

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 334

7th Waxing of Taboung 1366 ME

Wednesday, 16 March, 2005

### Four political objectives

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

### Four economic objectives

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

### Four social objectives

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

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

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

Also present on the occasion were SPDC Members General Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Khin Maung

Than, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Bago Division PDC Chairman Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, ministers, senior military officers, and departmental heads.

General Thura Shwe Mann delivered a speech. The Senior General gave guidance to the officials

and cordially greeted those present.

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

(See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe inspects Ye Nwe Multi-purpose Dam Project in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division. — MNA

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

### INSIDE

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

(Page 2)

PERSPECTIVES



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

## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 16 March, 2005

### Make full use of natural resources for regional development

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

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

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

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

We would like to call on the national people living in various regions of the Union, including those in Bago Division, to work for further development of their respective regions by making full use of natural resources.

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

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

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

Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla delivered an address on the occasion. Secretary Daw Htoo Yaw explained the purpose of holding the course. Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented completion certificates to the trainees. On behalf of the trainees, Daw Khin Mar Yi expressed gratitude. — MNA

## People's Desire

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

## Myanmar delegation leaves for India

YANGON, 15 March— Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun this morning left here by air for India to attend meeting on information and communication technology of public relations departments and the finance sector to be held in New Delhi from 16 to 18 March.

The minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, heads of department



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

and family members. Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung of Central Bank of Myanmar, Man-

aging Director U Maung Maung Tin of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Staff Officer

U Min Han Soe of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue accompanied the minister. —MNA

## New houses for rural people in Patheingyi Township

YANGON, 15 March— Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and

Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, accompanied by officials, on 11 March, inspected water supply

tasks in TadaU in Mandalay Division.

The deputy minister and party inspected the

construction of brick tanks the laying of water pipes, sinking of tubewell and installation of power lines.

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

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



Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe inspects a hydrant in TadaU Township. —MNA

MNA

## New roads put into service in Bago Division

YANGON, 15 March— As a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, ceremonies to open new roads were held on 13 March in townships of Bago Division.

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

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

With the length of 13720 feet and width of 16 feet, Bawdigwin-Pyantalin road was built at a cost of 1.5 million kyats provided by DAD.

Aungchantha road was also built at a cost of 1.5 million kyat. It is a 400 feet long and 12 feet wide tarred one.

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



Director-General U Myo Myint attends opening of rural earth road in Kyauktaga Township. — MNA



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Describing the international migration situation as "worrysome", Gervais Appave, an official from IOM, urged to incorporate the migration problems into national and

regional overall plans of relevant countries so as to put the negative effects to the lowest level.

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

"China highly appreciate the efforts paid by IOM for solving migra-

tion problems and wish it can contribute more through its advantages in resources and technology," said Chen.

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

MNA/Xinhua



A Bangkok petrol station seen on 15 March, 2005.—INTERNET

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

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

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

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

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

"I acknowledged at the

time that our decision would not be popular and the polls would indicate that it's not got popular support," he told Brisbane radio 4BC.

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

"I never promised there'd be no more troops.

I said quite honestly and accurately when asked ... that we didn't have any plans to significantly increase our force."

Opposition Leader Kim Beazley said the government had misled the Australian people by reversing a decision not to increase troop numbers.

Internet



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

INTERNET

**Poles held in Iraq bribe inquiry**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Quakes jolt India's Andaman Islands**

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

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

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

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



Delegates attend the closing session of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 15 March, 2005.—INTERNET

စက်မှုစွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

## Thailand to launch “intelligent traffic systems”

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

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

people to call a taxi by simply pushing a button. “The aim is to help Bangkok people spend less time on the roads,” Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) deputy governor Samart Ratchapolsitte was quoted by *The Nation* newspaper as saying.

intelligent traffic signs will be installed in front of expressways and important intersections by June. About 150 intelligent bus stands will be constructed. And a pilot project involving bus stops with high-technology information signs will also be set up in June. Samart said BMA had invited private companies to invest in the three projects. Each of the structures involved would have advertising space for the company.

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

Under the projects, 60

MNA/Xinhua

## Chinese lawmaker says school education should highlight safety

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

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

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

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

“It has become a pressing task for Chinese schools

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

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

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

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

## Goods train derails in central India, traffic disrupted

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

## Chinese smoking population reaches 350 million

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

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

It said that at the just-concluded annual full session of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Chi-

na's top advisory body, in Beijing, quite a few advisers have proposed the government take more rigorous measures to ban smoking in public places and discourage the would-be smokers. It quoted adviser Wang Tianyou as saying that the government should levy higher taxes on sales of cigarettes to raise their market prices, so as to make fewer people able to afford smoking. — MNA/Xinhua

## 1,514 US soldiers killed in Iraq

**WASHINGTON, 14 March**—As of Monday, 14 March, 2005, at least 1,514 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,155 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

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

## Four Vietnamese people killed in road accident

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

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

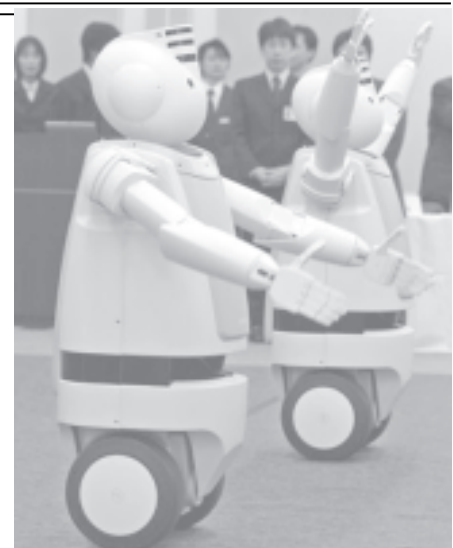
Two other motorbikes had minor collisions with the truck and the fallen motorbike, injuring three people. Local

police are investigating the accident's cause.

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

MNA/Xinhua

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



## Australian leaders welcome Indonesian President's visit

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

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

"We have been dis-

cussing it and it's further evidence of the close relations between our two countries," Howard told Australian Broadcasting Corporation TV, saying the visit will provide an opportunity to promote bilateral relationship.

Howard said the visit shows the two countries are able to focus on com-

mon challenges and values despite difficulties in bilateral relations.

Australia will host joint ministerial council meeting in Canberra next week and "that is another sign of how important the relationship is to both governments", Howard said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore's President starts visit to Australia

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

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

He met Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Trade Minister Mark Vaile, Defence Minister Robert Hill and Foreign Minister Alexander Downer mainly on de-

fence cooperation and trade liberalization.

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

Singapore is Australia's largest trade and investment partner in the Association of South-East

Asian Nations, and Australia's eighth largest trading partner overall.

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

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

## Sun Microsystems opens solution centre in Singapore

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

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua



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

## Nearly one ton of drugs seized in Iran

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

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

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

## Two US Marines wounded in E Afghanistan

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

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

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

"The anti-coalition militia members retreated after the ambush. The Marines conducted a search of the area and con-

tinued their mission," the statement said.

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

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

## Netherlands begins troops pullout from Iraq

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

The Netherlands has more than 1,400 troops stationed in Iraq as part of the stabilization force. The first group of 150 soldiers was welcomed at the Eindhoven air base in southern Holland by Defence Minister Henk Kamp and hundreds of friends and their relatives, the report said. The Dutch military forces in Iraq handed over command in the province Al Muthanna to the British troops on 7 March. The change of command brings to a close a mission that lasted 20 months.

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

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

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

After having spent 10 years in the US military, Benderman missed his unit's deployment flight to Iraq on 7 January. Ten days earlier, he had given his commanders notice that he planned to seek a discharge as a conscientious objector, saying he had become opposed to the war after having served eight months in

Iraq in 2003.

Benderman joins a growing number of soldiers who are protesting the Iraq war by refusing orders, going AWOL, fleeing to Canada or speaking out. CBS News reported on 8 December that the Pentagon has admitted that at least 5,500 US military personnel have deserted since the

war started in Iraq.

