Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of Hellenic Republic

YANGON, 25 March — 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 Mr Karolos Papoulias, President of the Hellenic Republic, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Hellenic Republic, which falls on 25 March 2005. — MNA

Build and defend the motherland

It is in the time of the Tatmadaw Government that the national reconsolidation has been made possible and rapid development achieved. It is the practical lesson that the development of the State totally rests on national unity. Therefore, it is the duty of all the national brethren living in the states and divisions of the Union to build and defend their motherland.

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 4th Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy)

Religious titles conferred on members of the Sangha, nuns, lay persons at grand ceremony

YANGON, 24 March — A ceremony to present religious titles to members of the Sangha, nuns, lay persons at home and abroad was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill here this afternoon. Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, attended the ceremony and offered rice to the Sayadaws.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offered certificates of religious titles to the title recipient Sayadaws, nuns and lay persons.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws and title recipient Sayadaws and nuns. Also present (See page 4)

INSIDE

Myanmar has only a Tatmadaw that safeguards the country, its people and independence, in every era save the era of colonialist subjugation. Myanma Tatmadaw is the People’s Tatmadaw that fought the colonialists back and restored independence.

(Myanmar has only a Tatmadaw that safeguards the country, its people and independence, in every era save the era of colonialist subjugation. Myanma Tatmadaw is the People’s Tatmadaw that fought the colonialists back and restored independence. [Page 8])

Tekkatho Myat Thu

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Conserve environment for normal climatic conditions

The Union of Myanmar is located to the east of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea and therefore it is affected by the Southwest monsoon that brings much-needed rain to give a bountiful harvest and water resources to generate electricity. At the same time, there is also threat of cyclones and storms that brings excessive amount of rain, causing floods in the major rivers of the country.

Meteorology and Hydrology Department of the Union of Myanmar, in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization and other meteorological services worldwide, continuously monitors climatic conditions to be able to issue timely warnings and bulletins so that people can prepare themselves for natural disasters.

On 26 December last year, an enormous earthquake occurred near the northern part of Sumatra Island in the Indian Ocean. It caused great loss of lives and property in several nations along the coastlines of the ocean. Not only that, it changed the configuration of the land as well as the seabed. Myanmar was lucky to escape with the loss of 61 lives only.

A ceremony to commemorate the World Meteorological Day, sponsored by the Ministry of Transport, was held at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Yangon on 23 March and it was attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of accurate weather forecasts and warnings and disaster-preparedness.

As natural resources are being used fast in such large quantities all over the world that there has been deforestation and desertification, which lead to catastrophic floods and climatic changes. However, Myanmar has always given a special emphasis to conservation of environment. Thus, over half the area of the nation is still covered by forests. Climatic conditions depend a lot on forests. The result is that Myanmar has favourable climatic conditions for agriculture.

Therefore, we would like to call on all those responsible and people to be well aware of the importance of environmental conservation and always work together conscientiously for conservation of environment essential to normal climatic conditions.

Indian Minister of External Affairs arrives

YANGON, 24 March — At the invitation of U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, an Indian delegation led by Mr K Natwar Singh, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, arrived here by air this morning, on an official visit to the Union of Myanmar. The visiting minister was accompanied by his wife, Joint-Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India Smt Mitra Vyas and Officer on Special Duty at the Ministry of External Affairs Mr VS Dharma Kumar. The Indian guests were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife, Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian Embassy.

World TB Day (2005) observed

YANGON, 24 March — A ceremony to observe World TB Day (2005), jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization was held at the hall of the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Ministry of Health Dr Kyaw Myint, members of Central Committee for Control of TB and work committee members, directors-general, deputy directors-general of the departments under the ministry, rectors, directors, medical superintendents, officials from the prize-winning townships for excellent performance in fighting TB, officials of social organizations, resident representative of WHO Mr Agostino Borra and officials of UN organizations and guests.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address on the occasion.

Next, resident representative of WHO Mr Agostino Borra read out the message sent by Director of the WHO (ASEAN branch), Yenangyoung, Lokaw and Wakema townships were awarded prizes by Dr Agostino Borra and Kyaukphadaung, Bhamo and Hantabin townships by Minister Dr Kyaw Myint. After the ceremony, the minister and the guests observed the commemorative booths of the World TB Day.

FM sends message of felicitations to Hellenic Rep


Deputy Japanese FM leaves

YANGON, 24 March — Deputy Foreign Minister of Japan Mr Hitoshi Tanaka, who visited here at the invitation of U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, left here by air this morning. During his visit, the Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister paid a courtesy call on Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win yesterday. Mr Hitoshi Tanaka also called on U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and had cordial discussions about bilateral relations.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu hosted a dinner in honour the Japanese guests at Hotel Nikko Royal Lake on evening.

The Japanese Deputy Minister and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Embassy.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
China hopes to expand agri-cooperation with Finland

BEIJING, 23 March — Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu said here on Tuesday in a meeting with Finnish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Juha Korkealaaja and other Finnish guests that China strongly hopes to expand agricultural cooperation with the northern European nation.

