

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Protect the nation and its people

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

Senior General Than Shwe  
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council  
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From address delivered at the graduation parade of the 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy)



## State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Pakistan

YANGON, 23 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23 March 2005, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. — MNA

Booths on the 12 national objectives, booths of the Directorate of the Ministry of Defence, the military commands, the Tatmadaw (Navy) and the Tatmadaw (Air), etc. will be displayed at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road.

## Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects dress rehearsal of Armed Forces Day Parade

YANGON, 22 March—Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspected the dress rehearsal of the Armed Forces Day parade of the parade columns that will take part in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade, at the Resistance Park this morning.

Accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Train-

ing Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers and senior military officers, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye arrived at the Resistance Park, the venue of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, at 6 am.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the dress rehearsal of parade columns—the Anawratha Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, the Kyansittha

Column led by Column Commander Col Tha Aung, the Bayintnaung Column led by Col Aung Kyaw Oo, the Nawaday Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Zaw Win, the Aungzeya Column led by Column Commander Col Myo Win, the Hsinbyushin Column led by Column Commander

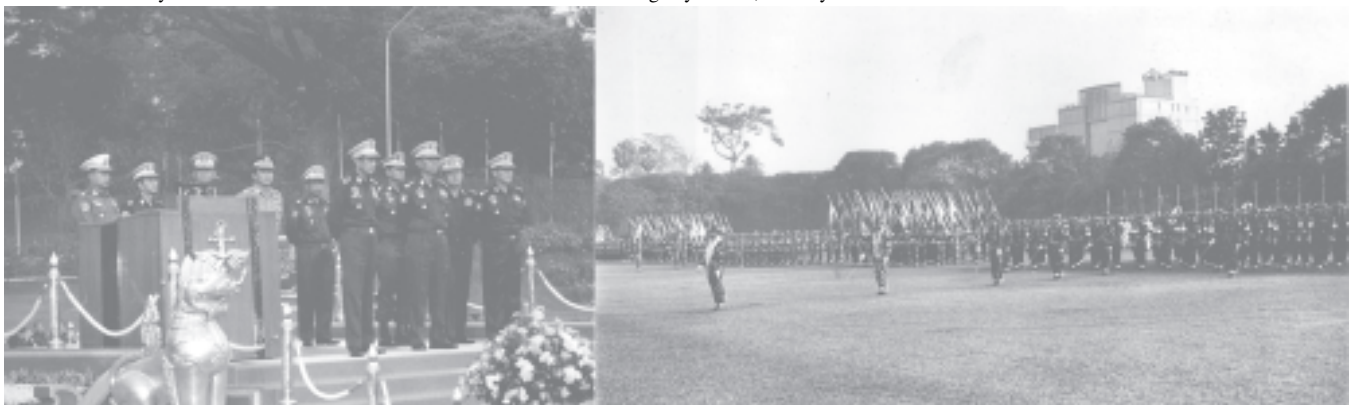
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### INSIDE

*The Myanmar Tatmadaw had sacrificed lots of blood, sweat and lives to free the nation, which was enslaved by the colonialists and later by Fascists for over 100 years to be able to proclaim the independence.*

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MYINT WAI HLAING



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects dress rehearsal of the parade columns of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade. — MNA

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Wednesday, 23 March, 2005

**Implement hydropower projects for higher living standard**

As the Union of Myanmar has been experiencing a steady national development and the improving living standard of the people, the demand for electricity has also become greater. Therefore, the government has been making systematic efforts to meet the growing need for electricity. As a result, the electricity consumption has now increased to 5064.20 million units, up from 2226.45 million units in 1988.

To boost the production of electricity, the Tatmadaw Government has built 28 hydropower plants and six gas-fired power stations since its assumption of State responsibilities. Eleven more power stations, including the 280-megawatt Paunglaung Hydropower Plant, the 780-megawatt Yeywa Hydropower Plant and the 400-megawatt Shweli Hydropower Plant, are under construction.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win visited the construction site of the Shweli Hydropower Project in Shweli Township in Shan State (North). Speaking to responsible personnel at the project site, the Prime Minister said that, although more and more electricity was being generated, the demand that was rising in proportion to the higher living standard could not be fully met and so the Head of State himself had often urged implementation of more power projects.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, huge electricity projects are being implemented to increase electricity generation. On completion of 11 power projects, 1960 more megawatts can be generated. In addition to hydropower stations, big and small, steam power stations, gas-fired power stations and diesel-run power stations are being built the length and breadth of the nation.

The Shweli Hydropower Plant is being constructed across the Shweli River. It is located near Mantet Village 17 miles southwest of Namhkam. Not only that, a dam is being built across the Kaukway Creek near Mansu Village in Lashio Township. On completion, the dam will be able to supply water for drinking and agricultural purposes as well as being able to generate 100 megawatts.

Hydropower projects are very important not only for the respective regions but also for the whole nation. Therefore, we would like to call on all staff implementing hydropower projects to bear in mind the guidance by the Head of State and put their skills, experiences and energies into their work in the interest of higher living standard of the people.

**Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister arrives**

YANGON, 22 March — At the invitation of U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, Mr Hitoshi Tanaka, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, arrived here by air at 7 pm today.

The visiting Deputy Minister was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nabutake Odano and responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Embassy in Yangon. Japanese Deputy Minister was accompanied by Mr Hideaki Mizukoshi, Director of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. — MNA

**People's Desire**

- \* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- \* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- \* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- \* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

**State Central Working Committee of Sangha concludes meeting**



Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara recites Uyojana Gatha at the meeting. — MNA

YANGON, 22 March — The fifth meeting of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha concluded today after making one election, putting eight matters on record and making seven approvals and one decision. The meeting was held for three days from 20 to 22 March at Maha Pasana Cave in Kaba Aye in Yangon.

Sayadaws attending the meeting made discussions on the annual report of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

Chairman of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara presided over the afternoon session of the meeting, which elected Sayadaw Agga Maha Gandavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Vepulla as member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

The Chairman Sayadaw presented religious certificates to monks of the State Sangha Vinicchaya Committee.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Chairman Sayadaw.

Present at the meeting to pay respects to State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha led by Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara, and other eminent monks were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Lt-Col Myo Kyaw, and officials. — MNA

**Minister leaves for 7th Min Con**

YANGON, 22 March — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein

Htwa left here by air today to attend the Seventh East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation (7th Min Con) in Cambo-

dia. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein,

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, and officials.

Delegation members Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing, Director-General of No 1 Basic Education Department U Tin Nyo, Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung, Deputy Director-General U Tin Win of Education and Training Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, and Director of SWD U Aye Win accompanied the minister. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa being seen off at the airport. — MNA

MISS TALENT RETURNS HOME: Ma Ei Yu Pa Win who took part in Miss ASEAN 2005 held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 5 to 19 March and won the Miss Talent title at the contest arrived back here by air on the morning of 22-3-2005. She was welcomed back at the airport by General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Officials. — UMFCCI





### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- To work in concert with the people to achieve success in implementation of the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation
- To exert energetic efforts in carrying out the five rural development tasks
- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the twelve State Objectives while upholding Our Three Main National Causes
- To build a strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw



Officials of the Supervision Commission for the 2008 Games look at a model of the National Swimming Centre during an inspection of the construction of Olympic venues in Beijing on 21 March, 2005. —INTERNET

## Qatar likely to maintain its robust eco growth

**DOHA, 21 March** — Energy-rich Qatar is likely to maintain its robust economic growth, shrugging off a suicide car bombing that killed a Briton at a theatre popular with Westerners, analysts said on Sunday.

Saturday's attack, the first in the US-allied Gulf Arab state, also injured 16 people, mainly Arabs and Asians. It was carried out by an Egyptian who rammed an explosive-laden car into the theatre near a British school in the capital Doha, Qatari officials said.

"I would be surprised if this knocks Qatar off

track. There is a lot of momentum built up in the economy," said Simon Williams of London's Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). He said the EIU was unlikely to cut its forecast of 8 per cent 2005 real economic growth for Qatar in the wake of the attack.

Qatar's economy grew 8.7 per cent in real terms in 2004, the EIU estimates, driven by higher oil and gas prices and increased output from the country's gas-based industries. Qatar has the world's third largest gas reserves after Russia and Iran.

Qatar's stock market barely moved on Sunday, the day after the attack. The Doha Securities Market index eased just 31 points, or 0.3 per cent, to close at about 11,225 points.

The bourse has risen 73 per cent this year, setting new records, ahead of a partial opening to foreign investors.

"One bomb is not going to fundamentally affect the business of the country," said Shailesh Dash, an analyst at Global

Investment House, an investment bank in nearby Kuwait.

He added: "We have seen the same thing (a bombing) in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and it didn't have any impact on the markets."

However, one senior economist in Qatar said the attack could hurt foreign investment, or lead to ratings downgrades from credit rating agencies, which could raise the cost of borrowing for major energy and infrastructure projects.

"This is a very problematic situation," he told *Reuters* on condition of anonymity. "This could delay mega-projects that are still in progress."

Williams disagreed, saying lenders were unlikely to be deterred. "You are still talking about a political system that is very stable, and its finances are in very good shape."

He said energy companies were used to operating in turbulent countries and would be unaffected by the Qatar attack.

MNA/Reuters

## World economy reorders to keep pace with China, India

**SINGAPORE, 22 March** — The world economy is reordering to respond to the rise of China and India, said Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Monday night.

Speaking at the official dinner hosted for visiting Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Lee stressed that the opening up and transformation of China and India is shifting the centre of gravity of the global economy toward Asia.

"Trade, investment and talent are all flowing in new directions," Lee said, adding that this is one of the major challenges all countries face. To survive and prosper in the new environment, Singapore will open up its economies to foreign investment and trade, and strengthen its position as a provider of high tech components, machinery as well as all kinds of services, according to Lee.

He urged the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asia to deepen and broaden their cooperation, letting Singapore and Bangladesh play a role within and beyond their respective regions.

