

# Than Shwe

Rangoon

Born : 2 February 1933, Kyaukse

## BURMA

Chairman of State Peace and Development Council,  
armed forces commander



## Training/education

**1953-60:** The army's psychological operations department (propaganda).

## Professional experience

**March 2006:** Has two journalists who took photos of the new national capital, Pyinmana, jailed for three years.

**2005:** Decides to switch the capital to Pyinmana, a small town in the centre of the country.

**October 2004:** Orders arrest of prime minister Khin Nyunt and hundreds of his associates.

**2004:** Orders national Censorship Bureau to ban 20 publications.

**May 2003:** Orders attack on convoy of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi in Depayin. 80 pro-democracy activists, including a journalist, killed. Aung San Suu Kyi has been detained ever since.

**2002:** 16 journalists, including two women, imprisoned in harsh conditions.

**1993:** Changes name of the country to Myanmar and the capital to Yangon.

**23 April 1992:** Replaces Gen. Saw Maung as chairman of the ruling military council, with the additional posts of head of state, defence minister and army commander.

**July 1989:** Orders arrest of the country's best-known journalist, Win Tin, who is sentenced to 20 years in prison.

**1988:** Takes part in crushing the democratic movement, during which at least 3,000 people are killed. Member of the new ruling military State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) (renamed State Peace and Development Council in 1997).

**1986:** Joins the central committee of the Burmese Socialist Programme Party. Promoted to general.

**1978:** Promoted to colonel.

**1962:** Takes part in Gen. Ne Win's seizure of power.

**1960:** Promoted to captain after fighting Karen guerrillas.

## Hobbies/interests

Astrology (never takes a decision without consulting the stars),

foiling plots against his rule, giving his wife and daughters money to spend on luxuries.