Dagon Myothit (East) Township Hospital (16-bed) inaugurated honouring 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence formally unveils the bronze plaque of the 16-bed hospital in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.—MNA

YANGON, 26 March
— As a gesture of honouring the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Dagon Myothit (East) Township was facilitated with a 16-bed township hospital on Minye Kyawswa Road of the township yesterday morning. Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence formally unveiled the bronze plaque of the hospital.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Huy Win, Director- General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Aung Win, Director Dr Tin Nyunt of Health Department opened the new hospital.

To mark the opening ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and departmental heads grew physic nut plants.

At the opening ceremony, the commander delivered an address.

Deputy Director- General U Khin Maung of DHSHD handed over the documents related to the building to Director Dr Tin Nyunt of Health Department.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and officials accepted K 6,240,000 and medicines and medical equipment worth K 1,930,000 from 54 wellwishers.

After the cash donation ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and party inspected facilities of the hospital.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented physic nut seeds to Rector U Kyaw Lin of Dagon University, Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Zein Lwin of Yangon Mental Health Care Hospital and Chairman of Dagon (East) Industrial Zone U Nay Win Swe.

The commander and wife also gave physic nut seeds to departmental officials and social organization members.

Dagon East District had nurtured 1.8 million physic nut saplings and put 21.855 acres of land under physic nut plantation.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party proceeded to the site of Shwenatha orchid garden project near Shwenatha Village in Mingaladon Township, and gave necessary instruction to officials.

MNA

Consolation prizes awarded to winners of Yangon Command

YANGON, 26 March
— A ceremony to award consolation prizes to the winners of Yangon Command in the literary and arts contests hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day was held at No 2 BEHS Aung San Thamya Hla Thaung, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Hla Huy Win.

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Huy Win awarded the prizes to the winners from Yangon Command area who won consolation prizes in poem, short story, novel, article, essay, painting, sculpture, photo and song contests, MRTV quiz and computer art contest to mark the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the ceremony ended.

DHSHD spent K 174,8164 million on construction of the township hospital measuring 128 feet by 104 feet.

Afterwards, they attended the physic nut plant growing ceremony of Dagon Myothit (East) Township in the compound of the hospital.

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Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party proceeded to the site of Shwenatha orchid garden project near Shwenatha Village in Mingaladon Township, and gave necessary instruction to officials.

MNA

WITH ARMED FORCES DAY SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Ensuring smooth transport coordinated

YANGON, 26 March—The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held a meeting at Yangon Command Headquarters on 24 March.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win elaborated on traffic rules enforcement tasks to be carried out by Supervisory Committee for Traffic Rules Enforcement so that automobiles running in Yangon City would abide by traffic rules and regulations.

Heads of department and registrars of universities and colleges in Yangon Division, officials, members of the supervisory committee and chairman of private bus lines reported on school ferries, traffic rules, secure and smooth transport and converting the motor vehicles into CNG ones.

The commander delivered concluding remarks.

JICA donates bird flu preventive materials, educative posters and wall magazines, vehicle

YANGON, 26 March—Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) donated bird flu preventive materials, educative posters and wall magazines to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and a Toyota Hilux vehicle to Fisheries Department at Thiri Annawa Hall on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township on 24 March.

First, Country Representative of JICA Mr Takahiro Sasaki and party together with Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano called on Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thwin at Myanmar Fisheries Federation Office, here. Next, the donation ceremony was held and the Country Representative of JICA handed over the documents of Toyota Hilux automobile to Director-General of Fisheries Department U Than Tun and the bird flu preventive materials, educative posters and wall magazines to Director-General of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department U Maung Maung Nyunt. — MNA

Commerce cruise up into quarterfinal

YANGON, 26 March—Commerce, one of the powerhouse teams in the Myanmar League teams, defeated Rail Transport Association 3-0 in the Myanmar League Closing Cup Knockout Football Tournament at Aung San Stadium, here, this afternoon.

Commerce strikers Zaw Zin Win and Mar La penetrated the opponent team with their superb skills, and netted one goal each for their team. Furthermore, another goal of Commerce came through Zaw Lin Lin who shot one penalty kick. Rail Transportation did not have any chance to score equalizer goals.

Commerce sailed up into the quarterfinal. On 4 April, Commerce is playing a quarterfinal match against Energy that had blanked out Finance and Revenue with a 2-0 result on 25 March.

Fixture on 28 March: Defence vs Forestory

Aung Ye Htut of Commerce (L) fights for the ball with goalkeeper Ye Lin Aung of Rail Transportation. — NLM

Shwe Gabar General Economic Cooperative Ltd set up

YANGON, 25 March—A ceremony to set up Shwe Gabar General Economic Cooperative Ltd with the participation of officers and staff of the Cooperative Export and Import Enterprise under the Ministry of Cooperatives was held at the office of the Director-General of Cooperative Department in Kyauktada Township yesterday.

It was attended by Managing Director Col Hla Moe (Retd) of CEIE, the deputy director-general, officials and staff, totalling 75.

Deputy Director of Yangon Division Cooperative Department U Sein Win gave a speech. Next, those present took part in the functions of setting up the cooperative limited.

Afterwards, nine members of the Board of Directors and two auditors chaired by U Saw Oo took oaths.

Later, Chairman of the Cooperative Ltd U Saw Oo extended greetings to all. — MNA
Libya says feels “cheated” over US terrorism list

WASHINGTON, 25 March — Libya feels “cheated” that it will remain on the US State Department’s list of state sponsors of terrorism this year even though it has made security concessions, the North African country’s top envoy to Washington said on Friday.

Libya will remain on the list in the annual Patterns of Global Terrorism report published next month, Henry Crumpton, the State Department’s coordinator for counterterrorism, told Reuters on Thursday during a visit to Colombia. Ali Aujali, chief of the Libyan Liaison Office in Washington, blamed US domestic politics and compared it to the furor in Congress over an attempt by state-owned Dubai Ports World to manage terminals at several US ports.

“I’m sorry to say but it looks like we have been cheated,” Aujali told the US-Libya Business Association.

“We can’t find really a good response to my country why (there has been) this delay. The only explanation is that this is the US domestic politics,” Aujali said.

Presence on the terrorism list bars a country from getting US arms, controls sales of items with military and civilian applications, limits US aid and requires Washington to vote against loans from international financial institutions.

The United States has taken steps toward restoring commercial relations with OPEC member Libya since the former pariah state announced its intention in December 2003 to give up weapons of mass destruction.

MNA/Reuters

Thief stuck in bank’s chimney rescued

GRANGER, 26 March — A man found stuck in a Washington bank chimney didn’t try to cover up his intent. “We asked him what he was doing down there and he said, ‘What do you think? I’m trying to rob the bank,’” said Police Chief Robert Perales.

Firefighters threw down a rope and pulled out a soot-covered 26-year-old man, who was arrested on the spot. He was booked into the municipal jail in nearby Wapato.

Police in this lower Yakima Valley town had been summoned on Thursday morning to the US Bank because of an apparent break-in attempt. They discovered the stuck suspect after finding the top had been removed from the ventilation shaft for the furnace. — Internet

Fire destroys 1,500 homes in southern Philippines

MANILA, 25 March — A huge blaze destroyed about 1,500 shacks in a slum in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao overnight but there were no reports of any deaths or injuries, city and fire officials said on Friday.

Nearly 5,000 people were left homeless after the seven-hour fire, sparked at about 6:30 pm (1030 GMT) by an unattended candle, ripped through the shanty town’s narrow streets in the port of Zamboanga City.

