no reason why you can’t stay. I’ve no idea when I would want to quit.”

Ferguson, who had planned to retire in 2002 before a late change of heart, believes he can forge an exciting future for United with midfield anchorman Keane, who has been at United for almost 12 years.

“You could maybe say that Roy Keane is a player you could have some concern about but then when you see Maldini and Cafu tramping up and down that wing in Milan there’s no reason why Roy can’t carry on,” he said.

DFB endorses Beckenbauer as candidate for UEFA’s presidency

FRANKFURT, 19 March—The German football federation’s (DFB) Executive Committee has unanimously endorsed Franz Beckenbauer as a candidate for UEFA’s presidency.

Beckenbauer, who led West Germany to World Cup victory as captain in 1974 and coach in 1990, has not yet formally announced his intention to run for the post held by Lennart Johansson, who plans to retire after his current term expires.

Beckenbauer, 59, has said he would consider being a candidate only if he had backing from the DFB and from within UEFA, European soccer’s governing body.

“I will definitely support Franz Beckenbauer’s candidacy with all my energy,” said DFB president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder on Friday. “I’ve talked with him on the phone about it and we’ve agreed to have a meeting on it.”

DFB leaders have long been pressing the charismatic Beckenbauer to stand for the job. German media have reported he wants it but did not want to campaign for it.

Former France captain and manager Michel Platini, 49, announced his candidacy for UEFA’s top job on Tuesday. — MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHOOTING</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEVROE</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARM</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAT</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USE</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>U</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liverpool drawn to play Juventus in Champions League quarters

LONDON, 19 March—Liverpool will play Juventus for the first time since the Heysel Stadium disaster at the 1985 European Cup final following the draw for the quarterfinals of the Champions League on Friday.

The two clubs together for the first time just two months before the 20th anniversary of the disaster in which 39 fans died following a riot by Liverpool supporters at the match in Brussels with Juventus won 1-0.

The match went ahead after the disaster and Juventus won with the only goal scored from a 58th minute penalty converted by Michel Platini.

The game turned out to be the last played by an English team in Europe for five seasons following a ban imposed by UEFA.

“It’s a long time since we played,” Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry told Reuters. “We tried one or two times to play friendlies but it just didn’t work out.

“I’d say there’s a great relationship between the clubs now and even between the supporters.

“It was all a long time ago. It’s never something you forget, but I’d say everyone will be more focussed on the football now and it’s a very challenging tie.”

Roni Gai, Juventus’ marketing and communications director, told Italy’s Sky Sports: “It will obviously be a special occasion. It is 20 years exactly and we haven’t played since.

“There are friendly relations between the two clubs and I was speaking before with Parry and he told me that if we are drawn together their fans want to do something to pay their respects.

“I think it will be a great sporting occasion carried out in a positive spirit.”

Their only other meetings in Europe happened 20 years before the Heysel disaster, in the first round of the old European Cup Winners’ Cup.

Juventus won the leg 1-0 in Turin but Liverpool beat them 2-0 in the return at Anfield on October 13, 1965 before going on to reach the final the following May which they lost 2-1 to Borussia Dortmund in Glasgow.

AC Milan were drawn to play rivals Inter for the second time in three seasons with Milan being the only team to defeat Inter in any match this season.

Carlo Ancelotti’s men currently share the lead in Serie A with Juventus with Inter in third place, and along with Chelsea are widely regarded as favourites to win this season’s competition.

Inter Milan president Giacinto Facchetti, a member of Inter’s two European Cup winning teams of 1964 and 1965, said: “It would have been better to avoid an Italian team but there you go. We knew that none of the seven teams would be easy opponents.”

MNA/Reuters

Pacific Life Open tennis

INDIAN WELLS (California), 19 March—Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova was buried 6-0, 6-0 by top ranked Lindsay Davenport in the semifinals of the Pacific Life Open on Friday.

In a humbling defeat for the third ranked Sharapova, Davenport controlled the 49-minute match, painting the corners while the 17-year-old flailed at her shots.

Former champion Andre Agassi’s injury woes continued when a swollen knee caused him to withdraw from his quarterfinal with Lleyton Hewitt.

But Kim Clisters continued her remarkable comeback from wrist surgery with a crushing 6-4, 6-2 victory over fourth seed Elena Dementieva.