MNA/Xinhua

## Kidnapped captain, two crew members of Japanese tugboat released

**TOKYO, 21 March** — The captain and two crew members of a Japanese tugboat kidnapped by armed pirates in the Malacca Straits last week have been released, Japanese media reported on Monday.

The Japanese captain Nobuo Inoue, 56, Japanese chief engineer Shunji Kuroda, 50, and Filipino third engineer Edgardo Sadang, 41, of the Japanese-registered 323-tonne *Idaten* were found on a boat in the Malacca Straits off the southern Thai town of Satun, *Kyodo* news

agency said.

It reported that the three said they were in good health. State broadcaster NHK said the three would be brought to Penang in Malaysia for medical checks.

More than 10 armed pirates on a small boat fired on the *Idaten* on 15 March, before boarding it and kidnapping the three.

The *Idaten* is owned by Japanese shipping firm Kondo Kaiji, and was carrying 14 crew.

MNA/Reuters

## 1,522 US soliders killed in Iraq

**WASHINGTON, 21 March**—As of Monday, 21 March, 2005, at least 1,522 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,158 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The *AP* count is eight higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Monday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia,

three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in

Iraq had ended, 1,384 US military members have died, according to *AP*'s count. That includes at least 1,049 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Internet



People visit the South Korean electronic firm Samsung's stand at the CeBIT 2005 information and telecommunication technology fair in Hanover on 21 March, 2005. —INTERNET

## Khamenei accuses US of seeking any excuse to start war

TEHERAN, 22 March— Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Monday he was ready to don combat fatigues and give his life in battle if his country were attacked, accusing Washington of seeking any excuse to start a war.

The United States and Israel have both rattled sabres over Iran's disputed nuclear programme, refusing to rule out air strikes to hinder what they see as Teheran's pursuit of atomic weapons.

Khamenei stressed he would remain in the public eye if war came, unlike US officials whom he accused of fleeing for cover after the September 11 attacks in 2001. "If this nation is tested by a bitter experience, I will wear battle fatigues and will be ready to sacrifice myself at the head of the nation," he told pilgrims in the northeastern holy city of Mashhad.

"After 11 September, there was no news of US President (George W. Bush) and his deputies for two or three days. They went into hiding. I am not like that," he added in the speech broadcast on state television.

Although now mainly familiar in his clerical garb, Khamenei was regularly seen in fatigues on his trips to the front in the 1980-1988 war against Iraq, during which he was president.

France, Britain and Germany have offered Iran economic incentives if it abandons work on its nuclear fuel cycle, activities that could give Iran the ability to produce highly enriched uranium fuel or plutonium for bombs.

"It is a fiction that Iran is making an atomic bomb, it is not true," Khamenei said. "It is an excuse."

MNA/Reuters



A Chinese man works at a production line in Wuhan Iron and Steel Corp in central China's Hubei Province, on 22 March, 2005.—INTERNET

## NEC Solutions wins Singapore's biometric passport contract

SINGAPORE, 22 March — The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) of Singapore on Monday designated NEC Solutions Asia Pacific Pte Ltd to take part in the nation's biometric passport project.

A statement by the ICA said that the contract signed on Monday is worth 9.7 million Singapore dollars (about 5.9 million US dollars).

To be issued in this October, the biometric passport will incorporate the carrier's facial and fingerprint information as biometric identifiers, which is in accordance with the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

MNA/Xinhua

## Arab governments declare solidarity with Syria, Lebanon

ALGIERS, 21 March — Arab governments declared solidarity on Sunday with Syria and the Lebanese Government and rejected US sanctions against Damascus.

At the end of a two-day meeting in Algiers to prepare for an Arab summit this week, Arab foreign ministers endorsed three resolutions sympathetic to Syria, which is under US and international pressure to withdraw from Lebanon.

Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Belkhadem told a news conference that the resolutions were about "solidarity with Syria, solidarity with Lebanon ... and rejecting US unilateral sanctions against Syria".

They will go to the full summit meeting of the 22 Arab League members, which opens in Algiers on Tuesday, he added.

Syria had pressed fellow Arab countries for an expression

of support but a senior Algerian official said Damascus was proposing only to revive old Arab League resolutions.

The resolutions do not address last year's UN Security Council resolution 1559, which calls on Syria to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, Abdelkader Hadjar, Algeria's representative at the Arab League, told reporters.

The foreign ministers have steered clear of the US and UN demand that Syria withdraw from Lebanon, for fear of antagonising Washington or appearing to challenge the authority of the UN Security Council.

MNA/Reuters

## Burundi's President starts tour of Europe

BUJUMBURA, 21 March— Burundi's President Domitien Ndayizeye started a two-week tour of three European countries on Saturday to raise funds needed to rebuild the country's economy devastated by civil war. Ndayizeye said he hoped his tour of Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg would help convince investors to set up businesses in Burundi.

"I am going to the three countries to see how they can renew their cooperation with our country. I will also take this opportunity to contact businessmen to come and invest in Burundi," he said.

Hopes for peace in Burundi have risen recently after the Ndayizeye was accompanied by Burundi's leading business officials who will seek to establish joint ventures with potential investors in Europe. The President said he would also seek budgetary support for the setting up of new national defence forces and a

national police force. He did not give any figures.

Burundi is also pushing to have its huge debts forgiven in order to channel the funds to development projects such as hospitals, roads and schools. Officials said Burundi owes the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank a total of 1.2 billion US dollars. The IMF has promised to consider Burundi's request for debt relief in June, depending on whether it satisfies conditions under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative.—MNA/Reuters



## Thousands march against war on Iraq in Europe, US

NEW YORK, 21 March — Thousands of protesters against the war on Iraq marched in Europe and the United States on Saturday, but US President George W Bush said the invasion just two years ago shielded the world from "grave danger".

Some 10,000 people marched through the centre of Rome, waving anti-war banners and protesting against the Italian troop presence in Iraq. Protesters also marched in Madrid and

Barcelona.

About 10,000 protesters attended a rally in Istanbul, Turkey, and smaller demonstrations were held in Ankara and Izmir. Thousands gathered in New York's Central Park and police said they arrested 36 protesters including 27 in Times Square as anti-war groups held rallies throughout the city.

A protester, wears mask of US President George W Bush, protests outside the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur on 20 March, 2005.—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

## Egyptians express anger at US-led invasion of Iraq

ALEXANDRIA (Egypt), 21 March— About 500 people in Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria expressed their anger at the United States at a demonstration held to mark the US-led invasion of Iraq.

The protesters in central Alexandria, about 170 kilometres (100 miles) northeast of Cairo, held placards and shouted slogans against the US occupation in Iraq.

"No to American occupation, American hegemony and American bullying," said one placard.

Demonstrations were held around the world on Saturday, the second anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq.

MNA/Reuters



## Asian agri banks to offer credit support for fishery rehabilitation

**BANGKOK, 22 March** — Asian agricultural banks on Monday agreed to direct credit support for the rehabilitation of fishery industry hard hit by last year's tsunami.

In a joint statement released by the Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a conglomerate of Asian agricultural banks agreed that credit and microfinance support to the rehabilitation of tsunami-affected fisheries and marine aquaculture should encourage sustainable management of the resources.

This includes credit in support of livelihood diversification and micro-enterprise development in fishing and fish farming communities and granting special attention to fish processing and marketing activities carried

out mostly by women.

A strategy on long-term rehabilitation of fishery and aquaculture was formulated during last week's meeting of high-level representatives from agricultural banks.

The strategy specified the role rural financial institutions in collaboration with other agencies such as government agencies, insurance companies, NGOs and donors.

The meeting called on fisheries administrations to limit fishing capacity in order to ensure economic viability and sustainability of credit-supported investments in production assets.

MNA/Xinhua

## Nearly 3,000 take refuge at evacuation centres in Kyushu

**GENKAIJIMA (Japan), 21 March** — Nearly 3,000 people took refuge at evacuation centres on Japan's southern main island of Kyushu on Monday, a day after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck, killing one and injuring about 500 people.

On Genkaijima, a small island off the northern coast of Kyushu and hardest hit by the quake, about 200 buildings were either destroyed or damaged, and roads were cracked and blocked in many areas by debris.

Most of the 700 residents of the hilly island fled to the main island and spent a sleepless night in gymnasiums used as evacuation centres.

"I could not sleep because I was so worried," said one Genkaijima resident, a man in his 40s.

"I wanted to stay on the island, but the aftershocks were getting so bad, I felt it was just too dangerous," he said, sitting up on his futon mattress.

The focus of Sunday's quake was shallow and off the western coast of Fukuoka Prefecture, about 550 miles southwest of Tokyo.

The Meteorological Agency said aftershocks up to 6 in magnitude were possible, and one of magnitude 4.2 hit at 6:17 am (2117 GMT).

Soldiers in camouflage fatigues carried out relief operations on Genkaijima while police and government officials wearing helmets toured the island to assess the damage.

"Having seen with my own eyes, it's much worse than what I saw from the aerial photographs and other information," Fukuoka Governor Wataru Aso told reporters after touring the island.

The narrow streets running between rows of tightly packed wooden houses on the island were littered with roof tiles, rocks from landslides and bricks from collapsed walls. Many of the damaged houses were leaning, and the roofs of others had caved in.

In Fukuoka City, the prefectural capital, buildings swayed, roads cracked and broken glass from shattered windows fell on the streets. A 75-year-old woman in the city died from injuries after a cement-block wall fell on her, police said.— MNA/Reuters



A man carrying a shopping bag walks past a bus stop advertising a brand of clothes in Hong Kong central district on 21 March, 2005.

INTERNET

## 9th Malaysia plan to focus on resilient development

**KUALA LUMPUR, 22 March** — The 9th Malaysia Plan (2006-2010), soon to be tabled, would focus on a robust, resilient, fair and just economic development, Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Paramount Ruler), Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, said Monday.

The financial management of the public sector would be implemented in a prudent and disciplined manner in the 9th plan, the Agong said when opening the second session of the 9th Parliament here.

Expenditures would be based on cost-effectiveness to gradually reduce government deficit, he said.

The Malaysian Government has successfully reduced its fiscal deficit from 5.3 per cent of GDP (gross domestic product) in 2003 to 4.5 per cent in 2004. The fiscal deficit is expected to 3.8 per cent for 2005.

