Strong, efficient, modern and patriotic Tatmadaw

All independent nations have essentially established armies since prehistorical period. In addition, efforts have to be exerted continually to make armies stronger, more efficient and modernized. That is why, we have set our objective of turning our army into a stronger, more efficient, modern and patriotic army.

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 48th Intake of Defence Services Academy)

The Union of Myanmar
The State Peace and Development Council
The Law Amending the Income Tax Law
(The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 2/2006)
The 11th Waning of Taboung, 1367 M.E.
(24th March, 2006)

The State Peace and Development Council hereby enacts the following Law:
1. This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Income Tax Law.
2. This Law shall have effect commencing from the 2006-2007 financial year.
3. Sub-section (q) of section 3 of the Income Tax Law shall be substituted as follows:
   “(q) Capital assets means any land, building, vehicle and any capital assets of an enterprise. The said expression also includes share, bond and similar instruments.”

The Union of Myanmar
The State Peace and Development Council
The Law Amending the Commercial Tax Law
(The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 3/2006)
The 11th Waning of Taboung, 1367 M.E.
(24th March, 2006)

The State Peace and Development Council hereby enacts the following Law:
1. This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Commercial Tax Law.
2. This Law shall have effect commencing from the 2006-2007 financial year.
3. Section 6 of the Commercial Tax Law shall be substituted as follows:
   “6. The Ministry of Finance and Revenue with the approval of the Government:
   (a) may, by notification amend or add the descriptions or tax rates contained in the Schedule;”

Prime Minister General Soe Win meets Malaysian Minister for Foreign Affairs Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

Malaysian FM calls on Prime Minister General Soe Win

YANGON, 24 March — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win received visiting Malaysian Minister for Foreign Affairs Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar and party at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Kommyinttha, here, at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department and officials.

The Malaysian Minister and party were accompanied by Malaysian Ambassador Mr Md Som.

MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Upgrading of Kandawgyi Natural Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) discussed

Yangon, 23 March — The Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Kandawgyi Natural Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) held a coordination meeting at the Agricultural Museum, here, this afternoon.

Chairman of the Work Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Hw Win heard reports on progress of zone-wise tasks and arrangement to be made for public relaxation by officials of Relaxation Zone, Education Zone, Central Forest Zone and Recreation Zone.

The commander attended to the needs and gave concluding words.

Also present at the meeting were military region commanders, departmental heads and officials of Yangon City Development Committee.

After the meeting, the commander oversaw progress of tasks at the respective zones.

Article Contest on walking and health to be held

Yangon, 24 March — As an educative programme to let the people know the advantages of walking for health, the article contest on health organized by Myanmar Sports Writers Federation will be held. Anyone may take part in it and the handsome prizes will be awarded.

Any title may be given for the article and it must be at least 4-page article based on the salient points of walking and health and composed with type writer or computer. The manuscripts are to be send to U Kyaw Sein Than, contest organizing committee, Myanmar Sports Writers Federation, Aung San Stadium, Tel: 374502 not later than 21 April. — MNA

Grande Royal Golf Reserve Championship 29-30 March

Yangon, 24 March — Myanmar Golf Federation will organize the Grand Royal Reserve Golf Championship 2006 together with main sponsor International Beverages Trading Co Ltd at Danyingon Golf Club in Insein Township on 29 and 30 March.

Amateur golfers may enlist at Grand Royal Counters, Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon), Myanmar Golf Club at 9th mile, and Myanmar Golf Training Resort in Kyaukedwain of Mayangyon Township, not later than 4 pm on 27 March.

Co-sponsors of the championship will be Air Mandalay, Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel, Cruncher Club Soda and Srixon. Han Event Management will perform functions of the championship. — MNA

Annual meeting of UMFCCCI on 31 March

Yangon, 24 March — Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry invited its members to attend in the 15th Annual General Meeting of the federation to be held on 31 March at the National Theatre here.

UMFCCCI member companies will exhibit their export-quality products at UMFCCCI AGM Exhibition-2006 on the same day, and any one can visit the exhibition. — MNA

YCDC trounce CPT 4-0

Yangon, 24 March — The Myanmar League Closing Cup Knockout Football Tournament for 2005-06 season concluded at Aung San Stadium, here at 3.45 pm today.

YCDC took three points with a 4-0 rout over CPT. Aung Myint Aye, Aung Zaw Myo, Zaw Zaw and Zaw Naing Tun scored one goal each for YCDC. CPT did not have equalizer.

Tomorrow’s fixture:

Energy vs Finance and Revenue.

A defender of CPT blocking attacks of YCDC Team Captain Tin Naung Tun Then.
Putin confident of energy cooperation with China

BEIJING, 23 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin said here Wednesday that Russia will step up energy cooperation with China and increase oil and gas supplies to its neighbour.

China and Russia on Tuesday inked three deals on oil and natural gas cooperation, including a summary of negotiations between the China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC) and Transneft, a pipeline transport company of Russia.

"Transneft and the CNPC are having a feasibility study on laying branch oil pipeline to China. If the project could be implemented, which I have no doubt about, will help improve (Russia's) oil supply to China," said Putin on Wednesday.

Putin and Chinese President Hu Jintao on Wednesday morning attended the opening ceremony of a high-level Sino-Russian economic forum, which was seen as an opportunity for the two countries to discuss detailed trade issues.

"In 2005, Russia has exported to China more than eight million tons of crude oil and become China's fifth largest energy supplier," said Putin.

Philippine Bulusan Volcano acting up anew

MANILA, 23 March — Volcanologists are closely monitoring Mount Bulusan Volcano in Sorsogon following an ash emission that reached up to 1.5 kilometres into the atmosphere Tuesday night, the Philippine Volcanology Commission (Phivolcs) said on Wednesday.

Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum told reporters that the ash explosion of Bulusan Volcano in Sorsogon Province, central Philippines occurred at around 10 pm Tuesday night. "The explosion indicates that there is abnormality," he said.