China and Finland are highly complementary in such spheres as agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry, and cooperation will have "broad prospects," Huitold Korkealaaja. China has said managing agriculture, rural development and farmers are priority government responsibilities, especially in light of the growing income gap between rural and urban residents. "We will continue advancing the reform and opening up, and draw on the experience of advanced technology and experiences in the development of agriculture and rural areas," Hui said. "I hope China and Finland will further increase exchanges and broaden the area of cooperation."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao here on Tuesday.

Liu made the remark at a regular Press conference concerning Chinese shoes seized in a Russian police raid in south Moscow on 12 March. The Chinese Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Commerce and China's Embassy in Russia "made representations to the relevant Russian department immediately after the incident," Liu said.

"This issue is very complicated," he said. Liu urged both Chinese and Russian companies to carry out business according to law, referring to the "gray Customs clearance" as the cause of irregularities in Sino-Russian trade.

"Chinese goods can enter Russia through "gray Customs clearance", which is recognized by Russia's Customs Commission. However, retailers of goods that entered Russia through "gray clearance" have no official Customs documents. China and Russia have agreed that until the issue of "gray Customs clearance" is resolved, it is not acceptable for each side to take unilateral action such as seizing the goods.

"Problems should be properly resolved through negotiations by the Sino-Russian working team regulating trade," Liu said. He urged Russia to crack down on its own illegal clearance companies.

"The case is still under investigation. The Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Commerce, together with other Chinese departments, will continue to closely follow the latest progress so as to safeguard legitimate interest of Chinese companies and merchants in Russia," he said.

Generally speaking, Liu said, Sino-Russian trade is good, with bilateral trade volume hitting a new record high of 21.2 billion US dollars in 2004.

Singapore to build new multi-purpose barrage

SINGAPORE, 23 March — The construction of the multi-purpose barrage of Marina Barrage began in the downtown area of Singapore on Tuesday, according to a statement by the Public Utilities Board ( PUB ).

Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew attended the launching ceremony of the project, which will cost some 226 million Singapore dollars (about 138 million US dollars).

The dam across the Marina Channel in the southern part of Singapore, at its completion in 2007, will create the country's 15th freshwater reservoir with the largest and most urbanized catchment at 10,000 hectares.

Oil shortage a pressing issue for Iraq's economy

BAGHDAD, 23 March—This week marks two years since the invasion of Iraq, big economic challenges remain as Iraqis work to rebuild their war-torn country.

One of the country’s most pressing challenges is a lack of crude oil, which is unusual for a nation with oil reserves second only to neighbouring oil-producing giant Saudi Arabia.

In theory, with its vast reserves of oil — some 155 billion barrels — the country should be able to supply much of the world’s demand for oil, never mind its own needs. But today Iraq is producing less than 2 million barrels of oil per day, even though the nation is currently capable of producing between 2.8 and 3 million barrels daily. It wasn’t supposed to be this way, explains Daniel Yergin, chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

"There was a kind of fantasy before the war that Iraq would suddenly produce this flood of oil that would transform the world oil market — that hasn’t happened," said Yergin.

At the refineries that convert Iraq’s crude oil into gasoline, the problems continue. The director of Baghdad’s oil refinery, Dathar Al-Khashab, says the facility is only running at 70 percent capacity.

Singapore, 23 March — The US-led coalition failed to plan properly for Iraq's attack after the ousting of Saddam Hussein, a committee of MPs says in a report.

Planning for the post-conflict phase in Iraq was "marred by a series of mistakes and misjudgements", the Commons Defence Committee said.

The coalition also underestimated the reconstruction needed, it said.

Although there had been "encouraging signs" recently, UK troops would need to remain in Iraq until 2006, it added.

This was because Iraq’s security forces would not be capable of taking over until then at the earliest.

It added that because of the security situation, Britain’s deployment of 8,000 troops was unlikely to be reduced until 2006 - almost three years on from the toppling of Saddam Hussein.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw has already said British forces are likely to stay in Iraq until the end of 2005 - after this date their mandate would have to be renewed by the Iraqi government.

Thailand to build new multi-purpose barrage

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Religious titles conferred on members of the Sangha, nuns and lay persons on a grand scale

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye confers religious title on a Sayadaw.— MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win confers religious title on a Sayadaw.— MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye of Ministry of Defence confers religious title on a Sayadaw.— MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann confers religious title on a Sayadaw.— MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe confers religious title on a Sayadaw.— MNA

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein confers religious title on a Sayadaw.— MNA

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi confers religious title on a Sayadaw.— MNA

At 12 noon, Deputy Director of Yangon Division Religious Affairs Department U San Than Hlaing, acting as master of ceremonies, read the agenda of the ceremony. Next, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

(See page 5)
Religious titles conferred...

(from page 4)

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko supplicated on religious matters.

Next, Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara administered the Five Precepts to the congregation. State Ovadaçariya Presiding Nayaka of Bahan Pali Tekkatho Nyaungdon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sobhana gave an Ovadakatha.


