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

Protect all the national interests
The three main tasks of the Tatmadaw are to fight, to undergo training if there is no combat, and to serve public interest if there is no training and combat. As for the first duty—to fight—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 national 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 at the graduation parade of the 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy)

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects drills of Armed Forces Day Parade columns
YANGON, 21 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence inspected the marching drills of military columns which will participate in the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.

General Thura Shwe Mann, who was accompanied by Chairman of the leading committee for the observance of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of the management committee Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun, Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Soe Maung, Vice-chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Win Myint, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win, Vice-Adjutant General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyi, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and departmental heads, arrived at the Resistance Park where the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade will take place.

Member of the State Peace and development Council General Thura Shwe Mann inspects marching drills of parade columns at Resistance Park.—MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann inspected the marching drills practised by Anawrahta Column, Kyansittha Column, Bayintnaung Column, Nawade Column, Aung Zeya Column, Hsinbyushin Column, Bandoola Column, Myawady Column and Aung San Column that were led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein. Later, General Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

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


**PERSPECTIVES**

**Monday, 22 March, 2004**

**Always keep Three Main National Causes in the fore**

The Tatmadaw which uphold the national political cause in the successive eras is leading the country. Enlisting the strength of the national people, it is striving for the nation to become a peaceful, modern and developed nation. At present, the Government, in line with the national policy, has laid down the 12 political, economic and social objectives and is implementing them for the Union of Myanmar to be on a par with nations of the world.

The national policy of the State is Our Three Main National Causes, namely, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. The Tatmadaw always keep Our Three Main National Causes in the fore. Our Three Main National Causes is the concept that the Tatmadaw firmly hold and it is the national duty of the entire national people. The Tatmadaw will crush any internal and external destructive elements that will endanger Our Three Main National Causes. Only then will the Union of Myanmar be able to stand in the international community as an independent and sovereign nation. In the world today, both the developed and developing countries are building up their military might to defend themselves. Therefore, the Tatmadaw is determined to hearken to the call of the Tatmadaw with the aim of effectively defending the country.

The Tatmadaw which have always safeguarded the national political cause throughout history is now performing the three main duties—to defend the nation, to undergo training and to serve public interests. In his address at the graduation parade of the 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, “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.”

For perpetuation of independence and sovereignty of the State, the Tatmadaw is daringly performing national defence duties. At the same time it is safeguarding the lives and property of the citizens. Tatmadawmen are also taking part in regional development tasks and serving the interests of the people wherever they have been assigned duty. We firmly believe that the Tatmadaw born of the people will always be able to safeguard the lives and property of national people.

**59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives**

- To strive hand in hand with the people for successful realization of the State’s seven-point policy program.
- To crush internal and external destructive elements hindering the stability and progress of the State through people’s militia strategy.
- To implement border area development tasks and the five rural development tasks hand in hand with the entire people.
- To build up a strong and efficient Tatmadaw to uphold “Our Three Main National Causes”

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**People’s Desire**

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

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**Over euro 18.5m fetched at 41st Myanmar Gems Emporium**

**Yangon, 21 March**— Patron of Central Committee for Organizing the Myanma Gems Emporium Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Oo Myint this morning arrived at the 41st Myanma Gems Emporium at the gems mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road where the minister was welcomed by Chairman of the Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Secretary Managing Director U Khin Oo of the Myanma Gems Enterprise and members.

The minister viewed sales of pearl lots through tender system and left there.

On the sixth day for the EMPORIUM (GEM AND JADE), 22 March— The Tatmadaw which have always safeguarded the national political cause throughout history is now performing the three main duties—to defend the nation, to undergo training and to serve public interests. In his address at the graduation parade of the 46th Intake of Defence Services Academy, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said, “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.”

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**381 tourists arrive at Thilawa**

**Yangon, 21 March**— Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, assistance provided by the Ministry of Transport and organized by Myanmar Voy- age International Tourism Co Ltd, crucenliner MV Astor carrying 381 tourists on board arrived at Thilawa Jetty at 6 am today.

The tourists were welcomed there by Managing Director U Thein Hlay of Myanmar Port Authority, the General Manager of Myanmar Tourism Service and officials of the company.

The tourists will be divided into groups to visit downtown Yangon, Bago, Thaungyin and Bagan and they will leave here on 23 March morning.— MNA

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**Chinese writers delegation concludes visit**

**Yangon, 21 March**— The Chinese writers delega-tion led by Chairman Mr. Wang Chonglu of Writers Association of the People’s Republic of China left here this afternoon.

The guests were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chief Editor U Myaung Hlaing of Sarpay Beikman of Print-ing and Publishing Enter prise of the Ministry of In formation. Deputy Chief Editor U Myo Myint Thaung and officials. MNA

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**Invitation cards to be drawn to attend Armed Forces Day ceremony**

**Yangon, 21 March**— The list of Mawgun Award Winners (first grade & second grade) of Yangon Division who are entitled to attend the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremony is announced in the Myanmar Alin daily issued on 22 March, and that of Mawgun Award Winners (third grade) in Kyemon daily issued on the same day. Those entitled to attend the ceremony can obtain their invitation cards at Myanmar News Agency, No. 212, Thetbyu Road, Yangon, from 24 to 26 March from 9.30 am to 4 pm daily. It is learnt.— MNA

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**Book Fair**

Sarpay Beikman

378,384 Upper Bao Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon (former PPE head office)

19 to 28 March 2004 (from 9 am to 5 pm)

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**MV Astor one bar seen on arrival at Thilawa Port** — mkt
Worldwide protests on Iraq war anniversary

“The occupation of Iraq is stupid — it’s meddling in another nation’s affairs,”

Rome, 21 March — Hundreds of thousands of people marched in Rome on Saturday demanding that Italy pull its 2,600 troops out of Iraq, one of many protests around the world on the anniversary of the war’s opening salvos.

Rome’s rally was by far the largest, drawing at least 250,000 people, according to police estimates. Organizers claimed as many as 2 million people — many of them draped in rainbow peace flags — joined the festive procession through Rome’s centre that emptied into the historic Circus Maximus park.

Even though most Italians opposed the war, the conservative government of Premier Silvio Berlusconi strongly supported the US-led invasion and deployed peacekeeping troops.

In Central Europe, demonstrators formed a human peace sign and called for the Hungarian government to withdraw its 100 troops from Iraq. In Belgium, about 1,000 people braved rain and blustery wind to carry coffins labelled with company logos through central Brussels.

Madrid’s protest seemed equally to denounce the Iraq war as well as the March 11 nail bombings, which killed 202 people and injured more than 1,800.

The banner read: “End the occupation. Bring the troops home” — a reference to the 1,300 Spanish troops in Iraq who Prime Minister-elect Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has pledged to withdraw unless the United Nations takes charge in Iraq.

Central Europe

Demonstrators in Italy, Ukraine and Poland also demanded their governments withdraw troops.

The occupation of Iraq is stupid — it’s meddling in another nation’s affairs,” said Polish demonstrator Eydta Raczka, 17, one of about 700 people who marched through Warsaw’s old town to the presidential palace and the US Embassy.

Poland contributed combat troops to the war and now commands a 9,500-strong international peacekeeping force in south-central Iraq. It has deployed about 2,400 troops of its own in the peacekeeping effort.

Asia and Pacific

The start of the day saw demonstrations in Japan, Australia, India and the Philippines, where protesters clashed with riot police, although no injuries were reported.

Anti-American feelings ran high in Cairo, Egypt, where demonstrators — vastly outnumbered by riot police — burned the American flag. Hundreds of people gathered in other Middle Eastern capitals to denounce the war.

“Down, down USA! America, out!” shouted more than 100 Syrians and Palestinians who marched in the rain streets of Damascus.

Protestor Randa Baathi said, “Today we are here with the global campaign against the war on Iraq to express our rejection of this war and its consequences on Iraq and the entire region.”

Europeans also took to the streets — in France, Germany, and capitals across the continent.

Tens of thousands marched through central London, some of them waving placards that called President Bush the “World’s No 1 Terrorist.” London’s Metropolitan Police estimated that some 25,000 people participated.

Some Americans joined about 2,500 protesters in Paris, where demonstrators blared a rendition of the John Lennon song “Give Peace a Chance” through loudspeakers.