Bulusan Volcano, about 250 kilometres southeast of Manila, has had 15 recorded eruptions. It last erupted in January 2005. — MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu spreads to northern Zealand of Denmark

STOCKHOLM, 23 March — Three cases of bird flu have been reported since the first case was identified on Danish shores last week, according to reports reaching Copenhagen on Tuesday.

Scientists confirmed that a dead swan found in Frederikssund, 30 kilometres northwest of Copenhagen, was contaminated with bird flu.

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration established a three-kilometre security zone prohibiting poultry production, among other things, around the area where the swan in northern Zealand was found.

An additional 10-kilometre surveillance zone was also set up that stretched from Roskilde in the south to the northern coast of Zealand. — MNA/Xinhua

US Army dog handler gets six-month jail sentence

WASHINGTON, 23 March — A US Army dog handler has been sentenced to roughly six months in prison for abusing detainees at Baghdad's notorious Abu Ghraib jail, an Army spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

Sergeant Michael Smith, 24, will also have his rank reduced to private and must pay a 2,250-US-dollar fine for using his unmuzzled dog to harass and threaten inmates at Abu Ghraib in 2003 and 2004, Army spokeswoman Shanthel Kelly said.

After he serves his 179-day sentence he will be released from the military with a bad conduct discharge, Kelly said.

Photos of inmates being intimidated by dogs and sexually humiliated were broadcast around the world after the abuses became public in 2004, undermining Washington's efforts to win support for its war in Iraq.

Several of these photos were introduced as evidence in Smith's trial.

Smith's lawyers maintained that he was unfairly lumped in with others on the night-shift who physically abused detainees or allowed their dogs to bite them, and was acting at the request of interrogators and prison authorities.

Other soldiers who worked alongside Smith have been sentenced for up to 10 years for abusing inmates. — MNA/Reuters

Sweden builds on biofuel lead

STOCKHOLM, 23 March — Sweden has cemented its position as the European leader in the transition to alternative fuels after oil company OK-Q8 said it planned to open 10 new ethanol pumps in the country, a government website reported on Tuesday.

The initiative will bring to 145 the number of ethanol pumps operated by OK-Q8 and to 330 the number of ethanol pumps in the country.

The country is the European leader in the move to alternative fuels, followed by Germany and Austria.

The Swedish Government announced in October 2005 ambitious plans to eliminate the country's dependence on fossil fuels by 2020. — MNA/Xinhua

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The Swedish Government announced in October 2005 ambitious plans to eliminate the country's dependence on fossil fuels by 2020. — MNA/Xinhua
Chinese Premier meets Russian President Putin

Beijing, 23 March—China and Russia should further cement and deepen the strategic partnership of cooperation, said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Wednesday in a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The two sides should place their relationship at a more prominent place in their foreign affairs, Wen said.

Bilateral relations have entered a new phase of development since the two countries set up the strategic partnership of cooperation and signed the Sino-Russian Good Neighbourly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, Wen noted.

The events of the Year of Russia and the Year of China are the fruits of these relations, and reflect the political willingness of Chinese and Russian leaders to promote all-round cooperation and the expectation of the two peoples to push for friendship for future generations, he said.

Wen said the stable and mutually-beneficial economic and trade cooperation between China and Russia fits the long-term interests of both nations. The two countries should continue expanding bilateral trade scales, optimize trade structure, enhance energy cooperation and encourage mutual investment, so as to lay a more solid base for the development of bilateral relations, the Premier said.

Putin said Russia-China relations are developing at a very high level, and the two sides are creating a sound political environment for the growth of the Sino-Russian strategic partnership of cooperation.

The bilateral trade exchanges are enjoying rapid growth, the President said, calling for both sides to continue increasing cooperation in energy, machine building, transport, telecommunications, finance, aerospace and environmental protection

Malaysian economy expected to strengthen further in 2006

Kuala Lumpur, 23 March—Malaysia’s economy is expected to strengthen further in 2006, due to more favourable global conditions, Malaysian National Bank Governor Zeti Akhtar Aziz said here on Wednesday.

“Real GDP (of Malaysia) is projected to grow at a faster rate of 6 per cent, driven by strengthening export performance and resilient domestic demand,” the chief of Malaysia’s central bank told a Press conference as she released the bank’s annual report for 2005.

The global semiconductor and manufactured goods, particularly computers and semiconductor products, are expected to see a stronger growth due to the favourable global conditions, she said.

Domestic demand would be driven by private consumption as a result of rising income and other factors, while private investment is expected to expand, particularly in the manufacturing sector and the oil and gas industry.

41st SEAMEO Council Conference opens in Singapore

Singapore, 23 March—The 41st Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council Conference opened in Singapore Wednesday with the participation of over 150 education ministers and officials from its member countries.

Participants attending the two-day meeting will review the programmes proposed by the SEAMEO and its Regional Centres and discuss the role of education in fostering national development.

Passive smoking kills 80,000 EU citizens a year

Brussels, 23 March—An estimated 79,500 citizens in the European Union (EU) die from passive smoking each year, according to a report published on Tuesday.

The victims include about 20,000 non-smokers, says the report unveiled in the European Parliament by the Smoke Free Partnership, a group supported by EU health and anti-smoking groups.

The report suggests that support for a total ban on smoking in public places across the EU is overwhelming and recommends all EU member states introduce comprehensive smoke free legislation as soon as possible.

“We’ve known about the risks of passive smoking for more than 30 years now,” said Professor Konrad Jamrozik of Queensland university, who produced the estimates. He said the figures are conservative estimates.

“Over 19,000 adult non-smokers die each year (from diseases) attributable to passive smoking, including deaths from heart disease, strokes and lung cancer,” Jamrozik said, noting that this is the equivalent of a Jumbo jet load of people each week.

Suicide car bomber hits US convoy in Baghdad

Baghdad, 23 March—A suicide car bomber struck a US military convoy on the main road leading to Baghdad International Airport on Wednesday morning, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

“A suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden vehicle into a US military convoy on the airport road in western Baghdad at about 7:30 am (0430 GMT),” the source said on condition of anonymity.