“It was an inferno,” Zamboanga City mayor Celso Lobregat told reporters, saying blocked streets and low water pressure failed to contain the flames from spreading quickly to houses made of light materials. The slum’s residents were evacuated and temporarily sheltered in state-run school buildings and public halls as the mayor appealed for food, clothes and relief materials for victims of the city’s worst calamity.

MNA/Reuters

Daimler to halt four-door Smart car

FRANKFURT, 26 March — DaimlerChrysler (DCXGn.DE) plans to scrap its four-seat Smart car and focus solely on the two-seat model in another overhaul of the minicar unit that will cost some 1 billion euros ($1.20 billion) and 300 jobs, it said.

The move announced by the world’s fifth-biggest carmaker on Saturday is subject to negotiations with Japan’s Mitsubishi Motors Corp (7211.T), which makes the ForFour model at a plant in the Netherlands, and approval by Daimler’s supervisory board.

“DaimlerChrysler AG is planning to focus on the Smart fortwo to ensure the long-term sustainability of its Smart brand.

Thus, the profitability of Smart will be confirmed, with positive results expected from 2007 onward,” a statement said.

A new version of the snub-nosed two-seater with which Smart made its debut in October 1998 comes out next year.

Smart, which has lost money ever since it was launched, will be completely integrated into the Mercedes organization, ending a parallel structure that proved too costly for a brand that sold only 143,000 units last year.

Sales of the four-seater alone fell by a quarter last year to just 43,700 units in a fiercely competitive market segment.
Chavez says no plan to suspend US oil shipments

CARACAS (Venezuela), 25 March—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Friday his government had no plan to suspend oil supplies to the United States but would prefer to give priority to energy deals with Latin American neighbours.

Speaking to regional central bank representatives, Chavez took a softer line after earlier harsh rhetoric and threats to cut off US petroleum supplies should Washington “cross the line” in their heated diplomatic dispute.

Venezuela, the world’s fifth-largest oil exporter and a key US crude supplier, has signed energy pacts with Latin American neighbours, China and India as Chavez seeks to break his nation’s traditional economic reliance on the United States.

“It’s not that we have a plan to suspend shipments of oil to the United States or anywhere else,” he said. “We send to China too and if Europe needs it, we’ve told their leaders, too. It’s just that we want to give priority to Latin America and the Caribbean.”

Cambodia confirms 5th human case of bird flu

PHNOM PENH, 25 March—Cambodian Ministry of Health confirmed on Friday a 3-year-old girl died of bird flu.

The girl from Kampong Speu Province, about 45 kilometres west of the capital, was infected with avian influenza and died on Tuesday, said a joint statement of Health Ministry and the World Health Organization (WHO) released on Friday.

The girl is the first case detected in Cambodia in 2006, and brings the total number of avian influenza cases in Cambodia to five, with four cases reported during 2005. The girl became ill with a fever on 14 March and her condition deteriorated rapidly on 20 March when she was taken to the hospital in Phnom Penh, where she died on Tuesday, according to the statement.

Samples from the girl tested positive for influenza A/H5N1 virus at the Pasteur Institute in Phnom Penh, it announced.

MNA/Reuters

China confirms woman’s bird flu death

BEIJING, 25 March—A woman who died in Shanghai tested positive for the H5N1 strain of bird flu, China announced on Saturday. Indonesia awaited confirmation of tests showing that a dead 1-year-old girl in Jakarta had the virus.

In Hong Kong, the government said a dead peregrine falcon found in a housing complex tested positive for the H5N1 strain. The woman who died in Shanghai was the Chinese mainland’s 11th human death from bird flu and the first in Shanghai, the country’s biggest city, and the first in Shanghai, a housing complex tested positive for the H5N1 strain of bird flu, China announced on Saturday.

Blood tests by China’s national Centre for Disease Control confirmed Li had bird flu, the Health Ministry said in a statement carried by the official Xinhua News Agency. It said the tests were conducted in line with WHO standards and results were reported to the agency.

Authorities haven’t said how the woman might have contracted the virus. No bird flu outbreaks in poultry have been reported in Shanghai since 2004.

People who had close contact with Li were placed under observation but none has shown disease symptoms, Xinhua said.

Worldwide, the virus has killed more than 100 people in eight countries, mostly in Asia, according to WHO. China, India, Indonesia and Vietnam have contracted the virus.

Germany to export “Leopard 2” tanks to Chile

BERLIN, 25 March—Germany is to export 118 Leopard 2 main battle tanks to Chile, a German Defence Ministry spokesman said on Thursday.

According to the agreement signed by the two countries on 10 February, Germany will also supply the South American country with related ammunition, extra alternative parts and technical support.

The spokesman said the German Army was now undergoing size reduction and structural adjustment, and the sale of the tanks could spare the military a considerable sum of maintenance expenditure.

But the value of the deal has not been unveiled. It is reported that to date Germany has exported 300 and 330 Leopard 2 tanks to Turkey and Greece respectively. Greece has spent 2,700 million euros on the Leopard 2 tanks, equipped with the MTU MB 873 diesel engine, provide 1,100-kilowatt power, capable of propelling the machine to a maximum speed of more than 70 kilometres per hour.—Internet

MNA/Xinhua

More ASEAN students pursue studies in China

KUNMING, 25 March—On the playground of a vocational college in Southwest China’s Yunnan Province, a group of Laotians are happily playing sepaktakraw, a popular ball game in Southeast Asian countries.

Centre of attention is a youthful figure who has come up with the Chinese name of Dongling Yang.

Yang, 23, has been in China for six years, majoring in international trade with the Xishuangbanna Vocational School after having finished his three-year senior middle course in the Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Xishuangbanna in southern Yunnan.

Yang is just one of the 103 Laotian students who are now studying at the Xishuangbanna Vocational School.

Laos is a member of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) which comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in South China shares a border with Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar.

Yunnan and Guangxi have been making good use of their geographic advantage of sharing borders with members of the ASEAN and have made progress in educational cooperation and exchange with these countries, especially in higher education, in recent years.

MNA/Xinhua

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Hu Jintao meets Brazilian Vice-President

BEIJING, 25 March — Chinese President Hu Jintao met Brazilian Vice-President Jose Alencar on Friday, vowing to enhance bilateral relations and make them an example of unity between developing countries.

China and Brazil have witnessed great developments in bilateral ties and fruitful cooperation in all fields since diplomatic relations were established 32 years ago, Hu said.

In recent years, the two countries have launched a high-level coordination and cooperation mechanism, expanded cooperative fields and carried out sound cooperation on some major projects and on regional, international affairs, Hu said.

China and Brazil are the largest developing countries respectively in the eastern and western hemisphere. China attaches importance to Sino-Brazilian ties and regards Brazil as “a sincere friend and partner”, he noted.

“We will keep deepening our strategic consensus, push forward substantial cooperation in all fields and try to make bilateral relations an example of unity, cooperation and common development between developing countries,” Hu said. Alencar hailed China’s social and economic development in recent years. He said that to constantly promote the strategic partnership with China is the aspiration of both President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and the Brazilian Government.

Sino-Brazilian ties and fruitful cooperation and common development between developing countries “will make them an example of unity between developing countries.”

Iran denounces US accusation over nuke programme

TEHERAN, 25 March — A top Iranian cleric on Friday denounced the US accusation over Iran’s nuclear programme as a lie to undermine the world of Islam, saying that the Iranians will never “keep silent”, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“What this lie has now become clear and obvious, and the Iranian nation will not keep silent ... and people from different walks of life in Iran are unusually stressing the country’s access to the nuclear technology,” Substitute Friday Prayers Leader of Teheran, Mohammad Emami Kashani, was quoted as saying in a sermon.