General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence presented certificates of Abhidhaja Agga Maha (See page 6)
Religious titles conferred ... Paññavamsa of Htoma Kawhalayama Monastery Village in Kalay Town-Saddhammajotika Title to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Saydarya in Shansu Ward in Daingwunkwin in Mawlamyine.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win presented certificates of Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Title to Myanmar Kandy Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumanasagara of Ward 94, Yuzana Garden City in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and Arthawka Taik Sayadaw of Chyaakhlleigyi Monastery Bhaddanta Vayaminda in Bahan Township.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence presented certificates of Agga Maha Pandita Title to four Sayadaws.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence presented certificates of Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Title to two Sayadaws and certificates of Tiptakadhara Dhammahandagarika title to two Sayadaws.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Quarter-master-General Lt-Gen Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented certificates of Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title to six Sayadaws.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented certificates of Agga Maha Pandita Title to six Sayadaws.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence presented certificates of Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title to six Sayadaws.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein presented certificates of Agga Maha Pandita Title to five Sayadaws and certificate of Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to one Sayadaw.

Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein presented certificates of Agga Maha (See page 7)
Religious titles conferred on…
(from page 6)

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title to six Sayadaws.
Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented certificates of Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title to six Sayadaws.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung also presented certificates of Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title to six Sayadaws.

Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min presented certificates of Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title to six Sayadaws.

Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, offers certificate of title to a nun.—NLM

Daw Khin Lay Thet presents certificate of title to a nun.—NLM

Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

POEM:

Tatmadaw that enhances prestige of lineage
* In our land that is Myanmar
With rays of peaceful light radiating
As if over a hundred moons are shining
Buddha’s TheraVada Teachings
With the rays of light of Dhamma aligned
All the Cetis basking in the golden hue
With generous inputs of Administration and laity
Doing their utmost to contribute
Unparalleled in the stream of history
O, Myanmar with all her magnificence
Unto everybody around the world awed
The fragrance runneth over.
* In the grey gloom of our land
The crops are vibrant and good
The natural resources are plentiful here
Diamond, gold, precious stones sparkle
To be the property of future generations
Our land, heritage of our ancestors abounds in good sunshine, water and air
Rich in forests, hill and lake
The peacock appears in pride
In a wondrous, wonderful condition
On this land, yining with envy
All assets are asparkle here
* In towns and villages, all’s in progress
United, consolidated, of one blood
To make our nation proud, uplift lineage
The Tatmadaw, considering all factors
Opened the way and gave leadership
Fully awakened and from the heart
With patriotism, love of nation
And, discerning issues deeply
Decide to work for the nation’s good
With the people thinking well
There is incessant outpouring of
Strong spirit, that develops the entire land
Cover enhancing the nation’s prestige.

Myinmu Naing Naing Moe (Trs)
The Tatmadaw that has stood before the people throughout consecutive eras

Myanmar Tatmadaw is the People’s Tatmadaw constituted with national brethren born of the general public. The People’s Tatmadaw that came into existence as an answer to the call of independence struggle restored independence at the cost of numerous lives. It cost the Tatmadaw and the national people dear to free the country from the colonialist subjugation that lasted for many years. Of great value is independence.

Myanmar Tatmadaw is the People’s Tatmadaw constituted with national brethren born of the general public. The People’s Tatmadaw that came into existence as an answer to the call of independence struggle restored independence at the cost of numerous lives. It cost the Tatmadaw and the national people dear to free the country from the colonialist subjugation that lasted for many years. Of great value is independence.

Before granting independence, the Tatmadaw markedly reduced the strength of Myanmar Tatmadaw by making it sign the Letya-Freeman agreement in Kandy. The British stirred internal strife after weakening the Tatmadaw. However, the Tatmadaw, with all of its strength, fought back the British and safeguarded independence. All the countries in the world have their own armies. The prime responsibility of the Tatmadaw is to defend its own country, race and independence. Some nations have formed armies to invade other countries. Such armies are called colonial armies. It is resulted from political, economic and military greed and selfishness. Some keep armed organizations for a certain person or a certain party. These armed groups do not protect the mass of people. They even oppress the people with the use of arms. Their motive is to protect a certain person or a certain party. Such armies are called mercenary armies. Some lack national cause, patriotism, and nationalism. They only look at their own interests and serve their bosses. Mercenary armies are widely known to the people.

Myanmar Tatmadaw is the People’s Tatmadaw that safeguarded the county, its people and independence, in every era save the era of colonialist subjugation. Myanmar Tatmadaw is the People’s Tatmadaw that fought the colonialists back and restored independence. Myanmar Tatmadaw is formed with national patriots and shielded the people whenever the country was faced with dangers. Myanmar has only such a Tatmadaw, which is loyal to national cause and keeps its national pledge. Those who are under the influence of political trick, sectarianism and dogmatism diverted from public interests as they have an eye only for their ism. They have no consideration for the people and get greedy through power struggle. As a result, Myanmar encountered a situation during the years from 1948 to 1950, when independence was almost lost. Media branded the government as six-mile government (the government whose arm of authority stretched six miles around).

Though it was the time when all the national people were to work hard peacefully and happily for the development of the country, there surfaced internal strife in which national races fought each other as the colonialists drove a wedge among them. Meanwhile, the Tatmadaw was also faced with the danger of the KMT troops that intruded into the country.

