Protect the nation and its people

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

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

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

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

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

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

YANGON, 22 March — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the SPDC Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thihwa Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chairman of Leading Committee for Observance of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Train-
Implement hydelpower projects for higher living standard

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

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

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

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

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

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

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister arrives

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

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

Minister leaves for 7th Min Con

YANGON, 22 March — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Hla Win left here by air today to attend the Seventh East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation (7th Min Con) in Cambodia. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naung Thein, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, and officials.

Delegation members Director-General of Social Welfare Department Dr Tin Win Maung, Deputy Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung, Deputy Director-General of Education and Training Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, and Director of SWD U Aye Win accompanied the minister. — MNA
World economy reorder to keep pace with China, India

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

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

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

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

Kidnapped captain, two crew members of Japanese tugboat released

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

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

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

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

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

"One bomb is not going to fundamentally affect the business of the country," said Shailesh Dash, an analyst at Global Investment House, an investment bank in nearby Kuwait.

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

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

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

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

1,522 US soldiers killed in Iraq

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

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

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 21; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,384 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,049 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.
Khamenei accuses US of seeking any excuse to start war

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEC Solutions wins Singapore’s biometric passport contract

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

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

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

Arab governers declare solidarity with Syria, Lebanon

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

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

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

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

Syria had pressed fellow Arab countries for an expression of support but a senior Algerian official said Damascus was proposing only to revive old Arab League resolutions.

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

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

Thousands march against war on Iraq in Europe, US

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

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

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

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

Egyptians express anger at US-led invasion of Iraq

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

The protesters in central Alexandria, about 170 kilometres (100 miles) northeast of Cairo, held placards and shouted slogans against the US occupation in Iraq, “No to American occupation, American hegemony and American bullying,” said one placard.

Demonstrations were held around the world on Saturday, the second anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq.
Asian agri banks to offer credit support for fishery rehabilitation

BANGKOK, 23 March — Asian agricultural banks on Monday agreed to direct credit support for the rehabilitation of fishery industry hard hit by last year’s tsunami.

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

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

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

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

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

Nearly 3,000 take refuge at evacuation centres in Kyushu

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Meteorological Agency said aftershocks up to 6 in magnitude were felt it was just too dangerous,” he said, the aftershocks were getting so bad, I felt it was just too dangerous,” he said, sitting up on his futon mattress.

9th Malaysia plan to focus on resilient development

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Similarly, he said, the country’s balance of pay-ment remained strong, with a low inflation rate.

“For this year, we wel-come the 6 per cent eco-nomic growth projec-tion,” he said.

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

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

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

Released Iraqi-Swedish politician says he paid no ransom

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

“In terms of the ran-som issue, we did not pay any ransom,” Minas al-Youssifi told reporters at the headquarters of the Muslim Clerics Association, which has been in- volved in previous hos-tage releases.

The 60-year-old leader of Iraq’s Christian Democrats, who returned from exile in Sweden to reestablish the party two years ago, was abducted by the Iraqi Vengeance Battalion, Martyr al-hawi Brigade, and freed on Fri-day.

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

Youssifi said he had been kidnapped near a tun-nel in central Baghdad on 28 January.

He had made video-taped appeals for his re-lease, calling on Sweden’s King Carl XVI Gustaf and Pope John Paul to help him.

Youssifi said he be-lieved he had been freed because his captors had asked various parties about him and then de-cided to release him.

In Stockholm, a Vat-ican diplomat said Vat-ican diplomats in Bagh-dad had played an active role in helping liberate him.
Joining forces to develop weapons against TB: together we must

Dr Lwin Ko

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

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

Tremendous progress in TB control has been achieved since 1992, when the last World TB Congress was held. There are great success stories behind the annual WHO statistics on expansion of DOTs, the directly observed treatment short-course. Yet only a quarter of TB patients worldwide receive proper treatment under DOTs. Progress is severely hindered by the lack of new diagnostics and faster-acting medicines. Currently, treatment under DOTs demands a combination of at least four drugs administered for at least six months. The logistics involved in providing directly observed treatment for such a long period make DOTs expansion as daunting as it is essential. New agents are badly needed to reduce treatment duration, frequency and supervision.

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

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

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

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

The context of this research is changing too. A handful of multinational pharmaceutical companies are adjusting their strategies towards TB. As a result of an encouraging report on the economics of TB research published last year (1), medium-sized pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in developing and established economies are busy screening their libraries for compounds for anti-mycobacterial activity. These trends are encouraging, but they also highlight the gravity of the scientific challenges we now face, and the urgent need for the public and private sectors and all concerned to join forces and work together worldwide.

