Ensure perpetuation of sovereignty at risk of lives

Sovereignty is the lifeblood of a nation. The three powers — legislative, executive and judicial — must be understood as sovereignty. These three powers must be in the hands of our citizens and our national races. We cannot put them in the hands of any alien directly or indirectly. Once the sovereignty of our country is influenced in any way by others, it is tantamount to indirect enslavement under neo-colonialism. Hence, the Tatmadaw must ensure perpetuation of sovereignty at the risk of lives.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From address at the parade of the 52nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Use sound infrastructures for continuous national development

Prime Minister General Soe Win

Enamelware and steelware factory opens in Kyaukse Township

YANGON, 21 March — General and Maintenance Industries of Ministry of Industry-1 opened its enamelware and steelware factory near Minsu village, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Prime Minister General Soe Win said that the factory will manufacture quality household goods. The Mandalay Division-based production and trade is developing and flourishing in the nation at present, and the whole region has become a place where a number of industrial estates are emerging.

Thanks to the vision, plans, efforts and goodwill of the Head of State, every place of the Union including upper Myanmar is developing harmoniously. Economic infrastructures including roads, dams, industries, etc. are emerging in every direction of the nation. The sound infrastructures should be used for continuous national development.

The nation has been achieving sound foundations and success one after another because of the State management and directive and practical efforts of the ministries including the Industry-1 Ministry. The people on their part are supporting the government as they are satisfied and happy to see those achievements.

(See page 8)

The positive public response to the government’s tireless endeavours for public welfare should come in the form of innovative efforts and unity for progress and modernization of the nation.
**Commander, Mayor inspect laying of asphalt roads**

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects laying of asphalt on U Chit Maung Road in Bahan Township. — MNA

**Physic nut plant grown at Thayet Cement Plant**

Yangon, 21 March — Officials of No-1 Cement Plant in Thayet are planning to grow 450 acres of physic nut plants in the compound of the plant. On 27 February, they organized physic nut growing ceremony to plant 13,250 saplings and sow 171,386 seeds. Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe attended the ceremony. — MNA

**Old students of Maubin BEHS-1 organize respect paying ceremony**

Yangon, 21 March — Old students of No-1 Basic Education High School in Maubin will pay respects to their old teachers on 9 April for the eighth time. Teachers aged above 60 and old students are invited to attend the ceremony. For further information dial phone numbers 01-527182, 01-245323, 01-297814, 01-256461, 0999 04 2466, 045-30329, 045-30669, 045-30624 and 045-30821. — MNA

**28th Inter/State and Division Championship Golf Tournament opens**

Yangon, 21 March — The 28th Inter/State and Division Championship Golf Tournament, jointly-organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Golf Federation, mainly-sponsored by Isuzu Motors Ltd, was open in Danyinkon Township this morning.

First, Director-General of SPED U Thaung Htaik made a speech on the occasion. Next, the chairman of MPGA and MGF and the director-general greeted golfers from the states and divisions.

After that, Chairman of MPGA and MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Reid), Director-General of SPED U Thaung Htaik and resident representative of Isuzu Motors Ltd U Aye Cho teed off the golf balls to open the tournament by turn and an eighteen hole event started for the first day.

After an eighteen hole event, defending champion Yangon Division took the lead with total 232 strokes in team scratch, followed by Sagaing Division with total 239 strokes and Magway Division with total 240 strokes.

In team handicap event, Kachin State took the lead with total 202 strokes, followed by Mon State with total 206 strokes and Taninthayi Division with total 206 strokes.

In individual scratch, Myo Naing (Shan State-West) took the lead with 73 strokes, followed by Than Naing Oo (Sagaing Division) with 74 strokes and Derek Hett Doe (Yangon Division) with 76 strokes.

In individual handicap event, Tin Lin Ko (Magway Division) took the lead with total 62 strokes, followed by Kyi Hla (Yangon Division) with total 65 strokes and Myat Thwin Win (Mon State) with total 66 strokes.

The eighteen-hole event continues tomorrow. — MNA

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**Pathein Glass Factory to be renovated**

Yangon, 21 March — Chongqing Metal and Machinery Import and Export Co.Ltd of people’s Republic of China won the contracts for renovating Pathein Glass Factory and changing vertical system to horizontal system of the factory. The contract was signed by Managing Director U Soe Yi of Myanmar Ceramics Industries under the Ministry of Industry 1 and President of the company Madame Yuan Chang Yu yesterday. Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun and officials were also present on the occasion.
**South Korean protesters hold anti-war rally**

SEOUL — 20 March — Some 1,000 anti-war protesters held a rally on Sunday here, urging South Korean Government to withdraw troops stationed in Iraq.

The demonstration, organized by a number of South Korean anti-war civic groups, was held to mark the third anniversary of the US-led Iraq War on the coming Monday.

"Three years after invasion, there is no democracy and freedom in Iraq," the protesters said in a statement. South Korea first sent 3,600 troops to Arbil, a city in Kurdish autonomous region in northern Iraq, in summer of 2004. Currently, some 3,200 South Korean troops are stationed in the Middle East country, making South Korea the third-largest foreign military there since the United States and Britain.

South Korean National Assembly in last December approved the bill of reducing one-third of the South Korean troops in Iraq starting from this April. At the same time, the bill also says the troops' presence in Iraq will be prolonged from the end of 2005 to the end of 2006. — MNA/Xinhua

**Some 5,000 Spaniards in Barcelona protest against Iraq war**

MADRID — 20 March — Around 5,000 people took to the streets Saturday in Spain's port city of Barcelona, demanding an end to foreign occupation of Iraq and Palestine. Chanting, "No wars, "Foreign troops out of Iraq and Palestine," the Spaniards joined the international anti-war protests to mark the third anniversary of the US-led war on Iraq.

The demonstrators also protested against what they called secret US prisons across the world, shouting our slogans against Guantanamo-style prisons worldwide.

A statement issued by the crowd also called for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Iraq, Palestine, the pullback of Spanish troops and to urge the government to bring their troops home.

In his weekly Sunday television show, Alo Presidente, broadcast live from the state of Apure some 200 kilometres south of the capital, Chavez called Bush "alcoholic, murderous and immoral".

"You are a coward because you don't go to Iraq and lead the troops. It is very easy to be a leader from a distance. One day, if the crazy idea of invading Venezuela occurs to you, I will wait for you in the savannah," he said.

Chavez also said world opinion is turning against the Iraq war, listing the many demonstrations across the world which protested against the US-led occupation of Iraq.

"On the third anniversary of the beginning of the war, in his national security report issued on Thursday, Bush said: "In Iraq and don't attack Iran." — INTERNET

**Venezuelan President attacks US on Iraq war**

CARACAS — 20 March — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez called his United States counterpart George W. Bush a "coward" for promoting the US-led military occupation of Iraq.