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

Internet



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

**Big nations of west bloc use ILO...**

(from page 16)  
 Director General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, departmental heads, journalists, U Sein Win of Kyodo News Agency, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kai Hpa, Secretary U Nyunt Tin and member correspondents, editors of local magazine and journal publishing houses and invited guests.

First, Director-General of Labour Department of the Ministry of Labour U Soe Nyunt made

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

nic lives and blood in launching operations to crush insurgents who were supported by external groups. During that period, under the people's militia strategy, people's strength was obtained. However, there were no complaints concerning the ILO convention No 29.

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



Director-General of Labour Department U Soe Nyunt.



Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi.



Local and foreign mediapersons observe documentary photos at the press conference 2/2005. —MNA

clarification regarding the arbitrary pressure put on Myanmar by ILO.

At this press conference today, I would like to deal first with the one-sided pressure put on Myanmar by ILO siding with expatriate destructionists.

As known to you journalists, some big nations with the aim of manipulating our country through an individual or a party they favour, are fabricating exaggerations and putting one-sided pressure on Myanmar. In order to influence the entire world by advocating democracy and human rights, those big nations are keeping some international organizations in their pockets and making accusations against Myanmar on labour affairs, women's affairs and child conscription.

History stands witness to the fact that since regaining independence Myanmar has not involved in the world's blocs, regional blocs and treaty organizations but remains non-aligned. Our country co-exists and maintains friendly ties with neighbours, other countries in the region

with a view to manipulating it at will.

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

Myanmar submits a report on its observance of the convention to the ILO every year. During the period from 1955 to 1988, there were internal strife in Myanmar and the Tatmadaw had to sacri-

fy lives and blood in launching operations to crush insurgents who were supported by external groups.

The big nations of the west bloc also used ILO as a political forum to put pressure on Myanmar in order to install their puppet government in power.

The first step in putting pressure politically was that under the influence of the big nations, 25 representatives of ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) accused Myanmar of failure to abide by ILO Convention No 29 and made complaint to take action against Myanmar under Convention No 24.

With the first step

taken, they used Maung Maung (a) Pyithit Nyunt Wai as an axe-handle. You journalists have already known who is Pyithit Nyunt Wai. He is a son of NLD CEC member U Nyunt Wai and action was taken against him for loss of gems at Diplomatic Store of Myanma Gems Enterprise in August 1988 while he was discharging duties as a sales manager there. In 1989 he fled to a neighbouring country to escape arrest. Then he disguised himself as a democracy activist.

Maung Maung, forming the FTUB with a couple of members lodged such complaints based on false news.

Such false accusations were not ignored by Myanmar. Our country provided the ILO with facts concerning the accusations in conformity with the procedures of international organizations. However, these facts were ignored.

In 1993 ICFTU lodged a complaint to ILO to take action against Myanmar under Article 24 of the ILO constitution. Myanmar gave replies to ILO with relevant photographs, video records and testimony. Yet it continued to accuse Myanmar.

To continue to arbitrarily put pressure upon Myanmar politically, William Brett, representative of Trade Union of Britain and 24 other representatives made a complaint to take action against Myanmar in connection with forced labour under Article 26 and form an investigation commission in 1996. Myanmar's re-

giment. The Commission urged three points as follows:

- (1) to ensure the 1907 Village Act and the 1907 Towns Act to be in conformity with Article 29 not later than 1-5-1999;
- (2) to stop all acts of forced labour and promulgate administrative law to inform the public;
- (3) to take action against



Sai Tun and Ywetsit.—MNA

ply with sound evidences were denied and ILO formed an Inquiry Commission in 1996. The Commission was formed despite the sound reply supported by relevant facts of the Myanmar Government.

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

those who practised forced labour under section 374 of Penal Code.

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

It showed the goodwill and righteousness of the Government. At the same time, it is (See page 7)



Sai Tun in SURA uniform. (second from left).—MNA

## Big nations of west bloc use ILO...

(from page 6)  
similar in essence to the recommendations of the Inquiry Committee. Although Myanmar responded with positive attitude, some big western countries bent on manipulating Myanmar continued to blantly put arbitrary pressure upon

with Convention 29 and not to invite Myanmar to meetings, workshops and paper reading sessions sponsored by ILO".

In this context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar rejected it by issuing a Press Release on 17-6-1999. It is mentioned in the Press

accorded to members of the ILO. However, as a responsible member of the international community, Myanmar will continue to comply with the Conventions to which she is a party.

"It is most regrettable that such an august assembly like the ILO should fall victim to the machinations and political tricks of western nations particularly Britain. It demonstrates the complete disregard of these countries to the rules and procedures of the international organization as well as the dignity of these international fora. It is a move which has many dangerous implications for the small and developing countries. It will also dissuade those nations who have not yet signed the ILO core conventions from signing them, much to the detriment of the ILO membership as a whole."

The Myanmar Government with honesty and positive attitude complied with resolutions of the Inquiry Commission of ILO. However, the other side did not respond with better arrangements, it can be found.

ILO was not satisfied with passing of resolutions. At its 277th Governing Board meeting in the year 2000, ILO unprecedentedly passed unjust resolution to take action against Myanmar under Convention No 33



Sai Tun in plain clothes.

our country.

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

At the 87th International Labour Conference in June 1999, Myanmar's constructive

Release as follows.

"In view of the unfairness of the exercise, its lack of balance and objectivity as well as the underlying political motives, Myanmar finds it impossible to accept such deplorable and unscrupulous action on the part of those nations who want to interfere and meddle in the internal affairs of Myanmar. Myanmar has therefore disassociated herself



Sai Tun seen together with seized heroin.

efforts were ignored and a sanction was imposed on Myanmar accusing her of not complying with the resolutions of the Inquiry Commission. The resolution includes the point "To give no aid to Myanmar except the aid for Myanmar to comply

from this unfair and bias resolution and henceforth will cease participation in activities connected with Convention 29 and Convention 87 until such time that Myanmar receive fair and equitable treatment that must necessarily be

for not complying with ILO's recommendation.

Myanmar responded it with a Press Release. It is mentioned in the Press release as follows:

"ILO did make such things without reasons to put pressure on



Sai Tun, left, in SURA uniform.—MNA

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

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

Home Affairs issued Supplementary Order to the Order No 1/99 dated 27-10-2000. Moreover, the State Peace and Development Council issued a directive dated 1-11-2000 that not only relevant authorities but also policemen and Tatmadawmen are to



Sai Tun seen together with seized heroin.

discussions. But ILO rejected them all. Thus Myanmar fully rejected the resolution and recommendations of ILO Governing Board to be submitted to the 88th International Labour Conference under Convention 33. Action taken by ILO Governing Board is not fair and absolutely unsound. Hence, Myanmar assumes that the resolution and action of ILO are not concerned with Myanmar. She respects the view of friendly nations that instead of criticising and keeping Myanmar to be lonely, a chance should be given to coordinate for solving the problem. Myanmar in no way can accept the ILO resolution. Myanmar will not get nervous over such pressure and never allow interferences in her internal affairs."

As Myanmar stood steadfastly in this regard, the 14th ASEAN Labour

between Myanmar and ILO should be solved through mutual cooperation. The ILO director-general was urged to send a technical co-operation mission of ILO to Myanmar before the 88th Conference.

Consequently, Myanmar received ILO technical cooperation missions beginning early 2000 to improve conditions between ILO and Myanmar concerning Convention 29, to construct mutual trust & understanding between them and to get legal advice.

During the period from May 2000 to February 2005, the ILO expert teams made five visits to Myanmar, the senior official team once and the special high-ranking officers team once.

In October 2000, after discussing with the ILO expert team which made the second visit to Myanmar, the Ministry of

abide by the Order 1/99 as well as the Supplementary Order to the Order 1/99.

However, at the 279th meeting of ILO Governing Board of ILO held in November 2000, leader of ILO labour representative Lord Brett mentioned that it was too little too late as there was a little progress in eradicating forced labour in Myanmar; thus action should continue to be taken under Convention 33 in accordance with the resolution of the 88th International Labour Conference. Therefore, the resolution of the 88th ILC came into effect beginning 30 November 2000.

