Upgrade defence capabilities of nation

Join hands with the people in nation-building endeavours and upgrade the defence capabilities of our nation by building a stronger and more efficient modern Tatmadaw in order to ensure comprehensive security for our country with its continuing achievements in growth and progress, as worthy heirs to the tradition of the capable Tatmadaws established by noble kings Anawrahta, Bayint Naung and Alaung Phaya U Aung Zeya.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From address delivered at the parade of 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)

Senior General Than Shwe congratulates President of Portuguese Republic

YANGON, 24 March—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva, who was sworn in on 9 March 2006 as the President of the Portuguese Republic. —MNA

Steel plant in Mandalay Industrial Zone producing auto and farm machinery parts

YANGON, 23 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 PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, the deputy ministers, the Mandalay Mayor, senior military officers, heads of departments went on an inspection tour of the Central Command on 21 March and looked into physic nut plantations and grew physic nut plants.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw reported to the Prime Minister and party on sowing of 15,000 physic nut seeds at the Central Command Headquarters.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected supplies for cultivation of physic nut plants, seeds and grafts as well as the plantation in which 600,000 physic nut plants were grown. At the same time, the Prime Minister and party grew physic nut plants. Upon arrival at Mandalay City Development Committee’s plantation in Patheingyi Township, the Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects forging machines at the iron smelting factory of Mandalay Taw Win Industrial Co Ltd in Mandalay Industrial Zone (2). — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For ensuring strong national economy

The government has been implementing development projects harmoniously in respective regions for equitable progress of all parts of the Union and raising the social-economic life of national people.

As agriculture is the most fundamental sector for fulfillment of food, clothing and shelter of the people, food sufficiency and ensuring strong national economy, the government has been building a large number of infrastructures such as dams, river water pumping stations and sluice gates.

At the inauguration of Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division, on 22 March, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein said, “Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam will be able to benefit 118,500 acres of paddy fields and 237,000 acres of various crops and generate 22 million kWh power, so it will contribute effectively towards the improvement of socio-economic life of the people and regional development. Moreover, the storage of water by the dam will prevent Pyundaza plain from being flooded and reduce 60 per cent of floods of the Sittoung River”.

Thanks to Yenwe Multi-purpose Dam and other Sittoung Valley development projects, wetlands and the regions annually flooded with sea water in Bago Division including Pyundaza plain will be changed into cultivable lands.

So far, the government has built 184 irrigation facilities including Yenwe Dam and they are irrigating more than 2,587,000 acres of farmland.

With expeditions reclamation of lands, extended supply of irrigation water and use of advanced agricultural methods and quality strains of crops, net sown acreage of the nation has soared to 26.89 million acres in 2005-2006 fiscal year, compared with only 23.80 million.

2006 fiscal year, compared with only 19.51 million, up from 23.80 million.

Cultural research works inspected in Bagan, Pyawbwe

YANGON, 23 March — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, accompanied by Director-General U Kyaw Win of Archaeology Department and officials, oversaw ancient regions of Ywadaw, Ywamun, and ancient Pin City and proceeded to Bagan on 18 March.

Deputy Director-General (Upper Myanmar) U Aung Kyaiang reported on progress in construction of Armaddanapura Bagan Golden Palace of King Anawrahta. the minister inspected construction tasks and decoration with Myanmar handicraft at the buildings.

On 19 March, the minister observed the ancient cave at which Monk Shin Arahan took residence near Tuyintaung Pagoda. At Kazun-O Phayaaha Temple near East Phwasaw Village, the minister instructed officials to preserve the ancient wall paintings. In the afternoon, Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung together with Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe inspected Bagan Archaeological Museum.

The minister also looked into research works of Archaeology Department (Bagan Branch) at the site of King Pyinbyar of Bagan era and the site of ancient Kyauksga city built by King Thamudarit and King Pyusaawhti. While in Bagan, the minister inspected construction tasks and decoration with Myanmar handicraft at the buildings.

Defending champion Yangon Division atop in ISD Golf C’ship

YANGON, 23 March — The 28th Inter-State/Division Golf Championship 2006 continued for the third day at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon, Insein Township, this morning. After the third round, defending champion Yangon Division stood in the lead position in the team scratch event by shooting a 226 for a 676 total gross. Though Shan State (East) tied with Mandalay Division at 715 strokes, the former stayed at the second position and the latter at the third.

In the team handicap event, Taninthayar Division leaped up from the third to first position after the third round by firing 207 strokes for 619 nett total. Kachin State shot 621 at the second position and Shan State (South) 623 at the third. Derek Hit Doe (Yangon Division) sailed up from his position from the second to the first today by scoring a 4-over-par 76 for a 225 total in the individual scratch event. The leader’s compatriot Phyo Kyaw Kyai became his closet runner-up with the scores of a three-over-par 75 for a 226 total. Yan Myo Aye who fired a three-over-par 75 for a 227 total was also a compatriot of the first and second leaders.

In the individual handicap event, Thein Naung (Taninthayar Division) who shot a 67 for a 202 nett total stood in the first position after removing the leader on the second round. Aye Min Zaw (Ayeyawady Division) scored a 69 for one stroke adrift of the leader at the second position, and Gun Jar standing in the third position fired a 67 for a 204 nett total.

The championship was co-organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Isuzu Motors Ltd. Han Event Management is performing functions of the championship.

The fourth and final round of the championship continues at the same venue tomorrow.
Back ing Iran, Chavez says US is chasing oil

CARACAS (Venezuela), 22 March — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Tuesday stood by Iran in its nuclear dispute after he accused Washington of threatening Teheran over the OPEC nation’s oil reserves.

Chavez spoke as the UN Security Council failed to reach an agreement on how to respond to Iran’s nuclear ambitions and the US Government warned that Teheran could blackmail the world if it managed to develop an atomic bomb.

The Venezuelan leader, whose close ties to Cuba and Iran have riled Washington, has supported the Iranian Government while Western powers try to halt its nuclear energy programme because they fear Teheran is secretly working toward making nuclear weapons.

“The US imperialists invaded Iraq looking for oil and now they are threatening Iran for oil, not because the Iranians are developing some kind of nuclear bomb, that is a lie, there is no evidence of that,” Chavez said at a ceremony.

