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

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

Innovative measures are to be taken with added momentum for production of electrical apparatuses
Senior General Than Shwe inspects Kunchaung Hydropower Project, Ye Nwe Multi-purpose Dam Project in Bago Division

YANGON, 15 March—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe held a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families of local regiments and units of Toungoo Station at Southern Command Headquarters in Toungoo yesterday morning.

Also present on the occasion were SPDC Members General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Bago Division PDC Chairman Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, ministers, senior military officers, and departmental heads.

General Thura Shwe Mann delivered a speech. The Senior General gave guidance to the officials and cordially greeted those present.

The Senior General, accompanied by SPDC members, senior military officers, ministers and departmental heads, helicoptered to Kunchaung Hydropower Project on Kun Creek, nine miles southwest of Pyu, Pyu Township, later that morning, where they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials.

The Hydro-Electric Power Department will complete the Kunchaung Hydropower Project, and the Irrigation Department, construction of diversion weir and irrigation system. According to the project, a 1,260-foot-long and 240-foot-high rock-filled dam with earth core will be constructed. On completion, the facility will generate 60 megawatts and benefit 110,000 acres of farmland.

The national races living in the Union will have to constantly strive for the improvement of their lives and always think of the ways to further develop their respective regions.
**PERSPECTIVES**

Wednesday, 16 March, 2005

Make full use of natural resources for regional development

The Government and all the national races of the Union of Myanmar are working hard in concert to make a complete success of the seven-point policy programme in order that a discipline-flourishing democracy can emerge.

People in various states and divisions of the Union have been able to live and work for their living in peace and security. As a result, the whole nation is enjoying steady economic growth and there is a great deal of improvement in the education, health and social sectors.

Not only that, there will be further improvement in the all-round situation of the nation if the people realize the government’s leadership and fulfillment of requirements in making effective use of the nation’s terrestrial and aquatic resources and actively cooperate with it. In his meeting with chairmen and members of division, district and township peace and development councils, departmental personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and other social organizations and townswelders, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said that a sizeable population, educated human resources and terrestrial and aquatic resources were the sine qua non for the development of a region or a nation and that development would be a certainty if these three factors were combined with hard work.

People living in the Union will have to constantly strive for the improvement of their lives and always think of the ways to further develop their respective regions. Whatever obstacles they encounter, they will be able to overcome them and surely meet with success if they are united and work hard on a self-reliance basis. Bago Division has a sizeable population and is rich in natural and human resources. Moreover, it has colleges and universities to turn out educated human resources. Therefore, if the local people work hard in concert, their region will further develop. What is more important is to make full use of all the resources available in the region and to cultivate crops not only in the plains but also in the hills. We would like to call on the national people living in various regions of the Union, including those in Bago Division, to work for further development of their respective regions by making full use of natural resources.

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**New houses for rural people in Patheingyi Township**

**Yangon, 15 March**

Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, accompanied by officials, on 11 March, inspected water supply tasks in TadaU in Mandalay Division. The deputy minister and party inspected the construction of brick tanks laying of water pipes, sinking of tubing well and installation of power lines.

Col Tin Ngwe also inspected rural housing project in Letkaung village in Patheingyi Township. He met local people and explained the five rural development tasks implemented for raising the living standard of rural people.

Under the rural housing project in Patheingyi Township, altogether 14 rural houses are under construction in the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

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**Course of Training Service Providers on Trafficking in Persons concludes**

**Yangon, 15 March** — Organized by Myanmar National Women’s Affairs Federation and UN-IAP, a ceremony to conclude Course of Training of Service Providers on Trafficking in Persons was held at Ottama Hall, Sittway Township on 11 March.

Present on the occasion were the Rakshine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western Command Col Tin Ngwe, Development Council Commander’s wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Patron of Rakshine State Organization for Women’s Affairs, members of state/district/township CWAs, local authorities, departmental heads, trainees of nursing, members of social organizations and trainees.

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**New roads put into service in Bago Division**

**Yangon, 15 March**

As a gesture of honoring the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, ceremonies to open new roads were held on 13 March in townships of Bago Division.

Director-General of Development Affairs Department U Myo Myint attended the ceremonies.

The roads opened on that day were Bawdigwin-Pyantalin earthen road in Kyauktaga Township and Aungchantha tar road in DaskU.

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**Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun being seen off by officials. — MNA**

**Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun being seen off by officials. — 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

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**Myanmar delegation leaves for India**

**Yangon, 15 March**

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun this morning left here by air for India to attend meeting on information and communication technology of public relations departments and the finance sector to be held in New Delhi from 16 to 18 March.

The minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Hwei, of the Union, Secretary Daw Htoo Yaw, members of social organizations and trainees of nursing, members of state/district/township CWAs, local authorities, departmental heads, trainees of nursing, members of social organizations and trainees.

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**SECRETARY**

**ANGON**

ANGON Wednesday, 16 March, 2005

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**New roads put into service in Bago Division**

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With the length of 13720 feet and width of 16 feet, Bawdigwin-Pyantalin road was built at a cost of 1.5 million kyats provided by DAD. Aungchantha road was also built at a cost of 1.5 million kyat. It is a 400 feet long and 12 feet wide tarred one.

In the 2004-2005 fiscal year, 44 miles and 7 furongs long rural roads and 16 miles and 4 furongs long urban roads plus 27 bridges have been built in Bago Division, it is learnt. — MNA

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**60th 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.

**Int’l symposium held on Asian migration, development**

LANZHOU, 15 March — More than 90 experts from six countries and seven international organizations gathered Monday in Lanzhou, capital city of northwest China’s Gansu Province, to discuss Asian migration and development.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the symposium, Chen Weixiong, an official from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that migration is beneficial for the economy, but it can also promote illegal immigration, smuggling and drug dealing.

Urging to create an effective system with different nations and international organizations, Chen said that it is necessary for all the relevant countries to work in concerted efforts to prevent the transnational crimes while keep the benefits of migration.

According to statistics from IOM, there are more than 175 million people flowing in and out the boundaries of different countries, accounting for 3 per cent of world population.

Describing the international migration situation as “worrisome”, Gervais Appave, an official from IOM, urged to incorporate the migration problems into national and regional overall plans of relevant countries so as to put the negative effects to the lowest level.

Chen said that China, as a developing country, has always prioritized global migration problems and actively participated in “establishing a multi-lateral solution mechanism”.

“China highly appreciates the efforts paid by IOM for solving migration problems and wish it can contribute more through its advantages in resources and technology,” said Chen.

The symposium entitled as “Regional Symposia on Asian Migration and Development” is sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IOM and Department for International Development of Britain.

**Iraq troops have cost US, admits Howard**

SYDNEY, 14 March—A new opinion poll showing Labour has overtaken the coalition government reflects a lack of support for the doubling of troop numbers in Iraq, Prime Minister John Howard admitted today.

The ACSI Nielsen poll published in *Fairfax* newspapers shows Labour leading the government on a two-party preferred basis by 52 per cent to 48 per cent.

It is the first time the Coalition has fallen behind the Federal Opposition in seven months and comes just three weeks after the government announced it would send an extra 450 troops to Iraq’s Al Muthanna Province.