At such a time when the country was amid a multitude of dangers, it was the Tatmadaw alone that protected the country’s sovereignty. While quelling the rise of internal strife, the Tatmadaw crushed the KMT intruders. If the Tatmadaw could not stand steadfast and crush the danger posted to the country, the country would have fallen into the alien hands since then.

Myanmar Tatmadaw lost numerous lives in crushing the intrusion of the KMT troops. True to the members of the People’s Tatmadaw born of the general public, they sacrificed their lives and limbs for the people, in other words, for the independence of the country.

Over 100 years back, the colonialists invaded the territory of Myanmar in a way to put the Myanmar Tatmadaw to the test. Taking advantage of the weakened strength of Myanmar Tatmadaw, they intruded into Myanmar soil on a gradual basis and at last colonized the whole country. The memory of these true historical events should live on.

If Myanmar Tatmadaw could not repel and crush the KMT troops that intruded into Myanmar in strength at the end of 1949 and at the dawn of 1950, and in other words, if Myanmar Tatmadaw could not fight them with their capabilities, it is unthinkable whether the country relapsed into the similar fate she had been in over 100 years ago.

Under the pressure of the historical necessity, the Tatmadaw therefore had to take over the responsibilities of the State again. The Tatmadaw was also the force that saved the motherland at risk to lives of its members in order to avoid the possible loss of the lives and property of the people that might be due to the split of the AFPFL party.

In 1961-62, the country also faced the federal movement that could trigger the collapse of the Union due to the fact that the country was about to be caught in the trap of the colonialists, while some groups were making steps for the membership of the colonialists’ regional bloc.

(See page 9)
The Tatmadaw that has stood before the people throughout consecutive eras

The independence was about to succumb to the movement and the nation was on the edge of collapse.

The movement was absolutely out of control of the ruling party, the Pa-bta-sa government. The Tatmadaw with a sense of bounden duty again assumed the State duties. Had not the Tatmadaw done so, the Union would have collapsed, the national races would have disintegrated and fought each other. If so, the colonialists would be able to annex the country for the second time easily.

In 1988, anarchy reigned throughout the nation owing to the unrest caused by the instigations of the leftist and rightist groups, aboveground and underground groups, and internal and external subversive elements. The saboteurs broke into godowns and robbed the stored things, ravaged State-owned property, and even beheadings took place.

The people were demonstrating for democracy and immediate forming of an interim government. At that time, a five-warship fleet of the western super power intruded into Myanmar’s waters and was finding a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs. So, the nation was likely to lose its independence.

Again that time, the Tatmadaw upholding national duties saved and safeguarded the nation from the dangers of leftist and rightist saboteurs. Supposing the nation collapsed, no doubt, the fleet would not hesitate to interfere in the internal affairs. Then, the nation would be under servitude.

If taken for granted, Myanmar’s independence will be lost all of a sudden to alien subjugation. However, it had to sacrifice much blood, sweat and lives of the national brethren and take many years to regain the independence. Taking bitter and valuable lessons from the past events, the Tatmadaw has always firmly stood by the people and safeguarded and protected the nation in order not to lose the independence again.

So far, the nation has faced four times the situations of great urgency that could lead to possible collapse of the Union, loss of lives and property of the people, and bloody conflicts among the national brethren. Every time, the Tatmadaw hand in hand with the people had been capable of overcoming the hardships.

In the successive eras, whenever the nation got itself into a fix and hardship, the Tatmadaw had never failed to firmly stand by the people and to surmount all the difficulties of the nation. The Tatmadaw has sacrificed many lives of its members to remedy the evil situations that can snatch the independence of the nation.

If taken for granted, Myanmar’s independence will be lost all of a sudden to alien subjugation. However, it had to sacrifice much blood, sweat and lives of the national brethren and take many years to regain the independence. Taking bitter and valuable lessons from the past events, the Tatmadaw has always firmly stood by the people and safeguarded and protected the nation in order not to lose the independence again.

The Tatmadaw is in deed a national force that could lead to possible loss of independence, collapse of the Union, loss of lives and property of the people, and bloody conflicts among the national brethren. Every time, the Tatmadaw hand in hand with the people had been capable of overcoming the hardships.

It is thus indispensable to upgrade the Tatmadaw born of the people to be a strong and capable force to be able to firmly stand by the people forever. Similarly, by playing a leading role in the State’s drive for the emergence of a democratic nation, the Tatmadaw will always be able to protect the independence of the nation and shoulder the bounden duties for the perpetuation of sovereignty.

The Tatmadaw is indeed a national force that always stands by the people whenever the nation faces adversities and hardships, and always serves the interests of the nation and the people. Throughout the eras, the Tatmadaw has stood as a force just for the sake of the national people.

A squadron of Sea Fury fighters of Myanma Tatmadaw (Air Force) take part in crushing KMT troops.

The homecoming of Myanma Tatmadaw members who won the battle against KMT troops in Operation Yangyaung.
Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win…

(from page 16)

The Prime Minister cleaned the Seinbudaw with the use of scented water after fixing pieces of diamond at it.

He also cleaned the Hngetmyatnadaw and installed three gold rings at the pivot, a Buddha image and jewellery donated by the people at the Hngetmyatnadaw and 24 gold rings the steel strings of the pivot.