The Agong said the country's economy was growing stronger, with the growth rate for last year exceeding the 7 per cent

target.

Malaysia had recorded 7.1 per cent GDP growth in 2004, beating earlier expectations of some 6 per cent rise, according to the central bank's statistics.

As at February, he said, the country's reserves had increased to 273 billion ringgit (71.84 billion US dollars), the highest-level increase ever achieved and is sufficient to finance 8.6 months of imports.

He said the external trade which amounted to 880 billion ringgit (231.57 billion US dollars) last year was the largest ever recorded.

Similarly, he said, the country's balance of payment remained strong, with a low inflation rate.

"For this year, we welcome the 6 per cent eco-

nomical growth projection," he said.

The Agong said the government had made a comprehensive change this year emphasizing on several core strategies such as more prudent spending, human resource development and research, production of high value-added products, to strengthen the country's economic growth.

Apart from that, he said, the role of the private sector, as the catalyst of the economy, must be given priority.

However, he reminded the people that although the country's economy and the people's living standard continued to improve, they must always be vigilant of global economic challenges.

MNA/Xinhua

## Released Iraqi-Swedish politician says he paid no ransom

**BAGHDAD, 21 March** — An Iraqi-Swedish Christian politician kidnapped in Baghdad in January and threatened with beheading said on Saturday no ransom had been paid to secure his freedom.

"In terms of the ransom issue, we did not pay any ransom," Minas al-Yousifi told reporters at the headquarters of the Muslim Clerics Association, which has been involved in previous hostage releases.

The 60-year-old leader of Iraq's Christian Democrats, who returned from exile in Sweden to reestablish the party two years ago, was abducted by the Iraqi Vengeance Battalion, Martyr al-Isawi

Brigade, and freed on Friday.

The militants had threatened to behead him unless a 4-million-dollar ransom was paid and US troops withdrew from Iraq. The kidnappers later reduced their ransom demand to 400,000 dollars.

Yousifi said he had been kidnapped near a tunnel in central Baghdad on 28 January.

He had made videotaped appeals for his re-

lease, calling on Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Pope John Paul to help him.

Yousifi said he believed he had been freed because his captors had asked various parties about him and then decided to release him.

In Stockholm, a Vatican diplomat said Vatican diplomats in Baghdad had played an active role in helping liberate him.

MNA/Reuters



Gionna Cabrera (C), 22, waves after being crowned as Miss Philippines-Universe 2005 beside Carlene Aguilar (R), Miss Philippines-World and Precious Lara Quigaman, Miss Philippines-International in Manila recently.— INTERNET

# Joining forces to develop weapons against TB: together we must

Dr Lwin Ko

New approaches are needed to tackle the current and impending disaster of TB. First, its lethal combination with HIV will continue unless the detection and treatment of both infections improve simultaneously. The double impact of TB and HIV is keeping large numbers of people trapped in poverty and disease which reinforce each other. This phenomenon is not limited to sub-Saharan Africa and other longstanding HIV hot spots; it now threatens countries where TB was barely on the radar screen 10 years ago. Current efforts to organize joint TB and HIV strategies are of paramount importance, as is the development of new tools. For example, faster-acting anti-TB drugs, effective against latent as well as recognized infection, would dramatically improve the situation of co-infected patients and their contacts.

Second, drug-resistant TB is a result of inconsistent or partial treatment with existing drugs, due to a large extent to the long regimen they require. It is alarming to note the presence everywhere of strains resistant to at least one anti-TB drug. The rise on every continent of strains resistant to all major anti-TB drugs is a disastrous and explosive trend. This deadly form of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) defies today's therapeutic toolkit. Adjusting strategies and improving access to second-line drugs are among the initiatives under way, but ultimately it is only new therapies that will break the drug-resistant cycle.

Tremendous progress in TB control has been achieved since 1992, when the last World TB Congress was held. There are great success stories behind the annual WHO statistics on expansion of DOTS, the directly observed treatment short-course. Yet only a quarter of TB patients worldwide receive proper treatment under DOTS. Progress is severely hindered by the lack of new diagnostics and faster-

acting medicines. Currently, treatment under DOTS demands a combination of at least four drugs administered for at least six months. The logistics involved in providing directly observed treatment for such a long period make DOTS expansion as daunting as it is essential. New agents are badly needed to reduce treatment duration, frequency and supervision.

The prospects for TB control even in countries with low endemicity are now in question. In the USA, data for 2001 from the Centers for Disease Control revealed a setback in the march toward TB elimination for the first time since the outbreaks of the early 1990s. The downward trend continues, but the annual rate of decline in TB case-loads slowed from its previously steady 7% to 2%. The rise in TB incidence in 20 USA states last year points to new challenges for treating remaining cases, despite success with existing tools so far.

The good news is that scientists are mobilizing to develop three new weapons with which to counter-attack: better diagnostics, better and faster-acting medicines, and a vaccine. For the last few decades, research and development (P&D) efforts have been unfocused, with little stimulus from market forces. But now new initiatives are leading to powerful cutting-edge research, as can be seen from the work on new medicines.

The present class of anti-TB medicines was introduced 30 years ago, and our current goal is to have a new drug in production by 2010. There is much that can be built upon in the work of the intervening years. In addition, new methods such as combinatorial chemistry, and research breakthroughs such as the genome sequencing of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, open up new avenues for the pursuit of novel compounds. Derived through target research, these new classes of compounds are priorities, as medicines are needed which can both withstand the

test of resistance and ensure shorter treatment regimens.

The most publicized work being done now is on developing existing compounds which show promise. The quinolones, some already in use in the fight against MDR-TB, such as ofloxacin, could contain additional members ready to include in the roster of tuberculosis therapies. Recent encouraging findings from animal model studies indicate that moxifloxacin and gatifloxacin could have valuable sterilizing effects, and human studies are in the planning phase. The most promising lead compound seems to be PA-824, which displays both bactericidal and sterilizing effects.

The context of this research is changing too. A handful of multinational pharmaceutical companies are adjusting their strategies towards TB. As a result of an encouraging report on the economics of TB research published last year (1), medium-sized pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in developing and established economies are busy screening their libraries for compounds for antimycobacterial activity.

These trends are encouraging, but they also highlight the gravity of the scientific challenges we now face, and the urgent need for the public and private sectors and all concerned to join forces and work together worldwide.

Despite the difficulties of doing so, the result will be more and better options in the end than any one group could find on its own. For us this means increasing the number of candidates for new medicines, diagnostics and vaccines. The call for closer collaboration should be the dominant theme of this year's World TB Congress. Only by working together can we make the scientific innovations needed to transform TB control and help to save the lives of millions of people.

## Tele play to honour Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 22 March — Thu-ye-gaung-mya Htun-ga-the (Heroes emerge) will be telecast in three parts on 24, 25 and 26 March on Myawady TV and on 28, 29 and 30 March on TV Myanmar after the evening news programme, hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The cast are motion picture academy winner actors Kyaw Thu, Zin Waing, Yan Aung, Dwe and Min Maw Kun, and actors Nine Nine and Sai Sai Kham Hlaing, and academy winner actresses, May Than Nu, May Thinza Oo, Pan Phyu and Soe Myat Nanda, and many supporting actors and actresses. Director of the video play is Bagyi Soe Moe and script writer, Nyein Min, both winners of the academy award in their respective fields. —MNA

## Workshop on sale of medicine opened

YANGON, 22 March— Organized by Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association, the opening of Round-2 of Workshop on Sale of Medicine was held yesterday at the training centre of the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Bo Sun Pet Street, Pabedan Township.

Present on the occasion were General Secretary of UMFCCI U Sein Win Hlaing, the vice-president and executives of MPMEEA, physicians, participants and guests.

Altogether 50 participants took part in the 14-week workshop. —MNA

## Coord meeting on holding of ASEAN photo contest and exhibition

YANGON, 22 March — A coordination meeting on holding of the ASEAN photo contest and exhibition & prize-presentation ceremony took place at the office of Myanma Radio and Television this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of the work committee for holding of ASEAN photo contest and exhibition Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads and guests.

The deputy minister delivered an opening speech, and MRTV Director (Admin) U Phone Myint reported on holding of the ASEAN photo contest and prize-presentation ceremony. Next, officials also took part in the discussions.

Later, the meeting

ended with concluding remarks by the deputy minister.

MNA

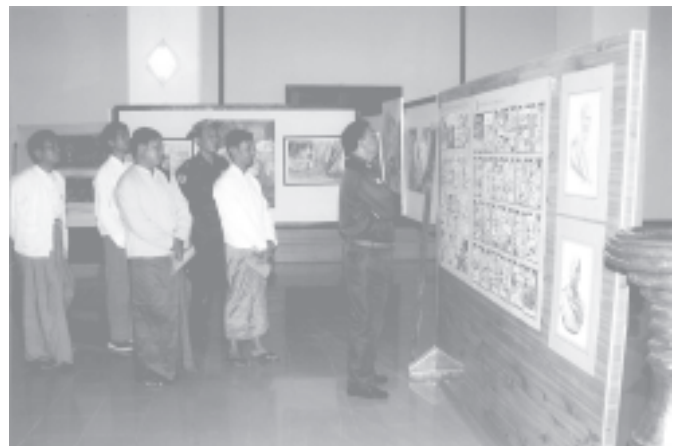
Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung observing the works of the students of Fine Arts Schools on 21-3-2005.

CULTURE

## Ministry of L&F donates 5,000 cans of fish to parade columns

YANGON, 22 March—Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein donated 5,000 cans of fish worth K 1 million for parade columns which take part in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade at Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road yesterday.

The minister inspected documentary photos on functions of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, scale models, guidance on fish and meat sector by the Head of State and booths reflecting objectives of the ministry. The minister was conducted round the booths by respective directors-general and managing directors. —MNA







Vice-Senior General Maung Aye visits the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative booths. —MNA

### Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects dress rehearsal of Armed Forces...