In his weekly Sunday television show, Alo Presidente, broadcast live from the state of Apure some 200 kilometres south of the capital, Chavez called Bush "alcoholic, murderous and immoral".

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"On the third anniversary of the beginning of the war, in his national security report issued on Thursday, Bush said: "In Iraq and don't attack Iran." — INTERNET

**Thailand plans to be free from drug production**

BANGKOK — 21 March — Thailand is expected to become a nation free from drug production within the next three years after it recently renewed its nationwide suppression of narcotics, the head of the government task force said on Monday.

Wan Mohamad Nor Matha, director of the National Centre for Drug Suppression, urged the related government agencies to strictly follow the centre’s directives to rid Thai society of drugs, according to Thai News Agency.

He spoke at a meeting of officials to follow up progress in suppressing drugs in 25 central Thai provinces and the capital city of Bangkok after the government has renewed the fight early this month, which will be lasted till August, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the King’s ascension to the throne.

Entertainment venues would be under close watch as they are where drugs were found, he said, adding that special projects would be launched to suppress cross-border drug trafficking among alien workers.

**Pipeline blast hits oil supplies in Nigeria**

PORT HARCOURT (Nigeria), 20 March — Unidentified attackers blew up an oil pipeline in Nigeria’s southern delta, further hitting oil supplies from the leading OPEC nation, authorities said on Saturday.

The blast on the Tebidaba-Brass pipeline near Brass Terminal, both operated by Italian oil company Agip, was the latest in a series of attacks on oil installations in the eighth biggest oil-exporting country, which had already reduced supplies by almost a quarter.

Agip, a unit of ENI, confirmed an “act of sabotage” on the pipeline and said an unspecified quantity of production had been lost.

One oil industry source said production of 67,000 barrels per day (BPD) had been cut. — MNA/Reuters

**Moderate aftershock jolts Islamabad**

ISLAMABAD — 20 March — A moderate aftershock of 5.0 magnitude shook Pakistani capital Islamabad and northwestern parts early on Sunday, but there were no reports of casualties or damage to property from the tremor.

Sunday’s shock was centred in the Hazara division, about 80 kilometres north of Islamabad, according to an official at Pakistan’s meteorological department. He said that it was an aftershock of last year’s 8 October quake that left more than 73,000 people dead and millions of others homeless.

“The tremor was an aftershock. There could be more such shocks for a couple of months,” the official said.

The aftershock at 7:49 am was felt in Islamabad, as well as in the hill resort district of Swat and the towns of Balakot and Mansehra in the Hazara division of the North-West Frontier Province.

A total of 1,784 aftershocks have been recorded since the 8 October quake, the official said. — MNA/Xinhua
Police arrest dozens of US anti-war protesters

WASHINGTON, 31 March — Dozens of US anti-war protesters were arrested on Monday in demonstrations marking the third anniversary of the Iraq war, while others denounced President George W Bush during an appearance in Cleveland.

Pentagon Force Protection Agency police arrested 51 people on misdemeanor charges of failure to obey a lawful order during a demonstration outside the Pentagon. Defence Department spokeswoman Cheryl Irwin said.

The protesters were arrested after trying to get past a fence that had been set up to mark out an area for their demonstration, Irwin said. Those arrested were taken to a nearby building and given citations and court appearance dates before being released, Irwin said.

Police in San Francisco said they arrested 17 people from among a small group of anti-war protesters who blocked traffic on the city’s central Market Street.

Protesters, some in clothing similar to that worn by Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib jail, carried anti-war signs and chanted slogans. Some wore black hoods similar to those seen in photographs depicting abuse at the US-run prison in Iraq.

“While the US claims to bring democracy and freedom, it is actually using torture and secret detention camps to instill fear and suppress dissent around the world,” said Sasha Wright, one of the event’s organizers.

Washington supplied a large number of shoulder-fired Stingers to Afghans fighting the Soviet occupation in the 1980s and dozens are still thought to be missing. There was no evidence to support media reports that the Taliban had obtained some of the heat-seeking missiles but coalition forces were continuously monitoring the situation, spokesman Colonel Jim Yonts said on Monday.

“Stinger missiles are a dangerous threat. It’s a worry to all Afghans, Pakistanis and the coalition,” Yonts told reporters in Kabul.

“Stinger missiles can be used not only against coalition aircraft but against civilians flying in the area, commercial aircraft coming in and out,” he added.

“(Stingers are) a common enemy and a regional threat that we have to address.”

The CIA has offered $150,000 to $200,000 dollars for each remaining missile in Afghanistan, an Afghan intelligence official has said.

Recent media reports recently said that US and NATO authorities were concerned that some had been bought by the Taliban, who are waging a bloody insurgency more than four years after their regime was ousted.

“Right now we don’t have any indications they are in theater. But it’s one of those items that we continuously look at from a regional perspective,” Yonts said.

A US-led military operation overthrew the Taliban in late 2001 for not handing over Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden following the 11 September attacks on New York and Washington.

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Israel confirms H5N1, culls poultry

JERUSALEM, 20 March — Israel said tests showed the avian flu virus that infected poultry in the south of the country is the lethal H5N1 strain.

Israel began culling flocks of turkeys and chickens in infected coops over the weekend after thousands of birds died at three farms. Officials said on Friday the avian flu had killed them but they were awaiting the results of laboratory tests to determine its strain.

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Hackers get Windows XP on Apple computers

SAN JOE (California), 17 March — As expected, hackers have found a way to run Microsoft Corp’s Windows XP operating system on new Macintosh computers, winning an ad hoc contest and a $13,854 cash prize to boot.

Or, make that dual-boot, one machine.

That’s why Nederkoorn, 23, started a contest back in January to goad programmers, soliciting donations for a cash prize for anyone who came up with a hack.

Late Thursday, the prize went to two San Francisco Bay Area software developers, Jesus Lopez, 33, of Alamedia, and Eric Wasserman, 41, of Berkeley.

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At least 45 injured in plane’s landing accident in Spain

MADRID, 20 March— A landing passenger plane veered off the runway Saturday in the southern city of Seville, leaving at least 45 people injured.

The Air Algerie’s Boeing 737-600 airliner ran out of the runway when it was trying to land at the San Pablo Airport, a local government official told a Press conference, blaming the accident on the malfunctioning landing gear.

The plane, with 101 passengers and seven crew aboard, did not explode or go up in flames, and none of the injuries was serious, the official said.

After the accident, the airport was temporarily shut down, forcing about 40 flights to resort to other airports for landing.

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China publishes first book naming all of world’s butterfly species

XI’AN, 20 March — China has published, for the first time, a book which names all the butterfly species in the world.

The book is published by the Shaanxi science and technology publishing house and insiders say it shows that China’s butterfly research has made great progress after two decades of hard work.