In New York, several thousand people demonstrated, and rallies also were held in Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Rallies also occurred in Northern Switzerland, the Netherlands, Greece, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Turkey, Bahrain, India, Australia, South Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, New Zealand and South Africa.

UN experts
back in Iraq
within days

Baghdad, 21 March — A team of UN election experts will arrive in Iraq within 10 days, while UN envoy Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi will do so in the next couple of weeks.

“We expect the election team to arrive within 10 days and we hope al-Ibrahimi will be here in a couple of weeks,” an occupation official said in Baghdad on Friday.

The statement came a few hours after US Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Baghdad and held talks with the top US occupation administrator Paul Bremer, interim Governing Council members and Foreign Minister Hoysnat Zebar.

Massive protests in Asia against Iraq war

Sydney, 21 March — Thousands of protesters marched across Asia on Saturday to mark the first anniversary of the Iraq war, saying the US-led occupation had incited more terrorism and demanding the withdrawal of troops from the Mideast nation.

Australia kicked off a wave of worldwide rallies. Protests were also held in Japan — where 30,000 people turned out — South Korea, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

In Tokyo, as many as 30,000 people turned out to protest Japan’s involvement in the war, organizers said. The country has sent 1,000 personnel to Iraq, its largest foreign deployment since the Second World War.

Thousands of South Koreans poured into the streets at rallies around the nation Saturday to protest the war in Iraq and the country’s unconditional support of US policy, as baton-wielding police mobilized to guard against possible violence.

‘Is the world a safer place?’

London, 21 March — As thousands of protesters march in London today on the first anniversary of war in Iraq, The Independent asks: is the world a safer place?

Haitham Aldurmi, 19, university student, Leeds

“I was opposed to the war and they have proved that the war did not solve the problem. Saddam is still and the United States is in now. Iraqis are too scared even to go out and get on with their lives. I think the war incited a lot of violence in the world.”

Philip Austin, 41, Quaker, Bolton, Greater Manchester

“I am saddened so much damage has been caused to other people in the past year. Such military might will only leave a legacy of hurt, which leads to further violence. Bombing terrorists in isolated groups may kill, but terrorism is an ideology, and you cannot bomb an ideology.”

Barbara Ebster, health lecturer, sixties, Gashill, Kent

“I wasn’t for or against it at the time. But now I think Britain and the world are certainly not safer places. I’m petrified for my children and my grandchildren that there will be a terror attack here.”

Mark Birchenhough, 47, management consultant, London

“The consequences of war are never predictable, and Bush and Blair thought they were. It was a complete misunderstanding of the situation, and has alienated both Arabs and Europeans from America and Britain. The notion of the war against terror is a fake one.”

Katherine Hanmetti, 56, fashion designer

“People realise the war was outrageous and illegal. People are angrier that a year ago because we were misled over weapons of mass destruction. The war has provided justification for attacks on the Allies. Everyone is frightened and the world seems a much more dangerous place.”

Roy Clarke, 58, management consultant, Lancashire

“You can not leave maniacs in place. But I think the world is a more dangerous place because of the increased threat of terrorism. Britain is more of a target now and there will be an attack in this country.”

Professor Richard Dawkins, 62, evolutionary biologist

“If the world a safer place? No. We have reduced Iraq to chaos, so the benefit of removing Saddam must be balanced against the resultant risk of instability in Iraq and the Gulf as a whole. Meanwhile, the invasion has further antagonised the Arab and Muslim world without damaging al-Qaeda.”

Ben Okri, 43, writer

“I think a big mistake was made, and the consequences are going to cast a very long shadow. When an unwise thing has been done there are no solutions, only consequences. But if people have a big enough vision and a big enough heart to know mistakes were made and try to heal those causes, then things will turn out better.”
Iraqis gather in protest of occupation ahead of war anniversary

Baghdad, 21 March—Thousands of Iraqis gathered in this capital city protesting the US-led occupation at midday Friday, on the eve of the first anniversary of the invasion of their country.

Sunni and Shiite Muslims took to the streets jointly after the Friday prayers and marched peacefully from Kadhimya, a Shiite dominated area, to Adhiymiya, a Sunni district. The crowd then gathered at the Al-Antar Square in central Baghdad, denouncing the war on Iraq a year ago and the following occupation while urging the unity between different Iraqi factions.

“No, no to occupation, no, no to leadership and yes, yes to unity,” read the banners they held. The demonstrators also blamed the instability, increasing civilian casualties and the collapse of Iraq’s social structures since the war on the coalition forces, vowing to take action to end the occupation.

“We will sacrifice for you Iraq, with our blood and soul,” they shouted. Their slogan was familiar to Iraqis for years, but with the word “Saddam” instead of “Iraq”.

The rally was organized by popular clerics from the Muslim Scientists Board, a Sunni group, and those from the Hawza, or Shiite supreme authority.

Some of the organizers themselves participated in the demonstration, warning against the attempt to ignite ethnic strife in Iraq and to divide the country.

Meanwhile, a similar joint demonstration was held in Fallujah, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, where the resistance against the occupation forces was prevalent.

Hundreds of Muslims, mainly Sunnis and some Shiites, gathered in the residential town, calling for continuous resistance against the occupation forces.

“We hope the resistance, in all forms, will continue after your brother (Shiite Muslims) realize that the invasion is not for the sake of some of our people but for their own agenda,” said Harith al-Dhari, head of the Muslim Scientists Board.

US-military nationals forces launched before dawn on 20 March last year the military campaign to remove Saddam Hussein’s regime, which was toppled on 9 April last year.

Iraq then witnessed daily violence, with thousands of civilians becoming the victims of the resistance against invading forces and terrorist acts across the country.

(The Press Trust of India)

Iraqi journalists rebuff Powell, leave news conference

Baghdad, 21 March—Iraqi journalists walked out of a Baghdad news conference given by US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Friday in protest at lack of security and the killing of two Iraqi journalists by US troops.

“We declare our boycott of the conference because of the martyrdoms,” Najim al-Rubaae of Iraq’s Dostor newspaper said in a statement read at the start of the news conference as Powell and US governor Paul Bremer looked on.

“We declare our condemnation of the incident which led to the killing of the two journalists, who were killed at the hands of the American forces.”

More than 30 Iraqi journalists stood up and walked out after the walkout, Powell said he respected the right of the journalists to express their feelings.

“It is something that would never have happened at an earlier time in the history of Iraq, certainly not in the last 30 years,” he said.

Powell said he regretted the loss of life of the journalists, and all loss of life in Iraq.

“But let’s be clear who is responsible for this,” he said.

“Those individuals left over from the old regime do not want to see the Iraqis live in peace. They do not want to see democracy take root.” Powell said he did not have the full details of the Arabianb incident but he was certain that troops would not have deliberately killed journalists. He said that sometimes in the confusion after a guerrilla attack, “mistakes happen, tragedies occur”.

Iraqi journalists demanded an investigation into the incident.

“We walked out because we need them to ensure that we are safe under the occupation and yet they have done nothing,” Ahmed al-Samraee, an Iraqi producer with the Qatar-based Al Jazeer satellite channel, said after the walkout.

(The Press Trust of India)

658 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

Baghdad, 21 March—As of Friday, 19 March, 2004, 658 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq a year ago, according to the Department of Defence. Of those, 385 died as a result of hostile action and 183 died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq a year ago, according to the military.

Since the start of military operations, 2,868 US service members have been injured as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. Non-hostile injured numbered 432.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

- Marine Cpl Andrew D Brownfield, 24, Akron, Ohio; died Thursday due to wounds received in a mortar attack at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq; assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force.
- Army Pfc Ernest Harold Sutphin, 21, Parkersburg, W Va; died Thursday in Landstuhl, Germany, from injuries sustained in a vehicle incident in Kirkuk, Iraq on 11 March; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, 25th Infantry Division (Light).

(The Press Trust of India)

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(The Press Trust of India)
Annan calls for independent probe into UN in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 21 March — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on Friday for a broad independent probe into the UN-administered Iraq oil-for-food programme, saying it was “highly possible” there had been a lot of wrongdoing.

Annan, in his first comments on the burgeoning al-legations, has been under pressure to conduct an inves-tigation into corruption from Iraqi leaders as well as US officials searching for former president Saddam Hussein’s hidden assets.