(from page 1)

Col Khin Aung Myint, the Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Col Khin Maung Oo, the Myawady Column led by Column Commander Col Win Zaw, the Aung San Column led by Column Commander Col Thein Zaw and columns

of the Myanmar Police Force, the Fire Brigade and the Red Cross Society—under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions to officials concerned and left the park at 8.15 am.

Later, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party proceeded to the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, where they were welcomed by members of Committee for Staging the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye visits a booth to be staged in the Defence Service Museum. — MNA

### Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

POEM:

#### Tatmadaw for the people

- \* Hot, cold or moist  
There's no grumbling, no regrets.
- \* Long time since parting, till anniversary  
Have no time for tears.
- \* Not a drop left, had no regular meals  
No sparing of thoughts for palate.
- \* Having to brave all dangers to life  
Will tread the path undaunted.
- \* For race, religion and the Sasana  
And for social affairs, give priority.
- \* That is what we had  
Before and now  
And the future, as long as world lasts  
In the hearts of soldiers, selflessness  
Is carried, but what is it  
I'd like to know, let me.

Ko (Tekkatho) (Trs)

Exhibition.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed booths on the 12 national objectives to be displayed at the exhibition.

After inspecting booths of the Directorates of the Ministry of Defence, the military commands, the Tatmadaw (Navy) and the Tatmadaw (Air), Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions to officials concerned.

On arrival at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party were welcomed by members of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary Competition and the work committee.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party viewed booths on literary competition to mark the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and gave instructions and left there later that morning.—MNA

### National culture and morals courses open in Bago Division

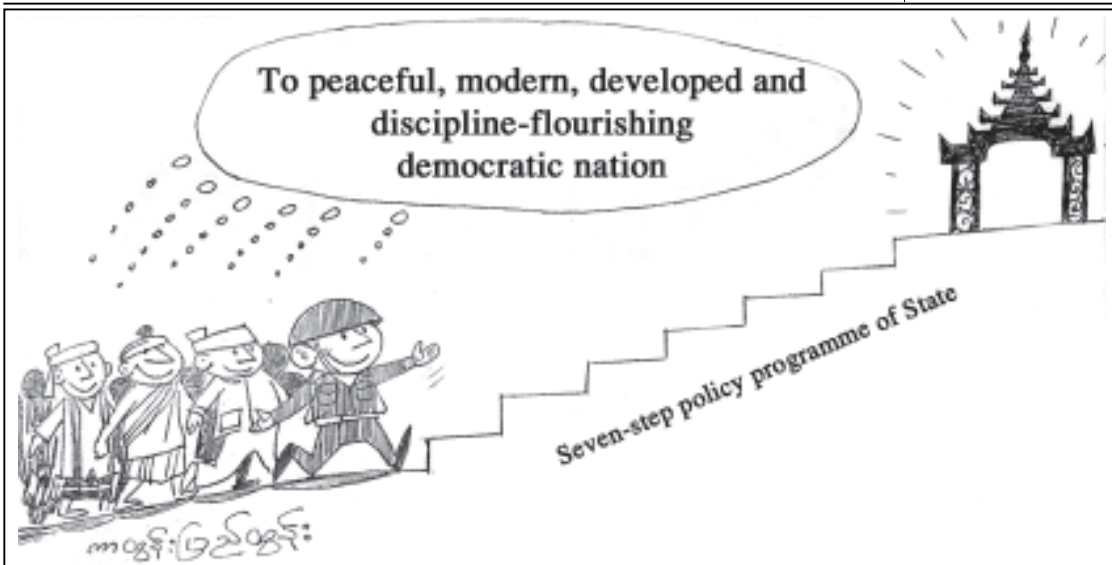
YANGON, 22 March—The national culture and morals course sponsored by Bago Division Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened at Buddha Athan Dhamma Beikman in Bago yesterday.

Present were Patron of Bago Division USDA Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, CEC member of USDA Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Secretary of Bago Division Peace and Development Council and members, officials and trainees.

Patron of Bago Division USDA Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and CEC member Maj-Gen Aung Min spoke on the occasion.

As the first batch, altogether 125,280 trainees are attending such courses at 2,074 venues in Bago Division and 123,898 trainees at 512 venues as the second batch.

MNA



## Tatmadaw for the people



# Myanmar Tatmadaw born of independence struggle

We have already studied in history that the nation was strong during the times when the Tatmadaw was powerful, and the nation was in a state of decline when the Tatmadaw was weak. After the British colonialists took King Thibaw, the last king of Myanmar, away from the nation on 29 November 1885, Myanmar fell under subjugation.

The national brethren of Myanmar including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan had fought back and tried to drive out the colonialists, with anti-colonialist spirit. Although the national races fought back the intruders with strong patriotism and love for the nation in their respective regions, because of the difficulties in transport and communication, they were not able to form a united front against the enemy. Thus,

they could not win victories in all regions in the battles against the colonialists.

It was the divide-and-rule policy, used in various means by the colonialists, that made the national races away from consolidating unity, but concentrating on security of their own regions.

In the later periods of independence struggle, the young men of Myanmar came to understand that region-wise anti-colonialist struggles by loose factions could not bring victory; and that victory would be at hand only if a Tatmadaw

made up of various national races was formed and battles launched against the colonialists on all strategic fronts simultaneously.

A group of nationality youths which is called "Thirty Comrades" went to Hainan Island for military training. The Thirty Comrades formed the Burma Independence Army (BIA) on 27 December 1941 to fight the enemies and free the nation from being under the colonialists' yoke. The BIA became stronger as Myanmar people of own volition and political conviction joined the organi-

**The BIA became stronger as Myanmar people of own volition and political conviction joined the organization all along its march into Myanmar. Let alone the workers, peasants, teachers and young men, even some members of the Sangha disrobed and re-entered laymen's life to join the BIA. Thus, its strength had reached over 30,000 within a short time. Without the urge of anyone, the national people joined the BIA. They did so only with the belief to fight for freedom and strong patriotism and love for the nation.**



The people according a rousing welcome to the Tatmadaw that was re-entering Myanmar to drive out the intruders.

zation all along its march into Myanmar. Let alone the workers, peasants, teachers and young men, even some members of the Sangha disrobed and re-entered laymen's life to join the BIA. Thus, its strength had reached over 30,000 within a short time. Without the urge of anyone, the national people joined the BIA. They did so only with the belief to fight for freedom

and strong patriotism and love for the nation.

The BIA after liberating Mawlamyine, retook Yangon on 8 March 1942. But the Fascists who entered Myanmar together with the BIA soldiers, broke their promise to grant Myanmar independence after the fall of Mawlamyine. It was because the Fascists were alarmed by the growing

joined the BIA to fight for independence sadly returned to their native regions.

Working on the prevailing situation, the BIA leaders had built the army to become qualified and consolidated despite many difficulties. As the national races placed high hopes for the Tatmadaw, they joined it with the spirit of even risking their lives.

Although the number of membership strength fell when the BIA was reorganized into BDA, patriotism, the anti-Fascists sentiments, and the will to regain independence became stronger in the minds of BDA soldiers. As the Fascists

## Myint Wai Hlaing



The patriotic Tatmadaw members in action during a battle with Fascists to regain independence.

strength of the BIA.

As their original scheme was to colonize and rule Myanmar, the Fascists hatched plots to break up the BIA. The Fascists disbanded the civil administrative bodies formed by the BIA, interfered in the military affairs of the BIA, and in the end, they gave a sham independence to Myanmar, dissolved the BIA and formed the Burma Defence Army (BDA) with a strength of only 3,000.

The Fascists dissolved the BIA as they believed that the BIA formed to regain independence would fight back any foreign army or colonialist government at any time, with high patriotic fervour. When the BDA was formed on 27 July 1942 with reduced strength, many young men who

came to know the situation, they laid traps to arrest and torture BDA officers. During the time, the number of Tatmadaw members and civilians who lost their lives under the Fascist bayonet was rising gradually.

As the people saw the cruelties of the Fascist with their own eyes, they joined hands with the Tatmadaw and made preparations to launch the anti-Fascist struggle.

At that time, Pyithu Ahyedawbon Party and Communist Party which had ideological differences formed the Anti-Fascist People's League (AFPL), and joined hands with the Tatmadaw and prepared to fight back the Fascists.

An anti-Fascist meeting held from 1 to 3 March 1945 changed the name of AFPL to (See page 9)





dependence struggle will surely safeguard the nation and her independence and ensure peace and stability throughout the eras to come, while always embracing the above-mentioned conviction and iron spirit.

military, administrative and organizational skills together with the people and members of the Sangha, the British colonialists, had to acknowledge the united strength of the Tatmadaw and the peo-

years, during which the nation sacrificed lots of blood, sweat and lives. Despite the sacrifices made by the people to regain independence, they were far from restoring it because of the absence of a Tatmadaw equipped with three capabilities. When the Tatmadaw emerged together with the struggle to liberate the nation, independence was regained within three years.

But if the Tatmadaw did not emerge during the time, if the Tatmadaw did not possess the three capabilities, and if the national races did not join the Tatmadaw in unity, the nation would be uncertain to regain independence.

Nowadays the Tatmadaw, born of the independence struggle, and endowed with three capabilities, has become a consolidated national force. We all firmly believe that the Tatmadaw will continue to make sacrifices in the interest of the nation and people as it is sacrificing blood, sweat and lives at present, and as it did so in the past for the same cause.

(Translation: TMT)

## Myanmar Tatmadaw born of independence struggle

(from page 8)  
Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL), set up military commands and areas, and chose political and military leaders. The meeting designated Pyay, Thaya-wady, Insein and Hinthada regions as No 1 Military Command, Han-thawady, Pyapon, Maubin regions as No 2 Military Command, Pathein, Hinthada

Aunglan, Magway and Minbu regions as No 7 Military Command.

History had already taught Myanmar people that isolated and sporadic fights against the enemy were not effective, and that the enemy would be hit hard only if they waged war against it simultaneously and collectively by all the national races in all places. Thus,

with the Tatmadaw members. The victories were won one after another.