It was not clear whether there were any casualties among the US troops as the US forces cordoned off the scene, preventing Iraqi police from approaching the source said.

 Guerrillas frequently attack US military convoys with roadside bombs and car bombs on the main roads in Iraq, particularly on the most dangerous road in Iraq near the airport in western Baghdad.

The US military has no immediate comment on the incident.
Sino-Russian partnership boosts trade to new level

BEIJING, 23 March — The strategic partnership between China and Russia has helped the two countries boost their trade to new level and expand their cooperation in energy, science, technology, telecommunications, finance and transportation.

Figures from Chinese Customs showed the trade volume between China and Russia in 2005 reached 29.1 billion US dollars, up 37.1 per cent year on year, which was 14 percentage points higher than the growth rate of China’s total foreign trade. China is now Russia’s fourth largest trade partner, and Russia is China’s eighth largest trade partner.

Although apparel and footwear still play a large part in China’s export to Russia, China’s export of machinery and electronic products to its largest neighbouring country has been growing fast.

In the first 11 months of 2005, China’s export of machinery and electronic goods to Russia grew 70 per cent, accounting for 24 percent of China’s total export to Russia.

During the same period, China’s export of high-tech products to Russia grew 58 per cent, accounting for 7 per cent of China’s total exports to Russia.

By the end of 2005, China’s contracted investment in Russia totalled 977 million US dollars, mainly in fields of energy, mining, forestry, trade, textile, telecommunications, construction and real estate.

By the end of 2005, Russia’s contracted investment in China totalled 1.405 billion US dollars, mainly in fields of manufacture, construction and transportation.

In 2005, border trade between the two countries reached 5.57 billion dollars, growing 32.7 per cent and accounting for 19.1 per cent of the total trade.

Thanks to China’s “going global” strategy, renowned Chinese companies such as TCL and Huawei have witnessed the increasing market share of their products in Russia.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to fit security cameras on buses and trains

SINGAPORE, 23 March — Singapore will install surveillance cameras on its buses and subway trains by early next year in a bid to beef up security on the country’s transport network, local media reported on Wednesday.

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) plans to fit closed-circuit cameras, which will record and store video images, on its trains and most of the current fleet of 3,500 buses, the Straits Times newspaper reported.

The plan follows bloody attacks on mass transit systems in London and Madrid over the past two years, and fears that the same thing could happen here. “The cameras on board MRT trains today are for operational purposes. But we are looking to see if we can modify the system for security,” LTA chief executive Yam Ah Mee was quoted as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysia to test poultry samples nationwide

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 March — Malaysia will take poultry samples nationwide to detect the presence of the H5N1 strain of virus. Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister Muhdyiddin Yassin said Tuesday.

Muhdyiddin said his ministry has instructed the Veterinary Services Department (VSD) to extend sampling to all states across the country.

“We have instructed all state veterinary directors to carry out comprehensive samplings. Previously, only the affected areas but now each state must do it,” said Muhdyiddin.

This move came after new bird flu virus were found Tuesday in chicken samples in some areas of the northern state of Perak, where health authorities confirmed two bird flu cases earlier last week. All samples will be tested at three VSD laboratories in Ipoh, capital of Perak, and Petaling Jaya near Kuala Lumpur, and at University of Science Malaysia in Penang, said the minister.

MNA/Xinhua

Bomb blasts kill one in western Bangladesh

DHAKA, 23 March — One person was killed and another injured critically in bomb blasts in western Kusthia District, 275 kilometres from Dhaka, on Tuesday night, television channel Ntv said Wednesday.

The television said the miscreants threw two bombs at two persons. The explosions killed one person instantly and injured the other person critically.

The injured person is getting treatment in a local hospital.

MNA/Xinhua
Since 1976 when Jimmy Carter came to power, the US has annually insulted nearly 200 nations whose membership numbers 191 only by issuing human rights report, religious freedom report, report on trafficking in person, and narcotic drugs report. It is provoking almost all the global nations at the risk of harming friendly relations with them. The nations stated in the list of the report refruted her groundless accusations. The People’s Republic of China issues a report to refute US accusations and responds to annual US reports on human rights.

In response to the US human rights report, Ethiopia said the report’s allegations concerning human rights violation in Ethiopia were totally groundless. It also said that Ethiopia gave special attention to respect of human rights as enshrined in the national Constitution. Human rights, social rights and political rights of the citizens and the right of the people of a nation to handle matters on food, clothing and shelter, and freedom and to create their destiny best as they like. Such a nation must be a sovereign (independent) one so that its people can have access to these rights. If a nation is a colony and is controlled by a people, will have to comply with all the wishes of the colonialists.

The United States of America managed to throw off the yoke of the British and announced its independence on 4 July 1776. In May 1787, it held a national convention with 55 representatives in Philadelphia to draft a State constitution. At that time, it was made up of 13 states not 50 as at present. Rhode Island failed to send representatives to the NC and 55 representatives from the 12 remaining states attended it. After the constitution was drafted and approved, only 34 representatives signed it. At the signing ceremony, Wilson read out the speech of Dr Franklin, and in the introduction, it said that he admitted there were no unacceptable facts in the constitution for the time being.

In 1787, the US held discussions on the chapter of fundamental rights of citizens, but disagreements were running high at the discussions and so the chapter had to be omitted. Indeed, the US is a nation in which people from European countries such as Britain, France, Dutch, Spain, Russia and Germany drove out native Red Indians and settled down. They brought the negroes from Africa into the nation for hard labour. The states of southern US insisted that they could not give the fundamental rights to the Red Indians and the Blacks (Negroes). Thus, the chapter of fundamental rights of citizens was left out of the constitution. Later, fundamental rights of citizens were added with amendments.

The 1787 US Constitution and the amendments to the constitution prescribed in 1789 did not carry the fact ‘every citizen shall have access to equal rights’. Social rights and the right to enter into politics of the people were not mentioned in detail. Apartheid, racism and class discrimination grew high in the country.