The World Butterfly Catalogue was compiled on similar lines to the Chinese Butterfly Catalogue, whose chief compiler is China’s famous butterfly expert Zhou Yao, a professor from the Northwest Agriculture and Forestry Science University of China.

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US says, Stinger missiles in Afghanistan a threat

KABUL, 20 March—US-made Stinger missiles will pose a threat to military and commercial aircraft across the region if they fall into the hands of Taliban rebels in Afghanistan, the US-led coalition said.

Washington supplied a large number of shoulder-fired Stingers to Afghans fighting the Soviet occupation in the 1980s and dozens are still thought to be missing. There was no evidence to support media reports that the Taliban had obtained some of the heat-seeking missiles but coalition forces were continuously monitoring the situation, spokesman Colonel Jim Yonts said on Monday.

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“Right now we don’t have any indications they are in theater. But it’s one of those items that we continuously look at from a regional perspective,” Yonts said.

A US-led military operation overthrew the Taliban in late 2001 for not handing over Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden following the 11 September attacks on New York and Washington.
Japan’s cherry blossom trees threatened by disease

Tokyo, 21 March — Japan’s cherry blossom trees in at least 18 prefectures have been infected by a mold disease, which could make the trees unable to produce flowers and sometimes kill them in about five years, local media reported on Monday as the cherry blossom season is approaching in the country.

The May 2005 general election in Britain has 8,000 troops in Iraq and is sending another 3,500 to Afghanistan where its presence will peak at 5,700. Britain, like the United States, has said it hopes to withdraw from Iraq when local security forces improve their capabilities.

On April 15, Iraq will celebrate the third anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq, marking the third anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq, marking the third anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq. The invasion of Iraq, which began on March 20, 2003, was one of several major events in the Iraq war that sparked international protests and demonstrations.

Thousands join Iraq war protest in London

London, 19 March — At least 14,000 anti-war protesters marched through London on Saturday, three years after the invasion of Iraq, calling for US and British troops to pull out. Some marchers held placards bearing a photograph of US President George W Bush and the words “World’s Number 1 Terrorist”. Others carried banners saying “Peace not Profit” and “End the occupation, don’t attack Iran”.

A handful of protesters donned orange boiler suits and wore shackles on their wrists to mimic outfits worn in the US Guantanamo Bay Prison, and carried photographs of prisoners. “We want to achieve two things: to hurry the release of prisoners. Ahern said the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York in 2001 were a “killing spree” and that Bush and his administration were responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians.”

The demonstration was organized by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Stop the War Coalition and the Muslim Association of Britain. Organizers said the march was one of several planned worldwide to protest against the Iraq war, from Australia to Japan to the United States. The turnout of 14,000 was a police estimate. The demonstration was a far cry from the massive protests in February 2003 ahead of the invasion of Iraq when millions took to the streets around the globe to protest.

A huge opposition to the war in Britain was partly responsible for Prime Minister Tony Blair’s majority being slashed in the May 2005 general election in Britain.

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern raised the issue of prisoners. Ahern said he was aware of public opinion that it can’t join the European Union until it has made progress in normal extradition procedures but denies sending them to countries that use torture.

The allegations have sparked protest in European countries, with governments seeking explanations from Washington whether their airports have been used for flights carrying prisoners. Ahern said Ireland’s Shannon Airport was a frequent landing site for CIA and military planes and the United States had assured his government it had not been used for rendition.

IRISH PM voices concern to Bush over CIA flights

Washington, 19 March — Ireland’s Prime Minister used a Saint Patrick’s Day visit to hammer home to President George W Bush concerns about secret CIA flights through his country and treatment of inmates at the US prison at Guantanamo.

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern raised the issue of rendition, the controversial US practice of moving terrorism suspects from one country to another, in White House talks on Friday, saying he had pressed for “more transparency”.

Human rights groups accuse the United States of transporting suspects outside legal channels to countries where they could face torture under interrogation. Washington says it sometimes transfer suspects without following normal extradition procedures but denies sending them to countries that use torture.

The allegations have sparked protest in European countries, with governments seeking explanations from Washington whether their airports have been used for flights carrying prisoners. Ahern said Ireland’s Shannon Airport was a frequent landing site for CIA and military planes and the United States had assured his government it had not been used for rendition.

House fire kills four in Canada, including three children

Ottawa, 19 March — A house fire that happened late Friday night in Canada’s Charlevoix in Quebec Province killed 4, including three children.

The victims were a woman, her son and two other children aged 6 and 11, reports reaching here said Saturday.

The cause of the blaze was not immediately known. But reports cited witnesses as saying they heard an explosion.

Charlevoix is northeast of Quebec City, the provincial capital.

Models present creations of Theory from New York in Tokyo of Japan, on 19 March, 2006. Tokyo Fashion Week for the full and winter of 2006 kicked off on Friday. —INTERNET

The UN Secretary-General’s message on World Water Day

22 March, 2006

YANGON, 22 March — The following is the message sent by Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of World Water Day which falls on 22 March, 2006.

The theme of this year’s observance of World Water Day is “Water and Culture”. Water is not only essential for life, it is also a wide-ranging cultural presence — an inspiration for artists, a focus of scientific research and an indispensable element in the religious rituals of many traditions and faiths.

Yet despite importance and often sacred nature, water continues to be wasted and degraded all over the world, in cities and rural areas alike. Eighteen per cent of the world’s population lack access to safe drinking water, and 40 per cent lack basic sanitation. Every day, some 6,000 people, most of them children, die from water-related causes.

That is why the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution proclaiming the period from 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action. “Water for Life”, called for more concerted action to reach the internationally agreed targets for access to water and sanitation.

The Assembly also stressed the need to involve women in all water-related development efforts. In many cultures, including indigenous societies, women are the guardians of water. They are the ones who often spend long, arduous hours searching for and carrying water. They need to be able to participate more meaningfully in decision-making on how water is used and managed, so that their countries can make full use of their knowledge, skills and contributions.

This year’s observance of World Water Day coincides with the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City. I urge all the participants to work together and send a clear message to the world about the urgency of this challenge.

The Day also marks the launch of the second edition of the World Water Development Report (http://www.unesco.org/water/wwa/wdr2/table_contents.shtml), produced by the UN system’s World Water Assessment Programme. This publication demonstrates what the world must do to meet the challenges of freshwater management, and what the UN system can do to help. I commend it to a wide global audience.

On this World Water Day, let us recognize the cultural, environmental and economic importance of clean water, and strengthen our efforts to protect rivers, lakes and aquifers. We need to distribute water more equitably, and increase the efficiency of water use, especially in agriculture. Let us mount a sustained effort — among international bodies, governments and local communities, and across traditions and cultures — that will reach our goals.
Wrong, if we copy American shunt of exploiting human rights

A Reader

The governments and peoples of the world nations know well that American government’s use of democracy and human rights as tools is to disguise itself as a kind-hearted person while hiding its real neo-colonialist ogre image. In addition its perpetration to launch propaganda and psychological war and recruit traitors and snobs as lackeys is so obvious.