Afterwards, he hung small gold and silver bells and gold leaves of Bo tree at the Shwehtidaw and cleaned it with scented water.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects…

(from page 16)

reported on area and location of the zone, land allotment and production of 269 entrepreneurs with 309 workshops. Vice-Chairman of the Zone U Aung Min submitted reports on agricultural equipment, automobiles, parts of hydel power machines and others. The entrepreneurs took part in the discussions.

After fulfilling their requirements, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected fire engine, ambulance, small-scale hydel power equipment, machinery, farming equipment, automobile and spare parts, Academy Super Jeep, Chindwin Star Jeep and Maung Myanmar Super Jeep. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left Kalay and arrived back here by air in the afternoon.—MNA

Ayeyawady Division’s summer paddy sown acreage to reach 1.1 million in April

Yangon, 24 March — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence met departmental personnel, members of social organizations and hoteliers in Shwethaungyan town in Ayeyawady Division on 22 March.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the Government has been building necessary infrastructures for development of the west bank of Ngawun River.

Pathein Airport has been built for the convenience of passengers at Chaungtha and Ngwehsuang beaches.

As tourism business of the beaches will further develop efforts should be made to attract more visitors to the destinations, while preserving the national culture. There should be cooperation among the entrepreneurs and regions and between the government departments and the private sector for progress of hotel business contributing much to the national economy.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, officials and entrepreneurs presented plans to develop the beaches and the west bank of Ngawun River.

After making arrangements for improving the health situation of the region, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than visited the solar and wind-power electricity research project of Chaungtha conducted in cooperation with New Energy and Industry Development Organization of Japan. Officials explained power generation and consumption of Pathein District and salient points of the research project, and the commander, electricity supply to hotels and villages at Chaungtha beach.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win sprays scented water to Shwehtidaw of Shwedagon Pagoda.— MNA

Meanwhile, five Sayadaws on the scaffold atop the pagoda, 10 Ovadacariva Sayadaws on upper terrace and 18 members of the Sangha on the platform of the pagoda recited religious verses and Gathas.

The Prime Minister performed the rituals of golden and silver showers to mark the successful completion of the ceremony.

Before the ceremony, religious organizations and wut association members totalling over 2,000 recited Parittas and religious verses—MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win offers Buddha images and jewellery to be fixed at Hngetmyatnadaw of Shwedagon Pagoda.— MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party taking Nine Precepts from Sayadaws.—MNA

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win sprinkles scented water to Shwehtidaw of Shwedagon Pagoda.— MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint holds meeting with officers and other ranks of local regiment of Kyigon in Kalay.—MNA

The project began power distribution on 23 March 2001. At the scallop farm of the Golden Green Co Ltd, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than observed raising of the scallops in 75 brick tanks for export.

Later, he attended the summer paddy harvesting ceremony in Kyaungpangon village, Pathnine Township. Up to now, Ayeyawady Division has put 1,000,305 acres of land under summer paddy, and harvested 250,000 acres. Its summer paddy sown acreage will reach 1.1 million in April.

During inspection of a private bio fertilizer factory, he spoke of the need to produce quality fertilizers beneficial to the nation.

The factory will start production in June 2005. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived back here in the evening.—MNA
Religious titles conferred on…

(from page 7)

Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to eight Sayadaws; Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe presented certificates of Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to six Sayadaws; Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to six Sayadaws and Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to eight Sayadaws.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe presented certificates of Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to six Sayadaws; Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to five Sayadaws, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to eight Sayadaws; Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to eight Sayadaws; Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to five Sayadaws.

Supreme Court Judge U Khin Myint presented certificates of Maha Kammathanaçariya title to six Sayadaws; Supreme Court Judge U Khin Maung Aye, Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to five Sayadaws; MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to six Sayadaws; Director of Medical Services Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to six Sayadaws; Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to eight Sayadaws; Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to five Sayadaws.

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Director-General of RAD Dr Myo Myint pre-sented certificates of Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to three Sayadaws, Maha Dhammakāthika Bahujana Hitadhar title to a Sayadaw, Dhammakāthika Bahujana Hitadhar title to a Sayadaw and Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to six Sayadaws, and Director-General Lt-Col Myo Kyaw of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana title to Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to six Sayadaws and Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to six Sayadaws.

Pro-Rector (Admin) of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dr Myint Kyi ofered certificates of Dhammakāthika Bahujana Hitadhar title to two Sayadaws, Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to six Sayadaws, Jotikadhaja title to three Sayadaws and Kammathanaçariya title to five Sayadaws; Deputy Director-General U Htin Myo of RAD, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to six Sayadaws and Deputy Director-General of DPSS U Tun Mra Aung, Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to six Sayadaws.

 Afterwards, Daw Mya Mya San gave away Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to four nuns; Daw Khin Than Nwe, Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to three nuns and Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to a nun; Daw Kin Lay Thein, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to a nun and Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to three nuns; Daw Than Than Nwe, Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to a nun, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to two nuns.

 Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to three lay persons and Thihā Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to two lay persons; Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Thihā Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to five lay persons; Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Thihā Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to three lay men and Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to two lay persons; Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thihā Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to five lay persons; Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to three lay persons.

