Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

Protect the nation and its people

The Tatmadaw is an institution formed to safeguard and protect the nation and the people. Hence, it must safeguard the territorial waters, land and airspace of the nation. It must safeguard the sovereignty. It must protect all the nation’s interests. And it must safeguard the lives and property of the citizens for their safety.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From address delivered at the graduation parade of the 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy)

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Pakistan

YANGON, 23 March— On the occasion of the Pakistan Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which falls on 23 March 2006, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win on inspection tour of factories and irrigation facilities in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 22 March —Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by 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, the deputy ministers, senior military officers and departmental heads, inspected factories and construction projects in Mandalay Division on 19 and 20 March.

On 19 March afternoon, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries in PyinOoLwin. They inspected production units of the factory. Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung reported on aims of building the factory, medicines to be produced, implementation of pharmaceutical factory projects and drug supply.

Factory Manager Dr Myint Sein briefed them on matters related to the medicines to be produced and Managing Director U Than Shwe of MPI on progress of the project.

The Prime Minister and party oversaw construction of the second-phase buildings of the factory.

The Ministry of Industry-1 is implementing the pharmaceutical factories with the aim of supplying more tablets, capsules and injections according to local demand and reducing imported medicines.

(See page 8)
**Disciplinary Committee for Maha Thingan Festival holds meeting**

**Yangon, 22 March** — A coordination meeting of Disciplinary Committee for Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingan Festival for Myanmar Era 1367 was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council. Present on the occasion were Chairman of Disciplinary Committee for Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingan Festival Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Command-Gen Hla Hlay Win, Deputy Commander Vice-Chairman of the Disciplinary committee Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and committee members, the joint-secretary and officials of Yangon City Development Committee, military region commanders, members of Yangon Division PDC, departmental heads, local authorities, officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, and officials of The Ministry of Industry -1.

Gracing the occasion with his presence, Prime Minister General Soe Win said that the workers of the factory should strive to manufacture quality goods that ensure consumer satisfaction, reduce production cost, minimize wastage, run the factory striking a balance between cost and income and pay heed to the maintenance work.

The factory will start its production of quality enamelware and steelware for the people of Upper Myanmar. The goods will be produced as import substitutes.

Now, Mandalay Division has witnessed swift flow of commodity, industrial development and more and more production lines. The emergence of a great number of economic transport infrastructures, irrigation facilities and factories across the nation that contribute towards regional development and serve the public interest indicates the government’s effective guidelines and harmonious cooperation of departments and the people.

The facility will produce 32 kinds of enamelware and 41 kinds of steelware in three shifts a day.

The construction of the factory will create jobs for local people and help disseminate knowledge of using modern machinery to the people.

Now is a time when the government is investing heavily in building factories and plants for regional development and manufacturing quality products and import substitute items, and officials concerned and factory workers are urged to pay serious attention to production of quality products that meet customer satisfaction.

**28th ISD Golf Championship continues**

**Yangon, 22 March** — Defending champion Yangon Division stayed at the leading position by firing a 218 on the second round for a 14-over-par 450 total gross in the team scratch event of the 28th Inter-State/Division Golf Championship, co-organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Golf Federation, and mainly sponsored by Isuzu Motors Ltd., at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon, Insein Township, this morning.

Mandalay Division took the second position by shooting 472 strokes, and Magway Division 478. In the team handicap event, Mon State scored 403 strokes nett total in the first position. Its runners-up were Kachin State that fired 407 strokes in the second position, and Taninthayi Division 412 in the third position.

In the individual scratch event, Myo Naing (Shan State-North) shot a three-over-par 75 on the second round for a four-over-par 148 in total.

Derek Htet Doe (Yangon Division) put his position behind the leader by firing a bogey for a five-over-par 149 total. Phyo Kyaw Kyaw (Yangon Division) stood in the third position with a par stroke for a seven-over-par 151 total.

In the individual handicap event, La Goon Ein (Mon State) scored 131, Yan Myo Aye (Yangon Division) 131 and Myat Thwin Win 131.

Han Event Management is performing functions of the golf championship. The third round of the champion continues tomorrow. — MNA

**Summer Wushu courses attract 700 trainees**

**Yangon, 22 March** — A total of 700 trainees are participating at Wushu courses organized by the Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Wushu Federation here this summer.

The courses are being held at Padonma Sports Ground, Institute of Education Practising School in Kamayut Township, Education College Practising School in Yankin Township, National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thawunna) and Mingaldon BEHS-5. — NLM

Trainees seen in summer Wushu course at Padonma Sports Ground in Sangyoung Township. — NLM

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**Manufacture quality items to win customer satisfaction**

Industrial development plays a major role in building a modern and developed nation. In this context, the government is taking steps systematically for the development in the industrial sector so as to industrialize the nation.

Accordingly, the government is putting increased efforts into the drive for the development of State-run and private-run industries. It is establishing extensively factories and mills that produce import-substitute products, and taking innovative measures for application of advanced technologies and boosting production of heavy industries around the nation.

The Ministry of Industry-1 has established a large number of cottage industries, that manufacture personal and household goods, across the nation.

The inauguration of the enamelware and steelware factory (Minsu) constructed by the General and Maintenance Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 took place at the factory near Minsu Village in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division, on 20 March.

Gracing the occasion with his presence, Prime Minister General Soe Win said that the workers of the factory should strive to manufacture quality goods that ensure consumer satisfaction, reduce production cost, minimize wastage, run the factory striking a balance between cost and income and pay heed to the maintenance work.

The factory will start its production of quality enamelware and steelware for the people of Upper Myanmar. The goods will be produced as import substitutes.

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Now is a time when the government is investing heavily in building factories and plants for regional development and manufacturing quality products and import substitute items, and officials concerned and factory workers are urged to pay serious attention to production of quality products that meet customer satisfaction.

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**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

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**Foreign Minister felicitates Pakistani counterpart**

**Yangon, 23 March** — On the occasion of the Pakistan Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which falls on 23 March 2006, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mian Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. — MNA
Indonesia, Singapore hope ASEAN to play effective role in Asia

JAKARTA, 21 March—Indonesia and Singapore share the opinion that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should be more solid and have an effective role in the Asian Region.

The remarks were made by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono here on Monday after receiving Singaporean President SR Nathan and his entourage consisting of several Singaporean ministers and members of Parliament, Antara news agency reported.

“We very much share the opinion that ASEAN must be more solid and stronger in playing its role in this region,” said President Yudhoyono.

Yudhoyono said the two countries observed the developments in the Asian Region and the South-East Asian Region. ASEAN must be able to play its role in the region, he added. ASEAN groups, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The ASEAN member countries must be able to take advantage of their geographical closeness for cooperation in investment, trade and other sectors, Yudhoyono stressed. “We hope that economic relations could continue to grow, as geographically Indonesia and Singapore are close,” he said.

Arroyo inspects smuggled goods seized from Manila mall

MANILA, 21 March—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo inspected on Thursday, showed Arroyo at the 168 mall last Thursday, showed Arroyo hundreds of items that were confiscated from stall owners, according to the report. Philippine Customs officials and police raided the 168 malls on 16 March and seized about 100 million pesos (2 million US dollars) of goods allegedly smuggled into the country.

Arroyo, who personally ordered the crackdown on rampant smuggling activities in the Philippines, said she would “court-martial” smugglers.