The United Nations has begun an in-house probe of its own staff but Annan stressed a wider, independ-ent investigation was needed to cover outside firms and individuals.

This would involve approval from the 15-nation Security Council, which su-pervised the programme.

“I think we will need to have an independent investiga-tion, and an investigation that can be as broad as possi-ble to look into all these allega-tions which have been made and get to the bottom of this, because I don’t think we need to have our reputation impugned,” Annan told re-

uters. “It is highly possible there has been quite a lot of wrongdoing,” he said.

The programme, begun in December 1996, involved oil companies paying revenues to a UN escrow account while the United Nations paid sup-pliers of goods Iraq bought. Its purpose was to ease the impact of 1991 Gulf War sanctions on ordinary Iraqis.

A comprehensive probe, UN officials said, would need support from Council mem-
ers to investigate the middle men who bought the oil, com-
panies that supplied civilian goods and the French bank BNPParibas, which handled a UN-Iraq account.

Since some of the firms and individuals charged with accepting bribes are nation-
als of the 15 Council mem-
ers, the body could set limits on any probe.

The US General Account-
ing Office, an interagency body, headed by the Treasury Department is trying to lo-
cate and seize 10 billion US dol-
ars in estimated hidden Iraqi assets.

Of this amount, the GAO in a report on Thursday, charged that Saddam ac-
quired 5.7 billion US dollars from the proceeds of oil smuggling through Syria, Jor-
dan, Turkey and elsewhere.

Iraq’s elites raised an ad-
ditional 4.4 billion US dol-
ars in illegal revenue by im-
posing oil surcharges and com-
misions from suppliers of goods to Iraq under the oil-
for-food programme.

Annan said the United Nations would go “ahead full
til” in investigating its own staff. This would include charges against the head of the UN oil-for-food pro-
gramme, Benon Sevan, who has denied them.

But Annan said, “Given the nature of the operation, which involved so many companies, so many coun-
tries, we will need a lot. Whoever undertakes the in-
vestigation will need quite a bit of cooperation from others.”

The allegations come at a time when the United Na-
tions is mending its relations with the Bush Administra-
tion but is being bashed by US conservatives and the con-
servative Press, which has begun to close up to call the world body an evil empire.

Ahmed Chalabi, the head of the Iraqi Governing Coun-
cil’s finance committee and a fierce critic of the United Na-
tions, is in charge of the Iraq probe. He has hired a long-
time acquaintance, British businessman Claude Hankes-
Drielsma as an adviser. The KMPG International account-
ing firm has been hired through Hankes-Drielsma to go through the Iraqi documents and give the United Nations a report. — MNA/Reuters

US ‘shipping WMDs into Iraq’

BAGHDAD, 21 March—US forces have been shipping parts of missiles, chemical and germ warfare agents and nuclear weapons into southern Iraq, according to an exclu-
sive report in our sister paper Akhbar Al Khaleej. Quoting Iraqi Transportation Ministry sources, the report said US forces offloaded this equipment from US cargo ships at the port of Umm Qasr, near Basra, during Ashoora.

It said riots in the area, coupled with major explosions that killed and injured a large number of Iraqi people including a prominent religious scholar, had enabled the parts to be offloaded while the attention of the Iraqi people was elsewhere.

Akhbar Al Khaleej said the US, in co-ordination with British forces stationed in large numbers in the south of Iraq, had imposed stiff security measures around the port to ensure the unloading could be done in secret in the dead of night. The deliveries were also planned to coincide with the signing of the Iraqi interim constitution which was later cancelled.

The report said some of the parts were made in the US during the 1980s and 1990s for weapons that had been bought by former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein—weapons which UN inspectors earlier reported had been destroyed. Other parts originated in Eastern Europe and Russia. The report added that this material had been transported to an unknown destination. — Internet

Drop in foreign support for US worries experts

WASHINGTON, 21 March—A decline in popular support for the United States among many of its traditional allies in the year after the Iraq war has foreign policy experts worried and is playing into the presidential campaign.

A poll released this week by the Pew Research Centre of opinion in eight European and Middle East-
ern countries showed that dislike and even contempt for the US was growing. Among Europeans, particularly in France and Germany, much of the public had lost confi-
dence in the honesty of the US Government and its com-
mittance to democracy, it showed. In some Islamic al-
lies like Pakistan and Jordan, a majority of respondents had a more favourable view of al-
Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden than of the United States. “It should be of deep concern to Americans to see the extent to which we are disliked by what used to be our friends. We need partners to fight terrorism and conduct foreign policy,” said Pew poll-
ster Andrew Kohut.

John Steinbruner, direc-
tor of the Centre for Interna-
tional and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, said the Bush Administration seemed especially focused on domestic opinion and was disdainful of overseas view-
points. — MNA/Reuters

HK, Thailand sign air services agreement

HONG KONG, 21 March — Air routes between Hong Kong and Thailand have been further liberalized after successful talks between their two aviation authorities.

Delegations representing the Hong Kong and Thai governments concluded two days of talks here Friday to liberalize the bilateral air services arrangement.

The new agreement marks another major step in the progressive liberalization policy in air services, after Hong Kong earlier last week also signed an arrange-
ment with Malaysia.

The new agreement removes limita-
tions on the direct air route between Hong Kong, Thailand and with immediate effect airlines of both sides can operate passenger services between Hong Kong and all Thai destinations without limita-
tions on seating or aircraft type.

Hong Kong airlines will have the flex-
ibility to combine a number of Thai desti-
nations and allow passen-
gers to stopover in the kingdom’s cities. The arrangement also provides for ex-

danted fifth-freedom rights for passenger and cargo services.

The bilateral code-share arrangement has been further liberalized to provide more opportunities for airlines of both sides to code-share with partner airlines on services to and beyond Hong Kong and Thailand.

Hong Kong’s Economic Development and Labour Bureau hailed the agreement as a “win-win deal” which offers a liberal framework for airlines to plan ahead and operate services in response to market de-
mand.

It also provides much improved flex-
ibility for airlines to develop new products that suit travellers’ needs and further en-
hance tourism and economic ties between Hong Kong and Thailand.

Thailand is one of the most popular holiday destinations for Hong Kong resi-
dents, as well as an important source of in-
bound tourists from the Southeast Asian region.

MNA/Xinhua

Filipino protesters burn a make coffin symbolising victims of war in Iraq during a protest outside the US embassy in Manila on 19 March, 2004. Dozens of anti-war activists protested the one-year anniversary of the US-led invasion in Iraq.
Iraq in the aftermath of US invasion
US Military deaths in Iraq

With superiority in military might, US and allies troops invaded Iraq. As a result, Iraqi military broke up and the people of Iraq had none to rely on. But, the Iraqi people, who cannot endure the intrusion of alien troops, repulse the intruders using every means and the death toll of US troops has risen day by day.

A group of US soldiers survey the remains of rockets, which were fired on 7 March, 2004 into the US military headquarters in Baghdad.

US Military deaths in Iraq

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Death toll</th>
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<tr>
<td>20-3-2003 to 21-3-2004</td>
<td>combat</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-3-2003 to 21-3-2004</td>
<td>non-combat</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>568</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Iraqi examine a car used by US officers after it was attacked near Baghdad on 21 February.

A US soldier extinguishes a fire that engulfed a Hummer military vehicle following an attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on 2 March, 2004, killing a US soldier.

US troops comb an area near the UN headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday March 8, 2004, following an attack by Iraqi guerillas at a passing US military convoy.

US troops carry the corpse of their fellow comrade following the bomb attack on a military vehicle in Sumarah, Iraq, on 19 February 2004.
Hailing the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day:

**Tatmadaw always making efforts for national development in the interest of the people**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Nawin Dam canal building</td>
<td>13-12-92 to 25-4-95</td>
<td>Paukkhaung Township, Pyay District, Bago Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monyo Dam embankment</td>
<td>29-9-98 to 30-10-98</td>
<td>Benefited acre-4858 Near Thanpayakhwun Village Monyo Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aunglan-Taungdwingyi railroad Project</td>
<td>17-5-96 to 27-12-96</td>
<td>Aunglan-Taungdwingyi railroad Length-7.3 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tatmadawmen rebuilding the embankment of Monyo Dam near Thanpayakhwun Village, Monyo Township.**

*The Tatmadaw which is capable of overcoming all obstacles*

*Construction tasks jointly carried out by the Tatmadaw and the people*
The Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) in perpetual service of the people

Transport facilities constructed by the Tatmadaw and the people

“Construction of economic and social infrastructures including roads and irrigation facilities where necessary in all parts of the nation is not only for the present but also for the prosperity.”