 Daw Mya Mya San gave away certificates of Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title to one lay woman and Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title to four lay women. Daw Khin Than Nwe presented certificates of Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title to five lay women. Daw Khin Lay Thein conferred Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title on four lay women and Thihā Thudhamma Theingi title to one lay woman. Daw Than Than Nwe presented certificates of Thihā Thudhamma Theingi title to five lay women; Daw Khin Khin Win, Thihā Thudhamma Theingi title to three lay women; Daw Marlar Tin, Thudhamma Theingi title to three lay women.

 Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious matters, saying that the World Buddhist Summit hosted by Myanmar in December 2004 has stood witness to the flourishing of the Buddhist Dhamma in the nation. The members of the Sangha are working for the purification, promotion and propagation of the Sasana and the people of Myanmar are making donations for them to continue their work. According to the tradition of presenting religious titles to eminent monks, a practice emerged since the time of Lord Buddha, persons this year.

Then, Secretary Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Osadhavhivamsa delivered a sermon. The congregation shared merits gained before the concluding of the religious title offering ceremony.

After the ceremony, the rice and provision offering ceremony followed. At the ceremony, families of the Ministry of Defence, the office of the Prime Minister, the office of the State Peace and Development Council and Central Offices, families of the Adjutant-General’s Office and the Quartermaster-General’s Office, Defence Services (Navy), Defence Services (Air), Yangon Command Head-quarters, ministries, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General’s Office, the Auditor-General’s Office, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Yangon City Development Committee, district and township Peace and Development Councils, religious and social organizations and wellwishers donated rice and alms to title recipient members of the Sangha and nuns.

At the donation ceremony, Daw Kyawng Kyawng, Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin Than Nwe, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thein, Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives, the Yangon Command Commander and wife, the ministers and the deputy ministers and their wives, departmental heads, officials and wellwishers took designated places and presented rice and alms worth K 108,182,879 to the title recipient Sayadaws and nuns.

MNA
**Trade Mark CAUTION**

**YKK CORPORATION**

A corporation duly organized under the laws of Japan, of No. 1, Kanda Izuami-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

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for YKK CORPORATION

P.O. Box 60,Yangon

Dated: 25 March 2005

**Putin vows to cooperate with LAS on MidEast issues**

**Moscow, 23 March** — Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed on Tuesday that Moscow will continue to promote the settlement of Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts by closely cooperating with the League of Arab States (LAS), the Russian media reported.

Russia, together with other international mediators, will continue to play an active role in implementing the road map peace plan and leading to the creation of an independent democratic Palestinian state which will live side-by-side with Israel in peace and security, Putin said in a greeting letter to the Arab League, according to the Interfax news agency.

Congratulating on the 60th anniversary of the LAS, Putin also promised that Moscow will promote further cooperation with the organization “in the interests of peace, security and sustainable development”, the ITAR-TASS said.

The President said Moscow is closely watching the dynamic development of the events in this region.

The Palestinian elections in January and the summit meeting in Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt, have formed favourable conditions for the resumption of the peace process between the Israelis and the Palestinians, Putin noted.

It is impossible to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict without the peace talks between Israel and its two foes—Syria and Lebanon, he said.

On Iraqi issue, Putin spoke highly of the latest elections, saying Moscow hopes “the new Iraqi Government will be able to win trust and support from the majority of the Iraqis.”

**China’s development benefits the world**

**Manila, 23 March** — The World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office said on Tuesday that one million people with tuberculosis (TB) go unnoticed in East Asia and the Pacific every year, thus missing the chance to be cured.

WHO also said that drug-resistant TB viruses, which are more difficult to treat, are going on infecting more and more people in the region.

"The failure to detect, and thus treat, TB cases, is linked to many factors, but the main causes are poor awareness of the disease among the public, limited access to and delivery of health-care services and the low quality of laboratory services," said WHO.

Most critical to detecting cases is the availability of the DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course) strategy.

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Chinese Academy of Sciences to build research networks

BEIJING, 23 March — Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Shi Erwei said here on Tuesday that in the coming five years the academy will focus on building research networks to combine academic resources of different CAS institutes for strategic scientific projects.

The new networks will be aimed at the research fronts of information technology, modern agriculture, life sciences, advanced manufacturing and new materials, Shi said in an interview with Xinhua.

Though the CAS will still respect the autonomy of subordinate institutes in deciding their primary research orientations, Shi said, the networks should help enhance the capacity of individual institutes to coordinate and cooperate.

"We are not to copy existing research entities, and we are scheming flexible and virtual networks which might collect strength from sources both inside and outside of the CAS," Shi said.

The networks will organize researchers to work toward special goals, after the completion of which researchers will go back to their home institutes, Shi said. Interim network leaders will set up strategies and implement management for specific research projects.

In addition to the emphasis on networks, Shi said, the CAS will strive to strengthen cooperative ties with universities as well as big companies. The CAS intends to provide research facilities for joint programmes.

By 2010, Shi said, the CAS will establish a handful of joint labs or other research organs together with universities and companies. He also said the CAS is considering stimulating research talent by restructuring existing human resource systems.

"With more and more tough jobs we are faced," Shi said, "the CAS needs more and more science strategists and leading scientists."

US researchers develop new technique to detect fingerprints

LOS ANGELES, 23 March — Scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory said that they have developed a novel method for detecting fingerprints on the chemical elements present in sweat residue.