Kashani said the United States is actually intended to “undermine the world of Islam and to make the Islamic establishment exhausted” by picking up the accusation over Iran’s nuclear programme, stressing that the (Iranian) nation avoids any hesitation and is stressing its right”.

Kashani’s comments came as a statement on the Iranian nuclear issue drafted by Britain and France is being discussed among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China.

The statement sets a two-week deadline for Iran to suspend all activities to build nuclear fuel reactor and to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), but Russia and China fear that tough rhetoric of the statement would radicalize the tension.

Two ships collide in Malacca Straits, one sinks

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 March — Two ships collided in the Malacca Straits early Friday, and one sank. But no people died in the accident.

The Panama-registered ship MV California sank after it collided in the early morning with MV Sinokor Seoul, a ship registered in South Korea, at around 1:30 am (1730 GMT Thursday), Malaysian maritime officials said.

The accident occurred 10.5 nautical miles south-west of Uniland Island in the state of Malacca, but all of the 24 crew members of the MV California were rescued, the Malaysian Marine Department said in a statement earlier Friday.

The statement, issued through Malaysia’s national news agency Bernama, did not identify the nationalities of the 24 crew members as well as the types of the two ships.

Bernama said that the captain of the MV California was a Ukrainian national.

The Malaysian authorities had sent vessels to the area to investigate the accident and monitor and control any sea pollution there.

Most French back total ban on smoking in public places

PARIS, 25 March — Most French people support the idea of a total ban on smoking in public places, a government poll showed on Friday.

According to the Ifop poll, carried out last month at the government’s request and published by the French daily Le Figaro, 78 per cent of respondents support such a ban, with a majority in all age groups in agreement.

Retirees were the group most in favour of the measure (89 per cent) with youngsters aged 15-24 slightly more reticent (66 per cent).

When the pollsters split the preferences in terms of venue, there was most overall support for a ban in offices (78 per cent), in restaurants (74 per cent), and in discos and cafes (57 per cent).

Local residents view the remains of a vehicle after a suicide car bomber attacked a US military convoy in Falluja, 50 kms (30 miles) west of Baghdad, on 24 March, 2006. — Internet

Two injured in explosion in central Turkey

ANKARA, 25 March — Two people were injured in an explosion caused by a fire at an armoury building in central Turkey on Thursday, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

According to the report, the explosion occurred when the fire, broke out in the private armoury in Kirikkale Province due to an unknown reason, spread to other parts of the factory where pistols are manufactured.

The explosion caused major damage to the factory and the two injured workers were hospitalized, said the report. The fire was extinguished by fire-fighting teams and an investigation is underway, it added.

A Cambodian health worker sprays disinfectant in the backyard of a home where a family lost a 3-year-old daughter to the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus, at Tuol Prik Village, Kampong Speu Province, on 24 March, 2006. — Internet
Honouring the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Fine national political traditions of Tatmadaw

Kaytu Nilar

The Tatmadaw has stood magnificently as a strong national force since its birth. In reality, the Tatmadaw’s leadership role in the national politics as a strong national force is not like something looted from others nor one created, but was bestowed to it according to the historical requirement of the State. The history of Myanmar has proved that a hero does not create the history, but the history gave birth to the hero. The Tatmadaw was born in the period of anti-colonialist struggles, anti-fascist resistance and independence struggles and has come of age and developed, safeguarding and protecting the motherland from all forms of dangers and harms in order not to lose her independence and sovereignty again.

To be brief, the Tatmadaw-

(1) helped the nation regain independence and sovereignty,
(2) has protected the territory and sovereignty of the nation,
(3) has saved the nation several times from falling into collapse,
(4) gives priority to national unity,
(5) protects lives and property of the people and has made constructive efforts at every opportune time to initiate national reconsolidation,
(6) is always loyal to the State and the people,
(7) lays down and implements national policies in accordance with the prevailing conditions of the nation,
(8) grapples with hardships of the nation as national duty in times of emergency after the nation has regained independence,
(9) has decisively discharged national political duties without bias towards any party, organization or individual in the interests of the nation and the people.

Here, it is required to study Tatmadaw’s national political traditions that have gone down in the annals of the history. National patriotic youths who had showed unyielding spirits, nationalistic fervour, great aims and sustained perseverance throughout the period of independence struggles were organized into the Tatmadaw. At that time, the Tatmadaw’s national objective was independence, which was one and only objective.

The Tatmadaw helped bring about the historic tradition that the Tatmadaw and the people have been always harmonious by discharging duties in the independence struggles whatever role it may be hand in hand with the people in the anti-colonialist struggles, anti-fascist resistance and independence struggles.

Myanmar became independent Union of Myanmar on 4 January 1948. At that time, the AFPFL Government played a leading role in Myanmar that had just regained independence and sovereignty. The government made arrangements and endeavours to carry out national reconstruction tasks and nation-building tasks in the post-independence period.

Nevertheless, owing to the wedge driven by British colonialists, racism, suspicions among national races, dogmatism of leftist Burma Community Party (BCP) and Red Flag Communist Party (Community Party-Burma) gave birth to armed conflicts in the period of three months after independence was regained.

Then, armed insurgency reigned supreme throughout the nation. The authority of the AFPFL Government took effect in the area of 50-mile radius of Yangon. Therefore, foreign newspapers branded the nation as Yangon government.

Meanwhile, some politicians suggested through the newspapers that the Tatmadaw mount a coup. In an interview, journalists made a suggestion that the Tatmadaw stage a coup. However, instead of thinking of seizing State power, the Tatmadaw exhorted them to ensure national reconsolidation.

With whatever strength of its members and arms power it had, the Tatmadaw managed to put an end to internal strife raging the length and breadth of the country. It gave the top priority to community peace and tranquillity, and prevalence of law and order. In 1950-51, it declared that peace and stability had been restored in 85 per cent of the area of the nation. It managed to ensure community peace and stability and prevalence of law and order at district, township, village and ward levels. A large number of people who lost their property and were helpless and homeless could lead a peaceful life again in earning their livings. The insurgents could not come close to cities but they were active in far-flung areas. So, there emerged a conviction that the people could place ultimate reliance and trust on no organizations but on the Tatmadaw. This indicated that the Tatmadaw could uphold the national political tradition that the Tatmadaw and the people always remained united.

In addition to internal armed insurgents, the Tatmadaw had to crush the dangers of Kuomintang nationalist Chinese who intruded into Myanmar beginning 1950-51. At that time, localized wars were taking place in many parts of the world due to the cold war in which the East bloc led by Soviet Russia and the West bloc led by the US vied each other for superiority. In particular, the Korean war was raging at the time. If Myanmar could not repulse the invasion of the Kuomintang nationalist Chinese, there would be grave danger to the territory, independence and sovereignty of the nation. Later, the Tatmadaw exposed the mastermind of Kuomintang nationalist Chinese’s invasion. So, it reported on the case to the UN through its government. At the same time, the Tatmadaw managed to quell the Kuomintang nationalist Chinese whose arms and manpower was superior to that of the former. The operations including the Operation “Yan Gyi Aung” and the “Operation Bayintnaung” launched to crush the invaders made history of the nation.

(See page 7)
Honouring the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

Fine national political traditions of Tatmadaw

Kaytu Nilar

(from page 6)

With the brilliant performance of the Tatmadaw to eliminate all the internal and external enemies, the nation had witnessed peace and development in various sectors since 1952-53. At that time, the Socialist Party of the AFPFL Government split into two due to disagreements over political ideology regarding the Korean war. In consequence of the split, the ruling AFPFL Government broke into Stable AFPFL (Swe and Nyein) and Clean AFPFL (Nu and Tin). Prior to the undesirable event, the Tatmadaw made a suggestion that the two groups be reunited taking into consideration the background histories and attachments of the two groups and visualization that if the AFPFL, the strongest national force, was split into two, that would bring many miseries to the nation. That reflected the Tatmadaw’s efforts to restore national solidarity.