The 1868 Amendment XIV to the Constitution said that nothing in the constitution gives every citizen the right to contend regarding equal rights. Citizen means every national at 21 years old except Red Indians. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) gang made up of American white people with racism murdered countless number of black people. White policemen tortured the Blacks, followed by riots. A total of 4,558 racial riots took place in 1991. Since 1995, 30 Christian churches of black people in southern US have been burnt down without perpetrators exposed.

An issue was raised by an official of Mexican government said US authorities committed violation of human rights 72,864 times against his people who went to US and settled there. The earnings of the US black people stood at only one tenth of that of the US white people. The majority of hundreds of thousands of homeless US people were the black.

In the legal affairs, the black culprits were sentenced more punitive imprisonment terms than the white culprits. The possibility of being jailed of black culprits was three times that of white culprits. The rate of death penalties on the black was four times that of the white. It would be endless concerning apartheid and racism in the US.

When the US State Constitution was being drawn, the representatives were at loggerheads over the rights to vote and to be elected. A representative from South Carolina said that only those who paid taxes should be entitled to vote. Red Indians were deprived of the right to vote. He also said that the black belonged to the white. Horses and cattle were used in North Carolina, while slaves were used in South Carolina. He argued why horses and cattle were not elected in the North. It meant the black (today they are called black Americans) were used as horses and cattle, and so they could not be given the right to be elected; a harsh reference 80 years, the US imposed sanctions for 120 times against a number of nations. In 1998 alone, it imposed economic sanctions against 75 nations, where 52 per cent of the world’s population of 6,000 lived. The US itself is imposing sanctions and always urging its allies and others to do so. It is always practising protectionism and creating trade wars. By doing so it is violating the basic human rights and poses hardships for human beings of other nations.

As for women, they are facing the human rights violations and molestation of the US in America as well as in other countries. The US cities have many brothels and toplless bars. An FBI report said that 94,635 women faced sexual assaults at work in 2004-2005.

A report of the Pentagon said that six per cent of women faced sexual assaults in US military academies and over half of them faced constant sexual harassment. In 2004, about half of the women inmates were raped in the prisons.

There were strong public response when three US soldiers raped a 12-year old school girl in Okinawa in 1995 and a US soldier beat a Korean woman to death. Official reports said that in 1967, the US soldiers in the military bases in Korea committed 34,900 crimes ranging from rapes to murders or three cases a day on average.

The US soldiers in Japan committed 4,716 crimes or 205 cases per year on average against the locals. Those crimes included 106 cases of sexual harassment against women. The US military test-fired 1,520 rounds of uranium war heads on Okinawa Island.

During the World War II, the US dropped one atomic bomb each on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 August and 9 August respectively in order to force Japan to surrender. The bombs killed over 300,000 innocent civilians of various ages including pregnant women. During the Korean war, the US soldiers massacred over 300 South Korean refugees hiding under a bridge accusing them of being North Koreans in 1950. And in the Vietnam war, American soldiers committed a massacre in My Lai village and later burnt down the whole village. Because they thought that the villagers were hosting their enemy. When the US invaded Panama in December 1989, American soldiers slaughtered over 2,000 locals in masse. Hence, the Americas assume themselves to be persons who are licensed to kill and rape.

(To be continued)

(Translation: MS+TMT)
Myanna Alin, Kyemen: 24-3-2006
The Armed Forces Day is a momentous day of the independence struggle, on which the Tatmadaw together with all the national people launched the armed resistance against the Fascists to drive the intruders out of the country. The Armed Forces Day bears witness to the fact that the Tatmadaw is a national armed forces born with patriotic conviction to fight for independence. Myanmar won a great victory as the entire nation took part in the armed struggle at the risk of their lives, with the Tatmadaw as the core. The Tatmadaw and the people showed the greatest unity in history.

Myanmar people shook the colonialists and Fascists. Myanmar was crowned with glory as the world had praised her people’s courage. The Tatmadaw which emerged with such fine traditions had stood by the people from the time since the nation regained independence. It has always placed in the fore Our Three Main National Causes.

During the early post-independence period, so intense was the insurgency that the then Myanmar government was dubbed “the Yangon government”. Even in that situation, the Tatmadaw was able to restore peace and stability in the nation and safeguarded independence and sovereignty, with public support.

It was again the patriotic Tatmadaw that drove out the Kuomintang intruders around 1958 and saved the nation.

The ruling AFPFL transferred the State power to the Tatmadaw as the Caretaker Government in 1958 as the growing political problems resulting from the disagreements within the AFPFL became dangerous to the degree of waging an armed conflict, rather than finding a democratic solution. Hence the Tatmadaw had to assume the national political duty for the first time after the nation regained independence. The Tatmadaw held a parliamentary democracy election. But the nation was facing fragmentation in 1962 due to the ruling Pa-hla-sa government’s inability to handle and solve the problem of federal policy demanded by some to secede from the Union. The Tatmadaw had to assume the State duties or in other words the national political duty for the second time due to unavoidable conditions.

The unrest broke out in 1988 when the administration of the Burma Socialist Programme Party was rocked by anarchy, during which innocent people were killed or beheaded, and the people had to live under constant fear. As no political leader, organization nor individual was able to control the situation and solve the problems, the Tatmadaw, the most powerful and disciplined institution, had to take over the State duties due to unavoidable situation.

In this way, the Tatmadaw took part in the national political role for the third time. After ending the unrest and restoring peace and stability in the nation, the Tatmadaw introduced the market-oriented economy in accord with the majority’s wish and laid down the 12 objectives.

Whenever the nation faced disorder and economic downturn, the Tatmadaw had to address the situation and assume the State duties. In this way, it has gained experiences in playing the national political role.