The US and allies after invading Iraq launched propaganda campaign to organize Iraqis to have trust in the US policy and recruit minions. The Pentagon was said to have bribed Sunni religious scholars to contribute American propaganda articles in the dailies published in Iraq. A Pentagon official during his interview with The New York Times said that if the US could make the most influential Iraqis its minions, it could easily control and manipulate all the people of the country.

During the Cold War, the CIA acted as the core of the media war against America’s enemies, trying to entice peoples around the world accept and love American lifestyle with the articles it had bribed the respective persons with large amounts of money to be featured in the dailies. I have read in a news article that the Pentagon had used a lot of cash in a bid to make the Iraqis see America as their savior.

In reality, it was America’s one of the attempts to improve its image that was tarnished badly in the world. But all the clandestine operations such as bribing Iraqi media and mixing authentic news and false news in featuring news reports, illegally eavesdropping on domestic phone conversations and torturing prisoners with inhuman methods, of the US are being revealed by the global media.

The State Department of the US issued the so-called 2005 report on human rights practices to attack others while overlooking its own faults. The respective nations and the global media rejected and called 2005 report on human rights practices to be unfounded.

Here, I would like to point out that the US could not fulfill all the social needs — food, clothing and shelter — of the people. Only the system that ensures the basic needs or in other words social needs will last long.

* In this world today, some powers are trying to dominate small nations with human rights and democracy as excuses. As there is no way the cultures of the West and the East can be identical to each other, their ways of practices cannot be the same. In this situation, we all should strive to enhance the strength of the people and the nation. We all will have to rely on ourselves for national development. Self-reliant efforts have firm foundation.

* Human rights and democracy should be in harmony with the nation, customs, economy, social affairs, culture and religion. We cannot copy other nations' human rights and democracy.

- It is obvious that food, clothing and shelter are fundamental rights for human beings, and if these fundamental rights have been fulfilled, there will be no difficulties to restore minor human rights.
- The adoration of stability and peace is considered to be viable quality in the Myanmar societies. The US is ideologically consistent with the teachings of cherishing the motherland, safeguarding own lineage, and preservation of national prestige and integrity of national people at risk to lives; and Myanmar has preserved such fine traditions since the time of their ancestors.
- Myanmar had faced a wide range of difficulties and adversities many times in the practice of democracy in the past; although it started to practice parliamentary democracy system after it had regained independence, the system did not flourish in the nation owing to the fact that national peace and tranquillity could not be restored and economic life of the people had not developed; and the Union was on the verge of collapse.
- Some internal destructive elements with negative outlook and lackeys of the colonialisists lack nationalistic fervour, patriotic spirit and national character and they think highly of foreign countries, ask foreign masters for advice and suggestions, and want to live under alien influence.
- It is required to take lessons that in the present era, certain strong union countries collapsed in a short period, followed by loss of many lives, culture and property along with sharp decline in the economic and social sectors.
- National people are to be constantly vigilant against the dangers of internal and external destructive elements, to keep a revolutionary vigilance on them and to remain united forever at a time when necessary measures are being taken for ensuring human rights such as security of life and property, fulfilment of basic needs and social development in the interests of the State and the people made up of various national races.

The above-mentioned points are the essence for democratic transition and ensuring human rights in Myanmar today as well as the policies of the State. I would like to elaborate in the forthcoming articles how the government (Tatmadaw government) has been making efforts to put these policies into reality.

Today, national people are duty-bound to fully imbue themselves with patriotic fervour and Union Spirit for ensuring perpetual existence of the mother country and well-being of the people, while correctly viewing every-changing international event and internal affairs.

Here, I would like to present excerpts from the article “Journalism and sense of responsibility” by Luu U Sein Win in the 23-2-2006 issue of the News Watch journal.

It says, “Today, the word ‘freedom’ is very popular all over the world. There are many differences between Eastern society and Western societies in custom, culture, way of life and faith. It is improper to set a single norm ignoring such differences. It is required to recognize the differences.

―The Western family type gives priority to individual freedom and individual well-being. But, the Eastern family type gives priority to the affairs of the whole family rather than to individual affairs. In the Western societies that pay more attention to individual affairs than to the whole society, the teenage pregnancy rate is on the increase year after year. Many girls, before completion of even middle school education, become mothers without jobs. Moreover, the rate of criminal cases is on the sharp increase. So, it cannot be said the Western lifestyle is better.

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―Freedom is not the licence to do all things at will. Freedom is interrelated with responsibility. In reality, cent per cent freedom cannot be enjoyed anywhere. The newspapers in the Western countries can enjoy freedom in the frame adopted by the proprietors of the corporations to which the newspapers belong. The US President George Bush said that the authority to open envelopes in post offices to examine them and to tap telephone lines was essential. So, it is apparent that cent per cent freedom is impossible.”

Translation: TMT + MS (Kyemon: 20-3-2006)
Hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Tatmadaw building a modern and developed nation together with the people

Myint Soe

The Tatmadaw that has emerged to restore independence and sovereignty will turn 61 years on 27 March, 2006. The objectives of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day are:

— to work in concert with the people for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic new nation
— to strive for successful realization of the seven-step policy programme of the State
— to crush every danger posed to the State hand in hand with the people
— to build a strong, capable and modern Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes. The Tatmadaw had to ward off the internal and external dangers in order not to lose the already-achieved independence.

In the course of independence struggles which covered anti-colonialist struggle, anti-fascist struggle and national liberation struggle, the Tatmadaw had to enlist the strength of the people. Again, it has to take the national leadership role to safeguard the independence and shoulder the national defence and security duties. The Tatmadaw had to jointly discharge the State responsibilities during the period from 1949 to 1952 and from 1958 to 1961 when there were political and military dislocations in the nation. At that time, the Tatmadaw was dearth of modern arms and ammunition. Owing to dissension and discord sown by the colonialists, some battalions of the Tatmadaw went against the APFL government. To put the nation into such a situation, the colonialists injected the extremist idea into national race battalions politically and racially and drove a wedge among them even before the nation had regained the independence. They provided internal insurgents with arms and ammunition. At the same time, they attempted to weaken the Tatmadaw politically and militarily with every intention of disintegrating the nation. In other words, they made attempts to weaken the nation and the Tatmadaw at every opportunity. This way, the Tatmadaw had to overcome a series of difficulties and obstacles to regain the independence. The Tatmadaw together with the people restored the independence and now, it is discharging the national duties including safeguarding the independence and sovereignty. Members of the Tatmadaw are guarding against any danger posed to the nation at the risk of their lives while engaging in nation-building endeavours day in, day out.