Although ILC imposed sanction on Myanmar, she continued to make efforts to eradicate forced labour with her own strength as she has dedicated herself to do so. Myanmar formed

(See page 10)

## Innovative measures are to be taken with added momentum for production of electrical apparatuses...

(from page 1)

The deputy minister reported on location and functions of the project, work being done, and progress of work; Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, on construction of tunnel, plans to be implemented season-wise, arrangements for supply of electricity through the grid, and measures for arrival of machines; Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Minister for Industry-1 U Aung

Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, on measures taken for constant supply of fuel for the projects, and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, on conservation of forests on Bago Yoma mountain range.

In response, the Senior General gave guidance, saying that it is needed to ensure completion of the dam projects ahead of schedule and enable the people to enjoy the benefits of the facilities as soon as pos-



Senior General Than Shwe inspects progress of work of Kunchaung Hydel-electric power Project near Pyu Township. — MNA



Thaung, on steps for supply of materials on power lines; Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, facts about the diversion weir and irrigation system to be constructed for Kunchaung Hydropower Project by the Irrigation Department; Minister for

sible. The Senior General stressed the importance of simultaneous implementation of related tasks instead of doing only one after another. It is required to ensure parallel completion of dams and canals.

Innovative measures are to be taken with

added momentum for production of electrical apparatuses, he said.

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

The Hydel-Electric Power Department (3) will complete the

**Construction-1 of the ID and Construction-4 of the Hydel-Electric Power Department will implement the Ye Nwe Dam Project on Ye Nwe Creek near Myochaung village in Kyauktaga Township. Upon completion, the project will be able to irrigate 118,500 acres of land and generate 25 megawatts.**

Kunchaung Hydropower Project, and the ID, construction of diversion weir and irrigation system. Ac-

ording to the project, a 1,260-foot-long and 240-foot-high rock-filled dam with earth core will be constructed. On completion, the facility will be able to generate 60 megawatts and benefit 110,000 acres of farmland.

The Senior General and party arrived at Ye Nwe Multipurpose Dam Project in Kyauktaga Township in the morning. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported on salient points on the project; ID Director-General U Kyaw San Win, on construction of dams being undertaken by the ID and work progress; Hydel-Electric Power Department Director-General U Win Kyaw, on construction tasks of the project and progress of sector-wise functions, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut, on the bidding of tender for (See page 9)



Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets Tatmadawmen of Toungoo Station and their families at Southern Command Headquarters. — MNA





Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance to Tamdawmen of Toungoo Station and their families at Southern Command Headquarters. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe hears report on Kunchaung Hydro Electric Power Project by Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut at its briefing hall.—MNA

### Innovative measures...

(from page 8)

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

Construction-1 of the ID and Construction-4 of the Hydel-Electric Power Department will implement the Ye Nwe Dam Project on Ye Nwe Creek near Myochaung village in Kyauktada Township. Upon completion, the project will be able to irri-

### Parade columns continue drill practising

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

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



General Thura Shwe Mann gives clarifications. MNA

gate 118,500 acres of land and generate 25 megawatts. Ye Nwe Multi-purpose Dam Project is included in Pyundaza Plain dam cluster — Baidah, Kawliya, Bawni and Pyinpongyi dams.

The cluster will be able to supply water for more than 200,000 acres of farmland.

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

### Law books available

YANGON, 15 March — The Office of the Attorney-General has published books— Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Law and Rules worth K 650 per copy, Myanmar Laws (2004) worth K 800 per copy and Laws, By Laws, Orders and Notifications worth K 800 per copy — starting 2005 March.

These books are available at book stall of the Office of the Attorney-General, Sarpay Baikman book shop, Inwa Publishing House and book shop of the News and Periodicals Enterprise. — MNA

### NCC Work Committee, support bodies meet

YANGON, 15 March — The National Convention Convening Work Committee and the support bodies of the delegate groups held a work coordination meeting at Work Committee Office at Nyaunhnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, this afternoon.

Chairman of the Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe chaired the meeting and Secretary U Thaung Nyunt acted as master of ceremonies.

Chairman U Aung Toe delivered an opening address. Vice-Chairman U Aye Maung and Secretary U Thaung Nyunt discussed work programmes.

Participants then took part in the discussions. U Aung Toe gave the concluding remarks. —MNA



Chairman of NCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe addresses coord meeting of NCCWC and support teams of NC delegate groups.—MNA



Front side of Thai ID card held by Sai Tun.



Rear side of Thai ID card held by Sai Tun.

**Big nations of west bloc use ILO...**

(from page 7)

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

Afterwards under the agreement between Myanmar and ILO, a senior officials team headed by former Governor General of Australia Sir Ninian Stephen visited Myanmar from 17 September to 6 October 2001. The team submitted a report together with four major suggestions to ILO Governing Board.

The first suggestion demanding constant ILO representation to properly assess Myanmar's progress was accepted by Myanmar and an ILO liaison office has been

tion, the General Administration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs published 168,544 books on the Order No 1/99 and the Supplementary Order to Order No 1/99 in various ethnic languages and distributed them to over 63,000 villages (all villages in Myanmar).

The fourth suggestion deals with provision of assistance to Myanmar's endeavours for economic development with a view to eradicating forced labour. It also urges the international community to maintain constructive relations with Myanmar. In this context, ILO and many countries still need to make economic cooperation with Myanmar.

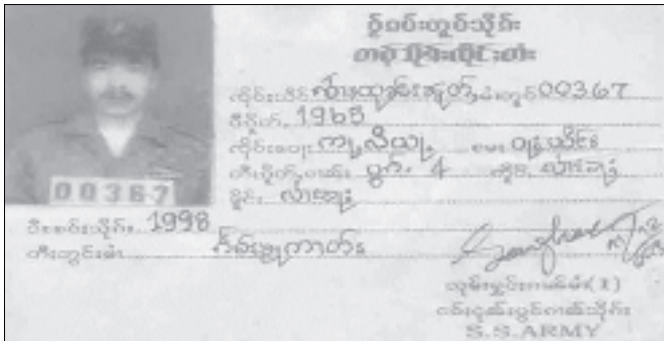
Afterwards, the ILO director-general wrote a letter to the Labour Minister of Myanmar suggesting that Myanmar should select a region to translate negotiations for eradicating forced labour into action; draw up Plan of Action; and then take further steps in other regions. He also pledged that ILO was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

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

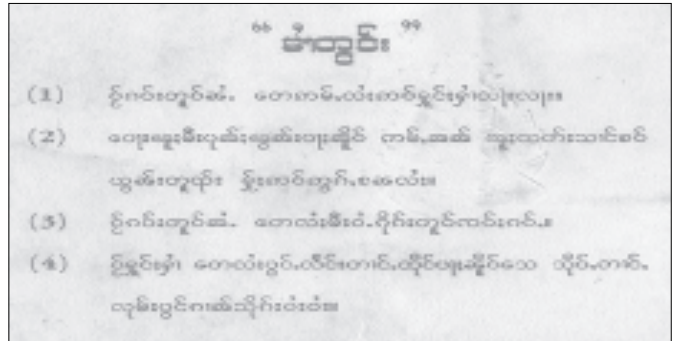
So, you journalists can vividly see that ILO unilaterally postponed the signing of Joint Plan of Action between Myanmar and ILO.

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

Now I will deal with matters on the visit of ILO special high ranking official team to Myanmar. According to the concluding remarks at the 291st meeting of ILO-GB, the ILO director-general sent a letter dated 12



SURA ID card held by Sai Tun



SURA ID card held by Sai Tun

opened in Yangon beginning 6 May 2002.

The second suggestion demanded the appointment of an Ombudsman to take care of complaints on forced labour. Myanmar did not agree to it as the Ombudsman would receive complaints, make inquiries and take action by himself. However, both sides reached agreement to insert a phrase "the role of facilitator" in the Joint Plan of Action.

The facilitator is to review complaints, put forward those he assumes as true to ILO Convention 29 Implementation Committee and make coordinations. Hence, when the Joint Action Plan is implemented the role of facilitator will be included.