According to Indonesia’s list of foreign investors, Singapore ranks as the largest foreign investor in Indonesia with investment worth 3.9 billion US dollars in 2005. On the occasion, Indonesia expressed gratitude to Singapore for its significant assistance for the Aceh people who were hit by deadly tsunami in December 2004.

Seven Iranians kidnapped by militants

CAIRO, 22 March — Militants kidnapped seven Iranian men and threatened to kill them unless the Iranian Government released five jailed comrades, according to a video aired by the al-Jazeera TV channel on Tuesday.

The militant group, calling itself the “Jundullah (God’s Soldiers)”, claimed that it had abducted the seven men who worked for Iran’s Army, intelligence forces and the Red Crescent organization, demanding the authorities to set free five members of the group, according to al-Jazeera. The TV channel then aired a video, which showed the hostages, handcuffed and surrounded by masked militants, and their identification cards.

Russia and China promise energy cooperation

BEIJING, 20 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Hu Jintao agreed on Tuesday to deepen energy cooperation, as Russian gas giant Gazprom said it would look to meet some needs of oil and gas-hungry China.

A preliminary deal on new gas pipelines from Russia helped break the ice at a formal document-signing ceremony in Beijing, where earlier this month a top energy planner bluntly criticized Moscow for the lack of progress on agreeing to new supplies.

Putin, who has made energy security the theme of Russia’s current presidency of the G8 group of industrialized nations, said in November that diversifying energy export routes was a top priority, with supplies to Asia of paramount importance.

Under Gazprom’s plan, Russian gas will link to both west and east China, with first deliveries envisaged in around five years. "This about diversifying supplies. Today we’ve defined the timeframe and volumes for Gazprom’s entry on to the Chinese market. These are major volumes," Gazprom chief executive Alexei Miller said after a relaxed and at times jovial signing ceremony.

Miller said the two pipelines, which will skirt round landlocked Mongolia, would eventually supply 60-80 billion cubic meters of gas a year under the terms of a memorandum signed by Gazprom and CNPC, the Chinese oil and gas conglomerate. Interfax news agency quoted a source in the Russian delegation as saying the pipelines would cost around $10 billion.

Four killed in US small plane crash

WASHINGTON, 21 March — A single-engine small plane crash in the southern US resort city of Branson, Missouri, on Monday, killing all four people aboard, authorities said.

The plane had taken off from Lubbock, Texas, and crashed near a highway of Branson, according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
Pentagon feels fuel price pain

NEW YORK, 21 March— Tensof thousands of US military vehicles, ships and aircraft are guzzling fuel every day around the world and with the bill rising the Pentagon is trying harder to conserve.

The US military consumed 144.8 million barrels of fuel in 2004, spending 6.7 billion US dollars, according to the Defence Energy Support Centre (DESC).

Last year, it consumed only 128.3 million barrels, but spent 8.8 billion US dollars, as the average price per barrel rose by almost 50 per cent to more than 68 US dollars. For 2006, DESC estimates the military will need 130.6 million barrels and pay more than 10 billion US dollars for it, at a price of more than 77 US dollars per barrel.

"The US Army burned 12 times more fuel per soldier in Iraq than it did in France in 1944 -- nine gallons of fuel per soldier per day in 2004," said Carlton Meyer, a former Marine officer who runs G2mil Quarterly, a website on military issues. "Another problem is that truck fuel tankers are easy to identify and destroy by enemy guerrillas." As oil prices hit a record 70.85 US dollars per gallon last year and have hovered around 60 US dollars ever since, the Pentagon realized the only way to soften the blow would be to consume less.

Gunmen free captives, kill 20 at Iraq jail

BAGHDAD, 21 March— About 100 masked gunmen stormed a jail near the Iranian border at dawn Tuesday — cutting phone wires, firing rocket-propelled grenades and killing 20 security men — in an operation that freed 18 fellow guerrillas who had been captured in police raids just two days earlier.

Police also said 15 other captives were sprung in the daring assault on the Muqdadiyah lockup and at least 10 insurgents were killed.

In an Internet posting Tuesday night the military wing of the Mujaheddin Shura Council, a militant Sunni Muslim insurgent group, purportedly claimed it carried out the operation.

The Web posting said the group killed "40 policemen, liberated 33 prisoners and captured weapons." The claim was posted on the Iraqi News Web site and could not be independently verified.

With the telephone lines cut, the insurgents had 90 minutes to battle their way into the law enforcement compound before police reinforcements showed up from the nearby villages of Wajhiyah and Abu Saida, police said.

Muqdadiyah, on the eastern fringe of the Sunni Triangle, is about 25 miles from the Iraqi frontier. By the time the insurgents fled, taking away the bodies of many of their dead compatriots, nearly two dozen cars were shot up and set on fire and the jail was a charred mass of twisted bunk bed frames and smoldering mattresses.

US helicopters were in the air above the jail after the insurgents had fled.

Police said there was firing into the air by residents, but it was not clear if the American aircraft were the target.

MNA/Reuters

Study says oily fish may reduce prostate cancer spread

LONDON, 21 March— Eating foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids such as oily fish may help to prevent the spread of prostate cancer, scientists said on Tuesday.

"Omega-3 and omega-6 are essential fatty acids that work together to promote good health. The body cannot make them, so eating a diet rich in the substances is important.

Fish and certain oils such as canola and flaxseed are sources of omega-3 while raw nuts and seeds contain omega-6.

In laboratory studies, scientists at the Paterson Institute at the Christie Hospital in Manchester, England found that omega-3 fats could block the spread of cancerous cells.

Dr Mick Brown, chief scientist in the research group, said the results of the research published in the British Journal of Cancer suggest a diet rich in omega-3 fatty acids might help to inhibit the spread of the disease in men with early prostate cancer.

Because omega-3 and omega-6 work together, it is important to maintain a balance of the two for good health.

"Omega-6 fats, found in vegetable oils, nuts and seeds, increased the spread of tumor cells into bone marrow. This invasion was blocked by omega 3 fats — the ones found in oily fish," Brown said in a statement. "It is possible to have a healthy balance of these two types of fat — we only need about half as much omega-3 as omega-6 — that will still stop cancer cells from spreading," he added.

"The research believe omega-3 fatty acids interfere with functions of omega-6, which can cancer cells may use as a source of energy, and prevent them from spreading beyond the prostate gland.

Prostate cancer is more treatable this two and has a better survival rate if it is diagnosed and treated in its earliest stages.

Susiolo meets Singapore President

JAKARTA, 21 March — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Monday received a visit by his Singaporean counterpart SR Nathan who is slated to stay here until Thursday.

Accompanied by Minister of Information, Communications and the Arts Lee Boon Yang and several Parliament members, Nathan held closed-door talks with Susilo at the state palace.

Later in the day, Nathan is due to meet Vice-President Jusuf Kalla, who last week met a group of business people from the wealthy neighbour asking greater investment.

In the evening, Susilo will host a state banquet for Nathan and his entourage.

Road accident kills five in east India

NEW DELHI, 21 March— At least five people were killed and two others seriously injured when an auto rickshaw collided with a mini truck in Orissa's Deogarh District in east India Monday morning, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The rickshaw, going from a village to a nearby market, was hit by the mini truck coming from the other side near Baspalla Village located on the outskirts of Deogarh Town, 280 kilometres from Bhubaneswar, a senior district police official said.