Because of the Tatmadaw government’s endeavours for national re-consolidation, ensuring peace and stability and establishing democracy in the nation, 17 armed groups, that had opposed the past successive governments for many years, returned to the legal fold. Thus, peace and stability and progress have reached the far corners of the nation.

At present, the government has been in the process of building a discipline-flourishing democratic state in accord with the seven-point Road Map. The National Convention, the foundation of the policy has already adopted over 70 per cent of the basic principles and detailed basic principles. The nation at present is achieving social progress as never before.

Every person who really wishes to serve the national interest should not betray or have the pessimistic view on the national cause, and rely on other countries. He should not support the alien sanctions on Myanmar or the act of barring humanitarian aids to the country.

He should not support the exaggerated slanders against the national cause.

He should not demand a copy of the western model democracy, while opposing the efforts to adopt a democracy system that is in accord with the social lives of the countrymen. Events in the past 17 years proved that such acts and tendencies were not constructive, but destructive.

All the people will have to join hands with the Tatmadaw with the spirit of oneness and unity, while recognising the fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, to cement national consolidation and for successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map.

(Translation: TMT)
Section 4 of the Income Tax Law shall be substituted as follows:

“4. The Ministry of Finance and Revenue may, with the approval of the Government, prescribe, amend and add the following income and rates of income tax by notification:
(i) assessable total income;
(ii) rates of income tax for each class of income;
(iii) assessable income and rates of income tax for each class of income received in foreign currency.
(b) in issuing the notification under sub-section (a):
(i) shall prescribe the effective date or assessment year;
(ii) shall cause the income tax to be assessed at the prescribed rates for each class of income upon all persons having assessable total income relevant to the effective date or assessment year, related to that income year.”

5. Section 6 of the Income Tax Law shall be substituted as follows:

“6. (a) The Ministry of Finance and Revenue may, with the approval of the Government prescribe, amend and add the following reliefs by notification:
(i) basic allowance for an association or persons;
(ii) basic allowance for an individual, and allowance for assesse’s spouse and children.
(b) In issuing the notification under sub-section (a), it shall prescribe the effective date or assessment year.
(c) It shall deduct the following from the total income and compute the tax on the remaining amount of income:
(i) basic allowance for an association of persons;
(ii) for an individual,
(aa) basic allowance;
(bb) allowance for assesse’s spouse and children;
(cc) life premium paid for the insurance policy of assesse or assesse’s spouse;
(dd) contribution towards saving fund as prescribed by the Rules.
Proviso: Sub-section (a) and (c) shall not apply to the non-resident foreigner mentioned in section 26 and the computation of tax on capital gains from capital assets under section 13.
(d) In assessing by computing under sub-section (c) sum donated to any religious or charitable institution or to any fund relevant to such matters sponsored by the different levels of the State organization or recognized by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue by notification shall be deducted. The amount donated as such shall not exceed twenty five percent of the total income of the assesse.

Explanation: “Charity” contained in sub-section (d) means and includes contribution for the benefit of the public such as donation for education, health, welfare for the poor etc.

6. After sub-section (a) of section 21 of the Income Tax Law, the following explanation shall be inserted:

Explanation: The expression “fraudulent intention” contained in sub-section (a) includes the following:
(i) failure to file the return for that income knowing that assessable income has been obtained;
(ii) failure to comply with the notice when a notice in writing is made by the Internal Revenue Department and the relevant of fices of the Head of Internal Revenue to submit the accounts and documents including return and profit and loss accounts in respect of any income or any class of income at the specified time in such notice or extended time, or submitting forged instruments and other documents.

(Sd.) Than Shwe
Senior General
Chairman
The State Peace and Development Council

The Law Amending the Income Tax Law
(The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 2/2006)

(from page 1)

(Sd.) Than Shwe
Senior General
Chairman
The State Peace and Development Council

The Law Amending the Commercial Tax Law
(The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 3/2006)

(from page 1)

(Sd.) Than Shwe
Senior General
Chairman
The State Peace and Development Council

Li-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects People’s Hospital in Naypyidaw.
(News on page 16) MNA
YWANGON, 24 March — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation President Daw Than Than Nwe, Mandalay Division Women’s Affairs Organization Patron Daw Khin Pyone Win and members viewed the summer courses on horticulture and traditional food of nationals co-organized by Chanayethazan Township USDA and Division WAO.

Afterwards, the president of MWAF visited School for the deaf children in Chanmyathazi Township and donated K 500,000 to students and viewed the training of computer, tailoring and knitting and other vocational training courses opened by Division WAO.

MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe views trainees at computer course in School for the deaf children in Chanmyathazi Township. — MNA

MWAF President views functions of Mandalay WAO

MALAYSIA, 24 March — The Malaysian delegation led by Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar departed here for home this evening.

The Malaysian delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and officials of the ministry and the Malaysian ambassador and embassy staff.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win sees off Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar and party at the airport. — MNA

Malaysian Foreign Minister departs for home

EDUCATION DEPUTY MINISTER BACK FROM SINGAPORE

YANGON, 24 March — Deuty Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and Rector of University of Foreign Languages (Yangon) Dr Myo Myint arrived back here by air from the Republic of Singapore this morning.

They attended the 41st Conference of Southeast Asian Education Ministers’ Council held in Singapore from 20 to 24 March.

The two-member delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by directors-general of the departments under the ministry, their families and officials. — MNA

Course on Information and Internet concludes

YANGON, 24 March — A conclusion ceremony of courses on Information and Internet, Applied Computer, Advanced Computer, Internet, Digital user and Postal Supervisor conducted by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs took place at Communications and Postal Training Centre this morning.

It was attended by the vice-chairman of e-National Task Force and members and official of the ministry.

Vice-Chairman U Aung Myint of e-National Task Force made a speech and presented completion certificates and prizes to the trainees.

A total of 49 trainees of the 28 ministries attended the 6-week course on Information and Internet.