As a measure to cooperate with the third sugges-

Accordingly, discussions and coordinations were made with the ILO liaison officer in Yangon for drawing up Plan of Action. In Geneva, the Myanmar Ambassador and ILO Executive Director Mr Kari Tapiola made detailed discussions on matters relating to the role of facilitator. Both sides sign the agreement on 8-5-2003. The Joint Plan of Action was signed in Yangon on 27-5-2003 by the Director-General of Labour Department and the ILO liaison officer. As the Joint Plan of Action has been signed, it is now in the implementation stage. However, at the 91st ILC held in June 2003, based on an incident not related to labour affairs in Myanmar, the ILO unilaterally postponed the implementation.

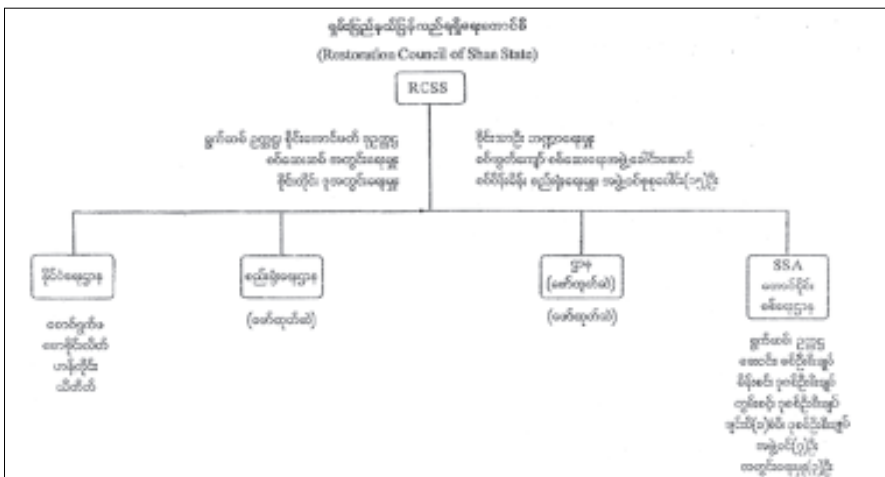
In delivering an opening address at the ILC, the

January 2005 to the Labour Minister of Myanmar expressing the wish to send a special high ranking official team of ILO to Myanmar. The Ministry of Labour replied a letter dated 24 January 2005 to the ILO director-general stating that although it coincided with the reconvening of National Convention, the special high ranking official team will be welcomed and received by the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General and Ministers concerned.

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

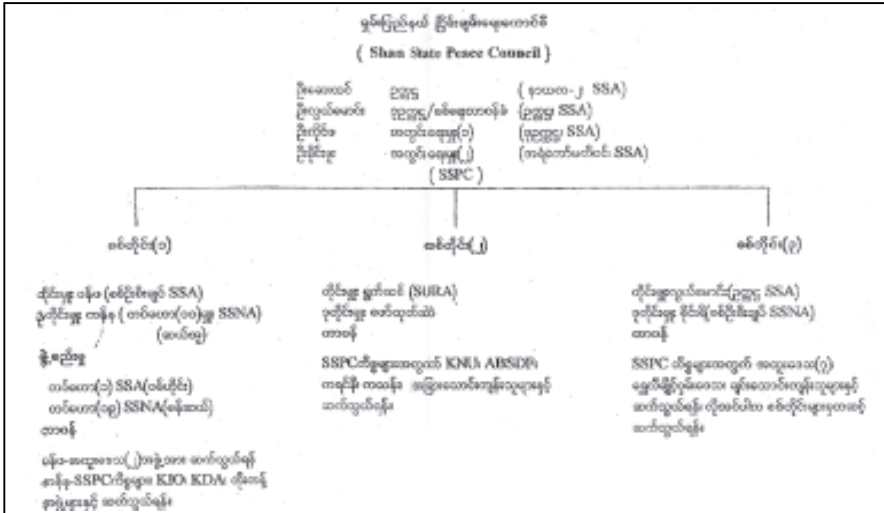
The ILO special high-ranking official team headed by former Governor-General of Australia Sir Ninian Stephen comprising two members arrived in Yangon on 21 February 2005. It was received by the State Peace and Development Council Member and Prime Minister (Head of Government) whose rank is higher than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

(See page 11)



Organizational set-up of RCSS

**YANGON, 15 March—Matters relating to accusation of Myanmar to be one of the countries conscripting child soldiers and exposing of those who published and sold micro books for some students to cheat at matriculation examination which were clarified by the Information Committee of the State Peace and development Council at the press conference (2/2005) will appear later.—MNA**



Organizational set-up of SSPC

**Big nations of west bloc use ILO...**

(from page 10)

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

Myanmar has been busy with reconvening of the National Convention and the high authorities are also fully occupied. The ILO team assumed that it could not accomplish the mandate of GB, shortened the itinerary by itself and left Yangon on 23-2-2005 evening.

Then, the ILO team issued a press release demanding certain points to be fulfilled by Myanmar Government. Its demand and Myanmar's actual fulfilments are displayed on respective boards.

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

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

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

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

Myanmar has respected international organizations in line with its obligations. However, ILO does not consider the interest of over 54 million people of Myanmar and it has been supporting FTUB (Federation of Trade Union-Burma) led by expatriate terrorist Maung Maung (a) Pyithit Nyunt Wai.

Maung Maung absconded to a neighbouring country in 1989 as fugitive and joined Da-nya-ta (the so-called united front for democracy) of expatriates. Then he had been committing terrorist acts continuously. To conceal his moral decay and to attack the Government from inside and outside the country, he contacted western organisations and formed the FTUB (Federation of Trade Union-Burma). The one who made Maung Maung somebody under the flag of FTUB was an American named John Osolink Jr of AAFLI (Asian

American Free Labour Institute) based in Bangkok. If a terrorist absconder is supported officially, critics would emerge in international community. Thus, they made Maung Maung to wear the mask of FTUB and kept him under their influence.

What has Maung Maung done under the disguise of FTUB? He committed terrorist acts together with Danya-ta secretary Than Lwin. He sent Myo Aung Thant and Khin Kyaw to Myanmar in June 1997 to explode mines at foreign embassies and strategic places in Yangon. Authorities concerned arrested Myo Aung Thant and Khin Kyaw. Their confessions before the court and evidences revealed that the one who masterminded the plot to explode mines was Maung Maung (a) Pyithit Nyunt Wai. Hence, the court heard the case and approved Maung Maung as a fugitive under section 122 (2) of Penal Code and section 512 of Criminal Procedure Law on 15-8-1997.

Similarly, a case was filed at a Yangon North

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

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

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

We have clarified with sound evidences that Pyithit Nyunt Wai has been financing elements to commit terrorist acts in Myanmar and sending saboteurs with

explosives to Myanmar time and again.

There are 11 conventions ratified by Myanmar. Of them, one is "International Convention for Suppression of Terrorist Bombing" and another is "International Convention for Suppression of Financing of Terrorism".

As mentioned above, Pyithit Nyunt Wai has been committing terrorist acts. According to the article 3 of constitution of ILO, the ILO can be attended by governmental delegates, employers and labour representatives only. In the text of standing order article 2 issued by the ILO, it is stated in detail the Rights of Admission to the Sittings of the Conference. However, terrorist fugitive Pyithit Nyunt Wai has been allowed to attend the ILO meetings. It is contrary to ILO's articles and orders. It is just putting a terrorist on the limelight or glare of publicity.

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

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

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

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

The ILO, an international organization, tried to take action unprecedentedly in its 87 years against Myanmar under article 33 is not fair. Is it a true action of ILO which usually gives priority to cooperation?