Mr Howard said he never promised not to send more troops to Iraq, but he realised the decision was not popular with Australians.

“I acknowledged at the time that our decision would not be popular and the polls would indicate that it’s not got popular support,” he told Brisbane radio 4BC.

“But occasionally governments are required to take decisions that involve unpopularity,” he said.

“I never promised there’d be no more troops.

“The time has come for us to face up to these decisions and work towards bringing about a political solution for Iraq’s future,” he said.

He said he had been advised by intelligence agencies that any military action would be limited to the Basra region.

**Sri Lankan foreign investment record high in 2004**

COLOMBO, 15 March— Sri Lanka’s foreign direct investment has reached a record high in the Year 2004, state radio quoted a top investment official as saying here Sunday.

Radio News Network (RNN) quoted the Chairman of the Board of Investment Salya Wickremasuriya as saying that the foreign direct investment had reached 23 billion Sri Lankan rupees during 2004, which he described as “a brilliant success”. The peace prevailing in the country with the ongoing truce agreement with the Tamil Tiger rebels is being seen as the major factor for increased foreign investment in the island nation plagued by over two decade old ethnic conflict.

The Swiss Cement manufacturer Holcim’s 50 million dollars investment is the single largest investment.

Telecom Malaysia’s 40 million dollars investment and the HSBC bank’s decision to locate its outsourcing operations in the capital Colombo are the next bigger investments.— MNA/Xinhua

**Quakes jolt India's Andaman Islands**

NEW DELHI, 15 March—India’s Andaman Islands were Sunday rocked by aftershocks of the massive 26 December undersea earthquake that triggered a tsunami in South and Southeast Asia, *India-Asian News Service* reported.

The first aftershock was felt at 4.14 am Indian Time with the epicentre off the coast of Little Andaman Island and measuring up to 5.3 on the Richter Scale, an official of the India Meteorological Department said.

The second aftershock was felt at 7.49 am and measured 5.3 on the Richter Scale, with its epicentre off the coast of South Andaman Island.

An earthquake off the coast of Sumatra in Indonesia on 26 December had triggered the massive tsunami that killed over 280,000 people in South and Southeast Asia, including some 10,200 in India.— MNA/Xinhua

**Poles held in Iraq bribe inquiry**

LONDON, 14 March—Five officers are under investigation for allegedly taking bribes.

Polish authorities have arrested five officers suspected of taking bribes while serving in Iraq.

They were allegedly receiving money from companies hoping to be granted reconstruction contracts.

The Polish Defence Ministry said two of them had been caught red-handed as they returned from Iraq in early February with $90,000 (£46,706).— Internet

**Iraqi soldier**

An Iraqi soldier secures the scene following a car bombing in the centre of Baghdad on 15 March, 2005.

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Thailand to launch “intelligent traffic systems”

BANGKOK, 15 March—Hi-tech projects will be launched in the capital of Thailand this year to relieve traffic congestion, local Press reported Monday.

The project, collectively named “the intelligent traffic system,” will consist of intelligent traffic signs informing drivers of the bad traffic areas and electronic screens telling bus commuters how long they have to wait for the next bus. The system will also enable people to call a taxi by simply pushing a button.

“The aim is to help Bangkok people spend less time on the roads,” Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) deputy governor Samart Ratchapolwite was quoted by The Nation newspaper as saying.

Some of the new technologies were imported and others developed locally, but Bangkok would be the first city in the world to use all the technologies together.

Under the projects, 60 intelligent traffic signs will be installed in front of expressways and important intersections by June. About 150 intelligent bus stands will be constructed. And a pilot project involving bus stops with high-technology information signs will also be set up in June.

Samart said BMA had invited private companies to invest in the three projects. Each of the structures involved would have advertising space for the company.

Chinese lawmaker says school education should highlight safety

BEIJING, 15 March — Chinese schools should help students to better protect themselves from various unexpected risks and mishaps that are claiming at least 40 young lives daily across the nation, a deputy to the National People’s Congress said Sunday at the ongoing Parliament session.

“More than 40 primary and middle school pupils die from road accidents, food poisoning, drowning or other accidents every day,” said Zhu Hanyan, director of the Anhui Provincial Children’s Art Troupe in east China’s Anhui Province, citing a 2004 survey conducted by the ministries of education and public security in 10 localities including Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin.

The survey found that road accidents, for example, are killing more than 18,500 children under 14 years old in China each year. “This is 2.5 times the figure reported in Europe and 2.6 times the US figure,” said Zhu.

Traffic accidents, of all the accidents in China, have become the second largest killer for Chinese children, next only to drowning, according to Martin Eichelberger, president and chief executive officer of Safe Kids Worldwide.

“It has become a pressing task for Chinese schools to teach their students some basics about risk avoidance, disaster prevention and first-aid,” said Zhu. “In fact, 80 per cent of the accidental deaths among kids can be avoided through preventive measures or timely rescue operations.”

Meanwhile, Zhu said safety education will also enhance children’s respect for life, love for others and high sense of responsibility. “It’s also conducive to social harmony in China, the land of only child families,” she added.

China initiated the Security Education Day for youngsters in 1996, setting it as the last Monday of every March.

In March 2004, the Ministry of Health and the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China launched a joint programme to help school kids improve their self-protection capacities, which involved them in simulations of real scenarios like robbery and fire. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese smoking population reaches 350 million

BEIJING, 15 March — The number of smokers aged above 15 in China has reached approximately 350 million, or more than one quarter of the total population of 1.3 billion, according to a report by the Guangzhou-based Nanfang Daily on Sunday.

The smoking population of the world’s most populous nation is still expanding at a speed of 3.5 per cent a year, the newspaper said, adding that there have been more minors than adults in the new smokers.

It said that at the just-concluded annual full session of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China’s top advisory body, in Beijing, quite a few advisers have proposed the government take more rigorous measures to ban smoking in public places and discourage the would-be smokers. It quoted adviser Wang Tianyou as saying that the government should levy higher taxes on sales of cigarettes to raise their market prices, so as to make fewer people able to afford smoking.— MNA/Xinhua

Four Vietnamese people killed in road accident

HANOI, 15 March — Four people were killed, and three others injured when a truck collided with a motorbike in Vietnam’s central Binh Thuan Province, local newspaper Pioneer reported on Monday.

The five-ton truck collided with the motorbike, which was carrying four people, in Ham Tan District on Sunday, instantly killing the four people, all from the district, including the motorbike’s driver and three girls aged 12-19.

Two other motorbikes had minor collisions with the truck and the fallen motorbike, injuring three people. Local police are investigating the accident’s cause.