However, because of personal animosity, dogmatism and sectarianism, the AFPFL split into two groups and turned their back to each other.

Then, the case was put to the vote in the parliament and Clean AFPFL (Nu and Tin) won by eight more votes. But, the winning party could not restore peace and stability to the nation. The disunity of the ruling government was followed by rivalry between the two groups in organizing the people. Due to the disunity of the then government, the nation was on the verge of civil war for the second time. Clean AFPFL (Nu and Tin) Government that was not in a position to control the general conditions of the nation asked the government that was not in a position to control the general conditions of the nation asked the Tatmadaw for ensuring community peace and stability and prevalence of law and order and holding free and fair elections and then it handed over State power to the Tatmadaw through the Pyithu Hluttaw (legislative body). The Caretaker Government the Tatmadaw formed on 28 September 1958 had to expose illegal weapons across the nation for ensuring community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order. It also had to crush the kidnapping gangs and dacoit gangs in Yangon and Insein and its surrounding areas, and to disband the pocket armies formed by the ruling AFPFL Government.

Simultaneously, the Tatmadaw persuaded the internal armed insurgents to realize the true situations of the nation and extended a warm welcome to those who returned to the legal fold. The Tatmadaw also launched a campaign to eradicate the evil legacy of feudalism left by British colonialists. On 21 April 1959, Sawbwas (chieftains) signed the agreement to relinquish their power. Furthermore, the Tatmadaw could sign the agreement on delineation of China-Myanmar border on 28 January 1960.

The Caretaker Government led by the Tatmadaw could pay a serious attention to the drive for stability in the political, economic and social sectors, community peace and prevalence of law and order. After it had put its plans into reality, it held free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaw on 6 February and the elections for the Chamber of Nationalities on 29 February 1960. And it handed over State power to the winning party Clean AFPFL (Pa Hta Sa) on 4 April 1960.

Thanks to the efforts the Tatmadaw Caretaker Government made in 18 months (1958-60) to regenerate the conditions of the nation, the problems, the political parities could not address for a decade after independence was regained and national affairs ignored, could be solved in such a short time. At the same time, the Tatmadaw managed to restore community peace and stability, law and order, and to revitalize the essence of State Constitution and democracy. The above-mentioned facts were part of the national political chapter in which the Tatmadaw discharged national political duties fully as the Caretaker Government.

The Pha Hta Sa Government that took over State power from the Tatmadaw was not able to grapple with the prevailing problems such as mass rallies held to decide as to whether the states should be given the rights to secede from the Union, the case in which Sawbwas who did not want to relinquish power, and the federal policy for which political parties with racism collectively demanded. To make matters worse, disunity between U-Bo (civilian-ex-servicemen) group and Thakin (politicians) group brought political and organizing adversities to the Pt Hta Sa Government.

The Pha Hta Sa Government was not in a position to restore peace and stability to the State and to prevent politically and organizationally the Union from breaking up and from losing independence and sovereignty again.

The Tatmadaw thus had to form the Revolutionary Council and took over State power in 1962. Although the Revolutionary Council strove for cooperation of the leaders of the political parties in the political objective of building up a socialist nation, it did not achieve success owing to negative attitude and wrong acts of the politicians and armed insurgents.

From 1962 to 1974, the council took measures for regaining national unity and building a new nation based on peace. It promulgated the 1974 Constitution through a referendum. It handed over State power in accordance with the Constitution to the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party on 2 March 1974. The Tatmadaw discharged national defence duties and security duties entrusted to it in line with the Constitution.

The Myanmar Socialist Programme Party did not achieve success in its drive for transforming the nation into a socialist one, and the nation faced economic crises. Consequently, the trust and support of the people for the party dwindled, and the people got fed up with the one-party system.

The instigation and agitation stirred up by leftist and rightist political groups who were anxious to seize State power by exploiting the desire and correct attitude of the people who were long for political changes, instigation of intervention of certain foreign countries, and the plundering and looting of State-owned and private-owned property by anarchists culminated in 1988 unrest.

The 1988 unrest posed grave dangers to independence and sovereignty of the State, perpetuation of the Union, and national cohesion. Therefore, the Tatmadaw again had to assume State duties on 18 September 1988.

The Tatmadaw Government placed emphasis on restoration of community peace and stability and prevalence of law and order, smooth transport and swift commodity flow. It also gave effective encouragement to cooperative societies and private enterprises for public well-being. On 27 May 1990, it held multi-party democracy elections. Since 1989, it has made peace with many armed groups including 17 major national race armed groups, and it has been implementing projects for the development of border areas and national races. That has shown a fine tradition of the Tatmadaw for national solidarity.

The nation-building tasks the Tatmadaw has been shouldering in political, economic and social sectors have yielded fruitful results that are unprecedented in the nation. Now, it is implementing the seven-step Road Map as the national political policy for the accomplishment of the national goal of the State — emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline. It is convening the National Convention, the first step as well as the fundamental one of the Road Map. At the National Convention, discussions are being held on basic principles and detailed basic principles to be included in the State Constitution that is essential for the building of a future state.

In a nutshell, from the time of independence struggles to date, the Tatmadaw with genuine goodwill and correct acts has been discharging national political duties inclusive of nation-building tasks and national defence duties in conformity with its fine national political traditions in the interests of the State and the people. Therefore, the Tatmadaw will be upholding its fine traditions and will exist perpetually.

Translation: MS

Kyemon: 26-3-2006
Village libraries play important role...

(From page 16)

Libraries have been opened up to 15 March 2006. Altogether 600 wellwishers donated 1.7 million books of various kinds worth K 113,5 million and K 53 million in cash at the eight book donation ceremonies. He said the Head of State gave guidance on durability of the libraries. The minister called for their maintenance. He also explained that the libraries were opened with lofty objectives. The government is building a discipline-flourishing modern developed nation step by step. In retrospect the political events of the country and the world, three basic factors—peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, development of socio-economic life of the people and the State and enhancement of knowledge of the people—are needed for correct practice of democracy.

Continuing, he said, rural libraries also play an important role in implementation of the rural development tasks. With the participation of the people and the wellwishers the Ministry of Information is to carry out the noble tasks, he added.

Next, a person from local media spoke words of thanks. Later, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted K 1 million donated by U Soe Tint (Soe Electric Co, Yangon). K 300,000 by Eleven Media Group, K 150,000 by 7-Day News Journal, K 10,000 by 24/7 News Journal, K 300,000 by other journals, K 760,000 by local journal reporters, K 107,500 by Printing Entrepreneurs of Pyinmana, K 100,000 by Dr Paw Myint and Dr Gyoo Gyo San and two TV sets.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein and Director-General U Chit Naing accepted radios and publications donated by wellwishers, and the ceremony ended. The minister then cordially greeted the wellwishers. Today’s donations of cash and kind amounted to K 4,175,100.—MNA

Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles checked on dry day

Yangon, 26 March — Dry Day Inspection Supervisory Committee Chairman Yangon Station Commander Brig-Gen Myint Soe, accompanied by Inspection Supervisory Committee members, supervised the functions of the 54th blood donation ceremony on 12 March. Blood donation in Shwehtihsaung Village and breakdown of traffic rules.

Development facilities mushroom in...

(From page 16)

Shwebo Township Development Affairs Committee Deputy Director U Kyaw Thu and members of the road repaving committee led a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new tarred road.