Four passengers and the driver of the rickshaw died on the spot, two people in the mini truck sustained critical injuries.

They were admitted in a hospital, he said.

Both vehicles were seized for investigation into the cause of the accident was underway, the official said.

MNA/Xinhua
Air travellers seen losing 30 million bags in 2006

GENEVA, 21 March — Some 30 million pieces of airline luggage — about one percent of the bags passengers check in — will go astray this year, the air travel industry’s information technology systems provider SITA said on Tuesday.

The Geneva-based company, which tracks baggage in 220 countries and territories, said virtually all missing bags would be returned to their owners within an average of 31 hours after being reported missing. Around 204,000 pieces — a minute proportion of the 3 billion bags expected to be checked in at world airports by around 2 billion passengers in 2006 — would never be found after getting lost in the system, stolen.

Francesco Violante, managing director of SITA INC, the commercial arm of SITA, said the air transport industry spent about $2.5 billion (1 billion pounds) a year tracking down and returning luggage and compensating passengers for lost items.

While the present rapid growth in air travel — about 6 percent a year — is welcome, Violante added, “it has to be better managed if airlines and airports want to improve the passenger experience by eliminating delays from the system”.

SITA, which along with the global airlines body IATA operates a baggage-tracing system used by 391 carriers, issued its report for an exhibition in Paris.

More and more bags are going missing because of airport congestion, short transition times, frequent switches from one airline to another during a journey, tight security rules and rising passenger and baggage volumes, SITA said in the report.

BELARUS

Belarussian leader labels Bush “terrorist No 1”

MINSK, 20 March — Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko, derided in Washington for running “Europe’s last dictatorship”, hit back on Sunday by denouncing US President George W Bush as “terrorist No 1 on the planet”.

“Bush is terrorist No 1 on the planet,” Lukashenko told reporters after voting in Belarus’s presidential election.

“To crush a state openly and then to go ahead and kill presidents, What is there to say?”

Lukashenko was responding to questions about a report submitted by Bush’s Administration to Congress accusing the Belarussian leader of accumulating large sums of money and selling arms to countries like Iran, Sudan and Syria.

The Belarussian leader has long criticized Washington’s interventions in Iraq, Yugoslavia and other countries and rejects US allegations that he denies human rights.

Genuinely popular in his country of 10 million, Lukashenko is virtually certain to defeat three challengers in Sunday’s poll. He tells voters he has provided them with stability and a degree of prosperity not known in nearby ex-Soviet states.

MNA/Reuters

US-Iraqi forces raid houses in N Baghdad, kill seven

TIKRIT (Iraq), 20 March — Seven people, including a woman and her 13-year-old son, were killed early Sunday when US and Iraqi forces searched houses in Dhuluiyah town, 90 kilometers north of Baghdad, a local police source told Xinhua.

US and Iraq forces backed by armoured vehicles and helicopters stormed Dhuluiyah Town before dawn, searching houses for alleged guerrillas, said local police chief Brigadier Muhammed al-Jubouri.

Brigadier Jubouri said that seven people were killed in the attack, three of them were family members of Ahmed Hussein, a teacher of physics, who was shot dead by US soldiers with his wife and their 13-year-old son.

The US helicopters also bombed a house and totally destroyed it, Jubouri said.

“More than 30 armoured vehicles backed by helicopters stormed the town at about 4:00 am (0100 GMT) and searched houses, beating civilians and damaging furniture,” Ahmed Muheimeed, a

Malaysian kisses cobra 51 times in 3 minutes

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 March — A Malaysian ex-snake farm worker made a record by kissing a venomous cobra 51 times, local media reported Sunday.

Shahimi Abdul Hamid, 33, kissed the King Cobra, 4.6 metres long and 10 kilogrammes heavy, in three minutes and one second Saturday in Genting Highlands near here.

The large cobra looked agitated after the first few easy kisses, and then Shahimi showed agility by moving swiftly to avoid being bitten.

After the 51st kiss, he received a thunderous applause from the audience at the First World Hotel and Malaysian Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Liow Tiong Lai presented him with a certificate.

Shahimi’s feat was a world record waiting to be verified.

The present world record holder was Gordon Cates from Florida, the United States, who kissed 11 cobras without a time limit in September 1999.

Cates used an iron bar to protect himself while Shahimi had only his two bare hands, according to local media reports.

MNA/Xinhua

Chrysler recalls 268,800 vehicles

AUBURN HILLS, 21 March—DaimlerChrysler AG’s Chrysler Group is recalling 268,800 vehicles from the 2005-2006 model years to replace a faulty front windshield wiper motor, the company said Monday.

The wiper motor armature shaft on the vehicles, which include the Dodge Durango, Dodge Caravan and Grand Caravan, and dakota, is going missing because of airport congestion, short transition times, frequent switches from one airline to another during a journey, tight security rules and rising passenger and baggage volumes, SITA said in the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Two-thirds of Australians want troops pullout from Iraq

CANBERRA, 21 March — About 65 per cent of Australians want the government to withdraw Australian troops from Iraq, May, a poll shows.

Just 32 per cent of the 500 respondents in the poll said Australian soldiers should remain in the Middle East country until the country is stable or US troops withdrawn.

The poll was conducted last week on the third anniversary of the US-led coalition’s invasion of Iraq. It was carried out by a market research firm UMR Research on behalf of the Hawker Britton, a political consultancy

with a link to the opposition Labour party.

About 49 per cent of respondents said the reason of Iraq conflict was to protect the oil interests. And only 3 per cent said it to promote democracy in the region.

And 22 per cent said the Iraq conflict was meant to remove Saddam Hussein, and 12 per cent said it was to find weapons of mass destruction.

Australia, a close ally of the United States and a member of the coalition in Iraq, still keeps about 1,300 soldiers and around the oil-rich Gulf country.

MNA/Xinhua

Don’t smoke

Malaysian Shahimi Abu Hamid kisses a king cobra during a world record breaking attempt for ‘Ripleys Believe it or Not!’ outside Kuala Lumpur, on 18 March, 2006. Internet

Chrysler Town & Country, can break and disable the wipers, Chrysler said.

The company said it had notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the voluntary recall. Owners will be notified when parts are available.

No accidents or injuries have been reported related to the problem, Chrysler said.

MNA/Xinhua

Voters of north-central US state to vote on Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 20 March — Voters in 3 towns of the north-central US state of Wisconsin will cast ballots next month on whether the Bush Administration should withdraw American troops from Iraq.

Anti-war activists invoked a 1911 state law to schedule a bring-the-troops-home referendum designed to send a message to Congress and the White House that the war is costing too many lives and too much money, according to a report in Saturday’s The Washington Post.

One side calls the vote democracy, and the other side considers it disservice, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Louisiana State cheerleaders perform a stunt during the second-round game between Louisiana State and Washington in the NCAA women’s basketball tournament on 20 March, 2006, at the Memorial Gymnasium in Nashville, Tenn.

Louisiana State won the game 72-49. — Internet

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MNA/Xinhua
We have seen in the global media Russia, China, Iran, Venezuela, Cuba and so on rejecting the report, saying that it was just a groundless and unfounded report. Every year, China strongly rebutted and rejected the US report. The Chinese Government (the State Council) compiled a long report on China’s human rights endeavors and the US human rights violations. No country has ever stayed silent, but always refuted the American slanders.