Last year, Vietnam experienced roughly 18,000 traffic accidents, which killed 12,162 people and injured 16,000 others, down 13.4 per cent in the number of accidents and 22.7 per cent in injuries, but up 2.5 per cent in fatalities against the previous year. — MNA/Xinhua

1,514 US soldiers killed in Iraq

EMIEW, a child-size robot-on-wheels from Japanese electronics maker Hitachi Ltd, move their arms during a demonstration in Tokyo on 15 March, 2005. — Internet

WASHINGTON, 14 March — As of Monday, 14 March, 2005, at least 1,514 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 1,155 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EST Monday.— Internet

Goods train derails in central India, traffic disrupted

NEW DELHI, 15 March — Six bogies of a goods train derailed early Sunday between Chhattisgarh’s Bhatarupa and Nipania railway stations, disrupting rail traffic between Kolkata and Mumbai, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The derailment took place 75 kilometres from Raipur in central India under the Bilaspur railway zone. No loss of life was reported. Traffic was likely to return to normalcy later Sunday, a railway official said. “Over a dozen express and mail trains, including the Geetanjali Express from Howrah (Kolkata) to Mumbai, have been cancelled,” said the official.

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MNA/Xinhua
Australian leaders welcome Indonesian President’s visit

CANBERRA, 15 March — Australian leaders on Sunday welcomed a historic visit to Australia by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the end of this month or next month.

The President will discuss one-billion-dollar (790-million-US-dollar) tsunami aid package with Australian leaders and officials. Australian Prime Minister John Howard said on Sunday that he is very pleased that the Indonesian President will visit Australia.

“We have been discussing it and it’s further evidence of the close relations between our two countries,” Howard told Australian Broadcasting Corporation TV, saying the visit will provide an opportunity to promote bilateral relationship.

Howard said the visit shows the two countries are able to focus on common challenges and values despite difficulties in bilateral relations. Australia will host joint ministerial council meeting in Canberra next week and “that is another sign of how important the relationship is to both governments”, Howard said.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore’s President starts visit to Australia

CANBERRA, 15 March — Singaporean President Sellepan Rama Nathan started his first visit to Australia on Monday by meeting Australian leaders and officials.

Nathan arrived in Sydney, capital of the state of New South Wales, Sunday and travelled to Canberra on Monday morning.

He met Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Trade Minister Mark Vaile, Defence Minister Robert Hill and Foreign Minister Alexander Downer mainly on defence cooperation and trade liberalisation.

He will also travel to Hobart, capital of the state of Tasmania, and Perth, capital of Western Australia, before ending the visit Friday.

Singapore is Australia’s largest trade and investment partner in the Association of South-East Asian Nations, and Australia’s eighth largest trading partner overall.

Singapore is the fifth largest foreign investor in Australia with 17.5 billion US dollars of investment in 2003.

The Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement came into force in July 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

Sun Microsystems opens solution centre in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 15 March — Sun Microsystems, a world leading computer network designer, opened an iForce Solution Centre in Singapore on Monday, according to Channel NewsAsia report.

The fourth of its kind in the world, the centre costs eight million Singapore dollars (about five million US dollars) and will serve Sun’s customers in South Asian countries.

The American company and its partners will help customers build and test prototypes for network computing solutions, with faster turnaround and lower costs, in the all-in-one centre, the report said.

Singapore believes that by cooperating with local and regional information technology (IT) companies, the centre will boost the island state’s efforts to build itself the IT hub in Asia.

MNA/Xinhua

Two US Marines wounded in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 14 March—Two US Marines were wounded when their patrol was ambushed by Islamist guerrillas in eastern Afghanistan, the US military said on Sunday.

They came under fire early Saturday evening on a routine mission north of the city of Jalalabad, close to the border with Pakistan. Remnants of the Taleban militia and their allies led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar have been active in the area.

Both of the wounded were hit in the shoulder by shrapnel after their unit received rocket-propelled grenade, automatic weapons and machine gun fire.

“The anti-coalition militia members retreated after the ambush. The Marines continued their mission,” the statement said.

After a lull over the harsh winter months there are some signs of increased militant activity in recent weeks.

In the southeast province of Khost, Taleban fighters fired some seven rockets, striking the Salerno US military base and a nearby airport without causing any casualties, General Mohammad Ayoub, Khost’s police chief, said. A Taleban spokesman, Mullah Samad, told Reuters in Khost that the attack was a message of defiance. — MNA/Reuters

5,500 US deserters say we won’t fight in Iraq

ROME, 14 March—On 25 February, US Army officials at Fort Stewart, Georgia, announced that Sergeant Kevin Benderman, a 40-year-old Army mechanic who refused to deploy to Iraq for a second tour of duty, will be court-martialled on desertion charges. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

After having spent 10 years in the US military, Benderman missed his unit’s deployment flight to Iraq on 7 January. Ten days earlier, he had given his commanders notice that he planned to seek a discharge as a conscientious objector, saying he had become opposed to the war after having served eight months in Iraq in 2003. Benderman joins a growing number of soldiers who are protesting the Iraq war by refusing orders, going AWOL, fleeing to Canada or speaking out. CBS News reported on 8 December that the Pentagon has admitted that at least 5,500 US military personnel have deserted since the war started in Iraq.

Furthermore, Steve Morse of the GI Rights Hotline says that the number of calls they have received has grown from 17,000 in 2001 to more than 32,000 in 2004. He says that about 30% are from soldiers who are AWOL or are thinking about deserting.

A Cambodian grandmother carries a child along the banks of the Mekong River on early 15 March, 2005, near Phnom Penh, Cambodia. — Internet

Nearly one ton of drugs seized in Iran

TEHERAN, 14 March—Iranian anti-drug police seized nearly one ton of illicit drugs in the central province of Yazd during the past 24 hours, the official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday.

IRNA quoted an announcement of the provincial police office as saying that the drugs were confiscated from seven passenger cars, which comprised 535 kilos of hashish, 118 kilos of morphine and 247 kilos of opium.

Drug addiction and transportation has been a serious social problem in Iran, a country sitting in the crossroad linking drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in the Gulf states, Central Asia, Western Europe and other regions. According to the official statistics, there are at least 2 million drug addicts in Iran. The country also accounts for 80 per cent of the opium and 90 per cent of the morphine intercepted worldwide, according to the International Narcotics Control Board. — MNA/Xinhua

Netherlands begins troops pullout from Iraq

BRUSSELS, 14 March — The Dutch government has begun its phased pullout of its military personnel from Iraq, Radio Netherlands reported Monday.

The Netherlands has more than 1,400 troops stationed in Iraq as part of the stabilisation force. The first group of 150 soldiers was welcomed at the Eindhoven air base in southern Holland by Defence Minister Henk Kamp and hundreds of friends and their relatives, the report said.

The Dutch military forces in Iraq handed over command in the province Al Muthanna to the British troops on 7 March. The change of command brings to a close a mission that lasted 20 months.

The Dutch government, which began to deploy troops to Iraq soon after the end of the Iraq war in 2003, will complete the military pullout at the end of next month. — Internet

MNA/Xinhua

Sergeant Kevin Benderman addresses a press conference in the Eindhoven air base in southern Holland by Defence Minister Henk Kamp and hundreds of friends and their relatives, the announcement of the provincial joint ministerial council military personnel. He met Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Trade Minister Mark Vaile, Defence Minister Robert Hill and Foreign Minister Alexander Downer mainly on defence cooperation and trade liberalisation. He will also travel to Hobart, capital of the state of Tasmania, and Perth, capital of Western Australia, before ending the visit Friday. Singapore is Australia’s largest trade and investment partner in the Association of South-East Asia. The Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement came into force in July 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore Airlines chief executive Chew Choon Seng addresses a press conference with a model of the new Airbus A380 jumbo aircraft behind him at Sydney Airport, on 15 March, 2005. — Internet

The Singapore-Australian solution centre opens in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 15 March — Sun Microsystems, a world leader in computer network design, opened an iForce Solution Centre in Singapore on Monday, according to Channel NewsAsia report.