Despite the difficulties of doing so, the result will be more and better options in the end than any one group could find on its own. For us this means increasing the number of candidates for new medicines, diagnostics and vaccines. The call for closer collaboration should be the dominant theme of this year’s World TB Congress. Only by working together can we make the scientific innovations needed to transform TB control and help to save the lives of millions of people.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects dress rehearsal of Armed Forces... (from page 1)

Col Khin Aung Myint, the Bandoola Column led by Column Commander Col Khin Maung Oo, the Myawady Column led by Column Commander Col Win Zaw, the Aung San Column led by Column Commander Col Thein Zaw and columns of the Myanmar Police Force, the Fire Brigade and the Red Cross Society—under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Nyi Tun.

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

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

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

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

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

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

National culture and morals courses open in Bago Division

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

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

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

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

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

The national brethren of Myanmar including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan had fought back and tried to drive out the colonialists, with anti-colonialist spirit. Although the national races fought back the intruders with strong patriotism and love for the nation in their respective regions, because of the difficulties in transport and communication, they were not able to form a united front against the enemy. Thus, they could not win victories in all regions in the battles against the colonialists. It was the divide-and-rule policy, used in various means by the colonialists, that made the national races away from consolidating unity, but concentrating on security of their own regions.

In the later periods of independence struggle, the young men of Myanmar came to understand that region-wise anti-colonialist struggles by loose factions could not bring victory; and that victory would be at hand only if a Tatmadaw made up of various national races was formed and battles launched against the colonialists on all strategic fronts simultaneously.

A group of nationality youths which is called "Thirty Comrades" went to Hainan Island for military training. The Thirty Comrades formed the Burma Independence Army (BIA) on 27 December 1941 to fight the enemies and free the nation from being under the colonialists' yoke. The BIA became stronger as Myanmar people of own volition and political conviction joined the organization all along its march into Myanmar. Let alone the workers, peasants, teachers and young men, even some members of the Sangha disrobed and re-entered laymen's life to join the BIA. Thus, its strength had reached over 30,000 within a short time. Without the urge of anyone, the national people joined the BIA. They did so only with the belief to fight for freedom and strong patriotism and love for the nation.

The BIA after liberating Mawlamyine, retook Yangon on 8 March 1942. But the Fascists who entered Myanmar together with the BIA soldiers, broke their promise to grant Myanmar independence after the fall of Mawlamyine. It was because the Fascists were alarmed by the growing strength of the BIA. As their original scheme was to colonize and rule Myanmar, the Fascists hatched plots to break up the BIA. The Fascists disbanded the civil administrative bodies formed by the BIA, interfered in the military affairs of the BIA, and in the end, they gave a sham independence to Myanmar, dissolved the BIA and formed the Burma Defence Army (BDA) with a strength of only 3,000.

The Fascists dissolved the BIA as they believed that the BIA formed to regain independence would fight back any foreign army or colonialist government at any time, with high patriotic fervour. When the BDA was formed on 27 July 1942 with reduced strength, many young men who came to know the situation, they laid traps to arrest and torture BDA officers. During the time, the number of Tatmadaw members and civilians who lost their lives under the Fascist bayonet was rising gradually.

As the people saw the cruelties of the Fascist with their own eyes, they joined hands with the Tatmadaw and made preparations to launch the anti-Fascist struggle. At that time, Pyithu Ahedyawbon Party and Communist Party which had ideological differences formed the Anti-Fascist People's League (AFPL), and joined hands with the Tatmadaw and prepared to fight back the Fascists.

An anti-Fascist meeting held from 1 to 3 March 1945 changed the name of AFPL to (See page 9)
The national races including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan of Myanmar discharged their duties well in the respective sectors of the Myanmar Tatmadaw’s anti-Fascist struggle. The lightest duty was to inform the Tatmadaw about the Fascist troop movement. Thanks to the information, the Tatmadaw launched guerrilla war against the Fascist troops and managed to launch surprise attacks on the Fascist military columns and camps. Thus, the Fascists got awed by the unity of the Tatmadaw and the people.

As the Myanmar Tatmadaw launched the anti-Fascist struggle with the Tatmadaw members. The victories were won one after another.

The Tatmadaw held a press conference on 7 and 10 May 1945 to declare its stand concerning the independence to the world. At the conference, it was declared that the Tatmadaw had already waged two wars — one with the British and the other with the Fascists — and Myanmaryya as No 3 Military Command, Bago, Shwegyin and Thaungtman regions as No 4 Military Command, Mawlamyine, Dawei and Myeik regions as No 5 Military Command, Pyinmana, Toungoo and Shan State (South) regions as No 6 Military Command, and Thayet, Aunglan, Magway and Minbu regions as No 7 Military Command.