In the past China usually rebutted the US report about a week after its issuance. But this year, with firm evidence, China refuted the report within 24 hours. The report issued by the Chinese State Council said that the American democracy was just a game of the politicians; that in the US the rate of first degree crimes was rising and racism was growing; that the US was using inhuman tactics in torturing suspected terrorists at Abu Gharib prison in Iraq, Guantnamo prison at the edge of Cuba Island, detention centres in Afghanistan and CIA-control-led prisons in Europe; that the US was even tapping all the phone conversations of its people; and that the US was like a thief shouting ‘thief’.

In November 1991, the information office of the Chinese State Council published a 183-page book on China’s human rights. In the chapter I, the book said that ‘the right of existence’, which China had restored after a long and hard battle, was the most important human rights in China; that after the 1840 Opium War, China gradually became a semi-feudal country; during the 110-year period from 1840 to 1949, the year in which China liberated half of the population; colonist rulers launched hundreds of major and minor aggressive battles against the country, destroying uncountable number of Chinese lives and property; that in 1900, troops of eight allied nations occupied Beijing, which made it a ghost town; that the invaders killed 900,000 people in Tianjin, a town with one million people; that over 1,700 Chinese were killed in Junwapan alone.

The report continued to say that about 12 million Chinese were sold abroad from mid 19th century to 1920, that the colonists tortured and killed over 8,000 Chinese workers in Sangto; that they tortured and killed not less than two million workers in north-east region alone, and dumped a large number of bodies in gorges and ravines; that American soldier Pearson raped a Chinese student of Peking (now Beijing) University; that the colonialist court ruled that the American soldier was innocent.

It said that the alien intruders hung a sign board stating “Chinese not allowed” at the entrance to the area leased to France in Shanghai; that the aliens insulted Chinese to that degree; that the colonialists pressed China to sign over 1,100 agreements and forcefully took away the country’s riches; that the colonialists demanded unjust compensation from China; that thousands of people died of starvation in China every year; that floods killed over 3.7 million people in eastern China in 1931; that in 1943, three million people died of starvation in Henan province and 15 million survived on grass and barks; that in 1946, 10 million people died of hunger in China; and that in 1947, China had famine victims totalling over 100 million or 22 per cent of the population at the time.

Regarding the drive for restoration of fundamental rights of the people, it also said that after the People’s Republic of China was established in 1949, a good headway had been made with the fulfilment of the requirements of food, clothing and shelter of the people; and that after 1979, China introduced the open-door policy for the economic development. As a result China at present has been able to fulfill the basic needs of 1300 million people.

With respect to the status of workers, farmers and national races in the political, economic and social sectors, it said that the feudalism was removed and that the entire national people could enjoy the rights of genuine democracy only after the new China; that China constantly accepted that it was proper to cooperate with developing countries and always efforts unremittingly to eliminate improper moves and to reinforce the cooperation in international human rights activities.

It also said that China had categorically opposed any nation’s attempt to dictate its views, way of thinking and political norms to others exploits human rights problems, and the tarnishing of the image of other countries especially developing countries by interfering in their internal affairs; that China was in a constant fight against such situations in cooperation with developing countries and always stood for justice; that in essence the problem of human rights was a domestic affair of a nation; and that China constantly accepted that it was proper to address human rights problems according to the international norms recognized by world nations based on mutual respect for sovereignty and non-interference.

In order to make clear the US interference in the internal affairs of other countries under the pretext of human rights, it is said that the paragraph of Section (2) of the UN Charter says, “Nothing in the Charter is to authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State”; that in the UN declarations such as the declaration of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and protecting the sovereignty, declaration of international principles on establishment of friendly relations and cooperation among global nations in accordance with the UN Charter, and the declaration of non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other nations, it was explicitly described that no countries nor blocs had the right to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries directly or indirectly.

In the conclusion of the report, it said that now the world had witnessed many changes, followed by instability; that hegemony and power politics still existed and always harmed world peace and development; the practice of interference in the domestic affairs of other countries and power politics were disrupting the restoration of human rights and fundamental rights; and that in this regard, China was keen on making sustained efforts in cooperation with international community to establish just and systematic international relations order, and to accomplish the UN aims of promoting and protecting human rights.

Respective world nations are rebutting the US accusations to make clear to the world people that they were groundless; they are not responding to the staff of the US State Department who have issued the report, the falsehood of which was to their full knowledge.

(Te to be continued)
Every country has its own armed forces to safeguard the nation and the people. Roughly, there are two kinds of armed forces. The first is the armed forces that is formed with belief and concept based on patriotism. The second one, based on wealth, is formed with mercenary soldiers.

Myanma Tatmadaw is the first one. In retrospect, Myanma Tatmadaw was conceived in during the time of independence struggle and born in anti-fascist struggle. The Tatmadaw hand in hand with the people strove to regain the independence. It is the Tatmadaw that safeguards the nation and its people firmly standing by the people at risk to their lives whenever it faces the danger and crisis that could lead to disintegration of the Union. Soon after the country had regained independence multi-coloured insurgents emerged due to the instigation of the imperialists. As insurgency intensified, situation got worse. That was why the then government was branded as Yangon government. The Tatmadaw crushed the insurgents in the interest of the nation and safeguarded the independence.

In this way, the Tatmadaw saved the country preventing her from breaking up and losing her independence and it stood proudly as the loyal, capable Tatmadaw.

In 1958, the ruling Pha-Sa-Pa-La (AFPFL) government split into two (stable and clean). Some political forces had a plan to disband the Tatmadaw and to replace it with pocket armies. And some planned to join hands with underground insurgents. The situation worsened and there was disunity even in a family. The nation faced the danger that could lead to bloodshed and disintegration of the Union. The country overcame the crisis because the Tatmadaw served the national duty as the caretaker government until the situations returned to normalcy.

In 1962, narrow-minded persons, taking advantage of the weak points of the constitution, that was drawn to the liking of imperialists in 1947, tried to secede from the Union. Those in favour of secession from the Union in collusion with internal insurgents and intruders from abroad asked for assistance from the West military bloc, the then ruling party government was unable to control the deteriorating situation. The Tatmadaw assumed the State duty on 2 March, 1962 and saved the country.

In 1988, the people were displeased with the policy and poor performance of the then ruling government. Taking advantage of this, above-ground and underground insurgents and leftists and rightists and internal and external elements created disturbances. The whole country was gripped by anarchism and terrorism so the administrative machinery of the government became de-funct. Neither a party nor a politician was in no position to control the country. As a result, the Tatmadaw had to unavoidably assume the State duties on 18 September, 1988 and saved the country.

It can be said that the Tatmadaw has discharged bounden duty as the national politics. In other words, the Tatmadaw is a patriotic one with noble traditions and correct belief and concept.

The past events can be regarded as lessons in building the nation to become a peaceful, modern developed one. By doing so, correct and better plans for future State can be laid down with least mistakes. Based on the past lessons, the Tatmadaw government that took up the duties of the State has laid down the policies and is building a peaceful, modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The government, the people and the Tatmadaw are building the nation to become a modern developed one day and night and the government has built infrastructures needed for national development. Laying down the seven-step Road Map, the National Convention was held for drafting the constitution and progress has been made to certain extent.

At the same time, internal and external destructionists and leftists and rightists who do not want to see national development and national solidarity are employing various means in order to break up the solidarity of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw. We have to prevent these acts with awareness.