The fourth of its kind in the world, the centre costs eight million Singapore dollars (about five million US dollars) and will serve Sun’s customers in South Asian countries.

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MNA/Xinhua

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Director General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, departmental heads, journalists, U Sein Win of Kyodo News Agency, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kai Hpa, Secretary U Nyunt Tin and member correspondents, editors of local magazine and journal publishing houses and invited guests.

First, Director General of Labour Department of the Ministry of Labour U Soe Nyunt made and friendly nations while contributing towards stability and development of the region. With no concealment nor deceit, Myanmar maintains ties with honesty and good neighbourliness. It always refrains from interfering in internal affairs of other countries as well as in group disputes. In addition, it always accepts the leadership of the United Nations Organization and abides by international laws and conventions in the international community.

Myanmar became a member of the UN on 19-4-1948 and a member of ILO (International Labour Organization) on 18-5-1948. Regarding the ILO conventions, there are 19 conventions ratified by Myanmar. Of them, one is “Forced Labour Convention No 29, 1930”. That convention was ratified with effect from 4 March 1955.

Myanmar submits a report on its observance of the convention to the ILO every year. During the period from 1955 to 1988, there were internal strife in Myanmar and the Tatmadaw had to sacrifice lives and blood in launching operations to crush insurgents who were supported by external groups. During that period, under the people’s militia strategy, people’s strength was obtained. However, there were no complaints concerning the ILO convention No 29.

After the Tatmadaw had taken over State responsibilities in 1988, some big nations began levelling accusations against and putting pressure on Myanmar.

To continue to arbitrarily put pressure upon Myanmar politically, William Brett, representative of Trade Union of Britain and 24 other representatives made a complaint to take action against Myanmar in connection with forced labour under Article 26 and form an investigation commission in 1996. Myanmar’s reply with sound evidences were denied and ILO formed an Inquiry Commission in 1996. The Commission was formed despite the sound reply supported by relevant facts of the Myanmar Government.

In review of Commission’s report and recommendations issued in July 1998, it is found that the report is based on fabricated accusations of Maung Maung (a) Pyithit Nyunt Wai of FTUB, terrorist insurgents under the disguise of refugees at the border areas opposing the government.

The Commission urged three points as follows:
1) to ensure the 1907 Village Act and the 1907 Towns Act to be in conformity with Article 29 not later than 1-5-1999;
2) to stop all acts of forced labour and promulgated administrative law to inform the public;
3) to take action against those who practised forced labour under section 374 of Penal Code.

With political commitment to end forced labour and in view of improved conditions in the nation, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued Order No 1/1997 on 14-5-1999 directing the relevant authorities not to exercise the powers under certain provisions of the 1907 Towns Act and the 1907 Village Act.

It showed the goodwill and righteousness of the Government. At the same time, it is
Big nations of west bloc use ILO...

(from page 6)

similar in essence to the recommendations of the Inquiry Committee. Although Myanmar responded with positive attitude, some big western countries bent on manipulating Myanmar continued to blatantly put arbitrary pressure upon our country.

At the 87th International Labour Conference, the US President addressed the meeting. In his address he bluntly said pressure would be put on Myanmar with added momentum. This became the drive for the ILO to impose sanctions against Myanmar.

At the 87th International Labour Conference in June 1999, Myanmar’s constructive efforts were ignored and a sanction was imposed on Myanmar accusing her of not complying with the resolutions of the Inquiry Commission. The resolution includes the point “To give no aid to Myanmar except the aid for Myanmar to comply with Convention 29 and not to invite Myanmar to meetings, workshops and paper reading sessions sponsored by ILO”.

In this context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar rejected it by issuing a Press Release on 17-6-1999. It is mentioned in the Press Release as follows. “In view of the unfairness of the exercise, its lack of balance and objectivity as well as the underlying political motives, Myanmar finds it impossible to accept such deplorable and unscrupulous action on the part of those nations who want to interfere and meddle in the internal affairs of Myanmar. Myanmar has therefore disassociated herself from this unfair and biased resolution and henceforth will cease participation in activities connected with Convention 29 and Convention 87 until such time that Myanmar receive fair and equitable treatment that must necessarily be accorded to members of the ILO. However, as a responsible member of the international community, Myanmar will continue to comply with the Conventions to which she is a party.

It is most regrettable that such an august assembly like the ILO should fall victim to the machinations and political tricks of western nations particularly the Big nations of west bloc using ILO...

Myanmar. It neglected Myanmar’s constructive efforts time and again and gave favours to those who have ill-will towards Myanmar. Taking of action by ILO upon Myanmar is very regrettable. Myanmar with sincerity proposed to cooperate with ILO and make Myanmar’s constructive efforts and action of ILO

Ministers’ Meeting held in Manila, the Philippines in May 2002, the ASEAN nations issued a joint statement on Myanmar. In the joint statement, it is mentioned that the ASEAN Labour Ministers welcomed the constructive development, and the problem

Home Affairs issued Supplementary Order to the Order No 199 dated 27-10-2000. Moreover, the State Peace and Development Council issued a directive dated 1-11-2000 that not only relevant authorities but also policemen and Tatmadawmen are to

ILO did make Myanmar's constructive efforts time and again and gave favours to those who have ill-will towards Myanmar. Taking of action by ILO upon Myanmar is very regrettable. Myanmar with sincerity proposed to cooperate with ILO and make

Sai Tun seen together with seized heroin.

Sai Tun, left, in SURA uniform.—MNA

Sai Tun seen together with seized heroin.

Sai Tun in plain clothes.

Sai Tun, left, in SURA uniform.—MNA

Sai Tun seen together with seized heroin.

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Sai Tun seen together with seized heroin.
Innovative measures are to be taken with added momentum for production of electrical apparatuses...

(See page 9)

Thaung, on steps for supply of materials on power lines; Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Hay Oo, facts about the diversion weir and irrigation system to be constructed for Kunchaung Hydropower Project by the Irrigation Department; Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, on measures taken for constant supply of fuel for the projects, and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, on conservation of forests on Bago Yoma mountain range.

In response, the Senior General gave guidance, saying that it is needed to ensure completion of the dam projects ahead of schedule and enable the people to enjoy the benefits of the facilities as soon as possible. The Senior General stressed the importance of simultaneous implementation of related tasks instead of doing only one after another. It is required to ensure parallel completion of dams and canals.

Innovative measures are to be taken with added momentum for production of electrical apparatuses, he said.

Next, the Senior General and party inspected the construction tasks from the observation tower.