The Tatmadaw held a press conference on 7 and 10 May 1945 to declare its stand concerning the independence to the world. At the conference, it was declared that the Tatmadaw had already waged two wars — one with the British and the other with the Fascists —

The national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan of Myanmar discharged their duties well in the respective sectors of the Myanmar Tatmadaw's anti-Fascist struggle. The lightest duty was to inform the Tatmadaw about the Fascist troop movement. Thanks to the information, the Tatmadaw launched guerrilla war against the Fascist troops and managed to launch surprise attacks on the Fascist military columns and camps. Thus, the Fascists got awed by the unity of the Tatmadaw and the people.

As the Myanmar Tatmadaw launched the anti-Fascist struggle with

ple. They stood no chance to prolong their colonial rule in Myanmar. With a national Tatmadaw, backed by the mass, was in existence the British had to grant Independence to Myanmar. So, Myanmar regained her independence on 4 January 1948.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw had sacrificed lots of blood, sweat and lives to free the nation, which was enslaved by the colonialists and later by Fascists for over 100 years to be able to proclaim the independence.

Myanmar lost her independence and fell under subjugation within a short period. But the struggle to regain independence lasted for many



The nation fell under subjugation after the colonialists took away the Myanmar King.

and Myanmya regions as No 3 Military Command, Bago, Shwegyin and Thaton regions as No 4 Military Command, Mawlamyine, Dawei and Myeik regions as No 5 Military Command, Pynmana, Toungoo and Shan State (South) regions as No 6 Military Command, and Thayet,

the anti-fascist movement was launched simultaneously in the entire nation on 27 March 1945.

During the resistance, national races, patriotic guerrillas fought against the enemy together with the Tatmadaw at the risk of their lives, and many people sacrificed their lives together

for independence; that the Tatmadaw members were ready to sacrifice their lives for total independence. And it had been the noble and firm conviction and iron spirit of the Tatmadaw towards the people since it was conceived.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw born of the in-



Myanmar Tatmadaw set foot on the nation's soil in 1941 to drive out the colonialists.



The Thirty Comrades undergoing training in jungle warfare.

**If the Tatmadaw did not emerge during the time, if the Tatmadaw was not endowed with three capabilities, and if the national races did not join the Tatmadaw in unity, the nation would be uncertain to regain independence. Nowadays the Tatmadaw, born of the independence struggle, and endowed with three capabilities, has become a consolidated national force. We all firmly believe that the Tatmadaw will continue to make sacrifices in the interest of the nation and people as it is sacrificing blood, sweat and lives at present, and as it did so in the past for the same cause.**

## Plenary session of National Convention...

(from page 16)  
Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization and independent representatives, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing,

Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State Service Personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited delegates, delegates of 17

Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the sub-committees, representatives of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel and other invited delegates signed the attendance registers at the Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall for the National Convention delegates.

U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Hsam of the del-



Secretary-I Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs in the attendance book.—MNA

U Bo Thein of the delegate group of workers, Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt

U Than Aung acted as MC and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-MC.

Nyi Palok of Wa National Development Party read proposal papers of their



National Convention Plenary Session in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall, Nyaungnabin Camp, Hmawby Township. — MNA

Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin,

national race groups who have returned to the legal fold, and representatives of other organizations.

Before the plenary meeting, NCCC Chairman Secretary-I Lt-Gen

U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Law Hsin Kwan of the delegate

Wai-Katha) of the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin of the delegates group of State service personnel and Dr Ma Nan Tu Ja of

First, the MC announced the validity of the meeting as 1,071 out of 1,081 delegates attended for 99.07 per cent.

At the plenary

parties concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the drafting of the State Constitution.



Delegates sign in the attendance book. —MNA



Delegates to the NC seen at the Plenary Session.—MNA



Panel of Chairman seen at the Plenary Session of National Convention.—MNA

Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and

Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of NCCMC

group of representatives-elect, U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Ral of the delegate group of national races, U Kyi Tint of the delegate group of peasants,

the delegate group of other invited persons.

Director (Meeting) of the office of the National Convention Convening Work Committee

meeting, U Khin Maung Aye of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, U Saw Than Aung and U Mann Tin Maung (a) U Mann Myo Nyunt of Union Kayin League and U

Later, the plenary session of the National Convention concluded at 10.55 am. The plenary session continues at 9 am tomorrow.

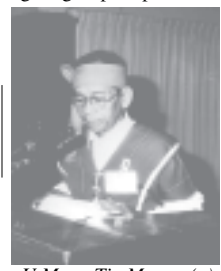
MNA



U Saw Than Aung of Union Kayin League.—MNA



U Nyi Palok of Wa National Development Party.—MNA



U Mann Tin Maung (a) U Mann Myo Nyunt of Union Kayin League.—MNA



U Khin Maung Aye of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party.—MNA



U Than Aung and U Aung Kyi act as MC and co-MC.—MNA



## Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends opening ceremony of Namtmeik Bridge in Momeik

YANGON, 22 March—Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Namtmeik Bridge in Momeik, Kyaukme District was opened at a ceremony held at the head of the bridge yesterday morning.

It was attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and senior military officers, Chairman of Kyaukme District PDC Lt-Col Soe Win and departmental officials, social organizations, war veterans organization, townselders and local people.

First, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe made a speech on the occasion. He said that the bridge being opened today was completed on 5 March 2005, that the emergence of the facility will contribute much to development of economic, health, education and social sectors of the region; that the 24 special development zones and the five rural development tasks have been laid down and are being implemented to bring about equitable development across the nation.

He stressed the need for local people to lend themselves to nation-building endeavours under the lead-



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing speaks at the opening of Namtmeik Bridge. — MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe addresses the inauguration of Namtmeik Bridge in Momeik, Kyaukme District. — MNA

ership of the government for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing spoke.

Afterwards, U Sai Kyaw Soe Naing, a local, expressed his thanks for the emergence of the bridge.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing formally opened the bridge.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe had a documentary photo taken together with officials and local people, and greeted those present on the occasion.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to Taungkaing Village in Momeik Township.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe heard reports presented by Chairman of Kyaukme District PDC Lt-Col Soe Win on cultivation of summer paddy in the township and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing on other salient points.

After giving necessary instructions, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented cash award to service personnel of

Myanma Agriculture Service.

After that, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party viewed thriving high yield Hsinshweli summer paddy at the field of the village.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented cash assistance to members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association while Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented various kinds of publications for the library to Chairman of Taungkaing Village PDC U Saw Oo.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at Kin Creek Bridge Construction Project Site in Kinchaung Village, Momeik Township.

At the briefing hall, officials of Public Works reported on work being carried out and future tasks to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe. After giving instructions on timely completion of the bridge and its durability, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attended to the needs.

MNA

### Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Pakistan

YANGON, 23 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23 March 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mian Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. — MNA



With the length of 376 feet, Namtmeik Bridge in Momeik, Kyaukme District, is a bailey type.—MNA

## Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects development projects in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 22 March—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, left here by car and arrived at Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Division, on 19 March evening.

On the morning of 20 March, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by Division PDC Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and departmental officials, proceeded to Patheingyi-Thalakhwa-Mawtin Road Project. Patheingyi District Chief Engineer U Myint Thein of Public Works reported on progress of upgrading of the road, building of 10 bridges and resurfacing of the road. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than instructed the officials to expand the facility to be a 30-foot-wide one up to mile post 68/0, and to ensure completion of drains on both sides of the road, and planting shady trees and earth work before the rainy season.

They viewed the 194-foot-long and 16-foot-wide Thapyuachung Bridge and the 120-foot-long and 16-foot-wide Kwinchaung Bridge. They also viewed the digging of drains on both sides of the road by Tatmadaw members.

Next, they inspected construction tasks for upgrading of the road.

They attended the opening of the new building of

Ngayokkaung Myo General Administration Department. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Director of the GAD under the Ministry of Home Affairs U Tin Htut formally opened the building. They held a meeting with service personnel, members of social organizations and townselders at the office. Officials reported on facts about the town, progress of putting 14,067 acres under monsoon crops, 5,921 acres under cold season crops, and 16,571 acres under ten major crops, growing of rubber, pepper and cashew, transport and education sector of the region, and progress of construction of township offices. District PDC Chairman Lt-Gen Hla Thwin, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials gave supplementary reports. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than provided assistance for the project. An official reported on finding out the axis for construction of Ngayokkaung-Hsinma-Ngwehsaung Road. The commander dealt with measures for progress of Ngayokkaung village.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered a speech, saying that the government has been fulfilling the three main requirements for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In response to the goodwill of government, service personnel and social organizations are to contribute towards the drive and local farmers, to extend cultivation of suitable crops out of the ten major crops, three perennial

crops and three other crops and livestock breeding on a large scale.

Ngayokkaung is a coastal region, so it needs to take measures for restoration of peace and stability and prevalence of law and order. Departments, social organizations and local people are to make combined efforts to enable the region to possess characteristics of a city.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted those present.

They attended the handing over the pre-primary school building of Ngayokkaung Basic Education High School. District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Hla Thwin and wellwisher proprietor of Ngwethaungyan salt mill U Ye Myint formally opened the building. Wellwisher U Ye Myint handed over the documents related to the building to the District PDC chairman.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed the study of the students, and the newly-opened building, and donated cash to feed nutritious cereals to the students.

They inspected Ngayokkaung Station Hospital, Ngayokkaung Police Station and development affairs office, and regional progress. On arrival at Dayei Island, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than instructed officials to conserve natural environment of the region.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected construction of Patheingyi-Ngwehsaung Road. — MNA

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MICCL invites applications to Tender for Transport of cargo from interested parties. The transport will be from Yangon to Mine Site, which is on the west bank of Monywa Township, and from Mine Site to Yangon. The transport handling would be an estimated amount of 40,000 to 60,000 tonne per annum of freight, consisting of Cathode Copper, Hazardous and general cargoes, by road and 9000 tonne of Diesel Fuel by barge.  
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Application for Bidding to Transport of Cargoes 70(I) Bo Chein Street Pyay Road, Hlaing Township Yangon (Phone: 951-514194/514195/514196; Fax: 951-514208)  
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Thein Aung B.S.C.L.L.B. Advocate MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM  
E-mail: mtpr@mtprmal.net.mm Tel: 2544037 G.P.O. Box: 886 Yangon. 23 March 2005

**The Union of Myanmar Ministry of Construction Public Works**

**Extension of Invitation for Quotation**

The Project Management Unit, Public Works, Ministry of Construction has invited Quotation for Myanmar-Laos Friendship Suspension Bridge.  
On behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Union of Myanmar, Project Management Unit gives notice that the date for completion and return of the Quotation has been extended to 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2005 instead of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2005.