The Tatmadaw members are good sons of national races living in various regions of the Union. They possess Union Spirit and patriotism and they believe and accept Our Three Main National Causes as the national duty.

Morality is the value of individuals. A person without morality is not a good but dishonest one. There are military codes of conduct for the Tatmadaw members. The Tatmadaw members have to abide by the soldier’s code of conduct comprising 60 in number. Myanma Tatmadaw formed with the members who observe these codes of conduct is of high value and a good one. The Tatmadaw winning the respect of the people serves the interest of the nation.

The Tatmadaw members who observe the military codes of conduct also uphold the four oaths forever. They are:

1. We will be loyal to the State and the people.
2. We will be loyal to the Fallen Comrades.
3. We will conscientiously obey the order and responsibilities given by our superiors.
4. We vow to sacrifice our lives for our country, our people, and our Armed Forces.

We will be loyal to the State and the people.
We will be loyal to the Fallen Comrades.
We will conscientiously obey the order and responsibilities given by our superiors.
We vow to sacrifice our lives for our country, our people, and our Armed Forces.
Pharmaceutical Factory (PyinOoLwin) launched its test-run in March 2005 to produce tablets and capsules for the first phase. Furthermore, the factory plans to manufacture injections, syrup, ointment and powder in December 2006 for the second phase.

On 20 March morning, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung) in Kyaukse Township and inspected production of disposable syringes.

Minister U Aung Thaung and officials reported on methods of producing intravenous injection and construction of the building for the intravenous injection unit.

Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung) will manufacture disposable syringes and intravenous injection. Now, the factory is meeting with success in manufacturing disposable syringes for the first phase. The plan is under way to continue production of the intravenous injection for the second phase.

They flew to Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Project being implemented by Construction-7 of Irrigation Department near Myogyi Village of Ywangan Township.

The Prime Minister and party oversaw digging of the entrance to the underground diversion tunnel. They also inspected construction of the separation wall measuring 1,535 feet by 50 feet.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on matters concerning the Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Project.

Director-General U Kyaw San Win and Construction-7 Director U Myo Tun of Irrigation Department presented reports on progress of the construction tasks, and arrangements for greening Meiktila Plain by means of water from Myogyi Dam and Zawgyi Dam of Yaksawk Township and Kengkham Dam to be implemented in Yaksawk Township.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on water resources for greening Meiktila Plain. The Prime Minister gave instructions on construction of Myogyi Dam as soon as possible and storage of water.

Myogyi Multi-purpose Dam Project is being implemented for storage of water that flows from Zawgyi Dam and its upper area. On completion, Myogyi Dam will supply 500,000 acre-feet of water to the catchment area of Zawgyi Dam in Kyaukse District and 400,000 acre-feet of water to Meiktila Plain. In addition, the dam will generate 24 megawatts.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Yeywa Hydel Power Project being implemented by Construction-2 of Hydro-electric Power Department near Ye-yaman Village, 31 miles southeast of Mandalay.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint reported on progress of the project tasks and placing of RCC.

Director-General U Win Kyi submitted reports on test of RCC concrete and construction of the main dam with RCC concrete on 8 February.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw reported to the Prime Minister on functions of better transport for the roads to the project site.

After giving necessary instructions, the Prime Minister presented fruit baskets to Chief Engineer Mr Paulfischer of Colenco Power Engineering Co Ltd, Deputy Project manager Mr Huang Lin of CGGC Co Ltd, and Construction-2 Director U Myint Zaw of HPD.

Myogyi Dam will supply 500,000 acre-feet of water to the catchment area of Zawgyi Dam in Kyaukse District and 400,000 acre-feet of water to Meiktila Plain. In addition, the dam will generate 24 megawatts.
Prime Minister General Soe Win...  

(from page 8)  
Next, the Prime Min-
ister viewed sample natu-
ral pozolan, pozzolans and RCC being utilized in the pro-
ject. He also over saw con-
struction of the retain-
ing walls and the main
embankment. They viewed construction tasks at the main embankment.

Officials explained con struction of the power
intake building and the
abutment gallery. The
Prime Minister and party
looked into the RCC con-
crete factory and the
pozzolan factory.  
Yeywa Hydel Power
Project will produce 790
megawatt. It is one of the
290 RCC embankments in
the world.

On arrival at Hsedaw-
gyi Singu Dam Projects in
Singu Township, the
Prime Minister heard re-
ports on the project by
Minister Maj-Gen Htay
Oo and officials.

Next, Prime Minister
General Soe Win and
Li-Gen Ye Munt gave
necessary instructions.

The supporting dam is
being built on Nampet
Creek, 12 miles upper
area from Hsedaw Dam.
The supporting dam will
supply water to Hsedaw
Dam. Furthermore, the
dam project is being im-
pplemented with installa-
tion of 60 megawatt-genen-
ators for producing
hydel power.

While in Singu Town-
ship, they inspected the
main embankment and
construction tasks of

184 Tatmadaw government-built dams irrigating...

(from page 16)  
The dam can generate
25 megawatts and supply
water to 118,500 acres of
farmlands and 237,000
acres of crops. It also con-
tributes towards the im-
provement of socio-econo-
mic life of the people and
regional development.

He said Pyundaza and
Ago plains became
wetlands because of dam-
age of Pyaing embank-
ment and gradual silt of
streams and canal. After
Sittaung valley develop-
ment project had been laid
down, major sluice gates
were built on Yenwe, Bawngda and Kawiya
streams. The wetlands can
be turned into valuable and
farmable lands with the
opening of the dams, he said.

The government has
systematically integrated
regional and national de-
velopment projects for
harmonious development
of all the regions of the
Union and progress. It has been
building dams, pumping
stations and sluice gates for
development of the
agriculture the most basic
sector fulfilling the basic
needs, ensuring food suf-
ciency and national econo-
mic progress. Up to now,
it has built 184 dams
including Yenwe Dam that are irrigating
2,587,000 acres of land,
reclaimed more land, in-
cremental techniques, and
distributed quality
strains. Hence, the nation
has seen significant in-
crease in sown acreage
and per acre yield. The
nation’s net cultivated
area has reached 26.89
million acres in 2005-
2006, up from 19.51 in
1988-89.

Thanks to mixed-
cropping and summer
paddy total sown acreage
has jumped from 23.80
million acres in 1988-
1989 to 43 million acres
in 2005-2006. Up to now,
the Tatmadaw govern-
ment has built 42 dams in
Bago Division, and the
facilities are irrigating
875,000 acres of crops.

Irrigated acres will
reach 200,000 when
Phyochau and Kha-
bauang dams are com-
pleted. The two dams will
also generate 70 mega-

cows. Marle Nattaung Dam
Project on Marle Nattaung
Creek near Marle Village.
They also oversaw the
separation wall and spill-
ways.

Minister for Agricul-
ture and Irrigation Maj-
Gen Htay Oo submitted
reports on the project, and
officials on implementa-
tion of the project tasks.
The Prime Minister gave
instructions on timely
completion of the con-
struction tasks. The earth
dam will be 11,850 feet
long and 72 feet high, and
it will have over 57,000
acre-feet of water for irri-
gating about 10,000 acres
of farmland on either side
of Marle Nattaung Creek.