The Hydel-Electric Power Department (3) will complete the Kunchaung Hydropower Project, and the ID, construction of diversion weir and irrigation system. According to the project, a 1,260-foot-long and 240-foot-high rock-filled dam with earth core will be constructed. On completion, the facility will be able to generate 60 megawatts and benefit 110,000 acres of farmland.

The Senior General and party arrived at Ye Nwe Multipurpose Dam Project in Kyauttaka Township in the morning. Minister Maj-Gen Hay Oo reported on salient points on the project; ID Director-General U Kyaw San Win, on construction of dams being undertaken by the ID and work progress; Hydel-Electric Power Department Director-General U Win Kyaw, on construction tasks of the project and progress of sector-wise functions, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut, on the bidding of tender for construction of diversion weir and irrigation system.
**Law books available**


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**Innovative measures…**

(from page 8)

machines for the project; Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, on relation between flooding of Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Baidah and Ye Nwe Creeks; Minister Maj-Gen Lun Thi, on supply of fuel; and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung, on conditions of Bago Division’s forests, tasks for greening of the division, and planting of trees for forming of forests in the region. The Senior General gave guidance to the officials and inspected the project site from the observation tower.

Construction-1 of the ID and Construction-4 of the Hydel-Electric Power Department will implement the Ye Nwe Dam Project on Ye Nwe Creek near Myochaung village in Kyauktada Township. Upon completion, the project will be able to irrigate 118,500 acres of land and generate 25 megawatts. Ye Nwe Multi-purpose Dam Project is included in Pyundaza Plain dam cluster — Baidah, Kawliya, Bawni and Pyinpongyi dams. The cluster will be able to supply water for more than 200,000 acres of farmland.

Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived back here by helicopter in the evening. — MNA

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**Parade columns continue drill practising**

YANGON, 12 March — The military columns which are going to take part in the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade participated in practice session of the parade drills by marching from the Myoma Ground to the Resistance Park, here, from 6 am to 9.30 am today. Under command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun, the parade columns — Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyansittha by Col Tha Aung, Bayinnaung by Col Aung Kyaw Oo, Nawade by Captain Aung Zaw Win (Navy), Aungzeya by Col Myo Win, Hsinbyushin by Col Khin Aung Myint, Bandoola by Col Khin Maung Oo, Myawady by Col Win Swe and Aung San by Col Thein Zaw— rehearsed parade drills.

Chairman of the Management Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and senior military officers inspected the performance of the parade columns. — MNA
Big nations of west bloc use ILO...

(from page 7)

the Ministerial Committee and the Convention No 29 Im-
plementation Committee and made continued efforts. How-
ever, ILO suggested that Myanmar's legal, executive and
management measures and their effectiveness be assessed
objectively; and only if Myanmar cooperated with ILO,
Myanmar's progresses in this context could win the cred-
ibility and the international community would accept her.

Afterwards under the agreement between Myanmar
and ILO, a senior officials team headed by former Gov-
ernor General of Australia Sir Ninian Stephen visited
Myanmar from 17 September to 6 October 2001. The
team submitted a report together with four major sugges-
tions to ILO Governing Board.
The first suggestion demanding constant ILO rep-
resentation to properly assess Myanmar's progress was
accepted by Myanmar and an ILO liaison office has been
opened in Yangon beginning 6 May 2002.
The second suggestion demanded the appointment
of an Ombudsman to take care of complaints on forced
labour. Myanmar did not agree to it as the Ombudsman
would receive complaints, make inquiries and take action
by himself. However, both sides reached agreement to
insert a phrase “the role of facilitator” in the Joint Plan of
Action.
The facilitator is to review complaints, put for-
ward those he assumes as true to ILO Convention 29
Implementation Committee and make coordinations.
Hence, when the Joint Action Plan is implemented the
role of facilitator will be included.
As a measure to cooperate with the third sugges-
tion, the General Administration Department under the
Ministry of Home Affairs published 168,544 books on the
Order No 1/99 and the Supplementary Order to Order
No 1/99 in various ethnic languages and distributed them
to over 63,000 villages (all villages in Myanmar).

The fourth suggestion deals with provision of as-
sistance to Myanmar's endeavours for economic develop-
ment with a view to eradicating forced labour. It also
argues the international community to maintain construc-
tive relations with Myanmar. In this context, ILO and
many countries still need to make economic cooperation
with Myanmar.

Afterwards, the ILO director-general wrote a letter
to the Labour Minister of Myanmar suggesting that
Myanmar should select a region to translate negotiations
for eradicating forced labour into action; draw up Plan of
Action; and then take further steps in other regions. He
also pledged that ILO was ready to give necessary tech-
nical assistance.

Accordingly, discussions and coordinations were
made with the ILO liaison officer in Yangon for drawing
up Plan of Action. In Geneva, the Myanmar Ambassador
and ILO Executive Director Mr Kari Tapiolema made de-
tailed discussions on matters relating to the role of
facilitator. Both sides sign the agreement on 8-5-2003.

The Joint Plan of Action was signed in Yangon on 27-5-
2003 by the Director-General of Labour Department and
the ILO liaison officer. As the Joint Plan of Action has
been signed, it is now in the implementation stage. How-
ever, at the 91st ILC held in June 2003, based on an
incident not related to labour affairs in Myanmar, the ILO
unilaterally postponed the implementation.

In delivering an opening address at the ILC, the
director-general of the ILO called on Myanmar Govern-
ment to take immediate action to release Aung San Suu
Kyi and her supporters. He also said that appropriate meas-
ures be taken for eradication of forced labour as well as
for ensuring rights and benefits of the labourers in
Myanmar. He also said that recent incident in Myanmar
reflected the uncertain conditions. In fact, he delayed the
whole process by mixing political affairs with labour af-
fairs.

So, you journalists can vividly see that ILO unilat-
erally postponed the signing of Joint Plan of Action be-
tween Myanmar and ILO.

However, without losing sight of it Myanmar con-
tinued to implement the Joint Plan of Action with its own
strength and arrangements.

Now I will deal with matters on the visit of ILO
special high ranking official team to Myanmar. Accord-
ning to the concluding remarks at the 291st meeting of
ILO-GB, the ILO director-general sent a letter dated 12
January 2005 to the Labour Minister of Myanmar ex-
pressing the wish to send a special high ranking official
team of ILO to Myanmar. The Ministry of Labour replied
a letter dated 24 January 2005 to the ILO director-general
stating that although it coincided with the reconvening
of National Convention, the special high ranking official
team will be welcomed and received by the Chief Justice,
the Attorney-General and Ministers concerned.

Regarding the visit of the team, coordinations were
made between the director-general of Labour Department
and the temporary liaison officer of ILO in Yangon on 8
February 2005. In the tentative programme, the reception
of the team by the State Peace and development Council
Secretary-1 was included.

The ILO special high-ranking official team headed
by former Governor-General of Australia Sir Ninian
Stephen comprising two members arrived in Yangon on
21 February 2005. It was received by the State Peace and
Development Council Member and Prime Minister (Head
of Government) whose rank is higher than the Secretary-
1 of the State Peace and Development Council. The team
also met with the Labour Minister and the Foreign Af-
fairs Minister.