The above-mentioned guidance has been given by Head of State Senior Gen. Than Shwe. So far, the government has constructed 55 roads stretching around 2,000 miles the length and breadth of the nation. Indeed, such drive has helped contribute towards greater progress of the nation and enhance national solidarity among the national races. In the past, many tens of thousands of trucks can be seen travelling on the roads even in the hilly regions. This achievement is due to the combined efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people. Among the transport facilities in the entire nation are Myitkyina-Man-dalyal Road, Mandalay Bhamo Road, Myitkyina-Pato Road, Hpa-an-Zarthadyin-Mawlamyine Road, Taunggyi-Ywangan-Haminnimo Road, Pyinmmana-Pinlaung Road, Sittway-An-Minbu Road, Kawhthoung-Bokpyin-Dawei-Mawlamyine Road, Taungup Ma-ei-Kyaikpyu Road, Monywa-Hkamat Road, Minbu-Seikphyu-Pakokku-Monywa Road, Mibhla-Thayr-Pyay Road, Monywa-Kalewa Road, Pyinmmana-Taungdwingyi Road, Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Kalewa Road, These Strategic Road Project said “The road linking Monywa and Kalewa in Sagaing Division is 115 miles long. We launched the project on 1 June 2000. In the past, local people had to travel over 160 miles to get to Kalewa from Monywa because they had to pass through Mahamyaing jungle. The road was completely impassable in the rainy season. So, local people had to rely on the only waterway along Chindwin River with great difficulty.”

“However, now we have constructed the 115-mile Monywa-Kalewa Road and thus people can use this all weather’s and it saves 45 miles.”

The majority of the nation’s population live in rural regions. That is why the State laid down the five rural development tasks. To enable the regions that are difficult of access to enjoy better transport, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on construction of Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road for development of the regions on the west bank of Chindwin River and ensuring easy access to Kalay Region, the gate way to Shan State (North). Thanks to the collective endeavours of the Tatmadaw and the (See page 9)

Roads built by the Tatmadaw and the people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>State/Division</th>
<th>Road</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yangon Division</td>
<td>Taikkyi-Phuigi-Phaunggyi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shan State</td>
<td>Tarkaw-Mongmyin-Kengtung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ayeawaddy Division</td>
<td>Pathein-Thalakhwa-Mawinsun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kachin State</td>
<td>Myitkyina-Sumpabrum-Putoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kayah State</td>
<td>Pasawng-Khemaphyu-Hihtha-Sawtha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kayin State</td>
<td>Kawt Kyak Kawtparan-Zarthabyin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Magway Division</td>
<td>Magway-Taungdwingyi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sagaing Division</td>
<td>Budalin-Kalay-Kamu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rakhine State</td>
<td>Ngwehsaung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mon State</td>
<td>Theinseik, Thanbyuzayat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Taninthayi</td>
<td>Patheingyi-PyinOoLwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mandalay Division</td>
<td>Pathein-Taungdwingyi-Kalewa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Chin State</td>
<td>Tiddim-Tonzang-Kyiha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tatmadaw members participating in the Monywa-Kalewa Road Project.

The Tatmadaw is discharging its three main duties — national-defence, training and serving community welfare services. The Tatmadaw has been discharging these duties upholding, unyielding spirit and the spirit of preserving Tatmadaw’s fine traditions at risk to their lives. Tatmadaw members take pride in sacrificing their lives, blood and sweat while serving the interest of the nation and the people. Collective and harmonious efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people have resulted in better transport with fine roads in the entire Shan State including Shan State (South) and (East). In their bid to implement road projects, the Tatmadaw and the people have been joining hands in repairing old roads, constructing new ones and upgrading the existing ones.

“The road linking Monywa and Kalewa in Sagaing Division is 115 miles long. We launched the project on 1 June 2000. In the past, local people had to travel over 160 miles to get to Kalewa from Monywa because they had to pass through Mahamyaing jungle. The road was completely impassable in the rainy season. So, local people had to rely on the only waterway along Chindwin River with great difficulty.”

“However, now we have constructed the 115-mile Monywa-Kalewa Road and thus people can use this all weather’s and it saves 45 miles.”

The majority of the nation’s population live in rural regions. That is why the State laid down the five rural development tasks. The State, the people and the Tatmadaw are joining hands to accomplish these...
We firstly cut down the region is secluded one and complete the project”.

“Major Soe Nyunt, I learnt that you Tatmadaw members have constructed many roads for better transport in the regions in Shan State (South). So, may I know the names of the roads you have constructed up to now?”

“Yes, so far we have constructed three roads under the Shan State (South) Kengtawng region roads construction project. They are Kholam-Kengtawng Road, that is 41 miles long, Mongnai-Kengtawng Road, 45 miles long, and Mongnai-Kengtawng Road, 46 miles long. We started to build the first road on 2 March 2001, the second road on 2 March 2001, and the third road on 13 December 2001.”

“Very well! I would like to know how you overcame the difficulties to complete the project”. As you know, this region is secluded one and there are many ravines here. We firstly cut down the wild trees along the axis.

We found it very difficult to do so. But this is a small matter because we have already taken the oath to sacrifice our lives for the people if necessary. We got a helpful hand from the local residents. We took responsibilities for construction of new roads, not for repairing the old ones”. At that time, I noticed something with Maj Soe Nyunt. “Major, I’m afraid, but one of your legs is missing. Did you lose it in the battle?”

“No, I was injured while I was engaged in this project. As I have told you, we have to overcome natural barriers with great difficulties. We have to cut down wild trees, we have to carry out construction work on hillsides and mountainsides and along the edges of ravines. One day, unfortunately, I slipped and fell down to the foot of a ravine and I had a broken leg. But, I take pride in that because I lost one of my legs while serving the interest of the people”.

The Tatmadaw is discharging its three main duties — national-defence, undergoing training and serving community welfare services. The Tatmadaw members have discharged these duties upholding, unyielding spirit and the spirit of preserving Tatmadaw’s fine traditions at risk to their lives. Tatmadaw members take pride in sacrificing their lives, blood and sweat while serving the interest of the nation and the people. Collective and harmonious efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people have resulted in better transport with fine roads in the entire Shan State including Shan State (South) and (East). In their bid to implement road projects, the Tatmadaw and the people have been joining hands in repairing old roads, constructing new ones and upgrading the existing ones.

The roads linking Shan State (East) and (South) are strategic ones. Moreover, the government is implementing Kengtawng Hydropower Project in Kengtawng Region. So, these strategic roads will play more important role in national development in the interest of the people. Furthermore, the people can travel from the plain regions to Kengtawng, east bank of Thanlwin River, in all weathers conveniently, thereby further forging friendship among the national races and trading regional produce and products.

Being born of the people, when there is nothing special for carrying out national-defence duties and training, the Tatmadaw members serve the interest of the people. Wherever they are assigned duties, the Tatmadaw and the people are serving community welfare services. The Tatmadaw members sacrifice self-interests, endure hardships and overcome and surmount all the difficulties and hindrances. It is because the people are their parents. Being good sons of the people, the Tatmadaw members always discharge the duties in the interest of the people. Now, the number of roads constructed for the benefit of the people by the Tatmadaw is growing in the nation. With the emergence of these fine transport facilities, the people have enjoyed fruitful results of economic growth.*****

(Translation: MS)

**Transport facilities constructed across the nation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tarred road (mile)</td>
<td>5543</td>
<td>8398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel road (mile)</td>
<td>1569</td>
<td>3194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge (above 180 feet)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroad (mile)</td>
<td>2793</td>
<td>3906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroad under construction</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroad in the process</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>515</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Because we’ve been dutiful**

* In that era of colonialism
  And in the Fascist period
  Myanmar’s Independence
  Discerning it and working together
  In ways many, citizens all
  With much strength, overthrew the intruders

* From then on, the Tatmadaw
  Secured newly won Independence
  Sacrificing lives and in all districts
  Went to battle there who resisted
  For period of forty years.