Minister for Commu-
nications, Posts and Tel-
graphs Brig-Gen Thein
Zaw, who accompanied
the Prime Minister, at-
tended the ceremony to
conclude the basic hotel
service courses at Mingala
Hall of Zaygyo Hotel in
Mandalay, and presented
certificates of honour to
the trainees. Before the
concluding ceremony, the
Prime Minister in-
spected classrooms and
practical works of the
training department of
Hotels and Tourism Serv-
ices (Mandalay). —MNA

MWAF president meets Shan State (North ) WAO members

YANGON, 22 March — President of Myanmar
Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe
met with Shan State (North) Women’s Affairs Organi-
ization in Lashio on 18 March.

The MWAF president said that the organization
members should play their part in the national develop-
ment undertakings, while keeping in the fore Our
Three Main National Causes. They in cooperation
with other social organizations will have to participate
in anti-human trafficking campaigns, rehabilitation
and resettlement programmes, HIV/AIDS control
projects, national health programmes, anti-drug drive,
environmental conservation, and rural development
project, she said. They also have the duty to promote
cultural preservation and social development pro-
grame together with the related departments, well-wishers and entrepreneurs, she pointed out.

Patron of Shan State (North) WAO Daw Khin
Thant Zin presented functions and future programmes.

Daw Than Than Nwe cordially conversed with
the participants. —MNA
184 Tatmadaw government-built dams irrigating...

(from page 9) with the use of water from Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam which could benefit 100,000 acres of farmlands. Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam is the 184th one in the time of Tatmadaw Government and the 42nd for Bago Division. Moreover, paddy and pulses and beans could be grown throughout the year by building a series of dams and sluice gates in Bago Division. In conclusion, the commander urged all to safeguard the dam for its durability.

In conclusion, the minister thanked officials and engineers of Ministry of Industry-1, Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Mines for their performance in construction of the dam, and urged all to safeguard the dam for its durability.

Afterwards, a local people of Kyauktaga Township expressed thanks for the government’s implementing Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam Project.

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein sprinkles scented water on stone plaque of Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam. — MNA

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein inspects construction of power station at Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam in Kyauktaga of Bago Division. — MNA

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein and party view round Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam in Kyauktaga of Bago Division. — MNA

Sision, the commander urged the locals to safeguard the dam for its durability.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered an address. He said that large, medium- and small-size dams and sluice gate projects and river water pumping projects are being implemented in upper and middle areas of the country and arid regions as well as dam projects and sluice gate projects in lower Myanmar in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Furthermore, the multi-purpose dams that can supply not only water but also power are being built.

Thanks to the construction of the dam, two main canals stretching 7.1 miles long and a 309-mile total length of canals of the medium- and small-size dam projects and river water pumping projects are being implemented in the lower delta region.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Ministers Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Brig-Gen Ohn Myint sprinkled the scented water on the stone plaque. Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo formally opened the dam. Later, the Secretary-1 and party posed for documentary photo together with those present and viewed round the dam.

At the briefing hall, Secretary-1 heard the explanation about the dam by Minister Brig-Gen Htay Oo and reports on construction of main dam and diversion dam and growing fruits and vegetables and physic nut plants by Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw Hlaing Win and Director of Construction-1 U Myint Than.

Later, Director of Construction 4 of Hydel Electric Power Department U Maung Hla Htwe gave a supplementary reports on progress of placing concrete of steel pipelines and construction of power station.

Next, Secretary-1 and party cordially met with those attending the opening ceremony of Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam, one of the projects in Sittounig delta region, was built in accord with the guidance given by the Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. The dam was installed with machines to generate 25-mega watt. Arrangements were being made for running of power station at the end of coming May.

In connection with the reports, Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein spoke of the need for laying emphasis on maintenance of the dam as its earth was not solid, making constant inspection to see that water did not seep through the dam, immediate repair if damages found, construction of canals to supply water into irrigated areas if the dam completed and speedy implementation of electric power supply project.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein left there by Tatmadaw aircraft. — MNA

514 lots of jade sold through tender

YANGON, 22 March — Patron of Central Committee for Organizing Myamna Gem Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Deputy Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Thein Sein gave a talk on the State’s policy and all-round development to the 100 trainees of basic organizing course No 24 of trishaw workers opened at North Okkalapa Township this evening and viewed sales of jade lots through tender.

The sales continued from 4 pm to 9.30 pm yesterday and 350 lots of jade were sold through tender yesterday. The sales of jade lots reached up to 797 the whole yesterday.

The sales continued from 8 am to 4 pm today and 514 jade lots were sold through tender. The remaining jade lots were sold through tender until tonight.

The emporium was packed with local and foreign gem merchants. A total of 2376 gem merchants—1482 from 16 foreign countries and 894 from local—arrived at the emporium.

The remaining jade lots will be sold at the same venue tomorrow. — 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.
Vietnam to heavily invest in tourism infrastructure by 2010

HANOI, 21 March — Vietnam plans to pour 1.5 billion US dollars in tourism sector from now to 2010, hoping to host 5.5 million to six million international arrivals by then, a local official told Xinhua on Monday.

“A large amount of 1.5 billion dollars from the central state budget will be spent on upgrading roads leading to national tourism resorts nationwide, and developing new infrastructure works in the central region and Tay Nguyen (Central Highlands Region),” said the official from the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism.

Vietnam spent 2.146 billion Vietnamese dong (VND) (nearly 135 million dollars) from the central budget alone on developing tourism infrastructure in 62 cities and provinces in the 2001-2005 period, the official said, noting that investment from the localities’ own budgets was considerable.

Inaugural Russia-Singapore Business Forum held

SINGAPORE, 21 March — The inaugural Russia-Singapore Business Forum opened here on Monday morning, aiming to strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries.

Leaders of major Russian companies will introduce the business potential and opportunities in various sectors in Russia while representatives from the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will share their assistance strategies for the country during the one-day meeting.

“Today’s forum offers an opportunity to know Russia better, network and build friendships,” said Singapore’s Prime Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Heng Kiang in his opening address.

Reiterating Singapore’s commitment to help Russia develop special economic zones in an advisory role, Lim invited Russian companies to leverage on Singapore as a hub and partner to tap on the growth of Asia and the world.”

Russian Minister for Economic Development and Trade German Gref, who is in Singapore for a two-day visit starting from Sunday, also presented himself at the forum.

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

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Huge clean up drive in bird flu-hit Indian state

Mumbai, 21 March — A massive clean up operation is underway in a bird flu-hit district of western India with health workers spraying disinfectant in homes, backyard streets, officials said on Monday.

Jalgaon is the second district of Maharashtra state to have reported the H5N1 bird flu virus in poultry after the first cases surfaced in Navapur Town, 200 kilometres (125 miles) away.

More than 40,000 birds have been culled in Jalgaon. Thousands of people are under surveillance, scores have been tested and at least three people with fever — including a doctor — are under observation. Their reports are expected by mid-week. So far, India has reported no human infections.

“The culling is over and we are now cleaning up the place,” Bijay Kumar, the state’s animal husbandry commissioner, told Reuters.

Supplies resume in Nepal after rebels end blockade

KATHMANDU, 21 March — Packed buses and trucks loaded with supplies rolled across restive Nepal on Monday after Maoist rebels called off a road blockade that had interrupted commerce and transport across the Himalayan nation for six days.

But even as the Maoists ended their siege of Kathmandu and other towns after an appeal from the country’s seven main political parties, they endorsed a new series of protests planned for early next month.