A total of 86 trainees also attended other courses. — MNA

Religious rites performed at Thakya Marazein Pagoda in Thanlyin Station

YANGON, 24 March — A ceremony to close the reliquary of Thakya Marazein Pagoda was held in conjunction with the ceremony to erect the pivot of the pagoda on Hanthadipa Hill in Thanlyin Station yesterday morning.

Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Myint Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kitti and members of the Sangha, Li-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Tatmadawmen and family members of Thanlyin Station, departmental personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations and wellwishers.

Li-Gen Myint Swe and party took the Nine Precepts from the Joint-Secretary Sayadaw. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Li-Gen Myint Swe and wife offered religious objects, eight requisites and alms to the Sayadaws. Joint-Secretary Pakokku Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vīcara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Li-Gen Myint Swe and party put religious objects into the reliquary and erected the pivot.

Afterwards, wellwishers donated cash to the fund of the pagoda to Li-Gen Myint Swe and officials. Later, they offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaws. — MNA

Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation President Daw Than Than Nwe takes part in the dedication ceremony of courses on Information and Internet.

MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe views trainees at vocational training course in Chanayethazan Township.

MWAF President views functions of Mandalay WAO

Course on Information and Internet concludes

Malaysian Foreign Minister departs for home

Religious rites performed at Thakya Marazein Pagoda in Thanlyin Station

Education Deputy Minister back from Singapore

Course on Information and Internet concludes

Religious rites performed at Thakya Marazein Pagoda in Thanlyin Station

Education Deputy Minister back from Singapore
Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects display of booths at Armed Forces Day Exhibition

YANGON, 24 March—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected display of booths for the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here this morning.

On arrival at DSM at 8 am, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party were welcomed by Chairman of Work Committee for Organizing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Poetry and Fine Arts Competitions Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and officials of the museum.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and officials viewed round the booth on 12 State’s objectives being displayed on the ground floor of the museum.

Next, they inspected booths of the ministries, booths of Yangon City Development Committee, Mandalay City Development Committee and the Ministry of Defence, on the second floor, booths of the military commands, booths on nation-building endeavours and booths of Directorate of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute on the first floor and booths of Tatmadaw (Navy), Tatmadaw (Air) and Directors of the Ministry of Defence and left there at 10 am.

Beginning November 2003, local people in 324 townships enjoy cent per cent fruitful results of TB control functions

YANGON, 24 March — The World TB Day, co-organized by the Ministry of Health, WHO and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), was observed at International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo delivered an address. He said that priority is given to the elimination of tuberculosis disease as a national task in implementing the five-year short-term national health plan and the 30-year long-term plan as Vision 2030 National Strategic Plans. The five-year national TB combating strategic plan had been implemented. As part of combating TB disease, a total of six TB control zones were set up in 1972, and number of State and Division TB control units extended up to 13 in 2003.

Since 1997, Myanmar has been practicing DOT Strategy adopted by WHO. Beginning November 2003, local people in 324 townships enjoy cent per cent fruitful results of TB control functions. All are to participate in the tasks to keep all walks of life free from TB in line with the motto “Actions for Life: Towards a World free of tuberculosis”. Plans are being implemented for giving free treatment to TB patients in Myanmar with the use of potent TB pills. In conclusion, the deputy minister urged health staff, local authorities and NGOs to take part in the respective sectors in performing the TB control functions.

Next, WHO Representative Professor Adik Wibowo read out the message of the WHO SEA Director. Dr Hans Kluge of WHO handed over K 6 million to Aung San TB Hospital through Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of the Health Department. An educative TV play, jointly telecast by National TB Control Team and Population Services International (PSI) was presented to those present.

After the ceremony, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and party viewed documentary photos to mark World TB Day, photos, posters and books, machinery and medicines at the hall.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general of the Ministry of Health, members of Central TB Control Committee, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), rectors and medical superintendents, chairmen and officials of Myanmar Academy of Medical Science, Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Red Cross Society, and Myanmar Health Assistance Association, leaders of TB control teams, and artists who participated in the educative dramas in commemoration of World TB Day.

Death of poultry stopped, no infection at human beings and other animals found

YANGON, 24 March — With the permissions of local authorities, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in cooperation with Health Department, Development Affairs Committee, Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation and local breeders took suggestions from bird flu experts of international organizations concerned, and is controlling the spread of avian influenza (bird flu).

Field investigation and disease surveillance into 42,985 chicken and 1,941 quails were carried out at 67 poultry farms and two quail farms in Shwebo District on 22 March. As precautionary measures, 12,375 chickens, 1,770 quails and 515 quail eggs were destroyed. Similarly, the disease investigation and surveillance into 41,055 chickens and 45,100 quails was performed at 35 chicken farms, 16 quail farms and one quail incubator in Mandalay District, and 24,842 chickens, 37,288 quails and 50,000 quail eggs were culled. After undertaking tasks of disease investigation and surveillance into 84,040 chickens and 47,041 quails in Shwebo and Mandalay Districts, 37,220 chickens, 39,058 quails and 50,515 quail eggs were destroyed.

Suspected samples of H5N1 virus occurred at one chicken farm in Pyiggyigadun Township, Mandalay Division. Hence, officials concerned systemically destroyed the chicken farm, buried dead chicken and sprayed anti-influenza chemicals. According to the information from the central laboratory, though suspected facts were found at some farms, further occurrence of the disease can be stopped at the farms. FAO and JICA is providing assistance to the disease control work.

At present, officials concerned have banned movement of poultry, temporarily closed down meat markets in Shwebo and Mandalay Districts. Due to collective efforts of the organizations for the control of meat disease spread, the poultry death rate reaches normal.

The department is taking bird flu preventive measures in all parts of the country. No infection in human beings and other animals is found in Myanmar to date.

For ensuring correct flow of local chicken and poultry farming products and regular consumption and trading, arrangements are being made to distribute poultry products to the customers with the endorsement of respective State/Division LBVDs and coordination of Poultry Farming Entrepreneurs of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.