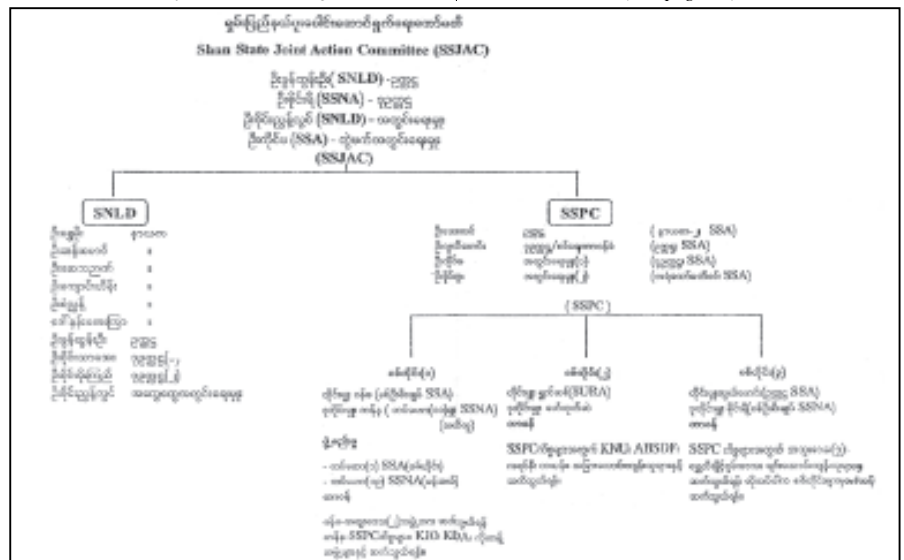
Myanmar has been cooperating and complying with ILO. But it tried to take action against Myanmar under article 33 unprecedentedly. Other developing countries are to be aware of this.

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

In ratifying a convention, all member countries have obligation to promulgate it in local laws. After that there are two portions — law and practice. In ratifying Forced Labour Convention No 29, Myanmar has complied with law promulgation and practice.


In implementing law promulgation and practice, Myanmar lays emphasis on the rule of law. Action is

(See page 13)



Organizational set-up of SSJAC

**ADVERTISEMENT**



**MYANMAR**  
Building A Modern State  
(2004)

- \* This facts studded book provides a reliable and valuable reference for scholars, researchers and the public for general reading.
- \* Illustrated with colourful photographs.
- \* Published by the Ministry of Information presenting five chapters:
  - The Beautiful Land,
  - Economy,
  - Infrastructure,
  - Social Setting,
  - International Cooperation.

**ON SALE US\$ 7.00 per copy**

Available at

- Sarpya Beikman Book Shop, 529-531, Merchant Street, Yangon. ☎ : 381448, 249031
- News and Periodical Enterprise Book Shop, 212, Theinpyu Street, Yangon. ☎ : 294306

**ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
**MV "MANDALAY" VOY NO 149/N**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" VOY NO 149/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 16-3-2005 and will be berthing on/about 17-3-2005 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharged of cargo from the vessel.

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

**CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE**  
**MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone No: 293147,296507,295754

**Spanish police question suspected lawyer for money laundering**

MADRID, 14 March — Spanish investigators Sunday questioned a lawyer arrested for being involved in an international money laundering operation worth up to 250 million euros (about 325 million US dollars).

Fernando Del Valle, head of a law firm in the Spanish coastal resort of Marbella, was suspected to be the architect of the international money laundering network centered on Spain's southern Costa del Sol. The *El Pais* newspaper reported that the group may have

launched over 600 million euros (about 780 million dollars).

Spanish police Friday arrested 41 suspects from France, Finland, Morocco, Russia, Spain and Ukraine, after a 10-month investigation in cooperation with police authorities around Europe. They also seized a ship, two small planes and 42 luxury cars during the operation. The authorities also suspected that the embattled Russian oil company YUKOS may have links to the case, but YUKOS denies its involvement.

MNA/Xinhua

**Trade between Jordan and Romania surges**

AMMAN, 14 March — The volume of bilateral trade between Jordan and Romania reached 40 million US dollars in 2004, compared to 13 million in 2003, the official *Petra News Agency* reported Sunday.

Relations between Jordan and Romanian have substantially developed over the past year since Jordan's King Abdullah's visit to Romania last year made a qualitative push to the cooperation in the political, economic, parliamentary, cultural and military fields between the two countries. Romanian ambassador to Jordan Radu Onofrei was quoted as saying.

"Jordan is an important element in the Mideast peace process and in the security and stability of the region," he added.

Onofrei also expected that cooperation between the two countries would expand, especially as Romania has become a member in the NATO and that it will sign a membership agreement with the European Union (EU) in April, 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

**TRADEMARK CAUTION**

ratiopharm GmbH, a company incorporated in Germany, and having its registered office at Graf-Arco-Straße 3, 89079 Ulm, Germany is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

**ratiopharm**

Myanmar Reg. No. 8192891  
in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations (medicaments)" in International Class 5.  
Fraudulent or unauthorized use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate  
For ratiopharm GmbH  
C/o Melvin Chiu Yangon Ltd  
Unit 223 Summit Parkview  
350 Ahlone Road, Dagon Tap  
Yangon, Union of Myanmar  
(Tel) 21 8800, (Fax) 22 7992  
melvin.chiu.yan@gmail.com  
Dated 16 March 2005

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

OTTAWA, 14 March — Acid rain is causing forest decline in much of Eastern Canada with losses to the forest industry estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars annually in the Atlantic region alone, an official report said Sunday.

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

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

But some of the most startling findings concern forests.

"At current levels of acid deposition, it is estimated that over half a million cubic metres of wood is being lost from forests in Atlantic Canada each year due to soil nutrient loss.

MNA/Xinhua

**TRADEMARK CAUTION**

Notice is hereby given that SINON CORPORATION, a Company incorporated in the Chinese-Taipei, having its principle office at 23, Sect. 1, MEI Chuan W. Road, Taichung, the Chinese-Taipei is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks viz:



(TW145898) (TW145798)

**SINON**

(TW145898) (TW145898)

used in respect of Class 1: "Fertilizer, fertilizer compounds, micro elements fertilizer for plants, growth hormone".

Class 5: "Fungicides, insecticides, acaricides, nematocides, herbicides, rodenticides, attractants, repellents".

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of other infringement whatsoever of the said trademarks will be dealt with according to law.

Hsin Lin Co (LLS) Advocate  
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND  
PATENT LAW FIRM  
E-mail: mtplp@gmail.com  
Tel: 254007 G.P.O. Box 688  
Yangon. 16 March 2004

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

ABU DHABI (United Arab Emirates), 14 March 14 — Two of OPEC's leading Gulf producers say the cartel may agree to keep pumping above formal oil output quotas to cool down overheated markets. The United Arab Emirates on Sunday joined Kuwait in suggesting the producer group might take such a decision as US oil prices again threaten to breach 55 US dollars a barrel.

"The decision may be to maintain current production levels with the aim of calming the market," UAE Oil Minister Mohamed al-Hamli said in a statement issued ahead of a March 16 OPEC meeting in Isfahan, Iran.

MNA/Reuters

**TRADE MARK CAUTION**

AXALTO SA, a Company incorporated in France, of 50 avenue Jean Jaures, 92120 MONTROUGE, France, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark-

**AXALTO**

Reg. No. 605/2004

in respect of "Class 9: Magnetic cards; identification magnetic cards; memory or microprocessor cards; printed circuits, in particular printed circuits for memory or microprocessor cards; integrated circuits; automatic distribution machines; ticket or banknote dispensers; data processing apparatus; data-processing interfaces, in particular memory or microprocessor card interfaces; readers, in particular memory or microprocessor card readers; microprocessors, in particular secure microprocessors; computer peripherals, in particular peripherals with secure microprocessors; prepayment gates for car parks or parking lots; silicon plates for integrated circuits; mechanisms for prepayment apparatus; recorded computer programs; downloadable computer programs; recorded programs of the operating system; telephone apparatus, in particular prepayment telephone apparatus. Class 38: Telecommunication information. Class 42: Designing data-processing systems, in particular designing data-processing systems including memory or microprocessor cards; memory or microprocessor card consultancy; computer consultancy; conversion of computer programs and data; software installation; software update, software development; computer software maintenance; computer programming; duplication of computer programs; research and development of new products; technical research".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L  
for AXALTO SA.  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 16 March 2005

**Turkey alarmed over sunken LPG ship**

ISTANBUL, 14 March — Turkish officials Sunday expressed their concerns over the sinking of a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cargo ship.