Known as micro-X-ray fluorescence, or MXRF, the technique has the potential to help expand the use of fingerprinting as a forensic investigation tool, scientists said in a Press release.

This technique, based on elemental composition, uses micro-X-ray fluorescence to show how the salts, such as sodium chloride and potassium chloride, excreted in sweat are sometimes present in detectable quantities in human fingerprints, according to lead researcher Christopher Worley.

MXRF actually detects the sodium, potassium and chlorine elements present in those salts, as well as many other elements if they are present.

The elements are detected as a function of their location on a surface, making it possible to "see" a fingerprint where the salts have been deposited in the patterns of fingerprints — the lines called friction ridges by forensic scientists.

This new technique has several advantages over traditional fingerprint detection methods that involve treating the suspect fluids, or vapours in order to add colour to the fingerprint so that it can be read.

"With more and more science strategists and leading scientists," Shi said, "the CAS needs more and more science strategists and leading scientists."
**Brazilian soccer star Rogerio's mother kidnapped**

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 23 March — The mother of Brazilian soccer star Rogerio of Lisbon's Sporting was kidnapped in her home in the town of Campinas, police said on Tuesday. It was the fourth time the mother of a Brazilian soccer player has been kidnapped in the last several months. "The only information we have is that there was a kidnapping and the captors have not made contact with the family yet," a police spokesman in Sao Paulo said.

Ines Fidelis Regis was kidnapped late Monday night in her home about 60 miles from Sao Paulo. Last month, the mother of Sao Paulo striker Grafiti, whose legal name is Edmundo Batista Libanio, was held for a day before police rescued her with no ransom paid.

The mother of Santos player Robinho was held 41 days before being released. Robinho, or Robson de Souza, did pay ransom in that case but it was not known how much.— **MNA/Reuters**

**Czech court hands out first soccer corruption sentences**

PRAGUE, 23 March — The Czech Nymburk District court on Tuesday convicted the country's lower league soccer referees Vaclav Sulc and Josef Lorenz of corruption. Lorenz was fined 10,000 crowns (about 440 US dollars) and Sulc received a six month prison sentence with 18 months conditional release. Both were found guilty of taking bribes in lower soccer leagues and were banned from the game for two years. Lorenz appealed the verdict on the spot, but Sulc would not appeal. Both, however, continued to proclaim their innocence and said that the case was trumped up. Judge Vaclav Krejcek said in his verdict that the evidence was undeniable. The case broke a year and a half ago when Libice nad Cidlinou soccer club captain Radek Vana agreed to a bribe in favour of his team with one referee for 500 crowns (about 22 dollars). The bribe was then filmed by a Czech Television crewman posing as a club reporter with a secret camera. The Nymburk case was the first of a series of corruption incidents to rock Czech soccer. Several first and second league clubs have been hit with heavy fines and point deductions, while a number of top referees and club officials have been charged and banned from the game. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Japan sending Fischer to Iceland for citizenship**

TOKYO, 23 March — Japan will consider sending former world chess champion Bobby Fischer to Iceland once it confirms that he has been granted citizenship there, Japanese Justice Minister Chieko Nohno said on Tuesday.

Iceland's Parliament granted Fischer citizenship on Monday, opening the door for the fugitive American to settle in the tiny North Atlantic republic where he won the world title in 1972. "I have not received a report on this... so it is difficult to reply as I have no clear information," Nohno told reporters.

Fischer, 62, is currently in detention in Japan fighting a US deportation order. But Nohno reiterated that it was legally possible for Fischer to be deported to Iceland if he had citizenship there. "If that is the situation, the immigration authorities will consider appropriately with regard to his deportation destination," she said.

Fischer is wanted in the United States for violating sanctions against the former Yugoslavia by playing a chess match there in 1992. He was arrested in Japan last July for travelling on an invalid US passport.

Iceland's single-chamber assembly approved citizenship for Fischer by 40 votes in favour and none against, said parliamentarian Bjarni Benediktsson. He told Reuters the decision would enter into force within the next few days.

Fischer's lawyer, Masako Suzuki, said she had been told by the Icelandic ambassador to Japan earlier on Tuesday that the decision was expected to take effect with the signing later in the day by President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson. She said Fischer had asked Iceland's government to issue a passport to him as an Icelandic citizen.

She said Fischer could leave Japan for Iceland within several days. "I think Fischer will be able to leave Japan by the end of this week unless there is a great deal of interference," Suzuki said. "It is no longer possible to prevent him from leaving the country." **MNA/Reuters**

**Gattuso, Pancaro decline to take optional blood tests**

MILAN, 23 March — AC Milan players Gennaro Gattuso and Giuseppe Pancaro declined to take optional blood tests after Sunday's Serie A game with AS Roma leaving Italian Football Federation president Franco Carraro in a tricky position.

Although there are no formal sanctions for refusing to give the optional blood samples Carraro had threatened that those who declined would not be picked for the Italian national side.

Gattuso is in the Italy squad which will play Scotland in a World Cup qualifier at Milan's San Siro Stadium on Saturday. He defended his decision by saying the current system was badly organized and irregularly applied.