(See page 11)
In fact, Myanmar accepted the visit of the ILO special high-ranking official team as a token of cooperation with ILO. The team was received by the Prime Minister who is also Head of Government as well as Member of the State Peace and Development Council. Thus, his status is politically high. Myanmar Government assumes that his reception of the team on behalf of the State Peace and Development Council is quite sufficient.

By reviewing cooperation between Myanmar and ILO, it can be seen that Myanmar is a member executing its obligations and the ILO has been ignoring Myanmar's fulfillments. Instead, it is putting pressure on Myanmar again and again.

Myanmar is a sovereign nation and it has the right to shape its destiny itself. In harmony with the actual conditions of the country, the Government and the people in Myanmar are unitedly striving hand in hand for the betterment of the entire citizens. Since 1991, ILO has been accepting one-sided complaints from ICFTU and, without asking for clarifications from Myanmar or forming inquiry commission, it is putting pressure on Myanmar by imposing sanctions through ILO-GBs and Conferences.

ILO's demands based on political matters Myanmar honestly and frankly replied to reflecting its actual conditions. Matters relating to eradicating forced labour pointed out by the ILO have never been neglected by Myanmar. It constantly replies to and reacts to the complaints in accordance with the obligations of a member country.

However, ILO is not a political forum but it has been used as a boxing ring and powerful nations and organizations are attacking and putting pressure on Myanmar which is just a developing country. This should be understood by journalists and the entire people as well as the developing countries.

Myanmar has respected international organizations in line with its obligations. However, ILO does not consider the interest of over 54 million people of Myanmar and it has been supporting FTUB (Federation of Trade Union-Burma) led by expatriate terrorist Maung Maung (a) Pyithut Nyunt Wai. Pyithut Nyunt Wai has been financing elements to commit terrorist acts together with Da-nya-ta secretary Than Lwin. He sent Myo Aung Thant and Khin Kyaw to Myanmar in June 1997 to explode mines at foreign embassies and strategic places in Yangon. Authorities concerned arrested Myo Aung Thant and Khin Kyaw. Their confessions before the court and evidences revealed that the one who masterminded the plot to explode mines was Maung Maung (a) Pyithut Nyunt Wai. Hence, the court heard the case and approved Maung Maung as a fugitive under section 122 (2) of Penal Code and section 512 of Criminal Proceedure Law on 15-8-1997.

Similarly, a case was filed at a Yangon North District Court against nine persons including terrorist Min Kyi (a) Min Kyi confessed that Maung Maung (a) Pyithut Nyunt Wai provided financial assistance and asked them to commit atrocities.

Maung Maung who engineers terrorist acts is given shelter under the signboard of FTUB. His fabricated complaints to ICFTU are put up to ILO.

We have clarified with sound evidences that Pyithut Nyunt Wai has been financing elements to commit terrorist acts in Myanmar and sending saboteurs with explosives to Myanmar time and again.

There are 11 conventions ratified by Myanmar. Of them, one is “International Convention for Suppression of Terrorist Bombing” and another is “International Convention for Suppression of Financing of Terrorism”. As mentioned above, Pyithut Nyunt Wai has been committing terrorist acts. According to the article 3 of constitution of ILO, the ILO can be attended by governmental delegates, employers and labour representatives only. In the text of standing order article 2 issued by the ILO, it is stated in detail the Rights of Admission to the Sessions of the Conference. However, terrorist fugitive Pyithut Nyunt Wai has been allowed to attend the ILO meetings. It is contrary to ILO's articles and orders. It is just putting a terrorist on the limelight or glare of publicity.

Myanmar is a member of ILO as well as a member of the UN. The article 2 (7) of the UN Charter states that UN has no right to interfere in the cases which are within the judiciary power of a member country. To have ties with the UN, the ILO has signed the agreement between UN and ILO. According to an article of the Agreement, UN recognizes ILO as a special agency. Thus, it is incumbent upon ILO to abide by UN Charter.

ILO's putting pressure on Myanmar shows that ILO is neglecting the article 2 of UN Charter and interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar.

In the Preamble and Annex (Declaration concerning the aims and purpose of the ILO) of the ILO constitution, it is mentioned that ILO is formed to deal with labour affairs only.

It is not appropriate for ILO to support any terrorist opposing an incumbent Government as the terrorist is labelled with ILO logo. Hence, ILO's lop-sided criticism and actions against Myanmar are not in conformity with ILO's constitution.

Myanmar is a developing country and trying hard to stand on its own feet despite many restrictions and difficulties. Myanmar has been cooperating sincerely with ILO as regards many spheres including eradication of forced labour.

The ILO, an international organization, tried to take action unprecedentedly in its 87 years against Myanmar under article 33 is not fair. Is it a true action of ILO which usually gives priority to cooperation? Myanmar has been cooperating and complying with ILO. But it tried to take action against Myanmar under article 33 unprecedentedly. Other developing countries are to be aware of this.

Myanmar people have the tradition of contributing voluntary labour with religious faith. Eradication of forced labour affects this tradition. As some do not understand the tradition of Myanmar, we have to suffer traditional cultural loss.

District Court against nine persons including terrorist Nai Yekhla who was arrested with explosives in July, 2003. Of the culprits, Shwe Mann (a) Zeya Oo and Nai Min Kyi (a) Min Kyi confessed that Maung Maung (a) Pyithut Nyunt Wai provided financial assistance and asked them to commit atrocities.

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**Forest decline in eastern Canada due to acid rain**

**OTTAWA, 14 March —**

Acid rain is causing forest decline in much of Eastern Canada with losses to the forest industry estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars annually in the Atlantic region alone, an official report said Sunday.

Even though acid pollution in Canada has been cut in half over the past 20 years, an additional 75 per cent per cent is needed, the report titled "2004 Canadian Acid Deposition Science Assessment" said.

The assessment, which is done every five years by Environment Canada, reports extensive ongoing damage to lakes, wildlife and human health.

But some of the most startling findings concern forests.

“Acid rain causes trees to lose nutrients,” the report states, citing the acidification of rivers in rain-soaked areas and reducing the ability of trees to gather and process nutrients.

**OPEC may agree to keep pumping above quotas**

**ABU DHABI (United Arab Emirates), 14 March 14 —**

Two of OPEC’s leading Gulf producers say the cartel may agree to keep pumping above formal oil output quotas to cool down overheated markets.

The United Arab Emirates, one of the cartel’s biggest producers, agreed on Sunday to start pumping at its maximum capacity.

Abdullah’s visit to Jordan was seen as a sign of his country’s determination to keep pumping above quotas.

The decision may be seen as a sign of the world’s energy markets becoming more willing to take risks.

Oil prices fell after the announcement, but are still high due to political tensions in the Middle East.

**Turkey alarmed over sunken LPG ship**

**ISTANBUL, 14 March —**

Turkish officials Sunday expressed their concerns over the sinking of a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cargo ship.

A roll-on-roll-off ship carrying 138 tons of LPG sank Saturday in the Bosphorus Straits, a waterway linking the Black and Marmara seas, due to bad weather.