In 1988 when anarchy reigned in the nation, the nation was on the brink of disintegration. At that time, the Tatmadaw had to step in and restored community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order that the people longed for. At that time, due to anarchy and destabilization, every sector of the government was in chaos and the nation had to experience political, economic and social upheaval. At such a time, the Tatmadaw had been able to put the nation on the right track of development. Soon after the independence was regained, the internal insurgencies reigned due to dissension and discords among the brethrens sown by the colonialists. Different parts of the nation lagged behind in development in the absence of peace and stability. Therefore, the Tatmadaw unavowedly had to build national reconciliation. In the process, the Tatmadaw had to build mutual trust and understanding with the national race armed organizations. Since 1989, the Tatmadaw had laid down and implemented the tasks for development of border areas and national races. Nowadays, the national reconciliation has already been restored and altogether 17 national race armed groups returned to the legal fold. Thanks to concerted efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people, unprecedented progress has been made across the nation including border areas. In its effort to build the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one, the Tatmadaw government has laid down and is implementing the 12 political, economic and social objectives to bring about peace and development and to equip the people with nationalistic spirit and Union spirit that is the main pillar for perpetuation of the Union.

In his address on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said: “On the economic front, clusters of dams, reservoirs and irrigation canals are being built wherever necessary as part of the endeavours to increase the acreage of cultivated land, enhance agricultural production, achieve targeted yields and mechanize agriculture for the development of the agricultural sector. As part of the industrial development programmes, efforts are being made for the full-capacity production of existing factories, the construction of new factories and the establishment of private industrial zones for import-substitute production. Special endeavours are also being made for the development of energy generation and energy production, which are indispensable in building an industrialized nation.” At present, thanks to concerted efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people, remarkable progress has been made in all aspects of the nation. Border areas have also seen harmonious development. Big cities and small ones as well as rural areas and the countryside enjoyed unprecedented progress. As the nation is an agro-based one, the government with the participation of the Tatmadawmen and the people have built a series of dams and reservoirs that are indispensable for the development of agriculture and constructed a number of roads and bridges large and small in different parts of the nation for ensuring better transport.

In the education sector, universities, colleges, technological colleges and computer colleges were opened in the region to bring about equitable development across the nation including border areas after designating the 24 development zones. In the health sector, more hospitals, dispensaries and rural health care centres were opened and control of the three major diseases was launched. Moreover, major surgical operations including liver and kidney transplants were successfully carried out.

In the information sector, more TV retransmission stations were established and sub-printing houses opened for the local people to be able to read newspapers as early as those from Yangon do. At the same time, a large number of libraries were opened in villages and the number of libraries has now stood at 51,131.

Likewise, the agricultural sector, the forest sector, the mining sector, the oil and gas sector and soon are making progress. The transport sector and the communication sector have also undergone a great change for the better. Those achievements can be attributed to the commitment of the Tatmadaw in its effort to build up a new, modern and developed nation.

All in all, at a time when efforts are being made for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic new nation, the onus is on the Tatmadaw that is in the perpetual service of the State and the people to shape the future of the State along with the people.

(Translation: TS)
Cooperative efforts between the government and the people are gaining more and more harmony and momentum year after year

The cooperative efforts between the government and the people are gaining more and more harmony and momentum year after year. A study shows that the nation now has a great future ahead.

The positive public response to the government’s tireless endeavours for public welfare should come in the form of innovative efforts and unity for progress and modernization of the nation.

Staff of the factory should strive to manufacture quality goods that ensure consumer satisfaction, reduce production cost, minimize wastage, run the factory as economically as possible and pay heed to the maintenance work. Only then will the factory be able to manufacture import substitute goods. He also discussed regional development, physic nut cultivation and crushing of destructionists.

Also present at the ceremony were members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, ministers, deputy ministers, local people and others.

Managing Director of GMI U Aye Mauk.

Chairman of Kyaukse District PDC Lt-Gen Tin Ohn and Managing Director Mr Lee Tsu Tien of L&Z Trading & Investment Pte Ltd of Singapore formally opened the factory.

General Soe Win unveiled the signboard. Later, he inspected the products of the factory and goods that are at the experimental stage as well as the production process and sector-wise operations.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw said the people can use locally-made enamelware and steelwares at a reasonable price after opening of the factory.

(See page 9)

Staff of the factory should strive to manufacture quality goods that ensure consumer satisfaction, reduce production cost, minimize wastage, run the factory as economically as possible and pay heed to the maintenance work.
Use sound infrastructures for continuous national development …

He called for durability of the factory.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung reported on the purpose of the construction of the factory, production of steelware and production of workshops and factories under the Ministry of Industry-1.

Secretary of Kyaukse Township Union Solidarity and Development Association U Thha Swe thanked the government for building the factory.

Managing Director of Kyaw Tha Co U Win Lwin and Managing Director of L&Z Trading and Investment Pte Ltd Mr Lee Tsu Tien presented cash donations for Kyaukse Township USDA, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women’s Affairs Organizations and Minsu Station Hospital to officials.

Managing Director U Aye Mauk also reported on data of the factory. The Prime Minister presented fruit baskets to the managing director and engineers of L&Z Trading and Investment Pte Ltd.

The minister also presented a fruit basket to Myanmar engineers.

Enamelware and Steelware Factory (Minsu) is equipped with machines that can produce 750 tons of enamelware and 500 tons of steelware in three shifts per day. It will also produce 32 items of enamelwares and 41 kinds of steel utensils, basins, cookers, hospital equipment, vacuum flasks and containers.—MNA

Cultivation of physic nut, rubber, regional …

State. Livestock breeding enterprises including meat and fish sector have been successful in the division. Under the guidance of the Head of State 3.6 million acres of monsoon paddy have been grown the previous year and arrangements are being made for cultivation of 3.7 million acres this year.

He spoke of the need to grow summer and monsoon paddy and ten major crops in the township. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than greeted farmers in the fields where harvesting was held. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander visited the plantation of physic nut being undertaken by Eya Shewa Co Ltd in Kangyidaunk Township.

In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said the Head of State expected that there will be fuel shortage in the future. Therefore, the Head of State gave guidance on wider cultivation of physic nut from which bio diesel can be extracted. Arrangements are being made for cultivation of 300,000 acres of physic nut in each state and division.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander planted physic nut seeds and grafts. They visited the cultivation of physic nut and inspected operation of machines with the use of bio-gas.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected rubber plantation in Pathein Township. Lt-Col Myint Soe of South West Command reported on arrangements for cultivation of rubber and physic nut.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected rubber and physic nut plantations in Ngwehsaung in Pathein Township. He also heard reports on extended plantation of the industrial crops including rubber and physic nut. Ayeyawady Division will grow 500,000 acres of physic nut within three years, explained Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung. At his meeting with departmental personnel, social organizations and locals, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that Myanmar now has the technology to use physic nut oil as biodiesel when energy is the main requirement in farm mechanization process. The government has been providing assistance to grow physic nuts in the whole nation for mass production of the fuel. The Head of State has already given guidance to plant physic nut on commercial scale. The crop is easy to grow, and has a high value.