The road is 860 feet long and 12 feet wide.

Village-to-village road

In Natpadee Village of Paungde Township, Additional Commissioner of General Administration Department of Bago Division (West) U Yan Myo Aung Thein and Chairman of Pyay District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tun Aye opened the village-to-village earth road linking Natpadee and Nyaungzin villages in Kyudawkan Village-tract of the township on 24 March.

Power supply and health care services

As part of undertaking rural development tasks, a ceremony to launch a self-reliant paddy husk-fired power station was held in conjunction with the ceremony to put a rural health care centre into service in Twathigyi Village in Paungde Township on 24 March.

Wellwisher Daw Ohn and family handed over the documents related to the 0.25 acre plot for the power station to Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Maung Maung Thet.

Chairman of Pyay District PDC Lt-Col Tun Aye gave a speech. Officials pressed the button to launch the power station. After that, officials opened the rural health care centre.

Blood donation

Blood donors of Htihsaung Village led by Presiding Nayaka of Theinkyaung Monastery Shwehtihsaung Sayadaw Ashin Ardiççalankara of Htihsaung Village in Mynnmu Township held the 54th blood donation ceremony at Yangon General Hospital, here, this morning.

A total of 43 villagers donated blood. Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha and officials gave words of encouragement to the donors. Three hundred blood donors led by the Sayadaw also donated blood at Theinkyaung Monastery on 12 March.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers a speech at the ceremony to donate cash and books for rural libraries.—MNA

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepts cash and books donated by a wellwisher. —MNA

61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition opens at DSM

Yangon, 26 March — The 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition opened at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda road this morning. The people enthusiastically observed the booths at the exhibition.

At the State’s twelve objectives booth, the photos and charts of national goals of the State, national reconciliation endeavours, People’s Desire and Seven-step Road Map are on display. The exhibition is kept open daily from 9 am to 5 pm and admission is free.—MNA

Director-General U Chit Naing accepts cash and books donated by a wellwisher. —MNA

The 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda road packed with visitors. —MNA
**World TB Day observed in Yangon West and North Districts**

Yangon, 26 March

— Co-organized by Yangon West District Health Committee and District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, the World TB Day was held at Mya Nyilar Hall of Basic Education High School No 2 in Latha Township yesterday afternoon. Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai spoke on the occasion. Deputy Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Than Win read out the message sent by the Minister for Health. Daw Mar Mar Wai and officials awarded prizes to winners in the quiz in commemoration of the World TB Day, and outstanding MCWA and Red Cross members, and townships for their outstanding performance in the TB control tasks. A similar ceremony, jointly organized by Yangon North District Health Committee and District MCWSC, took place at Kanaung Hall in Himethaya Industrial Zone in Himethaya Township, with a speech by Yangon Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai.

**Mandalay Division WAO gets new office**

Yangon, 26 March

— President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Than Nwe attended the ceremony to open the office of Mandalay Division Women’s Affairs Organization in Mawlamyine General Hospital. The President of MWAF unveiled the plaque of the office. The cash donation ceremony followed. President Daw Than Nwe accepted K 1 million each donated by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council, Mandalay City Development Committee and Mandalay Division WAO; K 500,000 each by Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association, Mingyi Watercraft Group, and Khitilaka Construction; K 100,000 each by Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Deputy Chief Justice (Upper Myanmar) U Khin Maung Latt and wife Daw Phyu.

The MWAW President expressed gratitude and she inspected the new office. In the afternoon, the MWAW President viewed thriving physic nut plantations of Mandalay Division WAO in the precinct of Tooth Relic Pagoda in Amarapura Township. Afterwards, she oversaw the demonstration on driving of vehicles with the use of physic nut oil.

**World TB Day for 2006 observed in Pyay**

Yangon, 26 March

— The World TB Day for 2006 was observed at Shri Keshtra Yadana City Hall in Pyay in Bago Division (West) on 24 March. It was attended by Secretary of Bago Division Peace and Development Council (West) Lt-Col Ohn Myint and officials, head of division health department Dr Aye Nyein and health staff. Lt-Col Ohn Myint made a speech and Dr Aye Nyein read out the Health Minister’s message. The Secretary of Bago Division PDC (West) and Dr Aye Nyein presented prizes to the winners of quiz and essay contest.

**Rural health care centres inspected in Mon State**

Yangon, 26 May

— Secretary of National Health Committee Chairperson of Work committee for control of avian influenza Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo inspected rural health care unit and labour room in Pyay in Bago Division on 24 March. The deputy minister inspected rural health care centres in Zinkyak and hospitals in Patong, Mudon and Thambuyzayat Townships, station hospitals in Mottama and Kyakhami. He discussed control of bird flu with officials concerned. On 21 March, the deputy minister spoke at the meeting to control bird flu held at Mawlamyine General Hospital.
**Noisy environment may raise heart attack risk**

**NEW YORK, 26 March**— Living or working in noisy surroundings may raise a person's risk of suffering a heart attack, a new study suggests.

Researchers in Italy have found that urban middle-aged adults who lived near high-traffic roads were 46 per cent more likely to suffer a heart attack than those who lived in more peaceful neighbourhoods.

Similarly, men whose jobs exposed them to high noise levels were about one-third more likely to have a heart attack than their peers in quieter workplaces.

The reason for these associations is not completely clear, but the stress of dealing with chronic noise may be involved, according to the researchers, led by Dr Stefan N Willich of Charite University Medical Centre in Berlin.

A number of past studies have suggested that long-term exposure to traffic noise or loud workplaces such as factory floors may contribute to high blood pressure and heart attack risk. To the body, loud noise acts as a “warning”, and the normal stress response involves hormonal changes and a spike in blood pressure and heart rate. Researchers suspect that over time, chronic noise raises a person’s risk of suffering a heart attack, a new study suggests.

In the current study, published in the European Heart Journal, the researchers considered both the actual sound levels of neighbourhoods and workplaces, and used participants’ perceptions of the noise. — MNA/Reuters

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**SpaceX private rocket flight a bust**

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, 26 March**— The debut flight of a low-cost launcher developed and financed by Internet billionaire Elon Musk lasted about a minute before the rocket failed due to unknown technical reasons on Friday.

The 70-foot (21-metre), two-stage Falcon 1 rocket was launched at 5:29 pm (2229 GMT) from a US base on the Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean’s Marshall Islands. The rocket lifted off from the launch pad but was destroyed about a minute later. It was unknown why the rocket failed.

The rocket was designed and built by privately held Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX, of El Segundo, California.

“Clearly this is a setback, but we’re in this for the long haul,” Gwynne Shotwell, SpaceX vice-president of business development, told reporters on a teleconference call. — MNA/Reuters

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**Two US soldiers killed in Iraq’s Al-Anbar**

**BAGHDAD, 16 March**— Two US soldiers were killed in the volatile western province of Al-Anbar of Iraq, the US military said Friday night.

The soldiers, who were members of the Pennsylvania National Guard, deployed in the provincial capital of Ramadi, were killed on Thursday. The Ramadi region has been a centre of guerrillas for a long time. The deaths brought the number of US casualties in Iraq since beginning of the war to 2,323, figures released by US Department of Defence said.

— MNA/Xinhua

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**First case of H5N1 confirmed in Serbia**

**BELGRADE, 26 March**— Serbia on Saturday confirmed its first case of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu in a rooster, agricultural officials announced.

The test results have been confirmed by the European Union reference laboratory in Weybridge, Britain, a statement made by the Serbian Agriculture Ministry said. The infected rooster was found on March 15 in an area near the Bosnian border, officials said. As a precautionary measure, more than 30 people in the affected area were under intense medical supervision. In the meantime, veterinarians are monitoring all fowl in a 10-kilometre radius.