* Today, with mutual understanding
  With equated thoughts, stopped fighting
  Thoughts of peace, undeterred
  Belief strengthened forever.

* Journey left to be continued
  Making Tatmadaw the pillar
  All nationals, hands held together
  With firm vow, clean thoughts
  Turn nation’s zeal toward economy
  Turn toward social life, for success.

* Objectives four by three
  For their success, move vibrantly
  For we’re Myanmar citizens
  Let us make sure we’ve been dutiful,
  Let us go all out and stay
  Let our sons be humble.

Lwin Ko Hsay (Trs)
Government has been building new... the past and there are now 168. Likewise, there were 21 airports and at present there are 28 and there were 6 airports which can be used by Fokker F-28 and there are now 20 such airport facilities.

Progress has been made in education, health and social sectors as well as in trading due to better transportation in the region and fulfillment of transport facilities will benefit posteriorly.

The government is building sound economic infrastructures while making efforts for ensuring better transport. Altogether 28 dams and reservoirs including Thaphaneseik Multipurpose Dam, the largest of its kind in the nation, were constructed in Sagaing Division, benefiting some 600,000 acres of farmland.

Meanwhile, river water pumping projects were implemented and altogether 61 river water pumping tapping stations were established together with underground water stations in Sagaing Division, benefiting over 90,000 acres of farmland.

There were some 2.8 million acres of cultivable land in the division in the past and there are now over 3.9 million acres and there were over 1.2 million acres of farmland in the past and there are now 1.8 million acres.

Therefore, paddy production has been on the increase and the division has become the granary of Upper Myanmar. Likewise, cultivation of pulses and beans, oil crops and cotton is making progress in the division. Improvement in the agriculture sector will help the division make progress in other economic sectors.

The economic growth of the division was 10 per cent in 2001-2002 and 15 per cent in 2002-2003. It will be over 10 per cent in 2003-2004. Therefore, the division will be able to contribute 12 per cent in the GNP of the State. The per capita income of the division was some K120,000 in 2002-2003 and it is expected to be some K150,000 in 2003-2004.

This development is due to the goodwill of the State and the efforts of service personnel who contributed their shares in boosting the production. Those who are able to contribute to regional development are service personal and the Tatmadawmen in the region. Regional development will meet with success only if the State, the people and the Tatmadaw can make integrated and well-coordinated efforts. Only when there is harmonious development across the nation will the Union make progress. Hence, officials at different levels are to make concerted efforts with goodwill for national development. Efforts are to be made based on mutual understanding, unity, diligence and abiding by rules and regulations. Only then will the economy in the region make progress and peace and tranquillity prevail in the nation.

Therefore, all are urged to strive together with the government for development of Sagaing Division and perpetuation of sovereignty, realizing right or wrong as well as good or bad.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 thanked the Ministry of Transport and Shwe Than Lwin Co that built the airport opened today and the ministries and Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council for contributing their shares in successful realization of the project.

Next, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe delivered an address, saying that Monywa, being an industrial city of north-east region of Myanmar, is of importance in the economic sector of the region. Monywa Airport was extended in accord with the guidance of the Head of State with the aim of ensuring improvement of living standard of the region as well as local people and better transport and development of industries because it is a region where not only Myanmar people but also tourists often visit.

In the past, there was only the Yangon International Airport to connect foreign countries by air. Nowadays, Mandalay International Airport of international level has opened and upgrading and extension tasks are being carried out at Yangon International Airport. Similarly, Magway Airport was opened on 6 June 2003; Homalin Airport on 1 August 2003; and Pathein Airport on 14 March 2004. And, Monywa Airport was inaugurated today. In addition, other airports are being upgraded for the purpose of serving Boeing 737-400 flights.

Owing to giving the contract on construction of Monywa Airport by the Ministry of Transport, Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd started its construction tasks on 10 May 2002 and built the tarred runway which is 8500 feet long, 100 feet wide and 24 inches thick. The runway of the airport can withstand the load of local flights and Boeing 737-400 Jet flights weighing 150,000 lb. In addition, one 180 feet long and 60 feet wide one-storey Passenger Lounge was constructed for the convenience of 250 passengers at a time on arrival and for departure. And, the 16 feet in length, 16 feet in width and 50 feet in height control tower was built there. In conclusion, the minister called on those present to strive for durability of the airport built by the Government spending a large sum of money with a view to ensuring smooth transport and building a modern and developed nation according to the economic policy of the Government.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave a speech on the occasion. Afterwards, Dr Win Myint Aung of Monywa, on behalf of the local people, thanked for the opening of the airport. Next, the Secretary-1 presented gifts to Superintendent Engineer U Tin Win, on behalf of workers of Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd.

The Secretary-1 and party took the designated places. At the auspicious time, the commander and the minister together with Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd Chairman U Kyaw Win formally opened Monywa Airport.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 formally unveiled the stone inscription of the Airport. Next, the Secretary-1 and party sprinkled scented water on it. The Secretary-1 and party posed for documentary photos in front of the archway of the airport. Later, the Secretary-1 and party cordially conversed with those present.

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Mandalay, PyinOoLwin

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivers an address at the closing ceremony. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspects departmental tasks in Mandalay, PyinOoLwin

Yangon, 21 March—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivered an address at the concluding ceremony of Basic Medical Platoon Course No 1/2004 at Anawratha Hall of Central Fire Services Training School on 19 March. Next, the Director-General presented gifts to instructors. In the afternoon, the minister, together with the Director-General of Social Welfare Department and officials, went to Child Nursery and Women’s Vocational Training School in Mandalay and inspected functions there.

On 20 March, the minister inspected welfare shop, poultry farm and pig breeding farm at Central Fire Services Training School. He also inspected repaving of roads in the school. Next, the minister looked into water supply system and construction of 20,000-gallon capacity water tank. Afterwards, the minister inspected perennial crop plantations and wheat plantation of PyinOoLwin Township Immigration and National Registration Department. This morning, the minister inspected functions of INRD of Mandalay International Airport.—MNA

Tractors handed over to Ministry of Forestry in Muse

Yangon, 21 March—A ceremony to hand over tractors and trucks donated by China International Forestry Group (CIFG) was held at the compound of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading in Muse yesterday morning, attended by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung. Also present were Managing Director U Win Tun of Myanmar Timber Enterprise, Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing of Forest Department, local authorities, Chinese Deputy Minister of Forestry Mr Lei Jiufu, managing Director Mr Qu Guilin, CIFG President Mr Zhanghangde and Shwe Li Mayor Mr Si Litzhand and officials.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Chinese Deputy Minister Mr Lei Jiufu gave speeches. Next, MTE Managing Director U Win Tun and CIFG President Mr Zhanghangde signed and exchanged documents related to the donations. Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Chinese Deputy Minister Mr Lei Jiufu and officials inspected the heavy machinery.

Today’s donations were 2 tractors and 18 trucks.

F & R Deputy Minister attends ASEEAN+3 Senior Policy Seminar in Manila

Yangon, 21 March—Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swa attended the ASEAAN+3 Senior Policy Seminar on Monetary and Financial Integration in East Asia held in Manila, the Philippines, on 18 and 19 March.

At the meeting on 18 and 19 mornings, monetary and financial integration in East Asia, cooperation in exchange rate of foreign currency, collective saving of reserve foreign currency, exchange of information, close supervision systems and matters relating to regional organizations were discussed. The participants exchanged their views and discussed future tasks. On 19 March afternoon, the meeting on Asia Bond Market Initiative-ABMI followed. All working groups presented their accomplishments and reviewed the Terms of Reference (TOR) to form the Focal Group.