**Managing Director Public works**

**ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့**

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၅ခုနှစ် မတ်လ ၂၂ရက်

**ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါ(Sealed Tender)များအဖွဲ့**

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက်ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ပေးချေဝယ်ယူရန် ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါများကို စိတ်ဝင်ပါသည့် -

- (က) ချိတ်ပိတ် ၅၀၀၀ လုံး
- (ခ) Gland Packing ၂၄၀ မိတာ

ရောင်းချရေးလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၁၈-၄-၂၀၀၅ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရောင်းချခြင်းဖြစ်ပြီး (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုတ်ပြန် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့် ငွေတရားဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနတွင် ဝယ်ယူ နိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ် - ၂၅၂၃၃၀၊ ၂၄၀၁၂၂ (လိုင်ချု) ၂၃၅၀၀၀၀ နှင့် ချိတ်ပိတ်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

၂၀၀၅ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

**Date of Birth**  
The correct birthday of Maung Phyo Thu Rein Lynn, son of U Wunna Shein and fourth grader at the No 1 Basic Education Middle School in Dagon Township, is 28 September, 1995.

**13 killed, 70 injured in storm lashed parts of N Bangladesh**

DHAKA, 21 March—At least 13 people were killed and 70 injured when a storm lashed parts of northern Bangladesh on Sunday, local officials and reporters said.

They said the storm, with winds estimated at 90 kilometres per hour (60 mph), ripped through several villages in Gaibandha District, flattening hundreds of houses, uprooting trees and electric poles and damaging crops.

Police said they could not yet confirm the number of casualties as rescue teams had not reached the affected areas because of fallen trees and debris.

"We are unable to get into the battered villages at night due to bad roads and darkness," one police officer told reporters in the nearby Bogra District.

**DONATE BLOOD**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV GEE HONG VOY NO (502)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG VOY NO (502) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.3.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION**  
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (183)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (183) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.3.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER**  
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ  
ရထားပို့ဆောင်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန  
မြန်မာ့မီးရထား  
**ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါ(Sealed Tender)များအဖွဲ့**

၁။ မြန်မာ့မီးရထားမှ အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းများကိုမြန်မာ့ကျပ်ငွေ (Kyats)ဖြင့်ဝယ်ယူလိုပါမည့်ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါ (Sealed Tender)များကိုပေးသွင်းရန် စိတ်ဝင်ပါသည်။

၂။ ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါအမှတ် ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည် အရေအတွက်

1. **12(T)/3(MR)(MC) 2005-2006** သုတ်ဆေးသံတည်ပစ္စည်းများ၊ **Electrode** များ၊ 1.Lot လျှပ်စစ်ပစ္စည်းများ၊ **GI Pipe & Accessories; Bolt & Nut, Screw,** တွဲတိုက်အရန်ပစ္စည်းများ

ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်နှင့်အချိန် - ၄-၄-၂၀၀၅ (တနင်္လာနေ့) (၁၂:၀၀) နာရီ

၂။ တင်ဒါပုံစံများကို အောက်ဖော်ပြပါဌာနတွင် (၂၅-၃-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့မှစ၍ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်းဝယ်ယူနိုင်ကြောင်းနှင့်အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို သိရှိလိုပါက ၎င်းဌာနသို့ ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းဆုံးမနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဒုတိယအထွေထွေမန်နေဂျာ၊ ထောက်ပံ့ဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့မီးရထား ကုန်သည်လမ်းနှင့်(၅)လမ်းတော်၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း- ၂၅၂၃၃၀၊ ၂၄၀၁၂၂၊ ၂၃၅၀၀၀၀ - လိုင်ချု - ၆၀၂၊ ၆၀၅၊ ၆၀၃

**DRIVE WITH CARE**



ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Reflecting present day Japanese society Princess Nori betrothed at 35

TOKYO, 20 March — The only daughter of Emperor Akihito was formally betrothed on Saturday — at 35 years old, one of an increasing number of Japanese women who have chosen to wait for their wedding bells.

Princess Nori's betrothal to Yoshiaki Kuroda, 39, who works in the urban planning department at Tokyo City Hall, was sealed in a ceremony when a messenger from his family brought traditional gifts — bolts of silk, rice wine and sea bream — to the Imperial Palace.

A senior courtier accepted the presents, met the Emperor, Empress and Princess Nori, and conveyed their message of acceptance. Similar gifts were to be delivered to Kuroda's family later.

A date for the wedding has not been set, but it is likely to take place this autumn. It used to be said in Japan that an unmarried woman was like Christ-

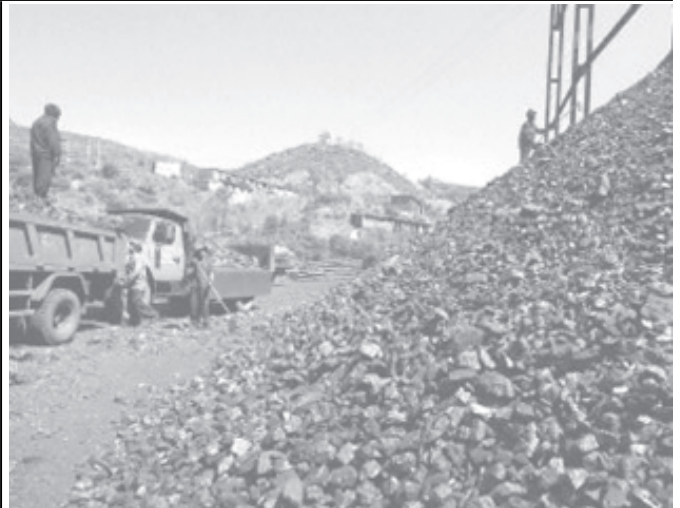
mas cake: no good after 25.

But Nori joins the growing ranks of Japanese women who are choosing to get married later, reflecting changes in society and the workplace and worrying policymakers concerned about a falling birthrate.

Census figures showed that in 2000, some 54 per cent of Japanese women in their late 20s were unmarried, compared to only 24 per cent two decades earlier.

Couples are also opting to have fewer children, or none at all. The average number of children a Japanese woman gives birth to in her lifetime fell to a record low of 1.29 in 2003.

MNA/Reuters



Coal is loaded onto delivery trucks from a mine outside Taiyuan in northern China's Shanxi Province, the country's biggest coal-producing province on 20 March, 2005. —INTERNET

US Govt to boost research on BSE

WASHINGTON, 20 March — The US Agriculture Department said Friday that the government will provide an additional two million US dollars for the research on BSE, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy commonly known as mad cow disease.

The money will be spent on collaboration with laboratories in Britain, Italy and Spain, and on the construction of a facility in Ames, Iowa, devoted to the long-term study on mad cow disease.

The money adds to the 4.7 million dollars the Agriculture Department earlier announced for the mad cow disease study this

year. President George W Bush has proposed increasing funding to 12 million dollars in 2006.

Mad cow disease is a brain-wasting animal epidemic. People who eat BSE-contaminated meat can develop BSE's human equivalent, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. That disease has caused more than 150

deaths, mostly in Britain, where the ever first outbreak of mad cow disease was reported in 1990s.

There have been so far four cases of mad cow disease reported in North America, three of them in Canada. There was only one case in the United States, which was confirmed to have its origin in Canada. —MNA/Xinhua

70,000 Russians die from drug overdoses every year

MOSCOW, 20 March — Some 70,000 Russians — close to 200 people a day — die from drug overdoses every year, a top official said on Friday.

The figures underline the shocking rate of non-natural deaths in Russia, which recorded 46,000 suicides and 36,000 murders last year.

"Unfortunately, doctors don't collect precise statistics, otherwise we could compile more accurate figures," said Alexander Mikhailov, head of the Drugs Control Service's information department, according to ITAR-TASS news agency.

High disease and crime and a collapse in the birth rate have slashed Russia's population since the fall of the

Soviet Union to less than 145 million from 152 million. Drugs were little-known in Soviet times, but spread quickly in the 1990s. With one million users, Russia is Europe's biggest heroin market, a UN report said last year.

Drug abuse has also propelled the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, with more than 250,000 people infected across the country, according to UN figures for 2003.

"The speed of the disease's spread is alarming," said Mikhailov. —MNA/Reuters

**Job Vacancy**  
(For Local Service Only)  
Highly Qualified and well Experience Candidates are Required for the following Positions.

- Chief Executive Officer (Male) (1 Post)**
  - Over 10 Years Management Experience
  - Skillfully in English
  - Ability with Government Relationship
  - Within 50-62 Years Old
  - Preference for Golfer
- General Manager (Engineering) (Male) (1 Post)**
  - Over 10 Years Management Experience
  - Skillfully in English
  - Over 5 Years Experience in Telecommunication
  - B.E (Electronic) Preferred / Fair in Computer Operation
  - Within 40-50 Years Old
  - Foreign Experience
- အဆင့်မြင့်လုံခြုံရေးဝန်ထမ်း(ကျား)**
  - ပညာအရည်အချင်း အထက်တန်းအဆင့်
  - ကျန်းမာသန်စွမ်းသူဖြစ်ရမည်
  - လုံခြုံရေးသင်တန်းတက်ရောက်နိုင်ရမည်
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  - အပြိုင်အဝင်အရည်အချင်း အချိန်မရွေး လျှောက်ထားနိုင်သည်

Interested Person, Please Submit Your Restume together with CV, Copies of Certificates, two recent Photos and Labour Registration Card to the following address not later than 31<sup>st</sup>, March 2005.  
FISCA Enterprises No. 1-B 101, FISCA Building, 9 Mile, Pyay Road, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Phone-653456, Fax:653457, E-mail: techsev @ fisca. com.mm.