“The US empire is defeated in Iraq... God help them if they try to attack Iran. We ask for and want peace, but over there they would taste double the dust of defeat,” he said at a later public event, drawing applause from the audience.

US troops hit by bombs, mortar attacks in western Iraq

FALLUJAH, 22 March — US troops were hit in separate roadside bombs and mortar attacks in western Iraq on Tuesday, causing casualties, local residents said.

“A roadside bomb went off at about 6:45 am (0335 GMT) on the main road of Barwana Town near Haditha City, some 250 kilometres northwest of Baghdad,” local residents told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast occurred as a US military patrol was passing by, destroying a US Humvee and prompting the US troops to cordon off the scene and blocked the main road, they said.

Another roadside bomb detonated Monday night near a US patrol in the al-Zawiyah Village near Haditha City, destroying a US Humvee, they said, adding the US soldiers surrounded the village and searched houses and detaining two suspects.

It was not clear whether there was any casualties among the US soldiers in the two attacks as the troops sealed off the scenes, witnesses said.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia launches palm oil-based biofuel

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 March — Malaysia on Tuesday launched its B5 palm oil-based biofuel, which is a mixture of 5 per cent of processed palm oil and 95 per cent of petroleum diesel.

“If we are prudent in using the palm oil resource and have a holistic fuel strategy, we will be able to tide over the world crude oil price crisis and guarantee a sustainable and competitive energy source for the country,” Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said at the launching ceremony.

He hoped the use of biofuel would change people’s perception of the potential of the oil palm and agro-based industry sector in this country.

The use of the biofuel, called “Envo Diesel”, will be implemented in stages starting with vehicles of selected governmental agencies and then moving on the public use, Badawi said. — MNA/Xinhua

Tearful Bardot begs Canada to scrap seal hunt

OTTAWA, 22 March — French film star turned animal rights campaigner Brigitte Bardot tearfully begged Canada on Wednesday to stop the annual harp seal hunt, during which about 325,000 young seal pups will be shot or beaten to death.

“Before I die I want to see this massacre end,” she told a news conference, sitting in front of a poster that showed a giant seal clubbing a blood-covered human baby.

The hunt, which takes place on ice floes off the coast of eastern Canada, is due to start on Friday or Saturday. Ottawa denies the hunt is cruel and says it helps the local economy while keeping the seal population healthy and in check.

“Try to stop the hunt each year, activists release gory pictures of hunters crushing seal skulls with big clubs. Anti-hunt campaigners are calling on some major US restaurant chains to boycott Canadian seafood until the hunt stops.

Bardot, who started campaigning against the hunt some 30 years ago, cried quietly as aides played a video showing graphic shots of young seals screaming in agony and drowning in their own blood after being attacked by hunters.

“Canada is a rich country. It doesn’t need to sell skin, oil, fat and powdered seal penises to make aphrodisiacs for countries in Asia... you cannot continue a genocide of animals like this,” said the 71-year-old actress, who peppered her comments with expletives.

A protester stands along US President George W Bush’s motorcade route in Wheeling, West Virginia, on 22 March, 2006. Bush was in town to speak on the war, on terror. — INTERNET

Woman survives fall from 11th floor

MOSCOW, 22 March — A Russian woman fell 35 metres (114 ft) from the eleventh floor of her apartment building and survived. Russia’s Channel One television reported on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old woman, who was not named, is in hospital being treated for concussion, bruises and a displaced spine. Doctors say she should make a full recovery.

“I have been working for 36 years and this is the first time we have had a patient who has been brought into the hospital after falling from the eleventh floor,” Dr Viktor Razin told the television station.

Doctors said a thick covering of snow broke the woman’s fall, and her body was relaxed because she was not fully conscious at the moment of impact. The incident happened in the Ural Mountains region of Bashkortostan. — Internet
**Teheran protests against US threat over Iranian N-programme**

**Teheran, 22 March—** Teheran has protested against the US stance on the Iranian nuclear issue with a threat of resorting to force on the Islamic Republic, the official IRNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

The protest was voiced in a letter submitted to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Monday by Iranian ambassador and permanent representative Mohammad-Javad Zarif. 

The letter said that "various senior officials of the United States have used false pretexts to make public and thinly-veiled threats of resorting to force against the Islamic Republic of Iran in total contempt of international law and the fundamental principles of the Charter of the UN."

The United States has accused Iran of developing nuclear weapons covertly and is reluctant to rule out military solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Repeating the accusation, US President George W Bush on Monday said the United States would protect Israel with its military capability.

In the letter to the UN chief, Iran also defined the US threats as "resorting to unlawful, unacceptable and dangerous use of force" and a behaviour showing its contempt for the UN Security Council and other multilateral mechanisms. "The UN has a fundamental responsibility to reject those assertions and to arrest this trend," said the letter.

Iran's protests came also as the permanent five of the UN Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — plus Germany held a meeting lasting for four and a half hours on next UN move on the Iranian nuclear programme.

MENA/Xinhua

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**South Korean protesters shout slogans at a rally against the Security Policy Initiative meetings between South Korea and the United States in Seoul, on 21 March, 2006. —INTERNET**

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**Study shows happier moms have happier children**

**WASHINGTON, 21 March—** Treating mothers for depression can mean long-term happiness for their children, according to a study.

Depression is known to be passed on genetically, but it can also be affected by the environment in which a child is raised, according to authors of an article published by the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) dated 22 March.

A child can develop anxiety and psychological problems if a mother with depression goes without treatment, the authors said.

"Depressed parents should be treated vigorously," said the study's lead author, Myrna Weissman, of Columbia University and New York Psychiatric Institute.

"The impact is not only on them but it's also on their children."

Treating the mother could avoid the need to treat the child with anti-depressant drugs, the authors said.

The study shows that children of mothers suffering from depression and whose symptoms disappeared during the course of a four-month treatment had much lower chances of suffering from depression or other behavior problems.

"It's a very dramatic and important finding," wrote co-author John Rush, psychiatry professor, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre.

The study was conducted between December 2001 and April 2004 among 151 women and their children, aged seven to 17.