They agreed to submit the TOR to the Meeting of ASEAAN+3 Deputy Heads of Finance & Central Banks to be held in Singapore. Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swa together with Director of Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Ohnma Sein arrived back here by air yesterday evening.—MNA

Ancient Pyu coins donated to National Museum

Yangon, 21 March—Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, accompanied by officials, arrived at Sittway in Rakhine State on 19 March morning. At Buddha Htaw Maw Monastery in Pyaythuwa Ward, the minister accepted five ancient Pyu coins from Sayawd U Nanturta and presented a certificate of honour to the latter. The minister next offered provisions to the Sayawd. It is found that the coins depict the picture of Siriwit on one side and the picture of conch on the other. These ancient artefacts will be displayed at the National Museum.—MNA

Archaeological works in Rakhine State inspected

Yangon, 21 March—Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung inspected renovation of Shwe Kyetpha Pagoda built by King Khattathin during the period of Laymyo from 1186 to 1430 AD, near the Langoekyau Taungmaw Ston Fastion on Langoekyau Hill in Mrauk:\U on 19 March. Next, the minister saw over maintenance and renovation of Koetherung Stupa built by King Teikga in 1553 AD and Archaeological Museum in Mrauk. Yesterday morning, the minister paid homage to Maha Mun Buddha Image in Kyaukthaw Township.

The minister inspected ancient Danyawady Palace excavation site south of Maha Mun Image. Director U Kyaw Oo Lwin of Archaeology Department Branch (Mrauk\U) reported on excavation of the palace gate and court building sites. The minister next looked into excavation of the gate of the city wall at ancient Vesali City. Next, the minister saw over construction of the platform and erection of the walls of Anak Mya Tazaung Pagoda in Mrauk\U. After paying obeisance to Shitthaung Stupa, the minister inspected maintenance of Ananda Candra stone inscription. In the evening, the minister paid homage to Lawkananda Pagoda in Sittway.—MNA

The front and reverse sides of the five ancient Pyu coins. — CULTURE

Film actors beat cricket veterans

Yangon, 21 March—The cricket match between Myanmar Actors’ team and Cricket veterans team organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation Organizing Committee and Myanmar Motion Picture Association, was held at the sports ground-4 in Thuwunna this morning.

Present were Patrons of the organizing committee U San Tin Aung (Shwebo) and Aung Naing, Committee Chairman Academy U Nyunt Win, officials and spectators.

Myanmar Actors’ Cricket team beat Cricket veterans team. Ko Nyi Gyaw of Myanmar Actors’ team won the man of the match. After the match, Academy U Nyunt Win presented prizes to the two teams.

MNA
China willing to expand trade with Ireland

Briznas, 21 March—China is willing to further trade ties with Ireland and welcomes Irish enterprises to participate in Chinese economic progress, said Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai.

Bo told visiting Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mary Harney that Sino-Irish trade developed very quickly, recording a 2.34 billion US-dollar trade volume last year, up 60.5 per cent year-on-year, one of the highest growths in China’s European Union trade partners.

Sino-Irish trade has huge potential, Bo said. Ireland is cutting-edge in many aspects such as education and software and China will enhance cooperation in those sectors.

China witnessed huge success in economic development and Ireland is very interested in expanding trade with China, said the Irish official.

The Irish Government encourages enterprises to invest in China and do business with their Chinese partners.

China’s accession to the World Trade Organization also benefited the Irish business circle, Harney said.

Bo urged the European Union to grant China the full market economy status to facilitate Sino-EU trade and Harney said that as it holds the EU presidency in the first half of this year, Ireland will actively promote solving the issue at an early date.

TRADE MARK CONTENT

BASF Aktiengesellschaft

A company incorporated in Germany of Carl-Bosch-Str 38, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany, is the Owner of the Following Trademark.

TRADE MARK

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mordants; Cl.5-Agricultural

products; medicines, chemi-

cal products for sanitation

purposes, pharmaceutical

drugs, fungicides, insecti-

cides, weed killing agents

disinfecting agents’.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trademark will be dealt with according to law.

MNA/Xinhua

Way to grow new body parts in animals discovered

Canberra, 21 March—Australian scientists have found a way to grow new body parts in animals, giving hope to creating arteries and ureters for treating human patients.

The scientists at Monash University in Melbourne and the University of Queensland have found healthy cells grow around objects, including plastic tubes and small balls, inserted into the peritoneal cavity, close to the bowels, the Australian Associated Press reported Thursday.

The head of anatomy and cell biology at Monash, John Bertram, was quoted as saying that any object which emulates the shape of the desired organ could be inserted into the peritoneal cavity and stem cells would grow around it.

“So what happens is that the cells come in and form a

biological coating on these foreign objects and the size and the shape and the dimensions of these new biologi-

cal structures are one the inves-


tigator can control,” Bertram said.

The scientists have succeeded in creating new arteries, ureters and bladder patches in experiments on mice, rats and rabbits.

The new part is then inserted into the appropriate location, where the body will accept it.

Within about 10 years the scientists hope to grow parts of the urinary tract which can be grafted onto damaged kidneys, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK

Malaysian PM stresses importance of C’wealth intra-trade

Kuala Lumpur, 21 March—The promotion of Commonwealth intra-trade would not only draw economic benefits but also forge stronger ties among peoples of the member states, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Friday evening.

The inaugural Commonwealth Tourism Ministers’ Meeting (CTMM) was an important milestone in promoting the intra-trade, Abdullah said in his keynote address at the opening of CTMM here.

The text of his speech was read out by Malaysian Information Minister Khalid Yaacob.

“There are 53 Commonwealth member countries with about 1.7 billion people, many of diverse cultures and back-

grounds, one can imagine the immense economic and cul-

tural potential that can poten-

tially be gained through the promotion of intra-Common-

wealth tourism,” he said.

China jails human trafficker for life

Shanghai, 21 March—A court in Shanghai sentenced a human trafficker to life in prison on Thursday for smuggling 51 peo-

ple out of the country between 2000 and 2002, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Dong Feng earned 1.8 million yuan (217,500 US dollars) as head of the smugglers, Xinhua reported. His Minions and brother were handed shorter sentences and fined two million yuan each, it added.

Xinhua said the three had appealed an earlier sentence, but the court rejected them.

Shanghai court officials were not available for comment.

Dong focused primarily on Japan, the Shanghai Daily has reported.

Of the 51 people smuggled out of the country, usually through fake papers, 28 were Chinese and 11 were sent back home.

The others returned on their own accord or failed to make it out of the country, Xinhua said.

The sinister role of the snakehead, or people smuggler, resurfaced last month when 19 people, mostly Chinese migrants, were swept away by a rising tide while collecting shellfish on a northwest England beach.

World historic, cultural cities expo to be held in Nanjing

Brussels, 21 March—Nanjing, a histori-

cal city in east China’s Jiangsu Province, will host an exposition on the world’s his-
toric cities from April to June, 2004, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and Chi-

na’s National Commission for the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Or-

ganization (UNESCO), with support from the municipal government of Nanjing and some departments of Jiangsu.

The exposition will cover six major projects, namely dialogues among world historic cities, a cultural semi-

nars, cultural events, a historic city show and opening ceremony and carnival, with a total of 53 exhibitions.

So far, 11 foreign cities including Barce-

lona, Florence, Kyoto, Paris and Vienna have been invited to take part in the exposition, together with seven Chinese ancient capital cities such as Beijing, Hangzhou and Xi’an, as well as Lijiang and Pingyao which are listed as the world’s cultural heritage.

MNA/Xinhua

China reported explosive growth in sales of MP3 music players

Beijing, 21 March—Over 1.77 million units of MP3 players were sold in China last year, a leap from 528,000 units in 2002, and the sales also shot up 130 per cent to 1.55 billion yuan (187 million US dollars).

Liu Junguo, a senior an-

alyst with CCID Consulting, a domestic research firm re-

ported the figures, attributed the explosive growth to the increasing number of personal computers and mass music resources on the Internet.

Xiao Gao, a graduate student in Beijing and aoverflow player himself, has viewed her MP3 player

on the Internet.

“I need to rush here and there to attend various kinds

of job fairs and I meet a lot of frustrations during job hunt-

ing, but listening to music downloaded from the

Internet helps me disperse all these grievances and disap-

pointments,” she said.

The robust demand from customers attracted more and more new music players to the market.

There are more than 100 companies and 300 brands producing the players, Fri-

day’s China Daily reported.

Domestic players, with their aggressive price war and marketing strategies, domi-

nated the market with more than 70 per cent of the mar-

ket share.

Three home brands Aigo, Lenovo and MEC captured the market last year, which were closely followed by Samsung Electronics and AppleDevices from South Korea.