A roll-on-roll-off ship carrying 138 tons of LPG sank Saturday in the Bosphorus Straits, a waterway linking the

Black and Marmara seas, due to bad weather.

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

Turkish authorities closed the Bosphorus shipping channel on

Sunday to all traffic, and maritime officials took several hours to find several LPG tanks. However, two of them were still posing a risk.

MNA/Xinhua

**DON'T SMOKE**

## Big nations of west bloc use ILO...

(from page 11)

taken against all violators without bias.

ILO is also responsible for ensuring full employment in member countries. ILO which is responsible for solving unemployment problems should not make efforts to harm the interest of labourers.

In connection with Convention No 29 of ILO, the USA imposed trade sanction against Myanmar. Consequently, over 160 garment factories had to be closed and about 40 factories laid off workers. Thus over 80,000 workers lost jobs. It affected over 400,000 dependants of the workers who lost their jobs.

It indirectly harms service enterprises, rents of apartments & hostels, restaurants, transport enterprises, etc. The demand of workers who lost jobs also declined. The employers had to pay over K 1,200 million and over FEC 80,000 as compensations. The individual demand also declined.

Myanmar has been endeavouring for ensuring prevalence of peace and tranquillity; bringing about development in all regions including border areas; and promoting health and education standards of the entire national people. There is no reason for Myanmar not to be able to make efforts for eradicating forced labour. Over 54 million people of Myanmar know well how the Government has been fulfilling the needs of citizens.

In Myanmar, there are many regions which lagged behind in development due to various reasons throughout successive periods. To narrow down the development gaps, the Government is making concerted efforts. Due to the correct and noble deeds of the Government, participation of the national people and helpful hands rendered by NGOs, development of all the regions are being brought about. Instead of rendering a helpful hand, ILO's schemes and plots are not in conformity with the status and dignity of an international organization. Nevertheless, Myanmar has been exerting efforts with full political commitment for eradicating forced labour and it will continue to cooperate with ILO. With or without help from any organization, Myanmar will continue to strive for serving the interests of the nation and the people.

Next, Brig-Gen Khin Yi made clarifications on drug elimination efforts and cooperation with international community. At this Press Conference, I will explain matters relating to endeavours of Myanmar in combating the danger of narcotic drug abuse.

In Myanmar, cultivation of opium began in border areas of Shan State during the period while the country was under the rule of colonialists. In Myanmar, anti-narcotic drug campaign has been launched as a national duty throughout successive periods.

In so doing, the Tatmadaw launched Operation Moe Hein phases 1 to 12, Operation Ngayepan phases 1 to 8, Operation Taungyanshin phases 1 to 4, Operation Taunghteikpan and Operation Aung Moe Hein before 1988. After 1988, Operation Mone Kyut and Barkyan battles were launched to crush opium smuggling gangs. To gain such achievements, we had to sacrifice many lives and properties.

During the anti-drug operations from September 1988 to 1998, altogether 259 Tatmadaw members sacrificed their lives and 937 were wounded. No country has sacrificed such loss and Myanmar alone did so.

The drug menace was crushed with momentum. Seized drugs are incinerated or destroyed at the International Anti-drug Day every year and so far 18 such ceremonies to destroy narcotics have been held. The volume and quantity of narcotic drugs destroyed in those 18 destruction ceremonies are displayed on boards. Opium growing areas are located in northern and eastern Shan State. In the past, these areas were insurgent areas and the Government's law enforcement hardly reached there. At present, 17 armed groups have returned to the legal fold, joining hands with the Government in serving the interests of the Union with full conviction and conscientiousness. As a result, opium growing acreage decreased and opium production declined. The socio-economic lives of the former opium growers have also been enhanced.

In Myanmar, the Government has been implementing the 15-year narcotic drugs elimination plan since 1999-2000. The 15-year plan is divided into three 5-year plans. Up to 2003-2004, the first five-year plan had been implemented successfully. In the first five-year plan

period, the momentum of suppression work was raised and beginning April 2002 the New Destiny Project for annihilating narcotic drug production was launched.

Under the New Destiny Project, the Government distributed opium-substitute crop seeds to former opium growers. In addition, for enabling them to give up opium cultivation, the Government distributed 11,000 bags of rice and 300 bags of salt. In response to the goodwill of the Government, the former opium growers handed over poppy seeds to the Government. These poppy seeds were set on fire in States and Divisions for 11 times. Altogether 16,372 kilos of poppy seeds were destroyed and it can be said that 4057 hectares were prevented from being put under poppy and production of 44 tons of heroin was also prevented.

Hence, in recognition of the accomplishments of the New Destiny Project, World Food Programme and international NGOs provided 760 tons of rice in the year 2003 and 4269 tons of rice in the year 2004.

According to the world drug report of UNODC, Myanmar produced estimated amount of 1897 tons in 2001; 828 tons in 2002; 810 tons in 2003; and 370 tons in 2004. It shows the decline in production thanks to the effective elimination work. Such a drop in production was the result of effective elimination work.

Similarly, the joint survey by USA's Counter Narcotic Center (CNC) and our country on poppy cul-

**To enhance cooperation with neighbouring countries such as China, Thailand and Laos, Myanmar is making arrangements to open more border liaison offices in Monekoe of northern Shan State and Wankyin of eastern Shan State.**

tivation and opium production is made annually. In 1996 there were 163,000 hectares of poppy cultivated area with the production of 2560 tons of opium. In 2004, there were 30,888 hectares of poppy cultivated area with the production of 292 tons of opium. It shows the remarkable success.

In review of data from 1996 to 2004, it can be found that elimination work was successful. In the 2002-2003 poppy cultivation season, 1560 acres of poppy cultivated areas were destroyed. In the 2003-2004 poppy cultivation season, 7610 acres of poppy cultivated areas were destroyed. In this 2004-2005 poppy cultivation season, 8951 poppy cultivated areas have been destroyed.

As regards the seizure of narcotic drugs, altogether 1863 kilos of opium were seized in 2002; 1481 kilos in 2003 and 606 kilos in 2004. As of March this year, 304 kilos of opium have been seized.

Heroin seizures can be seen as 334 kilos in 2002; 568 kilos in 2003 and 974 kilos in 2004. As of March 2005, about 37 kilos of heroin have been seized. Since 1991 to date, altogether 148 opium refineries have been exposed and destroyed. Altogether nine opium refineries were destroyed in 2002; seven in 2003 and two in 2004.

Seizures of stimulant tablets began in 1996. Stimulant tablets were seized every year. Altogether 9.4 million of stimulant tablets were seized in 2002; 4 million pills in 2003; 8.4 million pills in 2004 and 0.74 million pills as of March 2005. Machines for producing stimulant tablets have been also seized every year since 1998. So far altogether 20 stimulant pill producing machines have been destroyed. The list of seizures of narcotic drugs year by year are put on display on the nearby boards. In producing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, essential ingredients are chemicals. Chemicals are essential in producing heroin as well as stimulant pills. Hence, control of chemicals is important in drug abuse control activities. Accordingly, the Ministry of Home Affairs promulgated a bye-law on restricted chemical supervision on 1 July 2004. In fact, chemicals are not produced in Myanmar. They are officially imported from neighbouring countries for industrial use. Under the bye-law, 25 kinds of chemicals used in producing narcotic drugs are prohibited from import, export, transportation, distribution, sale and consumption.

Training courses with the aids of video records on investigation of smuggling of these chemicals and exposing of illegal laboratories were conducted under the aegis of UNODC in China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. The seizures of chemical liquids were 26440 litres in 2002; 36904 litres in 2003; 17971 litres in 2004; and

2546 litres as of March this year. Normally, chemical liquids are seized abundantly in raiding opium refineries.