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**Chile bus crash kills 12 American tourists**

**SANTIAGO, (Chile), 23 March -** A bus carrying cruise ship tourists plunged off a highway in northern Chile and tumbled 300 feet down a mountainside Wednesday, killing 12 Americans, US and Chilean officials said. Two other US tourists and two Chileans — the driver and the tour guide — were hospitalized in serious condition, said Juan Carlos Poli, a city hall spokesman in the Pacific port city of Arica.

The tourists were returning to Celebrity Cruises' ship Millennium from an excursion to Lauca National Park when the driver swerved to avoid an approaching truck on a rugged highway near Arica, 1,250 miles north of Santiago, he said.

The bus went off the narrow highway and tumbled down a steep mountainside. Poli said the bus, which had a capacity of 16 passengers, "was totally destroyed."

"We have confirmed that all the victims were American citizens," Poli told the Associated Press by telephone from the hospital.

US Embassy spokesman John Vance also confirmed the 12 US deaths and said the embassy was sending consular officers to Arica. The victims were all in their 60s and 70s, but authorities would not immediately confirm their identities.

The Millennium was docked in Arica, and the cruise line said the ship will remain there until further notice. It had been scheduled to leave for Peru early Thursday. The ship was carrying approximately 1,300 guests and 920 crew members. The accident occurred 25 miles northeast of Arica on the road leading deep into the high Andes Mountains, connecting the coast with the Bolivian capital of La Paz. —INTERNET

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**Wad of cash found in New Orleans home**

**NEW ORLEANS, 21 March—** Trista Wright was spending her spring break cleaning out hurricane-damaged homes when she discovered some unusual papers among the moldy plaster board and debris.

"I started raking it out of the air conditioner vent. I thought it was garbage and I was going to shovel it up, but I bent down to pick it up, and it was a stack of $100 bills, and then more and more kept coming," the 19-year-old said Tuesday on CNN.

By an unofficial count, it was more than $30,000.

Wright and fellow students notified the organizers of their church mission, who told the St Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office.

The woman who owned the house, who has asked that she not be identified, was as shocked as Wright.

"She was speechless," said Wright, an Armstrong Atlantic State University student who was among 175 Georgia college students spending their week off volunteering in the city's Arabi area.

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**Chilean police look at a bus accident in Arica, some 2,062 km (1,281 miles) north of Santiago, on 22 March, 2006. At least 12 foreigners, most of them believed to be Americans, died on Wednesday when a bus fell off a steep cliff in northern Chile, Cooperativa radio station reported. —INTERNET**

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**18 Iraqi policemen killed in deadly attack**

**BAGHDAD, 22 March—** An attack at a police headquarters northeast of Baghdad has killed 18 policemen and wounded nine others on Tuesday, a source from the US-Iraqi liaison office told Xinhua.

"Several groups of armed men equipped with machine guns blocked all the roads leading to the police headquarters and nearby government buildings before they launched their attack," said the source from the Joint Coordination Centre of Diyala, where the headquarters of Muqaddas is located.

"The armed men opened fire from their machine guns, grenades and rocket-propelled grenades, killing 18 policemen, including two police officers and wounding nine others, including two civilians," the source said.

MENA/Xinhua
I AM develops new method of cancer treatment

BANGALORE, 21 March — In a development which may bring a new ray of hope for cancer patients, the Institute of Aerospace Medicine here is working on curing the disease using electromagnetic beams which, unlike chemotherapy, only kills malignant cells without affecting the adjacent healthy ones.

As per the new treatment developed by the institute, a computer controlled device called Cytotron generates precise high intensity Quantum Magnetic Resonance (QMR) beams from 288 specially designed guns which are focused to kill the affected tissues. “The high specificity of QMR applications ensures that healthy cells in regions adjacent to the region of interest are not affected in any manner,” said Wing Commander V G Vassitha, Chief of the Radio Diagnosis department, IAM.

“The beams also alter the mechanisms of cell division process of malignant cells and forces them to self-destruct, while leaving the healthy cells to divide naturally,” he said.

Italy’s “green fuel” crops to help cut global warming

ROMA, 22 March — Sugar-beet, sunflowers, fruits and cereals could help Italy fight global warming, thanks to a new law aimed at replacing fossil-derived fuels with green alternatives, Italian news agency ANSA said on Monday.

Classic Italian crops are ideally suited for the production of bioethanol and biofuel, which emit 40 percent and 70 percent less carbon dioxide respectively than traditional fuels, according to Italian experts.

Italy has promised that bioethanol and biofuel will make up 5.75 percent of the Italian fuel market by 2010 and nearly 12 percent by 2020.

Biofuel is made from sunflower seeds, soy and rapeseeds, while bioethanol can be produced with sugar beet, wheat and grapes.

Italian Farmers, who have been pressuring the Italian Government to promote biofuel and bioethanol for some time now, called for further investments and bigger tax breaks.

They have been at the forefront of a campaign to promote public awareness of how the products offer viable alternatives.

MNA/PTI

Study shows too much fluoride can be bad

WASHINGTON, 22 March — The high levels of fluoride that occur naturally in some drinking water can cause tooth and bone damage and should be reduced, the National Research Council said on Wednesday.

The study did not analyze the benefits or risks of adding fluoride to drinking water. Instead it looked at the current maximum limit of 4 milligrams per liter. Approximately 200,000 people live in communities where that level occurs naturally in water.

The Council suggested further studies to establish a new maximum level, but noted that the problems associated with exposure to fluoride are very small at 2 milligrams per liter and less. Approximately 1.4 million people have drinking water with natural fluoride levels of 0.2 to 3.9 milligrams per liter, said the Council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

More than 160 million Americans live in communities with artificially fluoridated water, which contains between 0.7 and 1.2 milligrams of fluoride per liter.

Internet

Investors flock to Indian stocks

MUMBAI, 22 March — India may lag behind China economically, but the reverse holds true for their stock markets. India’s has soared to a record high this week, driven by foreign investors pouring billions into the market.

Figures show the stock market here is up 200 percent over the past five years, compared with 65 percent in China and 11 percent in the US.

India’s edge, experts say, lies in the contrast between its large contingent of private, profitable firms that operate free of substantial government involvement, and the many listed Chinese companies over which Chinese authorities exert considerable control.