Liu predicted the ship-

ment of stereo music-

playing devices would con-

tinue to grow at the same

pace in the next two years.

“China’s digital music rocketing growth seen in 2003 may be curbed by a shortage of flash memory cards, which is the main stor-

age format for MP3 players, and the ensuing price hikes,” said.

MNA/Xinhua

China willing to expand trade with Ireland

Bo told visiting Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mary Harney that Sino-Irish trade developed very quickly, recording a 2.34 billion US-dollar trade volume last year.

China’s accession to the World Trade Organization also benefited the Irish business circle, Harney said.

Bo urged the European Union to grant China the full market economy status to facilitate Sino-EU trade and Harney said that as it holds the EU presidency in the first half of this year, Ireland will actively promote solving the issue at an early date.

MNA/Xinhua

China jails human trafficker for life

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MNA/Xinhua
**Bali to close airport during Hindu’s silence day**

**Jakarta, 21 March**—The Ngurah Rai International Airport in Indonesia’s resort island of Bali will close for 25 hours during the Hindu’s New Year observance of Nyepi.

The airport is located in the Bali capital of Denpasar. He added Bali seaports also will be shut down during the celebration.

**Seven die as coal collapse in eastern coal mine**

**Jinan, 21 March**—Seven miners were confirmed dead and four injured when a coal collapse occurred in a mine in the eastern Shandong Province, a local official told Xinhua.

The accident occurred at 1.30 a.m. at Dongda Coal Mine in Tengzhou City, said an official in charge of the mine construction.

The 11 miners were employed in the construction of a new coal mining company under a state-owned coal mining group, the official said without giving his name.

The official said the accident was under investigation, according to the official.

**Chinese doctor begins 49-day fast for world record**

**Chengdu, 21 March**—A 50-year-old Chinese herbalist doctor began Saturday his planned 49-day fast in Ya’an City of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, hoping to beat the 44-day record set last year by Japanese David Blaine. Under the supervision of a notary public and social supervisors, Chen Jianmin went into a glass room in Bilingxia Valley, a mountain resort in Ya’an City.

Chen has to live alone in the 15-square-metre room built halfway up the mountain in the coming 49 days during which he can not leave the room or have food, and can only drink water.

**Who says legal drugs pose greatest health threat**

**Manila, Brazil, 21 March**—The health threat from legal drugs like alcohol and tobacco is much greater than that from illegal narcotics, the World Health Organization said here.

The first report of its kind by the global body found that dependence on alcohol and cigarettes has a much greater cost for societies than illegal drugs like cocaine and crack.

The Neuroscience of Psychoactive Substance Use and Dependence report said that drug addiction is a growing problem, especially in poor countries which have rising rates of alcohol consumption and smoking.

There are about 200 million illegal drugs users worldwide, or 3.4 per cent of the world population, it said. Illegal drugs contributed 0.8 per cent to global all health in 2000, while alcohol accounted for 4.1 per cent and alcohol 4 per cent.

The percentages are based on a measurement used by WHO which gauges the vulnerability to suffer from alcohol- and cigarette-related bad health.

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**Arroyo signs Quarantine Act**

**Manila, 21 March**—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Friday strengthened the regulatory capability of the Department of Health and the Bureau of Quarantine Services on public health threats.

The new law, known as the “Public Health Threat and Quarantine Act,” upgrades the penalties and powers on quarantine regulations as the present quarantine laws were virtually toothless in contain- ing contagious diseases.

Arroyo was quoted as saying by a statement from the Presi- dent’s office.

Arroyo, who signed the act in Victoria City in the central province of Negros Occidental where she is on a campaign sortie to seek sup- port for her in the May 10 presidential election, cited the ineffectiveness of the law, and the institutionalization of the preventive measures in the fight against contagious dis- eases. The new law empow- ers the President to declare the existence of a contagion or ordinance considered adverse to public health.

In the case, the health sec- retary, through the Bureau of Quarantine Services, could prevent the entry of persons, properties and vessels from an infected country, or im- plement quarantine and other measures until such time the President declares the conta- gion or disease as no longer posing a threat to public health.

The new law penalizes any person who violates any regulation, guideline, and condition of quarantine, or knowingly conceals or falsely provides material in- formation on matters requir- ing full disclosure a fine of no less than 10,000 pesos (177.62 US dollars) or more than 100,000 pesos (1,776 US dollars) or its equivalent in subsidiary imprisonment.

It also provides that any vessel or aircraft violating quarantine procedures by fail- ing to, or falsely submitting, requisite documents and clearances would be fined 100,000 pesos (1,776 US dollars) but not more than 1 million pesos (17,762 US dollars) without prejudice to the confiscation and/or de- struction of the apprehended vessel or aircraft.

**Mars “blueberries” give strong support to water theory**

**Los Angeles, 21 March**—The tiny, round “blueber- ries” found on Mars by Opportunity rover strongly sup- port the theory that water once existed on the Red Planet, a NASA scientist has said.

Philip Christensen, a sci- entist from NASA’s Jet Pro- pulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, an- nounced the finding at the 35th annual Lunar and Plan- etary Science Conference being held this week in Hou- ton, Texas.

At Meridiani Pla- num, a local official told Xinhua.

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Petkovic strike earns Spartak
2-2 draw with Saturn

Moscow, 21 March—Serbian defender Dusan Petkovic scored a late equalizer to earn Spartak Moscow a 2-2 draw at Saturn Ramenskoye in a Russian Premier League match on Friday.

Petkovic blasted a 20-metre free kick into the top corner three minutes from time for the nine-times Russian champions. His strike made amends for his own goal 19 minutes earlier when under pressure from Saturn’s Argentine striker Nikolas Pavlovic. Spartak have now drawn their first two league games of the season. Spartak full back Dmitry Parfyonov opened the scoring with a 21st-minute penalty, his second spot kick in two games.

Alexei Medvedev brought the home side five minutes into the second half before Saturn edged ahead in the 68th minute, setting the stage for a dramatic finale.

Tordpo Moscow, who crashed Rostov 4-0 last week to top the standings after the opening round, travel to Vladimirkazov on Saturday to take on Alania, while champions CSKA Moscow, held to a 0-0 draw in their opener by last year’s strugglers Torpedo-Metallurg, face city neighbours Dynamo. — MNA/Reuters

Arsenal all set to equal best season-start record

LONDON, 21 March—Arsene Wenger hopes his Arsenal side can equal the long-standing English record of going 29 league games unbeaten at the start of a season when they face Bolton on Saturday.

Arsenal lie nine points ahead of Chelsea at the top of the Premier League and are favourites to win the title once again.

No team has managed to achieve such a remarkable unbeaten start record in the English league since Liverpool in 1987-88 and Leeds in 1973-74. Wenger, speaking to reporters at the club’s training ground in north London, said: “We are hungry to win every game and want to keep going.

“We know the consequence of achieving another good result and have already broken one record this season scoring in every game.

“We can do as well as we can and are now in the final sprint with the final 10 games. If we are still unbeaten with four games to go, maybe we can go the whole season without getting beaten.

“We want to see how far we can go and it has put us in good stead so far not thinking too far ahead.

“It is still mathematically possible to lose the league so the players are still on their toes.”

Wenger is determined to gain revenge over Bolton after Sam Allardyce’s side effectively prevented them from winning the title last season.

“Arseal threw away a two-goal lead at the Reebok Stadium as Martin Keown’s late own goal helped Bolton secure a 2-2 draw.

MNA/Reuters

Federer to face Henman in Pacific Life Open final

INDIAN WELLS (California), 21 March—Top-ranked Roger Federer survived a ravenous crowd to beat a pumped up Andre Agassi 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday and will meet seventh-seeded Tim Henman in the Pacific Life Open final.

Agassi, who is one of the most critical times,” Henman commented of the match.

Agassi’s penalty stroke earned him a 1-0 lead in the first set as Agassi served for his own break point.

Federer coolly served out the 1-0 lead, and Henman will now meet Federer in the Pacific Life Open final.

But in the second set Federer began to control the court with his devastating forehand and dug his way into Agassi’s service games.

Federer broke Agassi to 1-4 by forcing a forehand error and won the set when the American made a mistake on his backhand.