Sharapova entered the match with a 17-1 record this year, but she was a shell of her former self, collecting only 10 winners while registering 42 unforced errors.

It was the first time Sharapova has lost 6-0, 6-0.

“There are days where I go out on the court and I feel like I can’t miss a ball,” Sharapova said. “I think today was just one of those days where you’re playing terrible and she’s just hitting every single ball, as hard as she can on the line.

“I saw the white marks from the balls. There were probably 20 on the same spot.”

Agassi began experiencing pain in the big toe of his left foot on Thursday night and when he woke up in the morning he could barely walk.

“It was blown up like a balloon and twice the size,” said Agassi, who went on court to apologise to fans.

“I can’t bend it or move it. It’s quite painful when I try to manoeuvre it manually. It’s impossible for me to do anything. It’s very disappointing.” — MNA/Reuters

Ferrari F1 driver Michael Schumacher of Germany powers his car past a corner during the Malaysian Grand Prix’s morning practice session at Malaysia’s Sepang International Circuit on 19 March, 2005. — INTERNET
Bangladesh suffers 12,000 annual deaths from maternal complications

Some 12,000 women die each year in Bangladesh from pregnancy and delivery-related complications, and the country is among the group with highest maternal mortality rate in the world, reported the Daily Star on Friday.

This was disclosed at a workshop on reproductive health organized by Bangladesh Medical Association in collaboration with the Health and Family Welfare Ministry and the United Nations Children’s Fund here on Thursday.

A recent study conducted in several villages found hemorrhage, unsafe abortion, sepsis and obstructed labour are the major reasons for maternal deaths. Speaking as chief guest at the inaugurual session, Finance and Planning Minister M. Saifur Rahman said foreign aid to the country’s health sector has increased from 200 million US dollars to 350 million dollars under the Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme, an integrated three-year programme started in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Sunday, 20 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Eastern Shan and Mon States and upper Sagain Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were (0.20) inch in Kengtung and Yay each and (0.16) inch in Hkamti. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Northern Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, (5°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (40°C) in Myeik, and (30°C) in Yangon.

Maximum temperature on 19-3-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 20-3-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-3-2005 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 19-3-2005 was (7.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 20-3-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.59) inch at Yangon Airport, (1.54) inches at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (9) mph from Southwest at (17:10) hours MST on 19-3-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in Southwest Bay and generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 21-3-2005: Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Northern States, Mandalay, upper Sagain, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Chin and Mon States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-3-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 40%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-3-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 40%.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 10:30 hours MST on Today)

An earthquake of strong intensity (6.4) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmab about (2500) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye seisimological observatory was recorded at (08) hrs (33) min (20) sec MST on 20th March 2005.
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 accordance 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

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

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

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

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

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 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 accordance 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

Prime Minister attends ceremony to install steel strings and supports of Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 20 March—A ceremony to install steel strings and supports of Shwedagon Pagoda was held at the pagoda this morning and it was graced by the attendance of Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. Also present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the Sangha led by Presiding Sayadaw of Pali Tekkalo Nyaungdontauik of Bahan Township Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sobana, Ovadacariya Sayadaws of Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, invited members of the Sangha, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, members of Shwedagon Pagoda All-round Perpetual Renovation Leading Committee, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, chairmen of District and Township Peace and Development Council and members and guests. The first session of the ceremony was held with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa at the ancient Buddha images prayer hall on the precinct of the pagoda.

The congregation led by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win received the Five Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw of Pali Tekkalo Nyaungdontauik of Bahan Township Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sobhana. Following that, members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Prime Minister attended ceremony to install steel strings and supports of Shwedagon Pagoda and presented the Follow-up activities shall be included in the new State Constitution.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint on inspection tour of Tiddim township, Chin State

YANGON, 20 March—State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Sagaing Division PDC Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental officials, arrived at Kalay yesterday morning via Mandalay.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party, together with Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station, visited Shwe Kaungsu family’s plantations in Swalein village, Tiddim township, Chin State. State Agriculture Service Manager U Tint Lwin reported on cultivation of tea and other fruits. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

After inspecting the plantations, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the mythun farm in Aplwei village in Tiddim township. At the briefing hall, an official reported on breeding of cattle in the four breeding camps in the township and raising of cattle in 23 villages of the township.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the farm and gave necessary instructions to officials. A total of 32,000 head of mythun are being bred in Chin State.