FM says Peru fights drug trafficking out of own conviction

LIMA, 20 March— Peru is fighting drug trafficking out of its own conviction, rather than foreign pressure, Foreign Minister Manuel Rodriguez said Friday.

"I believe that drug trafficking should not be included in the foreign policy of Peru," Rodriguez, who was visiting Spain, told Lima radio.

"Peru fights drug traf-

ficking not because there are countries interested in doing so, but out of its own convictions," he said.

Peru and the United States, the world's biggest drug consumer, "have

recognized the principle of shared responsibility" because if there exists drug trafficking, "it is because there is demand", Rodriguez said.

MNA/Xinhua

Colombia's Congressman shot to death by two assailants

BOGOTA (Colombia), 20 March — A congressman from Colombia's Liberal Party was shot to death by two assailants on Friday as he sat talking with a friend in his district office in the western city of Manizales, police said.

Jose Oscar Gonzalez, a representative from the coffee-producing province of Caldadz, was shot three times in the head, police said.

Authorities declined to speculate on the motive for the crime and said there was no evidence linking it to any of Colombia's illegal armed groups.

The 51-year-old father of two was an economist by profession. A friend of the lawmaker, who was talking with him at the time of the attack, was also killed, police said.

MNA/Reuters

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (8) fights for a rebound with team-mate Chris Mihm (31) and the Seattle Supersonics' Rashard Lewis during the fourth quarter of the Lakers loss in Los Angeles, California on 20 March, 2005. The Lakers lost 100-102, despite Bryant's game-high 30 points.  
INTERNET



The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

## Ronaldo apologizes for throwing plastic water-bottle into crowd

MADRID, 22 March— Real Madrid striker Ronaldo apologized for throwing a plastic water bottle into the crowd after being abused by fans during his side's narrow 1-0 home win over Malaga on Sunday. The incident occurred when the Brazilian international was being substituted five minutes from time and had to endure a barrage of whistles as he walked off the field.

"When I got close to the bench two young lads shouted racist insults against me and my mother. I reacted in the wrong way, but the insults were very bad...It was nothing, really," Ronaldo told reporters after the game.

March has not been a good month for Ronaldo, who was sent off during Real's Champions League defeat by Juventus in Turin 12 days ago.

As Real's challenge for the Primera Liga title has faltered, fans have taken out their frustration on Ronaldo, who has not scored in nine league outings. Ronaldo is his club's leading scorer with 12 league goals. Second-placed Real trail leaders Barcelona by 11 points with nine games left to play. — MNA/Reuters



AC Milan's Argentine Hernan Crespo (R) scores over the head of AS Roma's defender Christian Panucci and past keeper Gianluca Curci (L) during their Serie A match at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on 20 March, 2005.—INTERNET

## Crespo strikes again, AC Milan win 2-0 at Roma

MILAN, 22 March— Argentine Hernan Crespo struck again as AC Milan won 2-0 at Roma on Sunday to keep level at the top of Serie A with Juventus.

After Juventus beat Reggina 1-0 on Saturday, to move to 66 points, the pressure was on Milan and they responded with a second half Crespo header and an Andrea Pirlo penalty to ensure their eighth successive league win.

It was a grim debut as Roma coach for Bruno Conti who saw defender Christian Panucci sent off in the 70th minute and then skipper Francesco Totti was given the red card.

After an evenly balanced first 45 minutes, Milan went in front after Crespo

rose above Panucci at the back post to head home a superb cross from Kakha Kaladze.

Milan doubled their lead when Panucci handled a Crespo header inside the area and was dismissed before Pirlo slotted home the penalty.

To add to a miserable night for Roma, who parted company with coach Luigi Del Neri last week, Totti was sent off in the final moments after petulantly kicking out at Milan's Massimo Ambrosini.

MNA/Reuters

## Olympique Marseille lose 2-1 at Monaco

PARIS, 22 March— Olympique Marseille lost 2-1 at Monaco on Sunday, leaving French champions Olympique Lyon 11 points clear at the top of the Ligue 1 table.

Goals by defender Douglas Maicon and striker Emmanuel Adebayor before the interval sealed a victory that lifted Monaco to third place in the table, only one point behind Marseille.

Midfielder Lucas Bernardi deflected a header by Abdoulaye Meite into his own net in the 55th minute to give Marseille hope but Monaco should have scored a third in the dying minutes. However, Marseille goalkeeper Fabien Barthez saved a penalty by substitute Shabani Nonda.

The result was a big relief for Monaco, who were knocked out of the Champions League 11 days ago and had not won in the league since beating Paris St Germain at the end of January.

It also suited Lyon. The champions look poised for a record fourth consecutive title after snatching a 1-0 victory at

Racing Strasbourg on Saturday.

Striker Sylvain Wiltord hit the winner 12 minutes into the second half to end Strasbourg's unbeaten run spanning 10 league matches at home.

With eight games left Lyon have 62 points from 30 games. Marseille have 51, with Monaco on 50 and Lille on 49.

The weekend's 10 games produced only 14 goals, the lowest tally of the season.

Pedro Pauleta's early strike gave Paris St. Germain a 1-0 win over AJ Auxerre, their third consecutive home victory.

Pauleta slotted the ball into the net from close range after eight minutes to lift his season's tally to 12.

PSG remain 12th in the 20-team division while Auxerre, who have reached the last eight of the UEFA Cup, slipped to their fourth consecutive away defeat.

MNA/Reuters

## Olympiakos hold 1-1 draw against OFI Crete

ATHENS, 22 March— Olympiakos Piraeus completed a bad week with a 1-1 draw against OFI Crete on Sunday, four days after their UEFA Cup thrashing by Newcastle United.

The result handed outright leadership of the Greek first division to bitter rivals and champions Panathinaikos who beat Kallithea 2-0 on Saturday.

Panathinaikos head the table with 49 points, one more than AEK Athens who beat Ergotelis 3-0. Olympiakos are third, a further point in arrears.

With Brazilian striker Rivaldo still absent with an ankle injury, Olympiakos found the going tough against an OFI side who have been flirting with the relegation zone.

Giovanni broke the deadlock after 71 minutes but an OFI equalizer eight minutes from time means that Olympiakos, at one time runaway leaders, have now

won just one match and picked up seven points in their last six games.

Panathinaikos were comfortable winners against Kallithea thanks to a Fanis Gekas penalty and a long-range strike from Angelos Basinas.

AEK, whose very survival was in doubt last summer when they lost five players including national captain Theodoros Zagorakis because of financial difficulties, remain firmly in the title race after a double strike from Nikos Lyberopoulos and one from Bulgarian Milen Petkov.

PAOK Salonika boosted their chances of a UEFA Cup place with a 2-1 win over Halkidona. — MNA/Reuters

## UEFA opens disciplinary proceedings against Chelsea, Mourinho

LONDON, 22 March— UEFA has opened disciplinary proceedings against Chelsea, their manager Jose Mourinho and two other staff, effectively accusing the English Premier League leaders of lying.

In an unusually strongly-worded statement outlining its charges, European soccer's governing body said on Monday that Chelsea had made false declarations and "deliberately created a poisoned and negative ambience".

Also cited in the charges, which will be dealt with by UEFA's disciplinary commission on March 31, were assistant manager Steve Clarke and club security official Les Miles.

The charges of bringing the game into disrepute follow the first leg of the Champions League knockout round in Barcelona last month when the Spanish

side beat Chelsea 2-1.

Chelsea had accused referee Anders Frisk and Barcelona manager Frank Rijkaard of meeting in a dressing room at halftime during the Nou Camp match, suggesting an attempt was made to influence the game.

Chelsea were leading 1-0 at the time and Mourinho sent his side out late for the second half.

Chelsea striker Didier Drogba was sent off for a second yellow card early in the second half and Portugal's Mourinho refused to attend the mandatory post-match news conference.

"By further disseminating these wrong and unfounded statements, Chelsea FC allowed its technical staff to deliberately create a poisoned and negative ambience amongst the teams and to put pressure on the refereeing officials."

Frisk announced his retirement from refereeing 10 days ago after he said he received death threats from fans.

MNA/Reuters

## Navarro apologizes to Arango

MADRID, 22 March— Sevilla defender Javi Navarro has apologized for the tackle that put Real Mallorca's Venezuelan international Juan Fernando Arango into hospital on Sunday.

"I was simply trying to protect myself in a head on collision. If the same situation happened again I would react in exactly the same way because there was no intention in the challenge," Navarro told a news conference on Monday.

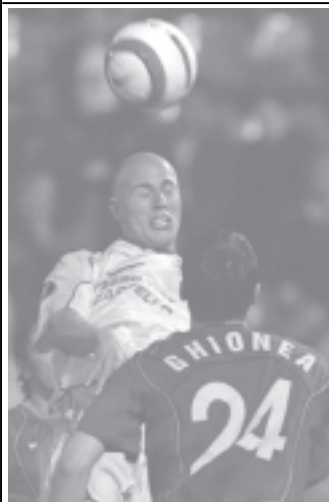
"I am really sorry for what happened. There are lots of tackles like these all the time in football but this one was particularly unlucky with my opponent getting such a blow in the face."

Arango and Navarro went for a 50-50 ball in the 39th minute of Sunday's Primera Liga game, a 1-0 away win for Sevilla, but as the players collided Navarro's raised elbow connected with Arango's face, knocking him unconscious.

Medical teams were quickly on the scene as the 24-year-old midfielder started having convulsions, and he was rushed to hospital in Las Palmas.

Doctors said later that Arango was in a stable condition of semi-consciousness, needing assistance to breathe, but had not suffered any serious brain damage. The player has a broken right cheek bone.

MNA/Reuters



Villarreal's Argentine player Lucho Villarreal, left, jumps above Steaua's Bucharests Ghionea during their rescheduled second leg of their UEFA Cup soccer match at the Madrigal Stadium in Villarreal Spain, on Sunday, 20 March, 2005. Villarreal won the game 2-0 (2-0 on aggregate) and advance to the quarter-finals.—INTERNET



**Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Tiddim-Reed road...**

(from page 16)

highland cultivation, measures for local sufficiency of rice in 2004-2005, distribution of strains of paddy, implementation of cultivation of monsoon paddy, cultivation of cold season crops, perennial crops and tea and livestock breeding, health, social and economic matters.

Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla

gave a supplementary report. Departmental officials also reported on the respective sectors.

In his discussions, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said he and party often visited Tiddim where there is good transport and human resource development.

It is a developed township in Chin State. He spoke of the need to make efforts for increase in per capita income. The Head of State is making endeav-

ours for rapid development of Chin State with goodwill. Like other regions, the government has been providing assistance to Chin State for development.

He said Tiddim-Reed road section is being upgraded and roads and bridges in the state are being constructed in the state spending a large sum of money. It is necessary for local people to maintain the road for durabil-

ity, he said.

He said both the government and local people are to try to achieve further progress in education, health and agriculture and livestock breeding. The Head of State has placed emphasis on development of the region and gave guidance on making it a tea-growing state.

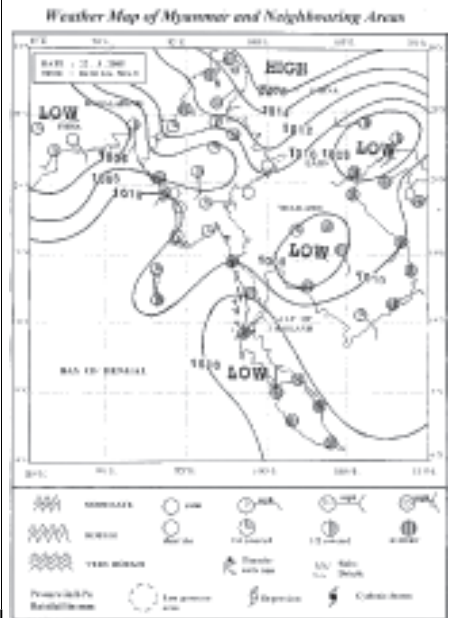
He spoke at length on sericulture, cultivation of mulberry plants, implementation of highland

cultivation and conservation of forests. By doing so, per capita income will increase and the region can export goods to the neighbouring country. With the smooth flow of commodities, local products can also be transported, he added.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted

those present. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the entrance of Tiddim and gave instructions on maintenance and tarring of the road. Afterwards, they inspected road sections and Kalay-Thaingngin Road section. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party reached Kalay in the evening.

MNA



**WEATHER**

Tuesday, 22 March, 2005

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Kayin State and Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao (0.67) inch and Hkamti (0.20) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayin State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Magway, Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in upper Sagaing Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) each in Minbu and Magway, (40°C) each in Meiktila, Myingyan, NyaungU, Pyinmana, Aunglan, Toungoo and Hpa-an.

Maximum temperature on 21-3-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 22-3-2005 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-3-2005 was 64%. Total sunshine hours on 21-3-2005 was (9.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 22-3-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.59 inch) at Yangon Airport, (1.54 inches) at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from North-west at (14:00) hours MST on 21-3-2005.

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

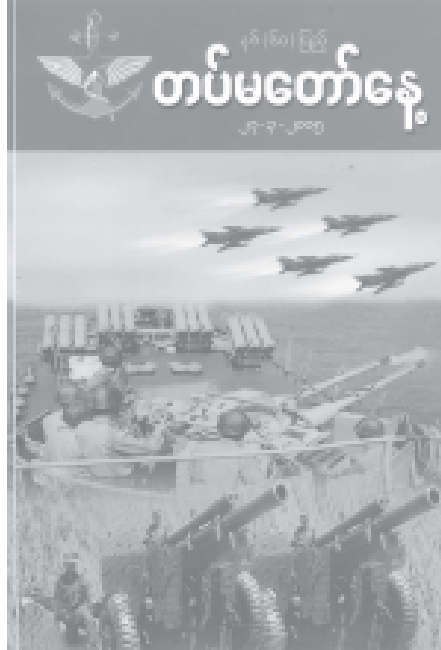
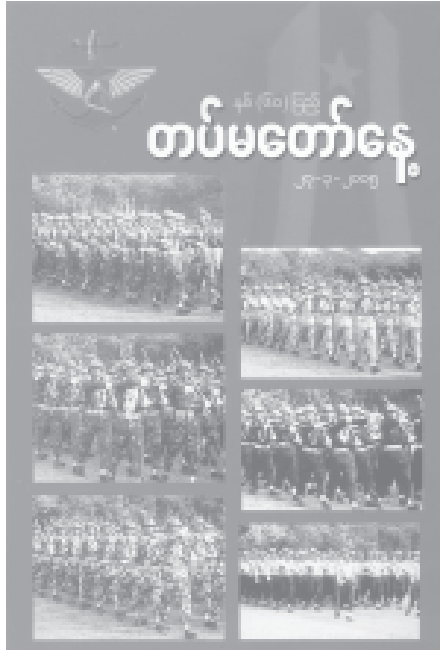
**Forecast valid until evening of 23-3-2005:** Scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-3-2005:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-3-2005:** Partly cloudy to cloudy.



Wednesday, 23 March  
View on today:

- 7:00 am
  1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံယမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးအပ်စေဟောပြောရုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မစောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ မဗ္ဗဘဒ္ဒတ္တဝါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသင်္ဂရာတိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
  2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
  3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
  4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
  5. မြူးမြူးကြဲကြဲ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအတတ်
- 8:00 am
  6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am
  7. ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်တောင်ပိုင်းလမ်းစေးတံတား
- 8:20 am
  8. နှစ် (၆၀) ပြည့် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ရက်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

- 8:30 am
  9. International news
- 8:45 am
  10. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
  1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
  2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
  3. Demonstration exercises for correct pronunciation
- 4:40 pm
  4. Musical programme
- 4:50 pm
  5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်း ပြိုင်ပွဲဆုတေးများ (၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်)
- 5:00 pm
  6. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညွှန်ရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဝတ်စုံနှစ် (သတ္တဗောဓိအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗောဓိ)
- 5:15 pm
  7. Song of national races
- 5:30 pm
  8. Classical song
- 5:45 pm
  9. "ကုသမနေ့တော်ဘိဇ္ဇာ" (ရာဇာဓိနောင်မင်း၊ သုဇာမင်း၊ ညိုရေကန်၊ မထူး၊) (ခါရိတ်တာ- ပန်းချီနိုးနိုး)
- 5:55 pm
  10. ရှုမ္မာယုံနုလင်အစီအစဉ်
- 6:05 pm
  11. Discovery

- 6:15 pm
  12. နှစ် (၆၀) ပြည့် တပ်မတော်နေ့ ရက်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 6:30 pm
  13. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
  14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
  15. ငယ်နတ်အခါ ပညာရှာ
- 7:15 pm
  16. နှစ် (၆၀) ပြည့် တပ်မတော်နေ့ အထိမ်းအမှတ် ကွန်ပျူတာဘန်ချီ ပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 7:30 pm
  17. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံဂုဏ်ပြုတေး
- 7:45 pm
  18. ပြည်သူ့အတွက်တပ်မတော် "ကျန်းမာရေး၊ သိပ္ပံနည်းပညာ၊ ရူးယင်း၊ ပညာရေး"
- 8:00 pm
  19. News
  20. International news
  21. Weather report
  22. ရှေးဟောင်းနောင်လမ်းစာပေစာအုပ် (အပိုင်း-၁)
  23. မဇ္ဈာန်သောအလင်း (အပိုင်း-၁၄) "ဘဝကိုပြောင်းစေနိုင်သော အကြံတောင်းလေးတစ်ချက်" (ရိုးသောကြား၊ မျိုက်၊ ဓမ္မသဒ္ဓဉ္ဇာဦး၊ ရတနာဦး၊ ပုဇွန်၊ နတ်မောင်၊ သုသုလံသာ)
  24. (ခါရိတ်တာ-သက်တင်)
  24. The next day's programme



- Wednesday, 23 March  
Tune in today:
- 8:30 am Brief news
  - 8:35 am Music
  - 8:40 am -Why oh why
  - 8:40 am Perspectives
  - 8:45 am Music: Tell me what you want
  - 8:50 am National news/Slogan
  - 9:00 am Music: Cele-brate our love
  - 9:05 am International news
  - 9:10 am Music: You can win if you want
  - 1:30 pm News/Slogan
  - 1:40 pm Lunch time music: Crazy little party girl
  - Say a little prayer
  - Coco Jambo
  - I'm gonna be
  - 9:00 pm Song feature: -Military songs sung by Mon nationals
  - 9:15 pm Article/music
  - 9:25 pm Music at your request: My heart will go on
  - Truely
  - How do I live
  - You're still the one
  - 9:45 pm News/Slogan
  - 10:00 pm PEL

**Four political objectives**

- \* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- \* National reconsolidation
- \* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- \* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

**Four economic objectives**

- \* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- \* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- \* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- \* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

**Four social objectives**

- \* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- \* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- \* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- \* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

**Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win sends felicitations to Pakistan**

YANGON, 23 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23 March 2005, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

MNA

Proposal papers of the delegate groups concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution were read.

**Plenary session of National Convention continues**

YANGON, 22 March — The plenary session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Proposal papers of the delegate groups concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of executive and judicial powers to be included in the drawing of the State Constitution were read.

Present at the plenary session were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work



National Convention Plenary Session in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall, Nyaungnnapin Camp, Hmawby Township. — MNA

Committee members, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen of subcommittees and officials, representatives of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party and Wa National (See page 10)

**Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Tiddim-Reed road section, Kalay-Thaingngin road section**

YANGON, 22 March — Member of the State Peace and Development

Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chair-

man of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla, Brig-Gen

Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station, senior military officers, officials of the

State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, in-

spected upgrading of Tiddim-Reed road section on 20 March.



Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders in Tiddim Township, Chin State.—MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected extension of the road with the use of machinery and construction of culvert along the road.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint met departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders at the Tiddim Township Peace and Development Council Office. Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Khin Nyo reported on data of the township, cultivation for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, reclamation of

(See page 15)