The officials were alarmed that the accident would result in an explosion in Istanbul’s coastal regions, including several residential areas.

Turkey authorities closed the Bosphorus shipping channel on Sunday to all traffic, and maritime officials took several hours to find several LPG tanks.

However, two of them were still posing a risk.
Big nations of west bloc use ILO... (from page 11)
taken against all violators without bias. ILO is also responsible for ensuring full employ-
ment in member countries. ILO which is responsible for solving unemployment problems should not make efforts to
harm the interest of labourers.
In connection with Convention No 29 of ILO, the USA imposed trade sanction against Myanmar. Consequent-
ly, over 160 garment factories had to be closed and eliminate 20,000 workers. Thus over 80,000
workers lost its job. It affected over 400,000 dependents of the workers who lost their jobs.
It indirectly harms service enterprises, rents of apartments & hostels, restaurants, transport enterprises, etc. The affected workers who lost jobs also remained jobless. The employers had to pay over K 1,200 million and over FEC 80,000 as compensations. The individual demand also declined.
Myanmar has been endeavouring for ensuring prevalence of peace and tranquillity; bringing about develop-
ment in all regions including border areas; and promoting health and education standards of the entire national
people. There is no reason for Myanmar not to be able to make efforts for eradicating labourer. Over 54 mil-
lion people of Myanmar know well how the Government has been fulfilling the needs of citizens.
In Myanmar, there are many regions which lagged behind in development due to various reasons throughout succeeding periods. In the development of the Government is making concerted efforts. Due to the
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correct and noble deeds of the Government, participation of the nation and the people.
In review of the above-mentioned combination, aims and declaration of SSA, SSNA, SURA, SNLD and Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council, it is found that the Union will be formed with the emphasis on a genuine Union. The genuine Union means the Union made up of eight states namely Kachin state, Kayin state, Kayah state, Chin state, Mon state, Rakhine state, Shan state and Bamar state which would be made up of the existing seven divisions. The entire national people might be misled by the beautiful wording “Genuine Union”. In fact, they aimed to form a nominal Union and later secede from the Union.

The third meeting was held on 7-2-2005, the Shan State Day. The meeting was sponsored by the following persons.

1. U Kyaw Hnin
2. U Ba Thin (New Generation Shan State)
3. Shwe Ohn (former defunct of liquidated Shan Nationalities League for Democracy)
4. Myint Than (New Generation Shan State)
5. Nyi Mo (New Generation Shan State)
6. Myo Win Tun (New Generation Shan State)
7. U Tun Nyo (New Generation Shan State)
8. Sai Hla Aung (SNLD central committee member)
9. U Tha Oo (Shan State)

At the meeting, SSA leader U Kyaw Hnin delivered an address. U Shwe Ohn supported the formation of the council. Next, “Declaration of Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council”, “Declaration of New Generation Shan State” and “Declaration of Student Youths” were read. Then, the Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council was reconstituted with the following persons:

1. U Khan Pan (representative of SSA, Taunggyi)
2. Sao Oo Kya (representative of SSNA, Hsipaw)
3. Myint Than (New Generation Shan State)
4. Kyaw Win (Inthla) (New Generation Group, Taunggyi)
5. Dr Sai Mauk Kham (Lashio)
6. U Sai Kham Hseng (Lashio)

Although the Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council was formed, it was manipulated by U Hsay Htin, U Khin Tun Oo, U Sai Nnyint Lwin, U Myint Than, U Nyi Moe, U Myo Win Tun, U Tun Nyo, U Sai Hla Aung, U Tha Oo and U Shwe Ohn.

In addition, objectives have been laid to form other advisory councils in the remaining six states as well as other advisory committees in the remaining seven divisions. After the meeting, a dinner was held at Sein Kyawt restaurant in Taunggyi. It was hosted by SSA group. At the dinner, the Shan State Day commemorative Declaration of Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council, Declaration of New Generation Students (Shan State) and Declaration of New Generation (Shan State) were distributed. (Those declarations are shown on boards)

The Declaration of New generation (Shan State) urges that it was the first step taken to enable Shan State to shape its own destiny. It also calls on all nationalities to unite playly.

In review of the above-mentioned combination, aims and declaration of SSA, SSNA, SURA, SNLD and Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council, it is found that the Union will be formed with the emphasis on a genuine Union. The genuine Union means the Union made up of eight states namely Kachin state, Kayin state, Kayah state, Chin state, Mon state, Rakhine state, Shan state and Bamar state which would be made up of the existing seven divisions. The entire national people might be misled by the beautiful wording “Genuine Union”. In fact, they aimed to form a nominal Union and later secede from the Union.

The activities of the groups are very dangerous to the stability of the State, national solidarity and it will lead to disintegration of the Union.

Since taking over State responsibilities, the Government has been upholding the Three Main National Causes — Non-disintegration of the Union; Non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty — as a policy and carrying out nation building tasks. At the same time, seven-step Road Map has been laid to introduce multi-party democracy system desired by the entire people. Hence, the Government has been effectively deterring and taking action against those activities detrimental to Our Three Main National Causes.

Thus, 4 members of New Generation Shan State, U Hsay Htin and 2 members of SNLD were detained on 3-2-2005; and SNLD chairman U Khin Tun Oo and secretary U Sai Nnyint Lwin were arrested by the Government who played a major role has been kept under house arrest. The rest who attended the meeting did not know their aim in advance. They attended the meeting as they were invited. They did not practically take part in the discussions. Hence, action was not taken against them.

Furthermore, I would like to explain matters relating to ILO. As clarified by Director-General of the Ministry of Labour U Soe Nyunt, the Government with genuine goodwill and sincerity has been cooperating at its utmost with ILO.

In 1991, 25 labour representatives of ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) com- bined to form the Myanmar (then Burma) Observation Convention No. 29 and action should be taken against it under article 24 of ILO constitution.

Regarding this, Myanmar gave replies on pre- vailing situations to the ILO in accordance with the procedures of an international organisation. However, ICFTU complained in 1993 to ILO to take action against Myanmar under article 24. Myanmar again explained to ILO with evidences of photos, video documents and testimonies.

Then, labour representative William Brett representing ICFTU and other 24 representatives of ILO put the matter of puting pressure on Myanmar politically instead of labour affairs, complained to the ILO that there had been the release of labourers in Myanmar. Again, the conven- tion be formed under article 26. Myanmar replied with facts and figures. ILO neglected the explanation and formed an inquiry commission in 1997.

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Big nations of west bloc use ILO...

(from page 14)

With political commitment to put an end to forced labour in the country, Myanmar Government issued a directive dated 14-5-1999 in order not to practise the 1907 Towns Act and the 1907 Village Act. Such efforts are in conformity with the recommendations of the inquiry commission in essence.

Although Myanmar has been cooperating with sincerity, the ILO neglected it and put pressure on Myanmar again and again.

In the latest development, ILO proposed to send a high-ranking official team to Myanmar. Myanmar accepted the proposal and replied that the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General and ministers concerned would receive the ILO team. In the tentative programme of the visit of the ILO team, it was arranged to receive the team by State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 in addition to the above-mentioned personnel. When the ILO team arrived, it was received not only by the Foreign Affairs Minister and the Labour Minister but also by State Peace and Development Council Member and the Prime Minister.