The H5N1 strain has killed more than 100 people worldwide, according to the World Health Organization. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Deadly bird flu spreads to Jordan, no human**

**AMMAN, 26 March**— The deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu has spread to Jordan but there are no human cases, Jordan’s Health Minister Said Darwazeh said on Friday.

He said at least three dead turkeys at a domestic farm in Ajloun had tested positive for the disease but none of the humans tested in the area was infected.

Twenty people were given the Tamiflu vaccine and preadmission further. The virus had already been detected in some of Jordan’s neighbours and other countries in the region. Iraq, Turkey and Egypt have suffered human cases and infected poultry was found in southern Israel and spread to the densely populated Gaza Strip this week.

Darwazeh told a news conference Jordan had been on high alert since bird flu was detected in Israel and that its own outbreak had been contained.

“The disease in its current form is more of an economic disease that affects poultry. It has had a very limited effect on human health,” he said.

The H5N1 bird flu virus reached Jordan after ripping out from Asia to the Middle East, Europe and Africa. It can infect people who come into close contact with infected poultry and has killed about 100 people since 2003.

Experts fear the virus will mutate into a form that passes easily from person to person, sparking a pandemic in which millions could die and which could cripple the world economy. — MNA/Reuters

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**First bird flu case detected in Berlin**

**BERLIN, 26 March**— The lethal strain of H5N1 bird flu was confirmed Friday in a dead wild buzzard found in Berlin, making it the first case of the virus in the German capital, health authorities said.

The dead bird was found on the terrace of a house in the Marzahn-Hellersdorf District on the eastern edge of the city. Berlin state thus becoming the seventh German region hit by the deadly virus.

About 4,000 dead birds had been found in Germany since the beginning of the year, the authorities said, adding that all the dead birds had been handed over to relevant departments for medical tests.

So far, about 200 cases of the bird flu virus have been found in wild birds in several German regions, most of them being in the Baltic Sea region where the first cases were discovered. — MNA/Xinhua
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.
Uganda to add two thermal plants by 2007

KAMPALA, 25 March — Uganda will begin to build two thermal plants with total capacity of 100 megawatts this year to ease the souring power shortage in the country, local media quoting official reported on Friday.

“Two more thermal plants will be constructed in Namuvule and Mutundwe with each capacity of 50 megawatts,” said Frank Sebowa, CEO of the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA).

He said construction of the thermal plants would mitigate load shedding before the Bujagali hydro power project, the biggest in the country, is completed.

The 250 megawatts project, the biggest in the country, is expected to kick off this year and start generation next year, he said.

Work will begin this year and supplying power will start in January 2007 and is expected to kick off this year and start generation next year, he said.

Bujagali Project is expected to kick off this year and start generation next year, he said.

Two more thermal plants will be constructed in Namuvule and Mutundwe with each capacity of 50 megawatts.

Oil touches seven-week high on renewed supply woes

LONDON, 25 March — Oil held above 64 US dollars a barrel after hitting a near seven-week high on Friday as renewed supply woes in Nigeria increased expectations of prolonged outages in Africa’s largest producer.

Oil in New York surged 3.5 per cent on Thursday after Italian energy firm Eni said it could not honour crude oil export commitments from its Nigerian Brass River terminal, after a pipeline attack last week.

“I’d be expecting Nigerian outages to last for another couple of months,” said Deborah White of SG CIB Commodity, in London. “It’s not particularly that the situation has deteriorated, but it is indeed quite serious.”

US light crude for May delivery CLc1 settled 24 cents higher at 63.51 US dollars after a surge of 1.76 US dollars the previous day. Eni’s Brass River terminal loads around 200,000 barrels a day (bpd). The pipeline blast shut 75,000 bpd of Eni’s Nigerian output, but the company said on Thursday that if all went well, it could be repaired within a week.

Exports from Nigeria, a member of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries and Africa’s largest producer, have been cut back by attacks on oil installations there.

Royal Dutch Shell and other companies already have shut down 620,000 bpd of production, 26 per cent of the capacity in the world’s eighth-largest crude exporter.

On Wednesday, a senior global maritime analyst at the US Office of Naval Intelligence, Charles Dragonette, told a conference in Nigeria that there was no longer able to ensure security in the delta region where it pumps most of its crude.

Oil production from the African country will “hang precariously in the balance” for some time, he said.

Crude oil has traded in a range of 60 US dollars-64 US dollars this week as traders’ focus shifted between ample crude inventories and concern about real or threatened supply disruptions, including tensions over Iran’s nuclear programme.

Ethiopia, Kenya discuss power connection

ADDIS ABABA, 25 March — Ethiopia said on Friday it has wrapped up a first round discussion with neighbouring Kenya to connect the two countries with power transmission lines.

He added a series of discussions will also be held with Kenya in the near future.

Ethiopia is constructing a number of power projects to step up its power supply. It is desirous of selling power to neighbouring countries after meeting local demand.

Sendeku said agreements have been signed recently to sell power to Djibouti and Sudan, adding that processes are nearing completion to launch construction projects for the purpose.

Albania, Greece cooperate to keep bird flu under control

TIRANA, 25 March — Albania and its southern neighbour Greece will join hands in tackling the spread of bird flu, said a report carried by local media on Thursday.

The two countries have set up a special mission formed by veterinary experts from both sides.

The main task of the experts will be coordinating efforts to fend off possible outbreaks at the border area.

The Greek side, with medical advantages, will take charge of testing birds or people suspected of having the virus, whereas the Albanian experts will boost controls at border checkpoints.

Cooperation between the two countries is “a must” at a time when bird flu has become a common threat, said an expert with the mission.

The H5N1 bird flu has been discovered in Greece, in area near its northern border with Albania, while Albania reported its first bird flu case near Tirana on 8 March in a village 50 kilometres from its border with Greece.

Albania on Wednesday confirmed a new H5N1 bird flu case near Tirana. There were also reports of dead poultry and wild birds in other areas in its territory.
Scientists find skull of human ancestor

Addis Ababa, 26 March — Scientists in northeastern Ethiopia said Saturday that they have discovered the skull of a small human ancestor that could be a missing link between the extinct Homo erectus and modern man.

The hominid cranium — found in two pieces and believed to be between 500,000 and 250,000 years old — "comes from a very significant period and is very close to the appearance of the anatomically modern human," said Silesi Sembaw, director of the Gona Paleoanthropological Research Project in Ethiopia.

Archaeologists found the early human cranium five weeks ago at Gavis in Ethiopia's northeastern Afar region, Silesi said.

Silesi, an Ethiopian paleoanthropologist based at Indiana University, said most fossil hominids are found in pieces but the near-complete skull — a rare find — provided a wealth of information.

"The Gavis cranium provides us with the opportunity to look at the face of one of our ancestors," the archaeological project said in a statement. "Additionally, this fossil links us with the past by showing a face that is recognizably different and more primitive than ours."

Homo erectus, which many believe was an ancestor of modern Homo sapiens, is thought to have died out 100,000 to 200,000 years ago.

The cranium dates to a time about which little is known — the transition from African Homo erectus to modern humans. The fossil record from Africa for this period is sparse and most of the specimens poorly dated, project archaeologists said.

"The form and face of the cranial and brain are among the best means for exploring the evolutionary path of humans and the Gavis cranium preserves both areas," according to the statement.