The rebels and the parties also reaffirmed their “strong commitment” on Sunday to a deal they struck last November to work together against King Gyanendra, who seized power last year.

The blockade had choked supplies since Tuesday, raising prices of essential goods, causing fuel shortages and leaving thousands stranded across the nation that is wedged between China and India.

“Passengers carrying their bags are running to catch buses, and trucks loaded with goods have started moving since early morning,” said Sagar Adhikari, a resident of Narayanghat, a town seen as the gateway to Kathmandu from the southern plains.

\[INVERSE\]
Japanese scientists create biologic immune systems close to humans’

Tokyo, 21 March — Japanese scientists have succeeded in producing mice with immune systems close to those of humans, a development expected to contribute to research in medical treatment for a variety of diseases, local newspapers reported on Tuesday.

In the experiments, the scientists first created genetically modified mice whose original immune systems as mice did not function, and then implanted human hematopoietic stem cells into the mice’s veins within 48 hours after they were born. The hematopoietic stem cells settled in the bone marrow, and the main cells of the immune system developed into those similar to humans’, the Japan Times said.

The research team at Kyushu University’s medical department said on Monday the discovery will enable researchers to conduct experiments in an environment of “living test tube” similar to the human body.

Professor Mine Harada, who heads the team, said he and his colleagues have succeeded in making the mice’s immune systems more than 70 per cent like humans’ and they want to further enhance the figure, as well as the longevity of the mice, for more complex research.

MNA/Xinhua

Moderate quake jolts S-W Pakistani province

Islamabad, 22 March — An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale jolted the southwestern Pakistani province of Balochistan on Tuesday.

The official APP news agency quoted the meteorological station as saying that the earthquake hit at 11:52 local time (0652 GMT) and its epicentre was in Sibi, some 600 kilometers southwest of Peshawar.

MNA/Xinhua

HSN1 bird flu virus confirmed in Pakistani poultry

Islamabad, 22 March — Pakistan on Tuesday confirmed for the first time the HSN1 bird flu virus in poultry flocks in the country’s northwestern parts, a government statement said.

The samples were sent to a laboratory in Britain after Pakistan announced the presence of avian influenza H5 on 27 February on two farms in its North West Frontier Province, the statement said.

“Samples were also sent to World Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza at Weybridge, England as per international norm and requirement and they have also endorsed the finding of our laboratory that infection was avian influenza H5N1,” the statement from Pakistan’s Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock said.

According to the statement, the National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory in Islamabad has earlier diagnosed the infection as avian influenza H5 and then samples were also sent to England.

MNA/Xinhua

Four killed on Algeria earthquake

London, 21 March — An earthquake measuring 5.8 hit Algeria on Monday killing at least four people and injuring 36, Algerian radio reported.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the earthquake hit parts of the province of Bejaia, 300 kilometres (190 miles) east of the capital Algiers.

MNA/Reuters

Flash flood in Colombia kills seven children

BOGOTA, 21 March — Rescuers have found the corpses of seven children washed away by a flash flood in the central Caldas department, while four others remained missing, the Red Cross said on Sunday.

Despite the bad weather, rescue teams are still searching for the children between 11 and 16 years old, belonging to the Lady of Manizales College.

The accident occurred on Saturday when torrential rains triggered mudslides which hit the children, who were spending a national holiday in La Gruta, a rural area some 24 kilometres from Manizales, capital of the Caldas department. — MNA/Xinhua

Larger hybrids taking longer to sell

WASHINGTON, 21 March — While buyers are still thrifty hybrid cars, some of the bigger models are sitting longer on sales lots, hungry for cheaper gas—electric hybrids.

The smaller Toyota Prius and Honda Civic gas-electric hybrids remain hits that are in short supply. But the luxury Lexus RX 400h SUV and Honda Accord sedan hybrids have been taking longer to sell than their conventional counterparts.

Ford Motor and Toyota have added some modest incentives to their hybrid SUVs, often a signal that sales haven’t met expectations.

The problem, analysts say, is that the bigger, fancier hybrids often carry a higher price differential compared with their conventional versions. The sticker price of a Toyota

SUV and Honda Accord luxury Lexus RX 400h

thrifty hybrid cars, some of the bigger models are sitting longer on sales lots. Highlander SUV hybrid is $6,590 more than the six-cylinder gas-only model. By comparison, the compact Civic hybrid costs $2,890 more than the most comparable conventional model.

Internet

HSN1 bird flu virus found at two more locations in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 March — The H5N1 bird flu virus has been found at two new locations in Malaysia’s northern state of Perak, where the authorities confirmed two bird flu cases last week, local officials said on Tuesday.

The virus was confirmed on Tuesday at a location near the town of Gopeng and a place in Bota, but no birds have died of the disease in the two areas so far, said Perak Agriculture and Agro-Based Committee Chairman Razi Manan.

The Veterinary Research Institute in Ipoh, capital of the state, confirmed the existence of the virus through samples taken from several free-range chickens, the official said.

The samples were taken during the monitoring operation launched after two cases of bird flu were detected at a village near Gopeng and an ecopark near Taiping City last week, Malaysia’s national news services Bernama said. — MNA/Xinhua

WHO confirms seven human cases of H5N1 in Azerbaijan

GENEVA, 22 March — The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed on Tuesday that up to now there had been seven human infection cases of H5N1 bird flu in Azerbaijan.

Samples from 11 Azerbaijan patients under investigation for possible H5N1 infection have been tested at a WHO collaborating laboratory in Britain, and positive H5N1 results were obtained for seven of these patients, WHO said in a bulletin posted on its website.

It added that five of the cases were fatal.

Last week, WHO strengthened its field team in Azerbaijan to include experts in clinical management and infection control and additional senior epidemiologists.

WHO also revealed on Tuesday that the total number of human cases of H5N1 in 2006 have reached 40, among them 27 deaths.

The cumulative number of human cases since 2003 have increased to 184, including 103 deaths. — MNA/Xinhua

Donate

blood

Diagram shows the structure of the AIDS virus. The organizers of an AIDS conference warned that the disease threatens to kill or orphan hundreds of thousands of children in the East Asia and Pacific region unless steps are taken to protect them. — Internet

Nike brand soccer balls are on display at a Nike store in downtown Portland, Oregon on 21 March, 2006. Nike has signed up eight teams to wear its ‘swoosh’ logo in the 2006 World Cup, versus just six teams for Adidas, which has dominated previous World Cups. — Internet

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the earthquake hit parts of the province of Bejaia, 300 kilometres (190 miles) east of the capital Algiers.
Liverpool destroy Birmingham 7-0 in FA Cup

LONDON, 22 March — Liverpool scored twice in the opening five minutes on the way to a club record 7-0 rout of Birmingham City in an embarrassingly one-sided FA Cup quarterfinal at St Andrew's on Tuesday.

Tuesday's match had barely started when Steven Gerrard floated in a free kick from the left, Mohamed Sissoko headed the ball on and unmarked defender Sami Hyypia headed home for the visitors. Midfielder Sissoko was making his first appearance, wearing protective glasses, since an injury to his right eye exactly a month ago that had initially threatened to end his career.

Gerrard made it 2-0 when his header from Gerrard's right-wing cross was parried by Maik Taylor but the keeper could not prevent the ball from crossing the line. The 25-year-old Crouch notched his fourth goal in three games seven minutes before he steered the ball past Taylor after Luis Garcia slipped a perfect pass into his path.