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For ensuring correct flow of local chicken and poultry farming products and regular consumption and trading, arrangements are being made to distribute poultry products to the customers with the endorsement of respective State/Division LBVDs and coordination of Poultry Farming Entrepreneurs of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation.
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.
China encourages NGOs’ participation in fight against AIDS

BEIJING, 23 March — A senior health official said on Wednesday that China encourages non-governmental organizations’ participation in China’s fight against AIDS. Wang Longde, China’s Vice-Minister of Health, made the remark when attending the opening ceremony of the consultation on social determinants of health in the western pacific region of the World Health Organization.

He said that government efforts alone are not enough to fight against HIV/AIDS, given the large population of 1.3 billion people and more NGOs should join in the battle.

On 1 March, China started implementing the Guidelines for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, indicating the determination of the Chinese Government to fight against AIDS.

The government has introduced condom use in cities, needle exchange centres and Methadone treatment for drug users.

However, with regards to sexual transmission, NGOs are well-established among the people so they have advantages in HIV/AIDS intervention and prevention control, Wang said.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Health, 8.4 per cent of HIV/AIDS patients were infected through drug use and 43.6 per cent through sexual contact.

China has seen the growth of the role of NGOs in HIV/AIDS prevention and control work in recent years.

Several volunteer groups dedicated to AIDS prevention among homosexuals in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chongqing have been set up.

EU bans more than 90 airlines from European skies

BRUSSELS, 23 March — The European Union banned Wednesday more than 90 airlines from operating in the 25-nation bloc, targeting mostly African carriers as it seeks to boost air security and reassure travellers that European skies are safe.

The executive European Commission approved the blacklist of banned carriers, including some 50 airlines from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 13 from South Africa, 12 from Kenya, 11 from Equatorial Guinea, six from Swaziland and three from Liberia.

Thailand’s Phuket Airlines was also on the list as were carriers from Afghanistan, and North Korea. “The European Union now has a coherent approach to banning airlines,” Transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot said in a statement. “This blacklist will keep dubious airlines out of Europe. It will also make sure that all airlines operating in Europe’s sky meet the highest safety standards.”

However, the list appeared to include few airlines used for holiday travel by Europeans. EU transport ministers asked the Commission to draw up the blacklist after a spat of accidents with charter carriers.

Barrot acknowledged that many airlines on the list did not fly to or within Europe at this time.

“Basically, we are trying to preempt problems that might arise,” he told a news conference.

At least six killed as truck hits train in Thailand

BANGKOK, 23 March — A 10-wheeled truck and a passenger train collided on Wednesday morning at a railway crossing in Thailand’s central province of Ratchaburi, killing at least six people and injuring more than 40 others.

The latest report said that at least 22 people were seriously hurt and taken to Ratchaburi Hospital. A number of foreigners are said to be among the injured.

The dead included three occupants of the 10-wheeler truck and three people on the train.

The train, with more than 400 passengers aboard, was heading for Bangkok’s Central Hua Lum Pong Station from the northern Malaysian town of Butterworth, Penang, when the accident occurred at about 9:00 am (0200 GMT).

Witnesses said the truck, carrying animal feed, drove through an automatic barrier at the crossing.

They said the driver was apparently distracted, focusing on the passengers of the truck rather than the road, when the deadly accident occurred.

Ratchaburi is about 100 kilometres west from Bangkok. All the shuttles along the railway route were delayed after the morning accident.

The force of the collision caused three of the train’s 14 cars to derail and plunge into a rice field.
Doctors say ADHD drug warnings could cause undue worry

BOSTON, 23 March— New warnings that may be added to drugs for attention deficit disorder, or ADHD, could have a chilling effect on prescribing habits of doctors, cut sales of the drugs and create unnecessary fear in the public, some experts say.

This week a US Food and Drug Administration advisory panel will meet to discuss potential cardiovascular and psychiatric side effects of drugs such as Novartis AG's Ritalin, Johnson & Johnson's Concerta. Shire Pharmaceuticals Group Plc's Adderall and Eli Lilly & Co's Strattera.

The FDA panel, a group of outside experts, will also consider the possible increased risk of suicidal thinking with Cephalon Inc's experimental treatment Sparlon, a drug containing the same ingredient as its narcolepsy treatment Provigil. Cephalon's stock has fallen 11 per cent since 15 March, when it was revealed that Sparlon's risks would be scrutinized during the discussion of ADHD drugs and suicide risk.

Microsoft delays consumer launch of Windows Vista

SEATTLE, 23 March— Microsoft Corp said on Tuesday it plans to delay the consumer launch of its much-anticipated Windows Vista operating system to January 2007 from its earlier target of the second half of 2006, sending its shares down nearly 3 per cent.

Microsoft plans to launch a product for corporate customers in November and then roll out Windows Vista for consumers after the holiday shopping season, Jim Allchin, co-president of the company's Platforms & Services Division, said on a conference call.

A different FDA advisory panel that met last month recommended that the ADHD drugs carry black box warnings — the most serious possible — about the potential risk of sudden cardiac death and heart attack. Adderall already carries such a warning.

The panel that meets Wednesday will consider whether and how to strengthen warnings about the cardiovascular risks, as well as psychiatric risks such as psychosis and mania.

Singapore hosts 9th Asia Pacific Maritime exhibition

SINGAPORE, 23 March— The ninth Asia Pacific Maritime (APM) exhibition, a biennial international maritime event, opened at Singapore Expo Wednesday.

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China, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Britain and Singapore also present their national pavilions at the event. — MNA/Xinhua

Water retention causes diabetes drug weight gain

New York, 23 March— Up to 75 per cent of the increase in body weight that can occur in patients with type 2 diabetes who are treated with pioglitazone is from water retention, researchers report the journal Diabetes Care. The drug also tends to reduce abdominal fat and blood pressure.

Dr Ananda Basu and colleagues at the Mayo Clinic Rochester, Minnesota compared the effects of pioglitazone, sold under the trade name Actos, and glipizide, sold in the US under the trade name Metaglip, on body composition and body water content, as well as other factors, in 19 patients with type 2 diabetes.