Thus, locals should grow physic nuts on large stretches of land. He then observed the test running of machines with biodiesel.—MNA
Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects Alaini Dam,...

(from page 16)

Regarding Alaini and Lagunpyin dams, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said as the dams do not need to supply water to Ngamoeyeik Canal, they should supply irrigation water to farmland efficiently. He also urged officials to extend the canal of Ngamoeyeik Dam in the hope of supplying water to Yangon and to farmland in the region.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected the feeder canal-1 and main canal of Lagunpyin Dam and gave instructions.

During his tour of inspection, Lt-Gen Thein Sein also gave instruction on finding an axis of another Yangon-Mandalay Highway. — MNA

MWAF donates books, cash to library

YANGON, 21 March — Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win and party view round Dekkhinar library in Thayetchaung Model Village in Taikkyi Township. — MNA

Jade lots sold through tender, 2,371 local and foreign merchants buy gems

YANGON, 21 March — Patron of Central Committee for Organizing Myanna Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint together with Deputy Minister U Myint Thein went to 43rd Myanmar Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this afternoon and viewed sales of jade lots through tender and gave encouragement to local and foreign gem merchants.

Some 2,371 local and foreign gem merchants—1,481 of 420 companies from 16 countries, 890 of 355 local companies arrived at the emporium. All arrivals studied lots of jade on display from 15 to 20 March and put proposals into the tender box. A total of 447 lots of jade were sold through tender.

Lots of jade will be sold through tender and competitive bidding from today to 24 March. — MNA
1. Incidences of Avian Influenza

Avian Influenza (bird flu) is of zoonotic nature, (transmissible to human beings) that has occurred since December 2003 and spreads to 14 countries in Asia and 30 countries in other parts of the world totaling 44 countries. As of the end of February it caused 96 numbers of human death.

2. Situation in Myanmar

Starting from the 1st week of February to the early part of March, the outbreaks of chicken disease, suspected Avian Influenza occurred in Shwebo Township, Kantbalu and KhinOo Townships in Sagaing Division and Pyigyidagun Township in Mandalay Division. The cause of disease may be due to migratory birds that fly across the country or illegal importation of hatching eggs and day-old-chicks. If the dead bird had been vaccinated with Avian Influenza vaccine, it causes complication in disease diagnosis and identification.

3. The measures currently taken

The above said townships in the southern part of Sagaing Division and Mandalay Division are confined as restricted zones and the movement control, temporary close down of markets and disease investigation in the poultry farms are undertaken under the guidance of local authorities. Field investigation and disease surveillance are carried out continuously.

4. Signs and Symptoms

(a) Sudden death and high mortality, drop in egg production
(b) Dull, decreased feed intake and excessive drinking
(c) Difficult in breathing, eye and nasal discharges.

(d) Oedema in head and face
(e) Oedema in comb and wattles
(f) Haemorrhages and red spots in legs and knee joints
(g) 100% mortality if it is severe

5. Disease control measures to be taken

(a) To notify promptly the local authorities or Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) if the disease suspected of Avian Influenza is noticed.
(b) If chickens are affected with any kind of disease, not to sell out to the market or any other region.
(c) To protect the domestic birds from contact with wild and migratory birds.
(d) Not to convey the birds from other farms to the own farm and not to practice mixed farming of different species.
(e) Not to allow the entry of people including young children from outside into own poultry farm
(f) Whenever enter the farm, use boots, overcoat, head wear, glove and mask for protection.
(g) To keep the farm hygienic and apply disinfectants and lime regularly on the farm.
(h) Not to allow farm workers to poultry markets and to change clothes and shoes before entering the farm if happens to do.
(i) To cook well poultry meat and eggs to prevent transmission to humans.

6. The Animal Health and Development Law has been promulgated for the control of animal infectious diseases. The stakeholders involved in poultry farming and trading are notified to coordinate and cooperate in contributing effectively to the control of Avian Influenza.
Mongolia’s first kidney transplant successfully performed

ULAN BATOR, 20 March — Mongolia’s first kidney transplant was successfully performed at the 3rd Hospital in Ulan Bator several days ago, Mongolian news media reported on Sunday.

The operation lasted 10 hours. According to the doctors concerned, the patient’s body is getting better and her kidney is fine. The patient, D Oyuntsetseg, received the operation free of charge after citizens of Mongolia raised the necessary funding.

The surgery was the first of its kind to have taken place in Mongolia. The patient’s twin sister was the donor in the operation. Mongolia’s state honours doctor L Jambaljav conducted the operation with the assistance of an experienced doctor from China.

17 Bengal tigers found in far-western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 20 March — A census carried out in the Royal Shukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve in far-western Nepal has found 17 Bengal tigers living in the reserve, a conservation official said here Sunday.

The tigers were found in the census carried out with the foot-mark technology in Kanchanpur District, some 800 kilometres west of Kathmandu, Bitiram Chaudhary of King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation told reporters. The census has recorded four male, 10 female and three tiger cubs, according to Chaudhary.

The number of tigers in the reserve could be higher as the present census was carried out within a limited area and within a short span of one month, he added.

Nepal to import 70 mw power from India

KATHMANDU, 20 March — Nepal will import 70 megawatts additional power from India, deputy-managing director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) said here Sunday.

“Negotiations are in the final stages to import 70 megawatts (mw) of additional power from India,” Uttar Kumar Shrestha, deputy managing director of NEA, the government-owned electricity supplier of the country, told reporters.

The import of 20 mw from Bihar Electricity Board is expected to take place very soon, Shrestha noted, adding that import of another 50 mw will take place next year from West Bengal.

Nepal has a power exchange agreement with India for up to 150 mw, less than half of which has been exchanged so far, Shrestha noted.

Nepal is currently facing a major power deficit of 1.3 million units, making load shedding hours unavoidable. The total demand of power is 8.2 million units in the country, he added.

Hotel fire kills five, injures two in China’s Jilin

CHANGCHUN, 20 March — Five people were confirmed dead and two others injured in a hotel fire in Northeast China’s Jilin Province on Saturday evening, the local government said early on Sunday. Fire broke out at around 7:40 pm in the Xinqiao Hotel in Yanji, a city in the Korean Autonomous Prefecture of Yanbian, a source of the city government told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

He said more than 40 guests had checked in at the hotel, most of whom were out when the fire broke out.

“Those who were in tried to escape the fire in panic,” he said without giving further details. Twenty-six fire engines and 136 firemen joined the subsequent rescue operation. The fire had destroyed the entire seven-storey hotel building when the flames were finally put out in the small hours on Sunday, the official said.
MP3 used to measure inflation in Britain

London, 20 March—Thousands of weapons supplied to Iraq by British arms companies have fallen into the hands of al-Qaeda terrorists targeting British troops, The Observer newspaper here revealed on Sunday. A deal approved by British ministers to export semi-automatic pistols to Iraqi police forces has ended up arming the supporters of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who is claimed to be al-Qaeda’s leader in Iraq, the paper said in an investigative report.