“When Chinese companies — which were previously state-owned — were listed on the stock market, the government believed it was best to retain majority control,” says Peter Alexander, a former Wall Street banker who now runs the Shanghai-based financial consultancy Z-Ben Advisors. “So around two-thirds of a firm’s shares were held back by the Chinese state and couldn’t be traded. Theoretically, these shares could swap the market one day and push prices down, which worried investors.”

The large role played by the Chinese state in these firms also leads to concerns that they are run inefficiently and many are thought to be of poor quality, Mr. Alexander adds.

In contrast, several of India’s privately run, stock market listed companies, though forced to battle bureaucracy and red tape, are viewed as well managed.

Internet

China, Vietnam to build bridge over Red River

HANOI, 21 March — The Vietnamese Government has just approved an agreement between Vietnam and China on building a bridge over the Red River to facilitate transport of passengers and goods.

China, a major investor in Vietnam, has already approved an agreement to build a 1,500-meter long bridge in China’s Guangxi region. This new agreement with China is expected to start late this month, and open to traffic in mid-2007. The building of the bridge will help facilitate the development of two economic corridors and the Beibu Gulf economic belt involving many Chinese and Vietnamese localities.—MNA/Xinhua

The UN Secretary-General Message on World TB Day

24 March, 2006

YANGON, 24 March — The following is the message sent by The UN Secretary-General on the occasion of World TB Day which falls on 24 March, 2006.

This year has already seen a milestone in our struggle against tuberculosis, with the launch of “Actions for Life” — the Global Plan to Stop TB, 2006-2015. If the action outlined in the Global Plan is fully implemented, 14 million lives can be saved in the next 10 years. Fifty million more TB patients can be treated. New TB drugs — the first in more than 40 years — and diagnostics can be developed. And a new vaccine could revolutionize TB control.

These forecasts are ambitious, but they are achievable — if everybody plays their part in supporting the Global Plan. The plan offers a way to reach the Millennium Development Goal of reducing the burden of TB, and help prevent this disease from targeting the poorest of the poor, and the most vulnerable people on earth.

Around the world, the TB picture is mixed. More than half of those falling ill live in Asia. Fortunately, China, India, the Philippines and Indonesia are investing more in TB control.

In Latin America and the Middle East, we are seeing fewer new cases every year. In Eastern Europe, after years of rising figures, the number of cases is stabilizing, and there is hope of containing multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

Yet in all these settings, far more needs to be done to reach the poor and others who are highly vulnerable to disease. Above all, it is in Africa where extraordinary action is needed. This is the only continent where the number of cases continues to increase, together with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Last year, African ministers declared TB an emergency.

With “Actions for Life”, we have a detailed plan. We have a commitment at the highest level — from the Group of Eight and the 2005 World Summit — to concerted action against the disease. That means mobilizing all necessary financial and technical resources to expand TB control programmes with strengthened health system, to implement joint measures against TB/HIV, and to invest in research.

On this World TB Day, let us resolve to advance towards a world free of TB. Let us take action for life.—UNICEF

China builds bridge over Red River

INTERNET

The beams also alter the mechanisms of cell division process of malignant cells and forces them to self-destruct, while leaving the healthy cells to divide naturally,” he said.

Internet
"So thin is the layer parting democracy, mobocracy and anarchism that without the control of law and discipline, democracy can become mobocracy and also anarchism. We have witnessed in other countries as well as in our nation the eruption of anarchy resulting from mob rule. In this regard, the task of building democratic State should go alongside the enforcement of law and discipline to clearly separate democracy from mobocracy and anarchism. For the nation to develop firmly with peace and stability in the future, we will have to draw the line between democracy and mobocracy and anarchism, and with this task in mind, we are building a modern and developed discipline-flourishing nation.

I have also read a news report about the anti-Iraq war rallies held in America, Europe and some other countries at the third anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by the US and allies. But President Bush is still arguing that the invasion of Iraq is a correct act. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld in the opinion of Washington Post warned that speedy withdrawal of troops from Iraq would make way for terrorists to gain control of the country.

The UN Charter states “It is based on the sovereign equality of all its Members” and “Nothing in the Charter is to authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State”. The UN General Assembly held on 9 December, 1981 approved the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States. Concerning the human rights issue, the Declaration states in it “The duty of a State to refrain from the exploitation and the distortion of human rights issues as means of interferences in the internal affairs of States, or exerting pressure on other States or creating distrust and disorder within and among States or groups of States”.

The UN Charter, the UN Declaration and the UN Resolution.

Hence, News and Information Office of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China issued a report on 9 March, 2006, saying that human rights really meant the self-reliant efforts of a State or States to improve the domestic situation; that the task of improving human lives and civilization and human rights was the rightful duty of all the nations; that they would have to observe and protect human rights; that social lives should be improved through international cooperation; that instead of using political weapon for ideological indoctrination, international cooperation should be made; and that the US government should stop its instigation to make human rights an international problem.

Recently, I have read a news report in which member of the Canadian Upper House strongly criticized the US foreign policy and accused the US military of committing the crime of mass killings in Iraq daily. The Canadian MP said that the daily mass killing in Iraq, the killing of innocents, especially the Black Americans, the gun trade, the perpetration to cause global disorder were the crimes the US had been committing to realize its hegemony. I have also read a news report about the anti-Iraq war rallies held in America, Europe and some other countries at the third anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by the US and allies. But President Bush is still arguing that the invasion of Iraq is a correct act. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld in the opinion of Washington Post warned that speedy withdrawal of troops from Iraq would make way for terrorists to gain control of the country.

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People’s Battle

- As the cold season recedes, and summer begins
- From the edge of mount, move to battle front
- Celebrate victory.
- People and army, close up back to back
- Army and people helping with hands held
- To uproot the fascist enemies totally
- In this month of March, resistance started
- Myanmar’s chronicle was written witness
- Not for oneself, but to the
- With that in mind, feel amorous
- Like bosom son, liked by all
- Being placed, as member of household
- Taking this stance, with rice throwing the foe
- Winning the strength of the people
- Whichever enemy may bully and attack
- If you join hands with people and go to battle
- You will certainly win.
- Summer song, The Resistance
- With blood as witness, in our bosoms
- Zest stirs up waves, we shall defend
- Together with our parents and people.