Internet

The Ethiopian fossil 'Lucy' is displayed at the Ethiopian National Museum, Addis Ababa. A hominid skull discovered near Gavis, Ethiopia, a city located near where 'Lucy' was discovered — could fill the gap in the search for the origins of the human race, a scientist said on Friday. —INTERNET

War dramas dominate Chinese TV screens in 2005

Beijing, 25 March — War dramas dominated Chinese TV screens in 2005, according to an official in charge of China's TV administration.

"Shining Swords," telling a general's account of his experiences in World War II, was the most popular drama in 2005 with 10.3 per cent of average audience ratings, according to the CVSC-SOFRES Media, a Beijing-based media research institute.

Other war dramas, such as "Eight Route Army," "Little Soldier Zhang Gu" and "Historical Sky" also were very popular among Chinese viewers in 2005, the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. "TV dramas such as 'Shining Swords' combined grandiose narration and personal narrative, with epic characteristics and sharp personality," Wang Weiping, Deputy Director of the TV Bureau of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Tele-vision (SARFT), told Xinhua on Friday.

Zhong Chengxiang, Vice-President of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, attributed the success of war TV dramas to their portrayal of history.

"They eulogized the persevering spirit of the Chinese nation, helped cultivate the idea of coherence and provided spiritual support to the building of the country," he said.

Statistics from the SARFT show that China played TV dramas on 233 national and provincial-level TV channels from a total of 288 in 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

Blind Chinese pianist to give concert in Beijing

Beijing, 25 March — Blind Chinese pianist Sun Yun, 23, will give a concert on 30 March, at the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Theatre in downtown Beijing.

Sun, a student at prestigious China Central Conservatory of Music (CCCM), was born with a city located near where 'Lucy' was discovered — could fill the gap in the search for the origins of the human race, a scientist said on Friday. —INTERNET

Internet

The biannual migrations of wildebeests, zebras, antelopes and buffaloes for their meat.

The alarming figure of poaching in recent years.

Smoke rises from the existing big crater, background, and a newly-created path of humans and the Gawis

Poaching rampant in Tanzania’s Serengeti National Park

Dar-es-Salama, 25 March — Poachers are killing every year between 20,000 and 30,000 heads of wild animals in the world famous Serengeti National Park in northern Tanzania.

The alarming figure of poaching was revealed by Justin Hando, chief conservator at the park that measures 14,763 square kilometres in size and is ranked among those places in the world where one must go to see in his or her lifetime.

Poachers kill mainly wildebeests, zebras, antelopes and buffaloes for their meat.

The biannual migrations of wildebeests and zebras are the breathtaking tourist attractions of Serengeti between May and June and then between October and November each year.

Hando said while briefing visiting parliamentarians on Thursday in Serengeti that though some 1,000 poachers were caught every year, yet slow judicial processes made their trials very difficult, according to reports reaching here.

Poaching of elephants for their tusks and poaching of rhinos for their horns have caused elephant and rhino population to dwindle in the 1970s.

The number of rinos in Serengeti, for one instance, dropped from 2,000 heads in the 1970s to about 15 heads at present in the park proper.

MNA/Xinhua

Sony to offer game downloading for PlayStation 3 users

Tokyo, 25 March — Sony Computer Entertainment (SCE) Inc will launch a new online service enabling its prospective PlayStation 3 users to download game software after paying only a small contract fee, reported Friday.

The new service will start in November with the debut of PS3, Sony's next-generation video game console, as an SCE executive said on Wednesday.

According to Phil Harrison, president of SCE's World Wide Studios, a game development division, the service will offer games featuring long stories like films and television dramas and is basically free.

Sony has announced to delay the launch of PS3 from the original schedule of this spring to November.

MNA/Xinhua

Smoke rises from the existing big crater, background, and a newly-created
**Sports**

**Clijsters bows out in 2nd round at Miami**

**WASHINGTON**, 26 March — Defending champion Kim Clijsters was eliminated in the second round of the NASDAQ-100 Open Saturday as she was beaten by unseeded American Jill Craybas 5-7, 6-3, 5-7.

The second-seeded, seeded as world number one by Amelie Mauresmo on Monday, showed signs of rust as she played her first match since losing the Antwerp final to the Frenchwoman in February. — MNA/Xinhua

**Lyon held to draw before AC Milan test**

**PARIS**, 26 March — Olympique Lyon had to be content with a 1-1 draw at home to lowly Toulouse on Saturday in their last game before facing AC Milan in the Champions League.

The French Ligue 1 champions, who will entertain Milan in the first leg of their quarterfinal tie on Wednesday, moved 12 points clear of second-placed Girondins Bordeaux who host Nice on Sunday.

Striker Daniel Moreira put the visitors ahead against the run of play just before halftime.

Lyon, chasing a record fifth consecutive title, equalized through Norwegian midfielder John Carew four minutes into the second half.

The home side kept racing forward after that but were denied by a string of brilliant saves from Toulouse goalkeeper Nicolas Douchez.

Lyon went top by stepping up with 69 points from 31 games, followed by Bordeaux on 57. Both sides will have seven matches left to play after the weekend.

**Drogba double keeps Chelsea on course**

**LONDON**, 26 March — Champions Chelsea opened out a 14-point Premier League lead on Saturday when two Didier Drogba goals gave them a comfortable, though controversial, 2-0 home win over Manchester City.

Chelsea dominated the game and Drogba scored after 30 and 33 minutes but City were fuming about the Frenchman's second goal, which was scored with the aid of a handball. City defender Sylvain Distin earned a halftime red card for complaining about it.

Chelsea, beaten by Fulham last week, move to 78 points, 14 ahead of Liverpool.

Manchester United, third on 63 but with three games in hand on Liverpool, are at home to Birmingham City on Sunday.

Tottenham Hotspur, at home to West Bromwich Albion on Monday, are fourth on 52 but only on goal difference from Blackburn Rovers, who moved to fifth with a 1-0 win at bottom club Sunder-

**Ten-man Liverpool swamp Everton 3-1**

**LONDON**, 26 March — Liverpool recovered from an early red card for captain Steven Gerrard to beat Everton 3-1 in a typically fractious Anfield derby that ended with the visitors also down to 10 men on Saturday.

England midfielder Gerrard was sent off in the 18th minute after a foul, having been booked for kicking the ball away at a free kick 30 seconds earlier, but Liverpool looked the better side from then on and fully deserved the victory against their in-form city rivals.

A Phil Neville own goal and a Luis Garcia lob either side of halftime put Liverpool in control and a superb Harry Kewell strike settled it after the visitors had briefly raised their hopes with a Tim Cahill header before having Andy van der Meyde sent off.

The win takes Liverpool to second place on 64 points, 11 behind Chelsea and one ahead of Manchester United, who have three games in hand, starting with a home game against Birmingham City on Sunday. “It was a massive achievement not only for us but the fans as well,” Kewell told Sky Sports.

“It was crucial for us to get the first goal because it’s hard to score against 10 men and then we stung them straight after halftime.”

Everton had not won at Anfield since 1999 but, coming into the game as the form team of the year, they must have thought this was their day when Gerard Nevei’s goal in the 30th minute and a neat header from Moroccan midfielder Houssine Khajra.

Bari had a goal ruled out in the first half and Samuel Eto’o hit the bar at the end, while Malaga goalkeeper Francesc Arnau made a string of impressive saves.

The draw saw leaders Barcelona move 13 points clear of second-placed Osasuna, who were playing Athletic Bilbao away later on Saturday. Malaga remain bottom with 23.

**Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle**

**AFFAIR**

**TREAT**

**BIN**

**FUN**

**RIGHT**

**PERSEVERE**

**WEAKLY**

**EVOKE**

**OKA**

**PARAGON**

**SWOT**

**TIP**

**EED**

**ODER**

**RASH**

**PAGOL**

**SAGPI**

**RATS**

**ACHIEVE**

**OALTN**

**CIN**

**FULSOME**

**BATON**

**DORI**

**TENSE**

**STRESS**

**Gold medalist Kimmie Meissner, centre, and bronze medalist Sasha Cohen, right, of the United States, stand beside silver medalist Fani Sagur, left, of Japan during the medals ceremony for the ladies’ free skating programme of the World Figure Skating Championships on 25 March, 2006, in Calgary, Canada.—INTERNET**

**MNA/Reuters**

**Chelsea’s Frank Lampard, right, duels for the ball with Manchester City’s Matthew Mills during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge, London, on 25 March, 2006.—INTERNET**

**MNA/Reuters**

**Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a backhand shot against Li Na of China during their tennis match at the Nasdaq-100 Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida, on 25 March, 2006.—INTERNET**

**MNA/Reuters**

**Pine**

**MNA/Reuters**
**UN says act now to stop HIV/AIDS in children**

HANOI, 26 March — The United Nations called on governments on Friday to take immediate steps to better protect children from HIV/AIDS and ensure better treatment for those infected.

At the end of 2005, an estimated 30,000 children in East Asia and the Pacific were living with HIV or AIDS, nearly 11,000 of them newly infected, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said in a statement at a conference in Hanoi.

“It is imperative that the call for action is taken seriously at the highest level of political decision making,” Anupama Rao Singh, UNICEF’s Regional Director of East Asia and the Pacific, said in the statement.

Asia has the world’s fastest growing HIV rates, with 50 percent of all people infected in the region last year aged between 14 and 24.

UNICEF said about 450,000 children in the region had lost one or both parents to AIDS while millions more children and young people were at high risk of HIV infection or suffered from stigma and discrimination.

“To effectively mount our response, we need to improve our country-level analysis of the situation of children and the impact of HIV so as to be better able to guide efforts to plan and scale up our response,” Singh added.

She also called for leaders of Southeast Asian nations to endorse a UNICEF plan to help children with HIV/AIDS at their next meeting in Manila.

Experts say the true extent of the region’s epidemic is probably understated. The lack of good quality and consistent data on children and young people greatly hinders the region’s response to the epidemic.

**Radio Myanmar**

Monday, 27 March 2006

**Tune in today**

8:30 am: Brief news
8:35 am: Music: Love won’t work
8:40 am: News/Slogan
9:00 am: Music: Love won’t work
9:05 am: International news
9:10 am: Music: Love won’t work
9:15 pm: Article
9:25 pm: Radio Magazine/Drugs Elimination/Women Affairs
9:35 pm: Local Gems/Golden Land’s Melody
9:45 pm: News/Slogan
10:00 pm: Slogan

**News**

1. Myanmar and foreign countries agree on the H5N1 virus
2. Indonesia reports bird flu deaths
3. Myanmar’s media report on the H5N1 virus

**Weather**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Weather Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 am</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Partly cloudy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area**

For 27-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area**

For 27-3-2006: Generally fair weather.

**Earthquake Report**

(issued at 08:00 hours MST on Today)

An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.2) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (near Haka) about (426) miles northwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (02) hours (45) minutes (10) seconds MST on 26 March, 2006.

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**Indonesian baby girl dies of bird flu**

JAKARTA, 26 March — A one-year-old girl from west Jakarta has died of bird flu, a senior health official said on Saturday, citing the results of local tests.

If confirmed by a UN-recognized laboratory, the girl would be the country’s 23rd death from the H5N1 virus, which is now endemic in poultry in the world’s fourth most populous nation.

“Just got information a local test showed positive (for H5N1) of one-year-old girl,” Hariadi Wibisono, director general of control of animal-borne diseases at the national Health Ministry, told Reuters.

She died on Thursday, shortly after coming into a Jakarta hospital emergency room, he said. A sample of the girl’s blood has been sent to a laboratory in Hong Kong recognized by the World Health Organization for confirmation, Wibisono said.

**Weather**

Sunday, 26 March, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Mandalay, (3°C) above normal in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperature was Aunglan (41°C).

Maximum temperature on 25-3-2006 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 26-3-2006 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 26-3-2006 was (73%). Total sunshine hours on 25-3-2006 was (9.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 26-3-2006 were nil at Mandalagol, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were nil at Mandalagol, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 25-3-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27-3-2006: Isolated rain or thunderstorms are likely in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States and upper Sagaing Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Naypyidaw and neighbouring area for 27-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-3-2006: Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area**

For 27-3-2006: Generally fair weather.
Village libraries play important role in implementation of rural development tasks

Books, cash and kind donated to rural libraries honouring 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 26 March — In honour of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, publications, cash and kind were donated to rural self-reliant libraries under the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information at Pyinmana Township Peace and Development Council Office this evening with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Directors-General and Managing-Directors of Departments and Enterprises, officials and journalists.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that there have been opportunities for the development of human resources and promotion of education standard. Out of over 54 million people in the country, 70 per cent are rural people. For them books and other publications are not available easily and their reading habit has not improved. That is why self-reliant rural libraries are being set up in every village with the strength of the State, people and wellwishers. Local people participated in the tasks for establishment of the libraries.

He said there are 61,949 villages in the country and altogether 52,391 (See page 8) libraries have been established.

There are 61,949 villages in the country and altogether 52,391 libraries have been opened up to 15 March 2006. Altogether 600 wellwishers donated 1.7 million books of various kinds worth K 113.5 million and K 53 million in cash at the eight book donation ceremonies.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts cash and publications for self-reliant libraries from a wellwisher.

Special Sales of Ministry of Industry-1 attract people of Bago

YANGON, 26 March — As a gesture of honouring the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the special sales of the Ministry of Industry-1 was launched at Bago Division sports grounds in Bago this morning.

Managing Director U Nyunt Aung of Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries and Secretary of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Thein Lwin formally opened the sales. Managing Director U Soe Yi of Myanma Ceramics Industries unveiled the archway of the sports grounds where the special sales is being held. Departmental heads, local authorities and officials visited the special sales.

A total of 297 personal and household goods and machinery manufactured by the Ministry of Industry-1 are being sold there. — MNA

Development facilities mushroom nationwide honouring 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 26 March — As a gesture of honouring the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2006, rural and urban roads were opened and other development facilities were provided in different parts of the country from 23 March to date.

Rural roads
A rural laterite road linking Peinzalok Village in Nyaunglbin Township and Kanyinkyo Village of Kyaukdaga Township was put into service on 23 March afternoon. Likewise, the rural laterite road linking Peinzalok-Kanyinkyo Road section-II and the bridges were opened in Kanyinkyo Village.

Present on the occasions were Director-General U Myo Myant of Development Affairs Department, officials and local people. Peinzalok-Kanyinkyo Road is four miles long. Along the road, 11 bridges were built. Township Development Affairs Committee and the Government shared K 53.928 million for the cost of the construction tasks.

New tarred road
As a development facility honouring the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the ceremony to open Kyansittha tarred road was inaugurated in Ward 6 of Shwebo Township on 23 March. Chairman of Shwebo District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Than Tun, (See page 8)

The nation-building tasks the Tatmadaw has been shouldering in political, economic and social sectors have yielded fruitful results that are unprecedented in the nation. Now, it is implementing the seven-step Road Map as the national political policy for the accomplishment of the national goal of the State — emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.

Weather Forecast for 27-3-2006

Naypyidaw & neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.

Yangon & neighbouring areas
Partly cloudy.

Mandalay & neighbouring areas
Generally fair weather.

The opening of Peinzalok-Kanyinkyo laterite road in progress. — MNA