(1) Senior General Than Shwe inspects Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) projects, Nyaungdon Kyun Reclamation Project

YANGON, 10 March - The Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) will be about 8,484 feet (or about one mile and five furlongs) long. The motorway is 28 feet wide. The footpath on either side will be five feet wide.

The waterway under the bridge is 360 feet wide and 57 feet high. The bridge is being constructed in Nyaungdon Township between Thaungdan Village on the east bank and Kyeinbinhse Village on the west bank of Ayeyawady River.

Piles have already driven for the five posts in the river. Arrangements have been made to complete the driving of piles for the remaining posts this year. Steps are being taken to complete the approach bridges and roads simultaneously.

At present, about 400 motor vehicles daily use the Z-craft to cross the Ayeyawady River. Transport will improve once the bridge is completed.

(2) Deputy C-in-C Defence Services receives Military Attaches of Malaysian Embassy

YANGON, 10 March - Vice-Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Maung Aye received Military Attach, of Malaysian Embassy Lt-Col Shahrir Bin Hashim who is leaving Myanmar at the conclusion of his tour of duty and his successor Lt-
Col Marzuki Mohd Rusli Bin Hj Ahmad at Dagon Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence at 9 am today.

Present together with General Maung Aye were Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Chief of the Office of Strategic Studies Director of Defence Services Intelligence Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Tin Aye and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Tin Ngwe.

(3) 19th Working Group Meeting of Regional Cooperative Agreement for Asia and the Pacific (RCA) held

YANGON, 10 March - The 19th Working Group Meeting of Regional Cooperative Agreement for Asia and the Pacific (RCA) was held at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel this morning.

Present were Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Deputy Minister for Industry-l U Than Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Health Col Than Zin, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Than Nyunt, delegates from RCA member states Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, RCA coordinators, officials of International Atomic Energy Agency, directors-general, coordinators from RCA projects being implemented in Myanmar, officials of Myanmar Science and Technology Research Department and guests.

Member of Leading Committee for holding of RCA Meeting Professor of Physics Department of Yangon University Dr Sein Htoon emceed.

Patron of Leading Committee for holding of the Meeting Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung delivered an opening address.

(4) Dinner hosted in honour of gem merchants

YANGON, 10 March-A dinner was hosted on the lawns of the People’s Park this evening in honour of gem merchants who have come to attend the 34th Myanma Gems Emporium.

Members of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Deputy Prime Ministers Vice-Admiral Maung Maung Khin and Lt-Gen Tin Tun, Minister for Mines Lt-Gen Kyaw Min, other ministers, deputy ministers, members of the Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee, guests and gem merchants were
The two Deputy Prime Ministers, Minister of Mines Lt-Gen Kyaw Min, other ministers, members of the Security and Management committee, presented gifts to Mrs B Zalcman of Switzerland for attending the emporium for 34 times consecutively, Madame Lee Yon Kwan Wan of Hong Kong for 30 times, two merchants of Hong Kong for 20 times, one of Hong Kong for 15 times, five of Hong Kong for 10 times and Mr Lee Cheong Wah whose jade purchases rang up the highest amount at the present emporium.

(5) **PRC company to produce 300,000 concrete sleepers yearly in Myitnge**

YANGON, 10 March Officials today drove in stakes to begin construction of a factory by a Chinese company under BOT system in Myitnge, Amarapura Township, which will produce 300,000 reinforced concrete sleepers annually. China National Complete Plant Import and Export Yunnan Corporation (Complant) of the People’s Republic of China will invest $12 million to build the factory, offices and quarters for employees and to install machines, said Minister for Rail Transportation U Win Sein-at the ground breaking ceremony.

The Chinese company will transfer the factory and related facilities to Myanma Railways after selling its products to MR for ten years at fixed prices, he With a durability period of about 50 years, these concrete sleepers have better economic and other advantages than wooden materials which have a durability period of only five to 15 years, he said.

Managing Director of Myanma Railways Thura U Thaung Lwin, General Manager of the PRC company Mr Zhang Lianju and Vice-Governor of Yunan Province Mr Li Jai Ting also spoke.

Minister U Win Sein, Vice-Governor Mr Li Jai Ting, Chairman of Mandalay Division Law and Order Restoration Council Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Deputy Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations Department of Yunan Mr Zhang Rui Kun drove in the stakes.

(6) **Sin Hoe Le opens new head office**

YANGON, 10 March Sin Hoe Le Industrial Ltd opened its new head office at 113, U Ba Han Street near Thamaing junction in Mayangon Township, this morning.
Established in 1996, the company mainly imports ceramic tiles, steel products, remote control automatic door systems, heat resistance roofing tiles and construction and decoration materials.

The company’s initial distributor in Yangon is at 197, Pansodan Street. It has branches in Mandalay, Meiktila, Toungoo, Bagan-NyaungU and Kyaukpadaung Townships.

(7) Over 397,000 appear for BEHS exam

YANGON, 10 March - Altogether 397,972 candidates throughout the country appeared for the Basic Education High School Examination (Tenth Standard) at 848 examination centres including 12 abroad on the first day today.

The examination, sponsored by Basic Education Department of the Ministry of Education, began at 9 am.

In Yangon Division, 90,823 candidates took the exam at 220 centres. Sixteen students warded at Yangon General Hospital, took it at the hospital. Ten blind students sat for the exam at Insein Township BEHS No 3.

Deputy Minister for Education Col Kyi Maung, Rector of Institute of Education U Han Tin, Professor of Myanmarsar Daw Khin May Nwe, Chairman of Educational Research Bureau U Tin Nyo and Chairman of Myanmar Board of Examinations U Aung Tun inspected the exam centres in the division.

(8) Minister receives Wa national leader

YANGON, 10 March Member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development AffairsLt-Gen Maung Thint met Wa national leader U Pau Yu Yi and, party of Special Region 2 at his office this morning. They discussed implementation of agriculture, livestock, hydro electric power and road and bridge projects for the development of Wa region.

Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials were also present.
Minister for NPED receives Senior Vice-President of Deutsche Bank

YANGON, 10 March Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen Abel received Senior Vice-President of Deutsche Bank, Corporate and Institutional Banking Asia Pacific, Ms Franca V Peters and party at his office this afternoon. They discussed bilateral economic cooperation and regional development affairs.

Present also were officials of the ministry.