The researchers randomly assigned the subjects to 45 milligrams/dose of pioglitazone or glipizide, which was increased up to a maximum of 20 mg/d (average dose was 10 mg/d) for a period of 12 weeks. The degree of glucose control "was essentially equivalent" with both drugs, the investigators report.

Pioglitazone caused an average increase in total body water of 2.4 litres. This accounted for 75 per cent of the patients' average weight gain of 3.1 kilograms. There was no change in total body weight content with glipizide.

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Bayern eye van Bommel as Ballack replacement

BERLIN, 24 March — Bayern Munich have targeted Mark van Bommel as the ideal replacement for Michael Ballack and will find out in the next few weeks if a deal can be done with Barcelona for the Dutch midfielder, chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said on Thursday.

Bayern face the likely departure of Germany captain and playmaker Ballack, possibly to English champions Chelsea, and are keen to fill the midfield void before next season begins. Van Bommel appears to be their first choice.

“He is a player that we like. He is not a number 10, not a pure playmaker who scores many goals. But he is a midfield of high quality and, above all, a good character,” Rummenigge told Bayern’s website.

Rummenigge said he recalled the Dutchman’s spell-binding performance in last season’s Champions League semifinal for PSV Eindhoven against AC Milan.

“Van Bommel quite literally marched ahead with the flag for PSV and almost alone brought Milan to the brink of defeat,” Rummenigge said.

Williams reaches last eight at China Open

BEIJING, 24 March — Mark Williams eased past Scott MacKenzie 5-0 to reach the quarterfinals of the World Snooker China Open on Thursday.

The world No 9 Williams was crowned at China Open in 2002 and remains on course to the title of the tournament following Thursday’s victory.

“I love playing in the Far East and wish we had more tournaments here,” said Williams after the game.

Williams had only a best break of 65 points during the two-hour match, but it was enough to move to the next round as his overall game was much stronger than his opponent.

“Every win is massive. I just want to have my top 16place guaranteed,” said Williams.

In another game played on Thursday, Joe Perry reached the quarter-finals after his rival Michael Holt conceded the deciding ninth frame though only trailing 0-19.

Holt led the game 4-2 but lost the eighth frame on the black and was totally crushed in the ninth frame.

“I was completely gone and to carry on would have wasted everyone’s time,” said Holt, ranked world No 24.

Manchester City’s Cole out for rest of season

LONDON, 24 March — Manchester City striker Andy Cole has had more surgery on a damaged knee ligament and will be out for the rest of the season, the Premier League club said on Thursday.

The former England forward suffered the injury against Charlton Athletic on February 12 and has not played since.

“Andy had another operation on his knee yesterday (Wednesday) after they found some floating material in there, and as a result he will be out for the rest of the season,” manager Stuart Pearce told the club’s website on Thursday.

Cole, 34, who helped City’s cross-town rivals United win the European Cup in 1999, has scored 10 goals since joining City from Fulham last July.

Sevilla beat Atletico in Calderon Farce

MADRID, 24 March — Sevilla moved up to fifth place in the Primera Liga on Thursday after edging a 1-0 victory over eight-man Atletico in a game which was halted for over 40 minutes after objects were thrown on to the pitch.

Referee Miguel Angel Ayza Gamez stopped the game 14 minutes from time when his attention was drawn to a glass whisky bottle that had landed on the pitch shortly after Atletico midfielder Peter Luccin had been sent off and Sevilla had taken the lead.

Sevilla goalkeeper Andres Palop complained that he had been hit by objects thrown by a group of fans at one end of the stadium.

After a short delay the referee led the players off the pitch and most of the crowd flooded out of the stadium, one end of the stadium.

The game then degenerated into farce with Atletico midfielder Martin Petrov being sent off less than a minute after the restart and they lost a third player before the end when defender Luis Perea also received his marching orders.

Sevilla held on without any difficulties to earn a win that boosted their chances of qualifying for Europe.
Locals urged to grow pepper, physic nut in Ngayokkaung of Ngaputaw Township

YANGON, 24 March — Officials are to implement the plans laid down by the State, and local people are to make efforts for exceeding cultivation of suitable crops in the region so as to reciprocate the goodwill of the State, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence said at the meeting with departmental personnel and local people in Ngayokkaung Town in Ayeyawady Division on 21 March.

He added that better transport measures are being taken in Ngayokkaung Township upgraded from the village. Hence, local people are to participate in regional development tasks. He urged all to grow pepper as well as physic nut plants. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than left instruction on correct flow of commodity for development of the western part of Ngawun River.

In Ngayokkaung Village, Ngaputaw Township, they oversaw units of Ngayokkaung Hospital and presented K100,000 to the hospital fund. They also inspected Ngayokkaung Police Station and attended to the needs.

While in Ngayokkaung, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with teachers at Basic Education High School, and staff at General Administration Department. Administrator U Kyaw Thu reported on salient points of the town, development tasks and cultivation matters. Chairman of Pathein District PDC Lt-Col Hla Thwin and Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung gave supplementary reports.

In the morning, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, inspected Pathein-Mawtin Road and Kwinchaung Bridge. Officials reported on construction of the road measuring 84 miles, construction of 25 bridges out of 73 and 116 conduits out of 175 along the road.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than left instruction on correct flow of commodity for development of the western part of Ngawun River.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed construction of the road with the use of heavy machinery.

89 jade lots sold

YANGON, 24 March — Under the programme of the 43rd Myanma Gems Emporium (2006), jade lots were auctioned starting 9 am today. Up to 4 pm, 89 lots were sold through competitive bidding. A total of 2,380 gem merchants — 1,484 from 423 companies of foreign countries and 896 from 356 local companies — are attending the 43rd Myanma Gems Emporium.

Chairman of the 43rd Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein visited the Emporium today.

Weather Forecast for 25-3-2006

Naypyidaw & neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.

Yangon & neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.

Mandalay & neighbouring areas
Generally fair weather.