Translation: MS/AK

Hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day—To work in concert with the people for the establishment of a peaceful, modern, developed, discipline-flourishing democratic new nation.

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**Hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day:**

**Border areas development projects implemented in time of Tatmadaw Government**

Myint Soe (Na Ta La)

The 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day is drawing near, so the pavilions of commands and light in the latest developments. They included the booth of border areas and national races development of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, reflecting the Tatmadaw Government’s goodness towards national races in border areas.

On 25 May 1989, the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was formed with Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe as Chairman. Then, the Work committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, various subcommittees and regional work committees were formed. The committees are carrying out duties in accordance with the following five objectives:

1. To ensure development of border areas and national races in the economic, social and transport sectors in accordance with one of the four objectives of the Union will march on to reach the desired goal.
2. To enhance friendly relations among national races, customs and traditions of national races,
3. To cherish and safeguard culture, literature and traditions of national races,
4. To preserve and promote culture, literature and traditions of national races in the economic, social and transport sectors in accordance with Our Three Main National Causes — non-disintegration of the Union, sincere goodwill. Inter-dependence may be seen in the national brethren.
5. To ensure development of border areas and national races project and the five rural development tasks to cover the border areas such as Pangsang, Mongmao and Hsiaw.

At the booth of the road/bridge projects in the border areas have been facilitated with 852 primary schools, 90 middle schools and 92 high schools.

In the health sector, the photo of Nammit dispensary taken in 1989 is compared with the photo of new Nammit hospital. Staff of the Ministry of Information put on record the border areas development projects being implemented in respective regions through documentary photos, video tapes and articles. I also noticed photos of Chanswewah hospital and Hsiaw dispensary in Kokang region.

Thanks to those who had documented the progress made at present could be compared with the situation in the past in the newspapers, magazines and exhibitions. For instance, the status of developing Mongla town today could be compared with the poor condition of Mongla village in the past. Similarly, we can compare past and present of border towns such as Pangsang, Mongmao and Hsiaw. Moreover, the middle school of Hsiaw could be compared with the primary school in the past and the Weinkaung Hospital with the dispensary in the past. A significant point is that a sizeable number of staff worked at those dispensaries and small hospitals which were in poor state. Today, 79 hospitals, 105 dispensaries, 58 rural health centres and 140 rural secondary health centres have been opened in the border areas so far.

At the booth of the road/bridge projects in the border areas, the ferry at Nanting Creek, where rafts were used to cross it in the past, is compared with the Nanting Creek Bridge. Similarly, the past jetty at Takaw-et is compared with the Thawbon Bridge (Takaw-et) of today. In the border areas, the government has built 3,316 miles of dart road, 2,053/7 miles of gravel road and 372/4 miles of tared road whereas it has maintained 3,321/5 miles of road. At the same time, the government has built 58 major bridges, 737 small bridges and 55 suspension bridges.

The photographs I have collected include those of the entire village folk watching the TV programmes of Myanmar Radio and Television after the opening of the retransmission station. In 1989-90 when the border area development project began, the Tatmadaw and local people were assisted with food and generators were carried by men to the villages climbing up and down the hills to reach the villages of the national brethren.

Not only after such efforts, the documentaries were shown to the local residents. Today, a total of 108 retransmission stations have been opened in different border areas. So, national brethren from numerous towns and villages can now enjoy the TV programmes.

Other projects implemented in the time of the Tatmadaw Government include 31 agriculture offices, 117 agriculture camps, 11 tractor stations, 19 livestock breeding farms, 41 animal husbandry offices, 196 town/village power supply projects, 11 hydel power projects and building and opening of 52 post offices, 117 agriculture offices, 117 telegraph offices and 85 telephone works.

The border area development projects have been implemented in accordance with the master development plan. The areas covered by the plan are: (a) Kachin special region; (b) Kokang region, Wa region, Shan region, Kachin North-east region, Palaung region, Kengtung East region, Monland-Monhla region, Mawphra region, Hmoi region, PaO region, Kayah region, Kayin region, Mon region, Palaung region, Tai Fung region, Rakhine region, Chin region, Sagaing region, Naga region and Kabaw valley region. The total project area covers 83,415.34 square miles in seven states and two divisions. More than 5.3 million people are living in the identified 68 towns/villages which have already spent K 7,894,93 million on the development project.

In fact, the border areas and national races development project came into being in the time of the Tatmadaw government and it has been an opportune moment for the national brethren and the government as well. It has been made possible because of the national reconciliation and restoration of peace and stability in the border areas. Border area development projects have been implemented with momentum after the realization of the national reconciliation and restoration of peace and stability in the border areas.

The Tatmadaw government has laid down and has been implementing the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special region development project and the five rural development tasks to see that no area in the country is left unattended.

Coupled with these favourable foundations already laid, the Tatmadaw Government along with the people of the Union will march on to reach the desired goal in accordance with one of the four objectives of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

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**Nation will be strong only when Tatmadaw is strong.**
Steel plant in Mandalay Industrial Zone producing auto and farm...

Prime Minister General Soe Win oversees production process of Dairy Factory of Mandalay Division Cooperative Syndicate. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects construction of approach bridges and main structure of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon). — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win views growing of physic nut plants in the farm of MCDC in Yedaguntaung of Patheingyi Township. — MNA

Approach bridges have already been built on both sides of Mandalay and Sagaing banks. The total installation of steel frame at the bridge is 1,126 metre long. The installation of steel frame covered 1,054 metre long. The installation of steel frame at RP-5 and RP-6 have been completed.
Steel plant in Mandalay Industrial Zone producing auto and farm...

(from page 8)

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The installation of steel frame covered 1,054 metre long. The installation of steel frame at RP-5 and RP-6 have been completed.

Prime Minister General Soe Win hears reports on construction of approach bridge by Lt-Gen Ye Myint. — MNA

Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik)...

(from page 16)

villages are gaining progress in various sectors. All in all, the division is entering a new age.

All the developments of the division are the results of the correct leadership and goodwill of the Head of State and the government, the efforts of officials at all levels and the public participation.

The entire nation should strive for develop of their socio-economy while effectively using the sound foundations built by the government with goodwill, and in addition to their interest, the people should join hands with the government for the nation to stand tall in the world as modern and developed state. Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung delivered an address. He said that the people in Ayeyawady Division enjoy fruitful results of social and economic sectors due to construction of roads and bridges in line with the guidance of Senior General Than Shwe. Though Ayeyawady Division was called the granary of the country in the past, it becomes the curry bowl now.