Britain’s Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) last year sanctioned the export of Beretta 92S guns, and there is no evidence to suggest special checks were put in place to prevent them from reaching terrorist insurgents, the report said. The two British companies involved in supplying the 20,318 weapons to Iraq said there had been a risk that some of the weapons could have ended up with the “wrong people” if preventative measures had not been introduced.

Critics said the revelations raised damaging questions over Britain’s role in exporting arms to Iraq. Anti-war activists even claimed in Saturday’s demonstration in central London that the companies in the deals were supporting both sides of confronting military groups in Iraq to make chaos in the warring country, so that the US and British governments could justify keeping their military presence in the country. The Beretta deal was instigated when the US Government asked its procurement arm, Taos Industries, to find weaponry to arm the Iraqi police, The Observer said.—MNA/Xinhua

Leggy lamb
Belgium, 19 March—Belgian grower Maurice Peeters holds a six-leg lamb a day after its birth, on 18 March, 2006 in his exploitation in Meeuwen-Gruitrode.

The lamb cannot walk and has to be specially fed.

A veterinarian surgeon who examined it was reported as saying he would consider amputating the two superfluous legs if it managed to survive beyond a week.

Internet

Moderate earthquake jolts Aceh, Indonesia

Jakarta, 20 March—An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale jolted Banda Aceh, capital of Indonesia’s Aceh Province, and the vicinity on Sunday, but there was no immediate report on casualties or damage.

“The quake took place at 11:24 local time (0424 GMT) with the epicenter located 4 degrees North Latitude and 96 degrees East Longitude,” Antara news agency quoted Marzuki, a Meteorological and Geophysics official, as saying.

He said that the earthquake occurred in the sea at a depth of 33 kilometres. “The epicenter was in the sea some 25 kilometres southwest of Meulaboh, the tremors of which were felt in Pakenam, Meulaboh and Banda Aceh,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian State radio to broadcast news in 13 languages

Jakarta, 20 March—Indonesian State radio station (RRI) has been trying to send its broadcast in 11 languages in an effort to facilitate foreigners in the country to obtain factual and accurate information, and is planning to send broadcast in two more languages in the future, Antara news agency reported on Sunday.

“We have been making a try-out to broadcast our news in 11 international languages, such as Arabic, English, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Mandarin (Chinese), Spain and Thai, the news agency quoted RRI Director Parni Hadi as saying in Bali Saturday night.

Two more foreign languages the RRI will use in the future are Russian and Italian, he said, adding that the foreign listeners will hopefully receive correct information on Indonesian affairs from the RRI news broadcast.”—MNA/Xinhua

Report says British guns in al-Qaeda’s hands

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Austrian league upholds ‘rubbergate’ defeat

BERN (Switzerland), 21 March— Austria’s soccer league has overturned a player’s bizarre sending-off for wearing jewellery but ruled that league leaders Austria Magna’s 3-0 defeat away to title rivals Salzburg should stand. Austria Magna striker Roland Linz was dismissed for a second yellow card in the 28th minute of Sunday’s clash after referee Dietmar Drabek claimed to see the player taking a bracelet over to his team dugout.

Drabek, who had booked a Salzburg player for wearing jewellery a few moments earlier, told reporters that he had told Linz to remove the bracelet before the kick-off.

After their lead was reduced to four points, Austria Magna appealed to the league’s disciplinary committee for a replay — insisting that the forward had in fact taken some coins and a rubber band off the pitch.

In a statement released on Monday, the panel said it was upholding the appeal against Linz’s dismissal due to lack of evidence, but said there were no grounds for ordering a re-match.

Earlier on Monday, the league’s refereeing committee gave its backing to Drabek — citing FIFA regulations which ban the wearing of jewellery during soccer matches. Speaking to the club’s website shortly after the disciplinary committee’s announcement, Austria Magna’s sporting director Peter St’ger said the matter — quickly dubbed ‘rubbergate’ by local media — was now closed. — MNA/Reuters

Ashton doubles sends West Ham into FA Cup semi

LONDON, 21 March— West Ham United’s record buy Dean Ashton scored twice to send the London side into the FA Cup semifinals after a 2-1 win at Manchester City on Monday.

The striker, a seven million pounds signing from Norwich City in January, scored with a fierce drive just before halftime and tapped in a second on 69 minutes to book West Ham their first Cup semi-final appearance since 1991.

City’s Chinese defender Sun Jihai was shown a straight red card after 56 minutes for swinging his arm at Matthew Etherington as they tangled near the touchline.

Congolese midfielder Kiki Musampa blasted in a left-foot volley from just outside the box five minutes from time but City’s late pressure failed to bring an equalizer.

“It’s fantastic, obviously it’s a really hard place to come and they threw everything at us,” Ashton told BBC television.

“Of course a defeat is a defeat, even if you don’t deserve it. I think we did not earn a 1-0 victory at Craven Cottage,” said Messi, who played little part in the second leg of the last-16 tie against Chelsea after pulling a muscle early in the game at the Nou Camp. A 1-1 draw gave Barcelona the tie 3-2 on aggregate. “I’ve always had this ability to get up and get on with it. Long ago I made up my mind that the fact that people try to kick you and foul you comes with the territory if you play the way I do,” the 18-year-old said. — MNA/Reuters

Italian Serie A match reports

ROMA, 21 March— Reports of Italian Serie A matches played on Sunday:

Chievo Verona 4 — Siena 1

Siena’s chances of taking anything from the game looked slim from the second minute, when Igor Tudor was sent off for a foul on Simone Tiribocchi in a well-deserved win for the visitors.

Reggina 0 — Empoli 2

Empoli’s second win in a row, after last week’s victory over Chievo, lifted them out of the relegation zone. Nicola Pozzi and Francesco Tavano scored the goals in a well-deserved win for the visitors.

Sampdoria 0 — Palermo 2

Sampdoria were unlucky not to take the lead when Eugenio Corini headed Mutarelli and David Di Michele to continue their push for a place in next season’s UEFA Cup. — MNA/Reuters

Mourinho left to rue poor start in defeat at Fulham

LONDON, 21 March— Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho said his side did not deserve to lose at neighbours Fulham after their march to the Premier League title suffered a setback on Sunday. Fulham, mired in a slump that has dropped them close to the relegation zone, inflicted a third defeat of the season on the champions as Luis Boa Morte’s first-half goal earned a 1-0 victory at Craven Cottage.