Under the UNODC's coordination for anti-drug control in the Sub-region, the MoU was signed between Myanmar, China, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam and it is under implementation. The senior officials' meeting regarding the MoU is held annually and the ministerial meeting every two years. According to the resolutions of MoU meetings and in conformity with the Sub-regional Action Plan of UNODC, narcotic drugs elimination work, demand reduction work and supply reduction work are carried out effectively. In this way, efficiency of officers involved in the anti-drug activities and law enforcement bodies has been enhanced and mutual trust and cooperation among neighbouring countries and anti-drug forces were promoted.

Myanmar has signed agreements with India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Russian Federation, Laos and the Philippines. Myanmar has also signed MoUs on drug abuse control with China and Thailand. The Sino-Myanmar MoU on joint drug-abuse control was signed on 21-1-2001 in Yangon. According to the MoU, it was agreed to carry out cultivation of poppy-substitute crops, livestock breeding work and regional development works in northern Shan State (Kokang region). Under the border area drug control plan of Myanmar, China and UNODC, border meetings were held and Border Liaison Offices were opened in Chinshwehaw of northern Shan State and Lweje of Kachin State. Information is being exchanged between the two countries. The Myanmar-Thai MoU on joint drug-abuse control was signed in June 2001. Under the MoU, border meetings are held and information exchanged. In addition, under the six-nation transnational drug related crimes suppression project, border liaison offices have been opened in Tachilek, Myawady and Kawthoung.

To enhance cooperation with neighbouring countries such as China, Thailand and Laos, Myanmar is making arrangements to open more border liaison offices in Monekoe of northern Shan State and Wankyin of eastern Shan State.

Significant case was that information was received that stimulant pills would be trafficked in Tachilek on 17 January this year. Those pills would be sold only to a Thai citizen, it was learnt. Co-operation was then made between Tachilek special anti-drug squad and Thai anti-drug unit. The Thai anti-drug unit made a Thai informer to pretend as a customer for trapping the sellers. Hence, 400,000 stimulant pills worth about 800 million kyats were seized from back cabin of white Toyota Corolla saloon with no official license together with driver Aik San (alias) Aik Kyaing in the compound of Pay Li at Tawkaht Atwin village, Hawnleik village-tract, Tachilek Township. Further search of the house led to the seizures of 3 pistols with 3 magazines, 53 bullets, 1 Remington long-barrel gun with 9 bullets and 470 stimulant tablets. It was the result of cooperation between the Myanmar and Thai anti-drug squads.

On 14 January 2005, a Taiwanese named Linzinmin was searched at the Yangon International Airport before departure and 12 packets of heroin weighing 0.619 kilo (worth 48.7 million kyats) hidden in his underwear, trousers and shoes were seized. Further information led to the arrest of another Taiwanese named Chu Tae Wai at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel. Altogether 3 blocks and 4 packets of heroin weighing 0.85 kilo (worth K 68 million) were also seized from him.

Further information led to the seizure of 178 kilos of stimulant ice hidden in 396 finished timber rods to be exported. Further interrogation to Taiwanese named Ah Chin (alias) San Sin Chin led to the search of the house of Sai Nyi Nyi Lwin in Shwepyithar Township on 27-1-2005. Altogether 15.28 kilos of heroin (worth 1222.4 million kyats) hidden in sanitation tank were seized.

On 10-2-2005, altogether 2.8 kilos of heroin (worth about 224 million kyats) were seized from a baggage of a Taiwanese named Lin Wai Lia before his departure for Taipei from Yangon. Further information led to the seizure of 2.82 kilos of heroin (worth 225.6 million kyats) from a porcelain urn in Kwanyinsi temple in Shwenantha ward, Bahan Township. These facts are mentioned to reflect the endeavours of Myanmar in anti-drug campaign in co-operation with international community.

(See page 14)

## Big nations of west bloc use ILO...

(from page 13)

Next, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan made clarifications. He said:

At this Press Conference, I will make a wind up clarification. It is common knowledge for journalists that the Government has seriously accepted the narcotic drug eradication programme as a national task. Throughout the past successive years till now, it has been launching the effective alternative crops plantation and drug eradication projects, and cooperating with global countries including its neighbours. The data and facts presented at the press meet and the data shown on boards here indicate the extent of endeavours the Government has made and the blood, sweat and lives it has sacrificed in the anti-drug drive. And these facts reflect how much success we have achieved.

Although the Government is striving to annihilate the drug menace, the SURA insurgent group led by Ywet Sit with its base at the border area are producing and trafficking narcotic drugs under cover of Shan State liberation movement. You journalists might have read the news on seizures of heroin produced by that group in the other country near the border. The Government is crushing terrorist acts of the insurgents who are harming the stability, peace and development of the country. At the same time, the Government is also suppressing the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs. However, it is regrettable to see that some NGOs and some groups are stealthily encouraging and supporting drug-trafficking insurgents like Ywet Sit.

I would like to mention some points on the acts of Ywet Sit and his connections. With a view to making political cooperation, SSA (Shan State Army) and SSNA (Shan State National Army) which have returned to the legal fold have made contacts with an legal political party, SNLD (Shan Nationalities League for Democracy) since 1996. In 1996, SNLD chairman U Khun Tun Oo visited SSA headquarters at Sein Kyawt and held discussions on politics, development and cultural matters with U Hsay Htin and officials of SSA and SSNA. Then, SSJAC (Shan State Joint Action Committee) made up of SSA, SSNA and SNLD was formed in 1996. In fact, it was formed with the aim of making cooperation for development, literature and cultural affairs as well as making political cooperation. SSJAC is consist of SNLD chairman U Khun Tun Oo as chairman, U Hsay Htin as vice-chairman, U Kan Ywet of SSA as secretary and U Lwe Maung of SSA as member. After the death of U Kan Ywet, U Sai Nyunt Lwin became secretary of SSJAC. Afterwards, SSPC (Shan State Peace Council) was formed in 1996 by SSA and SSNA in accordance with the coordinations of SSJAC. The list of SSPC chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and members has been put on boards for the journalists to study. The major aim of SSPC is to avoid fighting each other but to act in coordination among all including insurgent groups in political affairs. Plans were then drawn to form three military divisions under SSPC to see that there was no fighting with existing insurgent groups such as KNU, ABSDF, KNPP led by U Khuhtair Bupe and U Aung Than Lay as well as with former armed groups which have returned to the legal fold. The Government did not recognize the formation of SSPC as its formation is not in line with conditions set at peace negotiations and it was to have alliance with remaining insurgent groups. North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing informed the personnel concerned that the Government did not recognize the formation of SSPC.

On 13-9-1996, SURA leader Ywet Sit arrived at Sein Kyawt and signed a tripartite agreement of SSA, SSNA and SURA. Col Sai Naung of SSA and Col Kam Ywet of SSNA also signed the agreement. Based on SSPC, SSNO (Shan State National Organization) was formed as a sole organization and SSA was designated as a sole Shan State Army.

On 7-3-2005, Ywet Sit group issued a statement as regards the seizure of heroin from a member of drug trafficking group of Ywet Sit by Thai authorities. In the statement, Ywet Sit denied that heroin and traffickers were related with RCSS and SSA. It can be witnessed that Ywet Sit used the name SSA instead of his original group SURA. It shows that Ywet Sit is the one with SSA. The statement is displayed on nearby boards.

Moreover, Ywet Sit's group has formed the 15-member RCSS (Restoration Council of Shan State) with Ywet Sit as chairman, Sai Aung Mat as vice-chairman, Sao Hsay Sam as secretary, Sai Htai as joint secretary, Sai Tha Oo as treasurer, Sai Ouk Kyaw as military leader and Sao Wein Mein as organizer. The set-up of SSPC, SSJAC and RCSS are shown on boards.

Now, I would like to explain matters relating to the Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council.

On 4-11-2004, the SSA (North) marked the 15th anniversary of attaining peace at Sein Kyawt village in Hsipaw Township, Shan State. It was attended by representatives of peace groups such as SSA, SSNA; SNLD chairman U Khun Tun Oo and secretary Sai Nyunt Lwin, representatives of Joint Action Committee and U Myint Than and members of New Generation (Shan State) group and other invited persons. SNLD Chairman U Khun Tun Oo presided over the meeting and all those present agreed to form the Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council. The formation committee was then formed.