History had already taught Myanmar people that isolated and sporadic fights against the enemy were not effective, and that the enemy would be hit hard only if they waged war against it simultaneously and collectively by all the national races in all places. Thus, the anti-Fascist movement was launched simultaneously in the entire nation on 27 March 1945. During the resistance, national races, patriotic guerrillas fought against the enemy together with the Tatmadaw at the risk of their lives, and many people sacrificed their lives together for independence; that the Tatmadaw members were ready to sacrifice their lives for total independence. And it had been the noble and firm conviction and iron spirit of the Tatmadaw towards the people since it was conceived.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw born of the independence struggle will surely safeguard the nation and her independence and ensure peace and stability throughout the era to come, while always embracing the above-mentioned conviction and iron spirit.

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

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

(from page 16)

Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (Khami) National Solidarity Organization and independent representatives, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, intellectuals of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intelligentsia, delegates of workers, intellectuals, representatives of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel and other invited delegates signed the attendance registers at the Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall for the National Convention delegates.

U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Hsam of the delegate group of intellectuals, Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) of the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin of the delegate group of State service personnel and Dr Ma Nan Tu Ja of U Khin Maung Aye of the delegate group of political parties presided over the meeting together with Member of the NCCWC U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), U Law Hsein Kwan of the delegate group of peasants, U Than Aung acted as MC and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-MC.

First, the MC announced the validity of the meeting as 1,071 delegates attended the meeting, accounting for 99.07 per cent. At the plenary sessions of the National Convention, the delegate group of other invited persons and the plenary session of the National Convention concluded at 10.55 am. The plenary session continues at 9 am tomorrow.

At the plenary session, U Khin Maung Aye of the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, U Than Aung and U Mann Tin Maung (a) U Mann Myo Nyunt of Union Kayin League and U Ny Palok of Wa National Development Party read proposal papers of their respective groups.
Kyaukme District was opened at a ceremony held at the sary Armed Forces Day, Namtmeik Bridge in Momeik, minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and senior military officers, chairman of Kyaukme District PDC Lt-Col Soe Win and departmental officials, social organizations, war veterans organization, town councillors and local people.

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

He stressed the need for local people to lend themselves to nation-building endeavours under the lead-ship of the government for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing spoke. Afterwards, U Sai Kyaw Soe Naing, a local, ex-pressed his thanks for the emergence of the bridge.

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

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

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

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

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

Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Pakistan

YANGON, 23 March — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23 March 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. General Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan.

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

The new light of Myanmar Wednesday, 23 March, 2005 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than instructed the officials to expand the facility to be a 30-foot-wide one up to mile post 6800, and to ensure completion of drains on both sides of the road, and planting shady trees and earth work before the rainy season.

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

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

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

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

In response to the goodwill of government, service personnel and social organizations are to contribute to-wards the drive and local farmers, to extend cultivation of suitable crops out of the ten major crops, three perennial crops and three other crops and livestock breeding on a large scale.

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

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

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

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

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

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected con-struction of Pathein-Ngwehsaung Road.
from the Vessel.

The vessel will be arriving on 23.3.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws of the two modes.

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

Claims Day Notice

MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (183)

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

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

DONATE BLOOD
**Reflection of present day Japanese society Princess Nori betrothed at 35**

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

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

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

A date for the wedding has not been set, but it is likely to take place this autumn. It used to be said in Japan that an unmarried woman was like Christmass cake: no good after 25.

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

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

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

**US Govt to boost research on BSE**

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

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

The money adds to the 4.7 million dollars the Agriculture Department earlier announced for the mad cow disease study this year. President George W. Bush has proposed increasing funding to 12 million dollars in 2006.

Mad cow disease is a brain-wasting animal epidemic. People who eat BSE-contaminated meat can develop BSE’s human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. That disease has caused more than 150 deaths, mostly in Britain, where the very first outbreak of mad cow disease was reported in 1990s.

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

**FM says Peru fights drug trafficking out of own conviction**

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

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

“Peru fights drug trafficking not because there are countries interested in doing so, but out of its own convictions,” he said.

Peru and the United States, the world’s biggest drug consumer, “have recognized the principle of shared responsibility because if there exists drug trafficking, it is because there is demand”, Rodriguez said.

**Colombia’s Congressman shot to death by two assailants**

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

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

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

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

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

**70,000 Russians die from drug overdoses every year**

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

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

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

High disease and crime and a collapse in the birth rate have slashed Russia’s population since the fall of the Soviet Union to less than 145 million from 152 million.

Drugs were little-known in Soviet times, but spread quickly in the 1990s. With one million users, Russia is Europe’s biggest heroin market, a UN report said last year.

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

“The speed of the disease’s spread is alarming,” said Mikhailov.
**Sports**

**Olympiakos hold 1-1 draw against OFI Crete**

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

The result handed outright leadership of the Greek first division to bitter rivals and champions Panathinaikos who beat Kalithea 2-0 on Saturday. Panathinaikos head the table with 49 points, one more than AEK Athens who beat Ergotelis 3-0. Olympiakos are third, a further point in arrears.