“Of course a defeat is a defeat, even if you don’t deserve it. I think we did not deserve to lose,” Mourinho told reporters after an exciting west London derby which ended with atouchline brawl that resulted in Chelsea defender William Gallas being sent off. “Zero points out of this game, of course I’m not happy. I think in the first 20 minutes our team was very poor.” — MNA/Reuters

Ronaldinho, tifs with brothers help Messi bed in

LONDON, 21 March— Lionel Messi has Ronaldinho and some rough competition from his brothers to thank for a seamless move into big time soccer.

The talented Argentine forward was taken under his wing by Ronaldinho as soon as he broke into Barcelona’s first team squad, gaining from the confidence shown in him by the great Brazilian.

He also learnt from an early age that he did not like losing in fierce kickabouts with brothers Matias and Maxi in which he did not always come out on top. By the time Messi played at Chelsea in the Champions League last month, he was hardened enough to shrug off the foul by defender Asier del Horno and the controversy surrounding his own ‘rubbergate’ incident at West Ham’s red card to go on and help Barcelona win 2-1.

“I remember at Stamford Bridge all the guys were coming up to me at halftime in the dressing room really worried about me, but I was able to say, don’t worry, no problem. I’m fine, let’s just get on with beating them,” Messi said.

“Even since I was a kid I’ve hated to lose. If I played with my brothers Matias and Maxi we’d always end up fighting about something. If I lost they’d tease me and punce me until I cried,” he said in an interview in Champions Magazine.

“It’s the kind of thing that happens among brothers in a family but they taught me to hate losing,” he added in the issue of the magazine being published this week.

“Something deep in my character allows me to take the hits and get on with trying to win,” said Messi, who played little part in the second leg of the last-16 tie against Chelsea after pulling a muscle early in the game at the Nou Camp. A 1-1 draw gave Barcelona the tie 3-2 on aggregate. “I’ve always had this ability to get up and get on with it. Long ago I made up my mind that the fact that people try to kick you and foul you comes with the territory if you play the way I do,” the 18-year-old said. — MNA/Reuters

Cafa recovers from knee op, ready for World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 March— Brazil captain Cafu says he has recovered from surgery on his left knee and that he will be in excellent shape for the World Cup.

The AC Milan player, who has played in the last three World Cup finals, underwent arthroscopic surgery on 15 February in Rio de Janeiro.

“I’m sure I’m going to get to the World Cup in excellent form, it’s my dream,” he told the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) official website.

Cafa, who celebrates his 36th birthday during the last week’s victory over Chievo, lifted them to second in the league table. — MNA/Reuters

Japan closing pitcher Akinori Otsuka reacts after the last out in the ninth inning of the World Baseball Classic championship game to beat Cuba, 10-6, on 20 March, 2006, in San Diego. — INTERNET

Australia’s Liem De Young (L) gains possession of the ball from England’s Barry Middleton (R) during their hockey match at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne on 21 March, 2006. — INTERNET
China makes strong representation against US on NSS report

BEIJING, 21 March — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said here Monday that China has made a strong representation against the United States for its wrong opinions on China in the US National Security Strategy (NSS) report issued recently. Qin made the remark when answering a question on China’s reaction to the US NSS report which confirmed China’s representation in Asian economic achievements but also interfered in China’s internal affairs. Qin said the report on the one hand said China shares many common interests with the United States and the two countries should strengthen cooperation in fields of anti-terrorism and non-proliferation, but on the other hand, made irresponsible remarks to groundlessly re-proach China’s domestic and foreign policies, and interfered in China’s internal affairs.

“China expressed its ‘strong dissatisfaction’ with the above wrong doings of the United States and has made strong representations against the US side,” Qin said. He said China is a major force in safeguarding world peace and promoting common development, and China has already decided its domestic and foreign policies and development direction. “That is to firmly take the socialist road with Chinese characteristics and peaceful development road, and adhere to an independent foreign policy of peace. China is dedicating itself to building a peaceful, friendly, cooperative and harmonious world with other nations,” Qin said. He said China has made great economic and social achievements since it started reforms and opening up 28 years ago.

MNA/Xinhua

Taze Township Association (Yangon) held its 44th annual meeting along with respect-paying and prize presentation ceremony at its Dhammayon on Bahan 3rd Street, Bahan Township, on 19-3-2006. Chairman of the association U Win Myint presents a gift to an elderly person. — MNA

WEATHER

Tuesday, 21 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C to 4°C) above normal in Kachin State, Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperature was Muibui (41°C) The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (0.19) inch and Myeik (0.11) inch.

Maximum temperature on 20-3-2006 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 21-3-2006 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 21-3-2006 was (64%). Total sunshine hours on 20-3-2006 was (9.0) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 21-3-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northwest at (15:20) hours MST on 20-3-2006.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days:

Forecast for Naypyitaw and neighbouring area for 22-3-2006: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-3-2006: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-3-2006: Fair weather.

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**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

**Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects Alaini Dam, Lagunpyin Dam in Bago Township**

YANGON, 21 March — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein yesterday inspected Alaini Dam and Lagunpyin Dam in Bago Township and called for timely completion of their irrigation canals.

Alaini Dam and Lagunpyin Dam have been completed since three years ago. As their irrigation canals are still under construction, the dams cannot supply the irrigation water sufficiently. Lt-Gen Thein Sein urged officials concerned to make efforts for completion of the irrigation canals by the coming fiscal year.

According to the report of Assistant Director of Bago Division Irrigation Department U Khin Soe, Alaini Dam is now irrigating 644 acres of farmland in the west of Yangon-Bago Road and arrangements have been made to supply irrigation water to 3,801 acres of land in the east of the road.

Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko reported to Lt-Gen Thein Sein on cultivation of summer paddy using irrigation water of Alaini Dam and tasks being implemented for Bago Division’s cultivation target for the coming year.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party went to Lagunpyin Dam located on the border of Bago Township and Hlegu Township.

Lagunpyin Dam is constructed with the aim of preventing floods and irrigating farmland in the region.

(See page 10)

**Cultivation of physic nut, rubber, regional development inspected in Ayeyawady Division**

YANGON, 21 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence came to Bo Myat Tun Bridge in Nyaungdon Township on 20 March.

He was welcomed by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, senior military officers and officials concerned.

At 9 am, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party attended a ceremony to harvest summer paddy on model farm in Yaungpyitkwin Village tract in Kyaunggon Township. Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Nyan Hlaing reported on cultivation of 21,444 acres of summer paddy.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said Ayeyawady Division is one of the six divisions that contribute towards the development of economy of the State. It is also a granary of the (See page 9)

**INSIDE**

“Today, the word ‘freedom’ is very popular all over the world. There are many differences between Eastern society and Western societies in custom, culture, way of life and faith. It is improper to set a single norm ignoring such differences. It is required to recognize the differences.”

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Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than views test-run of agricultural machinery run on physic nut oil as bio-diesel in Ngwehsaung, Pathein Township. — mna