On 6-11-2004, a day after the set up of the formation committee, its first meeting was held at SSA headquarters in Sein Kyawt village. The meeting decided that the Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council must be formed not with chairman, secretary, etc and U Myint Than was to lead the entire programme.

After that, the second meeting was held on 22-12-2004 at the house of SSA patron U Hsay Htin on Myawady Street in Lashio. At the meeting the Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council was formed. The members were:

1. U Khun Pan (representative of SSA (North), Phayaphyu village, Taunggyi)
2. U Sao Oo Kya (representative of SSNA, Hsipaw)
3. U Myint Than (New Generation Shan State)
4. U Kyaw Win (Inntha) (New Generation Shan State)
5. U Ba Thin (New Generation Shan State)
6. Sai Kham Hseng (Lashio)
7. Dr Sai Mauk Kham (Lashio)

The second meeting also urged peace groups from Shan State who were to attend the National Convention to discuss seriously matters on the emergence of a genuine Union and a democratic nation.

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

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

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

At the meeting, SSA leader U Hsay Htin delivered an address. U Shwe Ohn supported the formation of the council. Next, "Declaration of Shan State Intellectual Advisory Council", "Declaration of New generation (Shan State)" and "Declaration of Student Youths" were read. Then, the Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council was reconstituted with the following persons:

1. U Khun Pan (representative of SSA, Taunggyi)
2. Sao Oo Kya (representative of SSNA, Hsipaw)

3. U Myint Than (New Generation group, Taunggyi)
4. U Ba Thin (New Generation group, Taunggyi)
5. U Kyaw Win (Inntha) (New Generation group, Taunggyi)
6. Dr Sai Mauk Kham (Lashio)
7. U Sai Kham Hseng (Lashio)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thus, 4 members of New Generation Shan State, U Hsay Htin and 2 members of SNLD were detained on 8-2-2005; and SNLD chairman U Khun Tun Oo and secretary U Sai Nyunt Lwin on 9-2-2005. U Shwe Ohn who played a major role has been kept under house arrest. The rest who attended the meeting did not know their aim in advance. They attended the meeting as they were invited. They did not practically take part in the discussions. Hence, action was not taken against them.

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

In 1991, 25 labour representatives of ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) complained that Myanmar failed to observe Convention No 29 and action should be taken against it under article 24 of ILO constitution.

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

Then, labour representative William Brett representing ICFTU and other 24 representatives with the aim of putting pressure on Myanmar politically instead of labour affairs, complained to the ILO that there had been forced labour in Myanmar and an inquiry commission be formed under article 26. Myanmar replied with facts and figures. ILO neglected the explanation and formed an inquiry commission in 1997.

(See page 15)

# Big nations of west bloc use ILO...

(from page 14)

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

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

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

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

FTUB (Free Trade Union of Burma) was formed by Maung Maung (a) Pyithit Nyunt Wai. To be able to form FTUB and to get access to ICFTU, he was as-

sisted by an American named John Osolink Jr of Asian American Free Labour Institute with his office based in Bangkok. It can be seen what is their motive.

Maung Maung (a) Pyithit Nyunt Wai is a son of NLD CEC member U Nyunt Wai. While serving as a sale manager of Myanma Gems Corporation at Diplomatic Store, action was taken against him for loss of gems. He was a corrupted service person. He absconded to a neighbour-

and section 512 of Criminal Procedure Law.

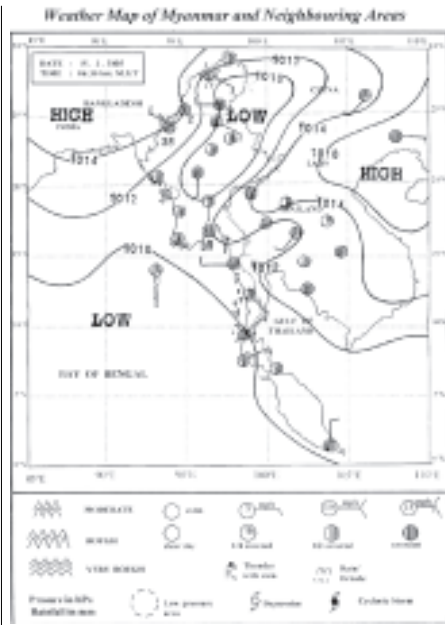
Similarly, nine persons including Nai Yekha arrested with explosives in July 2003 were filed a case at Yangon North District Court. Of them, Shwe Mann (alias) Zeya Oo and Nai Min Kyi (alias) Min Kyi confessed that they were provided with monetary assistance by Maung Maung (alias) Pyithit Nyunt Wai. Thus, it can vividly be seen that Maung Maung (alias) Pyithit Nyunt Wai is a fugitive insurgent terrorist.

The false information given by FTUB

True information and actual situations can be found amidst over 54 million of the people. Authentic news and true facts can be obtained from local NGOs representing the majority of the people. ILO should consider and review the information.

And ILO is allowing Maung Maung (alias) Pyithit Nyunt Wai who is a terrorist dissident to attend ILO meetings. It is like putting a terrorist on the limelight or glare of publicity.

Next, Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and U Thaug and Director-General Brig-Gen



## WEATHER

Tuesday, 15 March, 2005

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

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

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 16-3-2005:** Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers are likely in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Continuation of thundery conditions in the Lower Myanmar areas.

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

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

### Untimely rainfall warning

(Issued at (10:00) hrs MST on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2005)

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



Photo of members of Shan State Joint Action Committee displayed at the press conference.—MNA

ing country as a dissident in 1989 and stayed in disguise of politician.

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

Hence, the court heard the case and declared Maung Maung (alias) Pyithit Nyunt Wai as fugitive on 15-8-1997 under section 122(2) of Penal Code

which is led by such fugitive terrorists are none other than fabrications.

Similarly, fabricated news given by a handful of expatriate dissidents and a fistful of insurgents at border areas cannot be true.

Khin Yi gave answers to queries raised by the journalists. The press conference concluded at 5.15 pm. Journalists viewed the data, facts and photos displayed there.

MNA

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

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

**ဝမ်းနည်းကြေကွဲခြင်း**  
 FISCA Enterprises ၏ Chief Executive officer ဦးစွာတင်  
 (ပေပြု မိန့်ခွင့်အောက်တွင် ကျောင်းသားများအား) အသက် (၆၁) နှစ်သည့် (၁၅-၃-  
 ၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့၊ နံနက် (၁၀:၃၀) နာရီ အချိန်တွင် ဣန္ဒိယနိုင်ငံသို့ ကြွားသွားခဲ့ပြီး နေရာပြန်ခဲ့ပါသည်။  
 ကြားသိရပါသဖြင့် မိသားစုနှင့်အတူ ထပ်တူထပ်မျှ ဝမ်းနည်းကြေကွဲ ရပါသည်။  
 B.O.D အဖွဲ့နှင့်  
 FISCA ENTERPRISES မိသားစု

# Upgrading of roads and bridges along Taninthayi-Bokpyin Road inspected

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

Lt-Gen Maung Bo told officials to finish the work before monsoon. He met families of regional battalions of Bokpyin Station and discussed agriculture and livestock breeding discharging



Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects upgrading of Kawthoung-Bokpyin Union Highway. — MNA

duties, safeguarding lives and properties of the people and prevalence of law and order in the region.

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

Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted the family members at the combined office in

Pyigy Mandaing Township Officer of Pyigy Mandaing General Administration Department UThaung Hein reported on social and economic conditions of the township. Lt-Gen Maung Bo met service personnel, social organizations and local people.

In his discussions, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said

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

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected oil palm farms of Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Kanbawza oil palm Co.

They went to Taninthayi Basic Education High School and met Chairman of Taninthayi Township Peace and Development Council and members, departmental officials and townsenders.

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

In the evening they proceeded to Myeik and inspected arrangements for irrigation in Tone-byawgyi Village.

MNA

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

YANGON, 15 March — The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held the press conference (2/2005) on the arbitrary pressure put on Myanmar by ILO, endeavours of

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

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

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

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

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

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



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