"Either you do things seriously or you don't do them at all,"Gattuso told Tuesday's Corriere della Sera. "For months no-one has been seen (for blood tests) and then now they bring up this new thing."

"At any rate, I don't see where the problem is given that nothing is obligatory. We should plan the controls well, taking them equal for everyone and then I would be happy to adhere," added the Milan midfielder.

Italy introduced random blood testing in January of last year to supplement their existing compulsory urine tests. Carraro must now decide whether to carry out the sanction he promised last year when he said: "Players who don't accept blood testing will not be called up for international duty. They will also be subject to random tests throughout the season."

Milan club doctor Massimiliano Sala said that in the case of players who refused the blood tests more stringent tests were carried out on the urine sample.

"If a player refuses to put himself forward for a blood analysis he doesn't do it to escape from an anti-doping control because in reality on the basis of that refusal he undergoes a more accurate control," Sala said.

He added that under Italy's privacy law the names of players who refused to take a blood sample should not be made public.

Italy has a strict anti-doping testing system with two players from every Serie A and Serie B team tested after every game. Several players have been banned for testing positive in recent seasons and in November Juventus club doctor Riccardo Agricola was found guilty of administering banned substances between 1994 and 1998.

Agricola is appealing against the verdict.— **MNA/Reuters**

**Police to investigate Rooney assaulted man in nightclub**

LONDON, 23 March — British police are to investigate an allegation that Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney assaulted a man in a nightclub, a spokesman said on Tuesday.

Police in Manchester, northwest England, said a member of the public had made a formal complaint of assault against the 19-year-old England player.

"A man reported being assaulted at a night club in the city centre," a Greater Manchester Police spokesman said.

"Inquiries are continuing into the incident." A spokesman for Rooney denied the allegations.

"Wayne was approached by a man he had never met in an abusive and threatening manner," the spokesman told the Sun newspaper. "Despite extreme provocation, Wayne did not respond."

Local media alleged Rooney, 19, hit a 22-year-old student who taunted him early on Tuesday over his controversial transfer from Everton last year.

The student was reported in the Sun as having said to Rooney: "Once a Blue always a Blue, oh Wayne?" The reported comment was a reference to a slogan printed on a T-shirt worn by lifelong Everton supporter Rooney before his 27 million pounds transfer.

Many Everton fans were angered by the move, which they saw as an act of betrayal. More than 30 supporters were arrested in clashes after Rooney's return to Everton's Goodison Park at a tense cup match against their English Premier League rivals Manchester United in February.

Rooney, feted in England for scoring four goals to help his country reach the quarter-finals of the Euro 2004 soccer tournament, is expected to play in Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland. **MNA/Reuters**
WEATHER

Thursday, 24 March, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in Shan State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Homalin (0.43) inch, Myitkyina (0.39) inch. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (3°C) below normal in Kachin State, (5°C) below normal in lower Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Magway (42°C).

Maximum temperature on 23-3-2005 was 101°F. Minimum temperature on 24-3-2005 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-3-2005 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 23-3-2005 was (9.9) hours approx. Rainfalls on 24-3-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (0.59) inch at Yangon Airport, (1.54) inches at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (9) mph from Southwest at (19-50) hours MST on 23-3-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 25-3-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-3-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-3-2005: Partly cloudy.
Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cleanses Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw, Shwehtidaw of Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 24 March — Due to successful completion of maintenance and renovation of Shwehtidaw at Shwedagon Pagoda, the ceremony to cleanse Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwehtidaw was held at the prayer hall of Padamya Myatshin Buddha Image on upper terrace of the pagoda at 7.02 am this morning, attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadawas, Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, Tipitakadhara Sayadaws, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, the Chairman of the All-round Perpetual Renovation Work Committee of Shwedagon Pagoda and members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials. Ovadaçariya Sayadaw of the pagoda board of trustees Chyaukhtetgyi Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandobhasa administered the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win offered Buddha images, jewellery and other donations to be installed at the Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwehtidaw to the Chyaukhtetgyi Sayadaw.

Similarly, the commander and the minister donated provisions to the Sayadaws. Ovadaçariya Sayadaw of the pagoda board of trustees Mingaladon Township Tawtaik Dhammayeiktha Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Bhaddanta Dhammasara delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. Under the leadership of the Ovadaçariya Sayadaw of the pagoda board of trustees Agga Maha Pandita Weiluwun Sayadaw Bhaddanta Aggavamsa and four Tipitakadhara Sayadaws, the Prime Minister and party conveyed the Buddha images and jewellery to be fixed at the Seinbudaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Shwehtidaw atop the pagoda. (See page 10)

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets with entrepreneurs of Kalay Industrial Zone

YANGON, 24 March— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station and officials, met with Tatmadawmen and families at Kyikon Station Hall, on 22 March morning.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed them to cooperate with local people for carrying out public welfare activities, regional development and five rural development tasks in accord with noble traditions of the Tatmadaw by upholding our three main national causes and undertake agriculture and livestock breeding tasks on a manageable scale.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Kalay Industrial Zone along Kalay-Tamu Road and inspected products of the zone.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for the Industrial Zone Chairman of Kalay District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Moe Myint (See page 10)