At present, Ayeyawady Division is making arrangements for growing 2.1 million saplings of rubber on 100,000 acres of land. Furthermore, regiments and units, companies and departments concerned including local people are participating in cultivation of physic nut plants on 500,000 acres of land within five years for producing bio-diesel. In conclusion, the commander urged all to maintain the bridge for its durability.

Director-General U Win Maw reported on data of the factory, production of power tiller and arrangements to be made for manufacturing of combined harvesters. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party went to No 1 Workshop where they inspected engine and gear box of the power tiller, production of parts and test run of the engine. At No-2 Workshop, they looked into arrangements to be made for sending of farming, 16 power tillers to different parts of the country. Next, they inspected Heat Treatment Shop at No-3 Workshop. The director-general and officials reported to the Prime Minister on sample of combined harvesters.

The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions.

Myanma Agricultural Machinery Industries produces 100,000 power tillers, 5,000 harvesters and 3,000 combined harvesters every year. — MNA

The newly-opened Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) in Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

Map showing 32 miles long Pathein-Kangon-Myinkaseik-Myanmgya road. — MNA
Lt-Gen Myint Swe opens Gamonpwint Store

YANGON, 23 March — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence opened Gamonpwint Store in Sangyoung Township yesterday. First, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin cut the ribbon to open Gamonpwint Store. — MNA

Indian Army delegation arrives

YANGON, 23 March — A 13-member delegation led by Brig-Gen HH Mahajan, YSM of Army Higher Command Course of Indian Army and party being welcomed at the airport. — MNA

Prizes awarded to winners in cricket competitions

YANGON, 23 March — The Competition and Disciplinary Committee of Myanmar Cricket Federation organized the ceremony to present prizes to the winners in the Cricket League Tournament for 2005-06 and the Ariston Cup. Official of the MCF gave prizes to the winners in the two competitions. — MNA

Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) …

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun speaking at opening of Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik).

Delegation of Malaysian NDC arrives

YANGON, 23 March — A 55-member delegation led by Deputy Commander of National Defence College of Malaysian Armed Forces Captain Abdul Aziz Mohd Dom arrived here by special aircraft yesterday evening.

Cash donated to TB patients

YANGON, 23 March — A cash donation ceremony to mark World TB Day, organized by Social and Cultural Working Group of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation took place at Aung San TB hospital in Insein Township, Yangon Division this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the stone plaque of the bridge. Next, they sprinkled scented water on it. Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) is 1,260 feet long. The bridge has 15 feet and eight inches motor way and three feet wide pedestrian way on either side. Its clearance is 400 feet wide and 20 feet high. The bridge can withstand 36-ton loads. The suspension bridge is of reinforced concrete type. Construction of the bridge was started on 5 May 2004.

Myanmar women engineers and workers led by Senior Engineer Daw Si Than of Bridge Construction Special Group-5 of Public Works built Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) for their second one. — 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.
India is the largest producer of mangos in the world and accounts for nearly 40 percent of the total world production of the fruit, an official MENA news agency reported.
CAS focuses on 40 research areas to usher in “innovative nation”

BEIJING, 22 March — The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) will concentrate its efforts on 40 key research areas in the coming 15 years to help China’s ambitious plan of becoming an “innovative nation”, reported Tuesday’s China Daily.

The measures were revealed in the Medium- and Long-term Development Plan of CAS (2006-20), which was unveiled Monday during the group’s annual meeting in Beijing. According to the plan, its future research will focus on a range of key areas, including the development of the Internet, innovative drugs, biofuel development, nanotechnology, clean energies, carbon dioxide capture technologies, and sustainable agriculture.

The implementation of the plan, CAS will become among the world’s top five research bodies in terms of innovative research output by 2010 and in the world’s top three by 2020,” Lu Yongxiang, CAS president and the vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

In order to reach the goals, CAS will keep investment growing by 70 per cent in the coming five years over those in the previous five-year term. Between 2011 and 2020, the annual investment in the research projects in CAS will grow by about 12 per cent, said the newspaper.

Shi Erwei, vice-president of CAS, said that with its innovative research meeting the social and economic demands of China, it hoped to receive investment from both the government and companies.

Besides the research programmes, CAS also plans to develop 500 internationally leading scientists in the coming five years. CAS will reform its management and rules to ensure the realization of its goals. It will also step up research on science ethics and reform the election system of academicians, the paper said.

Chinese, Russian Presidents hold talks

BEIJING, 22 March — Chinese President Hu Jintao and visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks at the Great Hall of the People here on Tuesday afternoon, agreeing to seek stronger bilateral ties.

In the opening address, Hu said this year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination. Over the past 10 years, Hu said, China-Russia relations have undergone all-round and rapid progress, producing a series of important achievements.

The two countries signed more than 200 legal documents, including the Sino-Russian good neighbourly treaty of friendship and cooperation, which laid a solid foundation for the development of bilateral ties, Hu said. Hu added that the two countries thoroughly settled boundary issues left over by history, removing obstacles in bilateral ties.

The establishment of regular high-level consultation mechanism helps the two countries keep close consultations and coordination on major issues concerning their fundamental interests, Hu noted.

The fact that President Putin is heading such a big delegation to China and will attend the opening ceremony of the Year of Russia in China demonstrates that Putin highly values the Sino-Russian relations,” Hu said.—MNA/Xinhua

Vienna likely to produce Tamiflu from anise next year

HANOI, 22 March — Vietnam, which has recently synthesized an active agent of bird flu medicine Tamiflu from anise, is expected to produce such kind of drugs in the first or second quarter of 2007, local media reported on Tuesday.

Vietnam’s Chemistry Institute has turned out 2.5 grammes of Oseltamivir phosphate out of star anise, an aromatic Asian evergreen tree that has purple-red flowers and star-like clusters of anise-scented fruit, Pioneer newspaper said.

The institute’s scientists have found out a process of extracting shikimic acid, a key material to synthesize Oseltamivir phosphate from anise fruit. — MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN education ministers meet in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 22 March — Education ministers from member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) were in Singapore Tuesday for their inaugural regular meeting.