Both men raised their level considerably in the third set where Agassi fought off three break points in the opening game.

The American also fought off another break point in the fifth game and pressed the Swiss with Federer serving at 3-4.

Agassi held two break points but Federer ripped a forehand crosscourt winner and pasted a forehand down the line.

In attempting to win his second title here, Agassi came out firing, returning beautifully and exposing the twice Grand Slam champion on one-handed backhand.

Eight-times Grand Slam champion Agassi broke Federer to 3-2 when the Swiss faltered and won the first set when he ripped a backhand crosscourt winner.

Federer said he would try to come back down on the opponent.

“Federer has to beat me playing his game. He has to change something in his game. That’s something we’ll see tomorrow,” Henman said.

Federer is brimming with confidence.

“I’m not going to start changing too much about my game,” Federer said. “If I want to win the tournament, I’ve got to beat him playing my game.

He has to change something in his game. That’s something we’ll see tomorrow.”

Woods seeks consistency as record-breaking bid falters

ORLANDO (Florida), 21 March—Tiger Woods’ bid to win a fifth straight title in the Bay Hill Invitational came unstuck on Saturday when he shot a two-over-par 74 to fall 15 strokes behind third-round leader Stuart Appleby.

The world’s top-ranked player completed 56 holes on under-par 215 and is tied for 46th place.

After opening with a five-under-par 67, Woods has been on a downward spiral in the subsequent 36 holes, recording his first consecutive over-par rounds since last year’s PGA Championship at Oak Hill.

“I tried my best,” Woods said. “It’s not going to happen, but hopefully I can get it going and play well next week and get it going again.”

“I can win that one, I think that will be a little bit bigger than this one.”

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“Federer has to beat me playing his game. He has to change something in his game. That’s something we’ll see tomorrow.”

Woods said. “I’m hitting my irons terrible but I’m driving it well now.”

“Ninety per cent of my shots were really good. The things I’m working on are starting to come together. It’s just the other 10 per cent that are off the charts.”

MNA/Reuters

Bayern held by Hertha in further blow to title hopes

BAYREUTH, 21 March—Bayern Munich’s slim hopes of retaining the Bundesliga title suffered another blow when they were held to a 1-1 draw by strugglers Hertha Berlin on Saturday.

Leaders Werder Bremen, now eight points ahead of Bayern in second place, can stretch their lead over the champions to 11 points with nine games remaining if they win at VfL Wolfsburg on Sunday.

In Berlin, Dutch striker Roy Makaay opened the scoring for Bayern with a superb effort from 20 metres on eight minutes, but the capital club levelled two minutes from the break with a penalty by Brazilian midfielder Marcelinho.

Hertha, who had started the season dreaming of qualifying for the Champions League, stayed second from bottom in the 18-strong table.

MNA/Reuters

Answer for yesterday’s Cross Puzzle

M N A/Reuters

Chelsea’s Geremi (L) vies for the ball with Fulham’s Mark Penderkine during Premiership football match Chelsea v Fulham at Stamford Bridge in London on 20 March, 2004.—[INTERNET]
Monday, March 22

8:45 am
1. Musical programme (Drum)

10:45 am
1. Songs to uphold national spirit

4:30 pm
1. Practice in reading

4:45 pm
1. Traditional Chin Lii Quinn (Khaung Yay)

5:00 pm
1. Sandaw chain

5:30 pm
1. Dance Variety

5:40 pm
1. Dance and song for national races

6:05 pm
11. Musical programme

6:15 pm
1. Discovery

6:30 pm
13. Evening news

7:00 pm
14. Weather report

7:45 pm
15. Industrial achievement

7:15 pm
1. Children's songs

8:00 pm
1. Country news

8:10 am
1. Local news

8:20 am
1. Light Little Dancers

8:30 am
1. National news

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Monday, Sunday, 21 March, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms has been isolated in Kain and Mon States, upper Sagain and Tanyithaung and divisions and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (6˚C) above normal in Ayeyawady Division, (3˚C) to (4˚C) above normal in Kayin and Rakhine States, Magway, Sagaing and Tanyithaung divisions, (3°C) below normal in Shan State and about normal in the remaining areas. Significant day temperatures were (4°C) each in Mubbi and Aungban.

Maximum temperature on 20-3-2004 was 39.0°C (102°F). Minimum temperature on 21-3-2004 was 18.5°C (65°F). Relative humidity at 09.30 hrs MST on 21st March, 2004 was 75%. Total rain on hours on 20-3-2004 was 0.25 mm in Yangon. A total of 21-3-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. A total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 0.12 inch at Yangon Airport and nil at Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. The highest temperature for the month of March was 42.0°C (108°F) recorded at 20-3-2004 in Meiktila.

RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

Note: List of recognized organizations will be published in papers and periodicals in the Federal Union of Myanmar. The following organizations are issued licenses to use the name of recognized organizations.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 22 March, 2004 15

No 22-3-2004 (Monday)

Primates of Pondaung

Sights "Myanma Pano-

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Government building new airports, upgrading old ones to facilitate air transport

Monywa Airport in Sagaing Division opened

YANGON, 21 March—In honour of the 59th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day, a ceremony to open Monywa Airport which had already been built in Monywa, Sagaing Division was held at the pandal of the airport this morning, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, mental officials, the chairman of Monywa District and Township Peace and Development Councils and members, District and Township level departmental officials, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, teachers and students, the Chairman of Shwe Thawlin Highway Co Ltd and officials, local people and others.

Before the opening ceremony, Fokker F-28 aircraft of Myanmar Airways carrying passengers touched down at Monywa Airport at 7:50 am. Next, the ceremony to open Monywa Airport followed at 8 am.

In his address, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win said that Monywa Airport was 5,000 feet long and 100 feet wide and it was of eurthen type mixed with gravel in the past, adding that it was upgraded into 6,000 feet long and 100 feet wide facility with tared runway by Shwe Thawlin Highway Co as the first phase and it was opened on 16 November 2003. Since then, it is being used by passengers planes including Fokker F-28.

The runway was upgraded into the 8,500 feet long tared one complete with magnificent buildings and it was thus opened today in honour of the 59th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day.

The government has been building new airports and upgrading the old ones to facilitate the air transport not only in international route but also in domestic route. In the process, a new airfield was constructed in Homalin while Kalay airport was upgraded. At the same time, extension railroad has facilitated better transport in the region. With the emergence of Shwebo, Myitkyina motorway, Sagaing Division and Kachin State can be accessible both by train and car.

The emergence of transport facilities contribute to regional development and improvement of the living standard of local people as well as development of economic, education, health and social sectors of the region. Thus, the government has been building roads and bridges across the nation to enable the national races to keep in touch with one another. Now, one can travel from easternmost to westernmost or from northmost to southernmost part of the Union.

There were over 13,600 miles of motorway in 1988 and there are now 18,100 miles of motorway while there were 16 bridges with a length of over 180 feet in 1968 (See page 10)

Commander inspects development tasks of townships in Yangon South District

YANGON, 21 March—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by divisional departmental officials, this afternoon, inspected regional development tasks and agricultural and livestock breeding tasks in Dala, Twantay Township. Super-intending Engineer U Nyunt Maung San reported on arrangements for upgrading of the bridge into the 250 feet long and 24 feet wide reinforced concrete one, repair of bridges on the road and maintenance of the road.

The commander and party went to Lekkhokkon Village in Kungyangon Township. At Lekkhokkon Beach Hotel, the commander met with departmental officials and local people and heard reports on salient points of the township.

Similarly, national entrepreneurs also reported on carrying out the livestock breeding tasks and requirements. Afterwards, the commander saw over preparations of prawn ponds at Taw Myint Aye prawn breeding farm in Werkaik Village, Kungyangon Township. On arrival at Top Win sea prawn breeding farm, they inspected breeding of sea prawn at the ponds. The commander gave instructions on extension of live-stock breeding tasks for economic development of the region.

At Lekkhokkon Station Hospital, the commander looked into the patient ward, the operation theatre and the medical store. Head of the Township Health Department Dr Tin Tun reported on health care service being provided in the township. Next, the commander presented K 100,000 donated by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council to Station Hospital Surgeon Dr Daw Mya Mya Hlaing.