With Brazilian striker Rivaldo still on the bench, Olympiakos found the going tough against an OFI side who have been flatting with the relegation zone. Paolo Di Canio broke the deadlock after 71 minutes but an OFI equalizer eight minutes from time means that Olympiakos, at one time runaway leaders, have now won just one match and picked up seven points in their last six games.

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

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

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

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**UEFA opens disciplinary proceedings against Chelsea, Mourinho**

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

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

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

The charges of bringing the game into disrepute follow the first leg of the Champions League knockout round in Barcelona last month when the Spanish side beat Chelsea 2-1.

Chelsea had refused to attend the mandatory post-match news conference.

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

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

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Ronaldo apologizes for throwing plastic water-bottle into crowd

**Madrid, 22 March—** Real Madrid striker Ronaldo apologized for throwing a plastic water-bottle into the crowd after being abused by fans during his side’s narrow 1-0 home win over Malaga on Sunday.

The incident occurred when the Brazilian international was being substituted five minutes from time and had to endure a barrage of whistles as he walked off the field.

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

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

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

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**Olympique Marseille lose 2-1 at Monaco**

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

Goals by defender Douglas Maicon and striker Emmanuel Adebayor before the interval sealed a victory that lifted Monaco to third place in the table, only five points from 30 games. Marseille have

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**Navarro apologizes to Arango**

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

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

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**Villarreal win the game 2-0 (2-0 on aggregate) and advance to the quarter-finals**

**Barcelona, Spain, 20 March, 2005.** Villarreal won the game 2-0 (2-0 on aggregate) and advance to the quarter-finals.—INTERNET
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Tiddim-Reed road…
(from page 16)
highland cultivation, measures for local suffi-
ciency of rice in 2004-2005, distribution of
strain of paddy, implementa-
tion of cultivation of monsoon paddy, culti-
vation of cold season
crops, perennial crops and
tea and livestock breed-
ing, health, social and eco-
nomic matters.

Chairman of Chin
State Peace and Develop-
ment Council Col Tin Hla
gave a supplementary re-
port. Departmental offi-
cials also reported on the
respective sectors.

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

It’s a developed town-
ship in Chin State. He
spoke of the need to make
efforts for increase in per
capita income. The Head
of State is making endeav-
ours for rapid develop-
ment of Chin State with
goodwill. Like other re-
gions, the government has
been providing assistance
to Chin State for develop-
ment.

He said Tiddim-Reed
road section is being up-
graded and roads and
bridges in the state are
being constructed in the
state spending a large sum
of money. It is necessary
for local people to main-
tain the road for durabil-
ity, he said.

He said both the gov-
ernment and local people
are to try to achieve fur-
ther progress in educa-
tion, health and agricul-
ture and livestock breed-
ing. The Head of State
has placed emphasis on
development of the region
and gave guidance on
making it a tea-growing
state.

He spoke at length on
agriculture, cultivation of
mulberry plants, imple-
mentation of highland
cultivation and conserva-
tion of forests. By doing so,
per capita income will
increase and the region can
export goods to the neigh-
bouring country. With the
smooth flow of commodi-
ties, local products can also
be transported, he added.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye
Myint cordially greeted
those present. Lt-Gen Ye
Myint and party went to
the entrance of Tiddim and
gave instructions on main-
tenance and tarring of the
road. Afterwards, they in-
spired on sections and
Kalay-Thainggin Road
section. Lt-Gen Ye Myint
and party reached Kalay
in the evening.

MNA

WEATHER

Tuesday, 22 March, 2005
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours
MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers
have been scattered in Kachin State and upper Sagaing
Division, isolated in Kayin State and Tanintharyi Divi-
sion and weather has been partly cloudy in the remain-
ing areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded
were Putao (0.67) inch and Hkamti (0.20) inch. Day
temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayin
State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bagu and Tanintharyi
Divisions, (5°C) above normal in Magway, Ayeyawady
Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below normal in upper Sagaing
Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below normal in Kayin State
and about normal in the remaining areas. The signifi-
cant day temperatures were (4°C) each in Mibasa and
Magway, (40°C) each in Meiktila, Myingyan, NyangU, Pymnana, Aunglan, Toungoo and Hpa-an.

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

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

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

Some of the seas will be slightly to moderate in
Myanmar waters.

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

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

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for
23-3-2005: Partly cloudy to cloudy.
Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win sends felicitations to Pakistan

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

MNA

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

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

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

Present at the plenary session were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairman of subcommittees and officials, representatives of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party and Wa National Party.

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Tiddim-Reed road section

YANGON, 22 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, inspected upgrading of Tiddim-Reed road section on 20 March.

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

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