According to a statement issued by Singapore’s Education and Higher Education Ministry, the ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting was instituted as a regular meeting at the 11th ASEAN Summit held in Malaysia’s Kuala Lumpur in December last year. The ministers discussed ways to promote ASEAN identity, build on the strengths of the region’s small-ethnic societies and meet the challenges of achieving social cohesion through education. This was the second time for the ministers to meet after they convened at the Meeting of Ministers for Education in ASEAN Countries, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in August 2005.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The ministers will also attend the 41st Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council Conference to be held in the city state on Wednesday and Thursday.

Timor Leste will be proclaimed the 11th member of the SEAMEO and Singapore’s Minister for Education Thamar Shanmugamathavan will assume the presidency of the SEAMEO for one year during the conference, the statement said.—MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake jolts eastern Turkey, no casualties reported

ANKARA, 22 March — An earthquake measuring 4.0 on the Richter Scale shook Koprukoy town in Turkey’s eastern province of Erzurum on Tuesday, causing no casualties, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

According to Bogazici University Kandilli Seismology Centre, the quake occurred at 1:29 pm (1129 GMT) and the epicentre of the quake was in Soyuzerme village of Erzurum, said the report.

Most of Turkey lies on the active North Anatolian fault. — MNA/Xinhua

Expulsion 12 Flight Engineer Valery Tokarev (top) and International Space Station’s Commander Bill McArthur install a camera and stand assembly during a 7 November, 2005 spacewalk in this file photo. Lost chemical canisters recently synthesized anise fruit. — MNA/Xinhua

A Cambodian farmer works in a rice field at the outskirts of Phnom Penh, on 23 March, 2006. Cambodia’s rice output for the 2005/06 harvest hit a record 3.98 million tonnes compared to 4.1 million tonnes the previous year thanks to plentiful rains, officials said on Wednesday. — MNA/Xinhua

Three crocodiles bask in the sun, in the sewage and pollution filled Tarcoles River, on 22 March, 2006. The Tarcoles River, which empties into Costa Rica’s Central Pacific Coast, carries untreated sewage waste from Costa Rica’s main population centres. — MNA/Xinhua

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A Cambodian farmer works in a rice field at the outskirts of Phnom Penh, on 23 March, 2006. Cambodia’s rice output for the 2005/06 harvest hit a record 3.98 million tonnes compared to 4.1 million tonnes the previous year thanks to plentiful rains, officials said on Wednesday. — MNA/Xinhua

Three crocodiles bask in the sun, in the sewage and pollution filled Tarcoles River, on 22 March, 2006. The Tarcoles River, which empties into Costa Rica’s Central Pacific Coast, carries untreated sewage waste from Costa Rica’s main population centres. — MNA/Xinhua
Germany lift gloom with 4-1 win over US

DORTMUND (Germany), 23 March — Germany produced a sparkling second-half performance to beat the United States 4-1 in a friendly international on Wednesday and lift the gloom surrounding the World Cup hosts.

Bastian Schweinsteiger floated over a free kick that evaded everyone and crept past Kasey Keller for the opener just seconds after coming on as a substitute in the 46th minute, with Miroslav Klose just failing to get a touch.

Three goals in six minutes then settled the match. Oliver Neuville blasted in a half-volley for 2-0 in the 73rd minute and Klose tucked in the third goal as a US team missing most of their European-based players wilted.

Michael Ballack then headed the fourth from Klose's cross and although Steve Cherundolo pulled one back with a fortunate goal five minutes from time the display will ease the pressure on Juergen Klinsmann considerably.

The coach, who had been under fire from all sides after a 4-1 defeat by Italy in their previous World Cup warm-up match, boldly opted for a three-man attack of Klose, Gerald Asamoah and Lukas Podolski and the early signs were certainly positive.

Ballack was just wide with a near-post header from a corner in the 23rd minute and Philipp Lahm forced the first save from Keller three minutes later when he burst in from the left.

Ballack set up the best move of a poor first half when Klose got space on the right in the 12th minute. Podolski reached the cross but was disappointingly wide with his shot.

A minute later Ballack was wide again with a header from Arne Friedrich's excellent cross.

Germany’s Miroslav Klose scores a goal past Jimmy Conrad (L) and Kasey Keller (R) of the US during their friendly match in Dortmund. Germany on 22 March, 2006. — INTERNET

Advantage for Palermo, Inter in Cup

MILAN, 23 March — Palermo came from a goal down to beat AS Roma 2-1 while Inter Milan beat Udinese 1-0 in their Italian Cup semifinal, first-leg matches on Wednesday.

Roma, fielding a first-choice line-up, took the lead after 48 seconds when midfielder Simone Perrotta slotted home a low cross from Honduran Edgar Alvarez.

Palermo were level within three minutes through Franco Brienza after Roma keeper Gianluca Curci failed to hold a shot and Brienza drove in the loose ball.

The Sicilian club took the lead in the 69th minute when Massimo Mutarelli slid in at the back post to beat Curci with a low shot after Denis Godeas headed down.

“I was really pleased that we showed the right attitude to come back from that early setback and then go on and win the game,” said Palermo coach Giuseppe Padaloputo. "This is a fine result because we have beaten a very strong side here,” he added.

Inter also have a single goal advantage to defend in the second leg of their tie after Argentine Santiago Solari gave them a 1-0 win over Udinese.

Solar, one of a number of players given a rare start by coach Roberto Mancini, produced a delicate back-heel at the near post to smartly convert a low cross from Nigerian Obafemi Martins.

Udinese keeper Morgan De Sanctis produced a number of good saves in the second half, one diving effort keeping out a strong shot from Dejan Stankovic.

— MNA/Reuters

Chelsea reach FA Cup semifinals

LONDON, 23 March — Champions Chelsea, looking for a league and Cup double, reached the semifinals of the FA Cup on Wednesday with a bad-tempered 1-0 win over a depleted Newcastle United, who had Robbie Elliott sent off.

Chelsea, 12 points clear in the league, needed only four minutes to find the net. Damien Duff's corner from the left meet- ing John Terry low in the area and the captain glancing the ball into the net from the legs of a defender. Newcastle, look- ing for their first silverware for more than 50 years, frequently rattled Chelsea going forward in a physically bruising encounter, although they struggled to create any clear opportunities.