"Once you get a couple they seem to go in a lot easier," said Crouch.

Seven minutes later, City substitute Olivier Tebily tried to block Harry Kewell's low cross but only succeeded in turning the ball into his own net. One minute from time, Taylor let a shot from the right by substitute Djibril Cisse slip under his body for the seventh, rounding off a nightmare evening for the home side who are also fighting for survival in the Premier League. — MNA/Reuters

Chelsea’s Essien says he’s not a dirty player

CORHAM (England), 22 March — Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien says his reputation as a dirty player is unjustified but does admit he is now being more careful going into tackles.

The Ghana international Essien has enjoyed a solid first season in England following a move from Olympique Lyon but he has also been involved in controversy over his aggressive style of tackling.

He was suspended for two matches by UEFA for one over-the-top challenge on Liverpool’s Dietmar Hamann in the Champions League and also heavily criticised for a foul on Bolton Wanderers’ Tal Ben Haim in the English Premiership.

"I’m careful now when I’m going for contact. I’m more careful," he told a news conference on Tuesday.

"I feel bad about the tackle on Hamann. I didn’t mean to do it, I called him and apologised. It was my decision to call him and he was nice to me on the phone, he accepted my apology."

Essien believes the pace of the game in England caught him out when he first arrived in London but he does not want to make wholesale changes to his style of play.

"I don’t mean to hurt anybody, what happened has happened," he said. — MNA/Reuters

Eto’o strikes twice as Barcelona go 14 points clear

MADRID, 22 March — Striker Samuel Eto’o scored a sparkling double to help Barcelona come from a goal down to beat Getafe 3-1 and increase their lead in the Primera Liga to 14 points on Tuesday.

The Catalans fell behind against an ambitious Getafe after an early goal from former Barca midfielder Nano, but levelled when defender Anibal Batelan headed home a Mario Coteo cross at the near post with less than five minutes on the clock.

MNA/Reuters

Palace win 1-0 at Leeds to strengthen playoff position

LONDON, 22 March — Crystal Palace continued their march to the promotion playoffs with a 1-0 win at Leeds United in the second division on Tuesday.

Midfielder Joel McNuff scored the only goal to keep Palace, relegated from the Premier League last season, in fifth spot with 67 points from 39 games.

Leeds remained fourth on 71 points, one behind Watford and four adrift of Sheffield United. Reading lead the way on 90 points.

The top two are automatically promoted. The teams finishing from third to sixth playoff for the third Premier League berth next season.

MNA/Reuters

India’s Pinki Parmanik (L), Canada’s Katherine Vermeulen, Tanzania’s Lizacja John (R) and England’s Mary Onkor (2nd L) compete in the women’s 800m heat at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne on 22 March, 2006. —INTERNET

Juninho fires Lyon into last eight of French Cup

PARIS, 22 March — A second-half strike by Juninho gave Olympique Lyon a 1-0 home win over Ligue 2 side Bastia on Tuesday and put the quarter-finals of the French Cup.

Brazilian Juninho, who is suspended for next week’s Champions League quarterfinal first leg against AC Milan, drove home a powerful 20-metre shot.

"We did not play as fast as we wanted too in the first half," coach Gerard Houllier told reporters. "We had to concentrate and that’s what we did."

The Ligue 1 leaders twice hit the woodwork through Juninho and Loic Remy when defender Anibal Matellan.

Sky Sports: "Today, every move will tell in the Primera Liga to 14 points on Tuesday.

Barcelona come from a goal down to beat Getafe 3-1 and increase their lead in the English Premiership.

"I’m careful now when I’m going for contact. I’m more careful," he said. — MNA/Reuters

Mexicos Chivas team player Jorge Barrera, left, fights for the ball against Brazil Sao Paulos Fabio Acevedo Fabio during their Libertadores Cup match on Tuesday, 21 March, 2006, at the Jalisco Stadium in Guadalajara City, Mexico. —INTERNET

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The Catalans fell behind against an ambitious Getafe after an early goal from former Barca midfielder Nano, but levelled when defender Anibal Matellan headed home his own net midway through the half.

Eto’o put Barca in front in early in the second half when he added the finishing touch to a gleaming counter-attack and made it 3-1 with a deft finish that took his league tally to 22.

The champions, who have nine games left to play, lead the standings on 67 points, 14 ahead of second-placed Real Madrid and 15 clear of Valencia and Osasuna. Getafe are 11th.

Real Madrid, who have drawn their last two league matches 0-0, travel to Real Zaragoza on Wednesday to meet the team that crashed them 6-1 when they met at La Romareda in the King’s Cup last month.

Valencia host regional rivals Villarreal and Osasuna entertain Real Sociedad.

Getafe got off to a dream start at the Nou Camp when Nato got in between two defenders to head home a Mario Coteo cross at the near post with less than five minutes on the clock.

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

China’s Xiaoyuang Yu, left, and Chen Wang skate in ice dancing compulsary dance in the World Figure Skating Championships, on Tuesday, 21 March, 2006, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. —INTERNET

India’s Pinki Parmanik (L), Canada’s Katherine Vermeulen, Tanzania’s Lizacja John (R) and England’s Mary Onkor (2nd L) compete in the women’s 800m heat at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne on 22 March, 2006. —INTERNET
Russia hits back at US criticism of its democracy record

MOSCOW, 22 March — The Russian Foreign Ministry warned US on Monday against “forcing the democratic process in the countries neighbouring Russia.”

“The attempts at artificial, and especially forceful, planting of democracy in other countries not only cannot bring success, but are also fraught with the discredit of the very idea,” the Foreign Ministry said when commenting on the Russian section of US President George W. Bush’s National Security Strategy report released last week.

A statement issued by the ministry said the new version of the document “formulates the aspiration toward an active democratizing role of the United States in the countries neighbouring Russia”, the ITAR-TASS news agency here said.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 22 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayin State, scattered in Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin and Mon States, Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (6°C) above normal in Mandalay Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway and Aunglan (41°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthong (0.23) inch.

Maximum temperature on 21-3-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 22-3-2006 was 65°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 22-3-2006 was (70%). Total sunshine hours on 21-3-2006 was (9.7) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 22-3-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kabu-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kabu-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northwest at (16:20) hours MST on 21-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 23-3-2006: Isolated light rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Naypyidaw and neighbouring area for 23-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-3-2006: Generally fair weather.
Prime Minister felicitates Pakistani counterpart

YANGON, 23 March— On the occasion of the Pakistan Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which falls on 23 March 2006, General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. — MNA

184 Tatmadaw government-built dams irrigating 2,587,000 acres

YANGON, 22 March — Hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Yenwe multi-purpose dam was inaugurated in Kyauktaga Township, this morning.

It was built by Construction-1 of Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Construction-4 of Hydro-electric power Department of the Ministry of Electric Power.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein together with Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyan, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials arrived at Yenwe Dam in Kyauktaga Township by helicopter.

At the inauguration of the dam the Secretary-1 delivered a speech. He said dams and reservoirs were built in the interest of farmers under the Tatmadaw government and Yenwe dam is the 184th one. He said he was very proud to see the result of the goodwill of the government.

He said Yenwe dam project, important part of Sittaung valley development project, was implemented for irrigation in Sittaung Valley, double cropping, protecting wet lands of Pyundaza and Bago plains from flooding and generation of electric power.

(See page 9)