In review of the incidents properly, ILO neglected the actual conditions and endeavours of Myanmar. Its consideration was not based on the aspirations and activities of over 54 million of Myanmar people and local NGOs representing the people. But ILO's consideration was based on fabrications of FTUB including a handful of expatriates and insurgents at border areas.

FTUB (Free Trade Union of Burma) was formed by Maung Maung (a) Pyithit Nyunt Wai. He abounded to FTUB and get access to ICFTU, he was associated by an American named John Osoink Jr of Asian American Free Labour Institute with his office based in Bangkok. It can be seen what is their motive.

Maung Maung (a) Pyithit Nyunt Wai is a son of NLD CEC member U Nyunt Wai. While serving as a Sale manager of Myanmar Gems Corporation at Diplomatic Store, action was taken against him for loss of gems. He was a corrupted service person. He abandoned to a neighbour country as a dissi- dent in 1989 and stayed in disguise of politician.

Maung Maung joined Da-nya-ta which is made up of expatriates. He has then been committing terrorist acts. Maung Maung in collusion with Da-nya-ta secretary Thaw Lwin sent Myo Aung Thant and Khin Kyaw with explosives to Yangon to assassinate State Leader and blow up foreign embassies and important places. Before the court, Myo Aung Thant and Khin Kyaw confessed that Maung Maung (alias) Pyithit Nyunt Wai manipulated the scheme.

Hence, the court heard the case and declared Maung Maung (alias) Pyithit Nyunt Wai as fugitive on 15-8-1997 under section 512 of Penal Code which is led by such fu- gitive terrorists are none other than fabrications. Similarly, fabricat- ed news given by a handful of expatriate dissidents and a fistful of insurgents at border areas cannot be true.

Khin Yi gave answers to queries raised by the journalists. The press conference concluded at 5:15 pm. Journalists viewed the data, facts and photos displayed there.

Obituary

U Htay Tin (OLD ALBERTIAN)
61 Years
C.E.O. FISCA Enterprises

U Htay Tin, son of the late U Kyaw and Daw Hla Shin, son-in-law of the late Mr and Mrs M.R. Yu, beloved husband of Marianne Yu of 65/B, Kabaya Pagoda Road, brother of (Daw Khin Khin), U Thaung Hau, Daw Ni Ni, (U Mg Mg) and Mi Mi Naing, peacefully passed away at 10:30 am on 15 March at Thakha Gaba Medical Centre. Cremation will take place at 3:00 pm on Thursday, 17 March 2005 at Yayaw Myaw Crematorium. Buses will leave the above address at 2:00 pm.

OBITUARY

WEATHER

Tuesday, 15 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded on 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thun- dershowers have been widespread in upper Sagaing Division, scattered in kachin, Shan and Kayah States and Yangon Division, isolated in chin and Mon States, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.54) inches, Kalaway (1.50) inches and Kale (1.30) inches. Day tempera- tures were (3°C) above normal in upper Sagaing and Ayeayawady Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was (39°C) in Aung Lun.

Maximum temperature on 14-3-2005 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 15-3-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-3-2005 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 14-3-2005 was (6.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 15-3-2005 were (0.59) inch at Yangon Airport, (1.54) inches at Kaba- Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.59) inches at Yangon Airport, (1.54) inches at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (28) mph from Southwest at (15:55) hours MST on 14-3-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16-3-2005: Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (60%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate to rough in Myanmar waters.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-3-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thun- dershowers. Degree of certainty (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-3-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thun- dershowers. Degree of certainty (60%).

Unsolitude rainfall warning

(Issued at (10:00) hrs MST on 15th March, 2005)

Under the influence of a low pressure area moving east from west, isolated to scattered rain (or) thundershowers accompanied by temporary strong winds with (40) mph are likely in the whole country during the next (48) hours commencing this morning.

FISCA ENTERPRISES

Dr. Zaw Mya, General Manager

Billy Sheik, Finance Manager

Yangon, 15 March, 2005

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Upgrading of roads and bridges along Taninthayi-Bokpyin Road inspected

YANGON, 15 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Brig-Gen Thura Thet Oo Maung of Bokpyin Station, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council office and heads of departments, inspected upgrading of roads and bridges along Taninthayi Bok-pyin Road and cultivation of oil palm on 10 March.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo told officials to finish the work before monsoon. He met families of regional battalions of Bokpyin Station and discussed agriculture and livestock breeding discharging duties, safeguarding lives and properties of the people and prevalence of law and order in the region.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander provided families of regional battalions with clothing and cash.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted the family members at the combined office in Pyi Gyi Mandaing Township Officer of Pyi Gyi Mandaing General Administration Department U Thaung Hein reported on social and economic conditions of the township. Lt-Gen Maung Bo met service personnel, social organizations and local people.

In his discussions, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said departmental officials, social organizations and local people are to make efforts for development of the township. There is passenger bus service between Myeik and Kawthoung. Under the farsighted guidance of the Head of State, some villages are being upgraded to township level, he added.

Myanmar welcomes ratification of the Anti-secession Law by NPC of the People’s Republic of China

YANGON, 15 March—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar today issued a statement with regard to the ratification of the Anti-Secession Law by the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China unanimously on 14 March 2006.

The full text of the statement is as follows:-

Myanmar welcomes the ratification of the Anti-Secession Law by the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China unanimously on 14 March 2005. As a friendly nation which has steadfastly nurtured good-neighbourly relations with the People’s Republic of China, the Union of Myanmar maintains that Taiwan is an integral part of China. Myanmar has consistently adhered to the One China policy and supports China’s inalienable right to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explains SURA’s involvement in narcotic drug production and trafficking. — MNA

Myanmar in combating the danger of narcotic drug abuse, matters relating to producing and trafficking of narcotic drugs by the SURA insurgent group led by Ywet Sit under cover of Shan State liberation movement and other related matters at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Road here at 3 pm today.

The press conference was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Labour and for Science and Technology U Thaung, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence. (See page 6)

Li-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected oil palm farms of Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Kanbawza oil palm Co. They went to Taninthayi Basic Education High School and met Chairman of Taninthayi Township Peace and Development Council and members, departmental officials and town elders.

In the evening they proceeded to Myeik and inspected arrangements for irrigation in Tonebyawgyi Village. MNA

Li-Gen Maung Bo urged officials concerned to endeavour for economic progress as the division has basic foundations for cultivation of oil palm and rubber.

Big nations of west bloc use ILO as political forum to put pressure on Myanmar in order to install their puppet government in power

YANGON, 15 March — The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held the press conference (2/2005) on the arbitrary pressure put on Myanmar by ILO, endeavours of Myanmar in combating the danger of narcotic drug abuse, matters relating to producing and trafficking of narcotic drugs by the SURA insurgent group led by Ywet Sit under cover of Shan State liberation movement and other related matters at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Road here at 3 pm today.

The press conference was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Labour and for Science and Technology U Thaung, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence. (See page 6)