Elliott was sent off in the 86th minute for a second bookable offence.

Liverpool thumped Birmingham City 7-0 on Tuesday and West Ham United beat Manchester City 2-1 on Monday to reach the semifinals. Charlton Athletic play Middlesbrough on Thursday and the semifinal draw will be made on Friday.
Gems Emporium sees upward spiral sale

YANGON, 23 March
— Over 2,000 gems merchants gathered at Myanmar Gems Emporium here and purchased 757 jade lots yesterday through tender system.

They also bought 37 jade lots in the morning session of today’s sales at the emporium.

The emporium being held at Myanmar Gems Mart here attracted 2,320 gems merchants including 1,484 merchants from 16 foreign countries and managed to get a good price for high quality jade lots.

The sales of jade lots will continue tomorrow for the fourth day.

5th special sales to be held

YANGON, 23 March — The Ministry of Industry 1 will hold its fifth successive special sales in Bago as of 26 March 2006. The special sales will sell a full range of home-made garments, medicines, foodstuff and stationery, sewing-machines and bicycles at reasonable prices. — MNA

Seminar on ASEAN Economic Community and Proposed East Asia Free Trade Area concludes

YANGON, 23 March — The Seminar on ASEAN Economic Community and the Proposed East Asia Free Trade Area: Prospects and Implications on Trade and Development of Myanmar, organized by Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was opened at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel here yesterday morning.

Secretary of Myanmar ISIS Ambassador U Nyunt Tin gave an opening speech.

Head of Singapore-based Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Mr Axel Schmidt extended greetings.

Five resource persons read out their papers to the seminar.

This morning, Deputy Director Daw Yin Yin Mya of Central Bank of Myanmar submitted a paper titled Overview of Myanmar Economy to the seminar.

Later, Ambassador U Nyunt Tin and Mr Axel Schmidt reviewed discussions of the two-day seminar. — MNA

45th World Meteorological Day observed

YANGON, 23 March
The 45th World Meteorological Day was observed at Meteorology and Hydrology Department under the Ministry of Transport on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. It was attended by Deputy Minister U Pe Than, directors-general and directors of the departments under the ministry, officials and prize winners of article and essay contests.

The deputy minister made a speech and the message of the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization was read out by Director-General (attached) U Tun Lwin of Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The officials presented prizes to the winners and a research papers reading session followed. There are resource persons read out 12 papers. — MNA

Weather

THURSDAY, 23 March, 2006
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder showers have been isolated in Kakhi, Mon States and Taninthayi Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kakhi State, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Monywa, Mawlamyine, Ayeyawady and Bago (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao and Machanbaw (0.12) inch each and Ye (0.08) inch.

Maximum temperature on 22-3-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 23-3-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity on 09:30 hrs MST on 23-3-2006 was (89%). Total sunshine hours on 22-3-2006 was (9.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 23-3-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from West at (16:20) hours MST on 22-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-3-2006: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kakhi and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin State, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increases of thunder conditions are likely in Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Naypyidaw and neighbouring area for 24-3-2006: Generally fair.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-3-2006: Generally fair.
Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) cuts 33 miles in travelling from Pathein to Myaungmya

YANGON, 23 March — Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) in Ayeyawady Division was commissioned into service this morning, marking the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day with an address by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than.

Opening of the 1,260-foot suspension bridge cut 33 miles in travelling from Pathein to Myaungmya as, because of the facility, traffic can now use the 32-mile Pathein-Kangon-Myinkaseik-Myaungmya road instead of the 65-mile Pathein-Dakha-Einme-Myaungmya road, said Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than at the opening ceremony held near the facility.

He said, in 1988 Ayeyawady Division had only 400 miles of motor roads, but now it has over 1,300 miles. The government has built 213 180-foot and above bridges in the whole nation, and of them 42 are in the division.

The bridge will also help promote directly or indirectly the economy, education, health and social status of over 700,000 people residing in over 800 villages along the road. Construction of the Pyapon bridge on Yangon-Delaye-Pyapon road, and Ngawun (Myokwin) bridge on Hinthada-Myokwin-Kwinkauk road will be completed soon. Ayeyawady Division is achieving astounding progress in building transport infrastructures.

As the rice bowl of the nation, the division has been putting 3.6 million acres of land under monsoon paddy and 1.2 million acres under summer paddy. Plans are under way to extend monsoon paddy sown acreage that will reach 3.7 million acres in the coming year. Edible oil crops and beans and pulses are being cultivated on more and more acres of land. The division is also running fish and prawn farms with the use of advanced technology, while extending coastal and deep-sea fishing.

In the industrial sector, the division now has State-owned factories including Pathein Glass Factory, Myaungmya Jute Mill, Kyangin Cement Plant, Maubin Paper Mill, Thabaung Pulp Factory in addition to a large number of private factories located in the industrial estates set up in Pathein, Myaungmya and Hinthada.

Oil fields in Myaungyin, Shwepyitha and Nyaungdon are producing oil and gas. Universities and colleges in Pathein, Maubin and Hinthada and 200-bed hospitals stand witness to the development of the division. Thanks to the rural development projects (See page 9)

All the developments of Ayeyawady Division are the results of the correct leadership and goodwill of the Head of State and the government, efforts of officials at all levels and public participation.

Foreign Affairs Minister meets Malaysian counterpart

YANGON, 23 March — Foreign Minister of Malaysia Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar called on U Nyan Win, Foreign Affairs Minister, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here at 5 pm today. Also present at the call were officials of MOFA, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Shaharuddin bin Md Som and officials.

At the invitation of the Government of Myanmar, a Malaysian delegation led by Malaysian Minister for Foreign Affairs Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar arrived here this afternoon by air to pay a goodwill visit.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, the Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar and high-ranking officials of MOFA. Minister U Nyan Win hosted a dinner in honour of Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar at Traders Hotel this evening. — MNA

Weather Forecast for 24-3-2006

Naypyidaw & neighbouring areas
   Generally fair.

Yangon & neighbouring areas
   Partly cloudy.

Mandalay & neighbouring areas
   Generally fair.

Minister U Nyan Win welcomes Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar at the airport. — MNA