State Peace and Development Council
Chairman Senior General Than Shwe
accepts credentials of Pakistani Ambassador

Yangon, 7 May — Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry, newly accredited Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha, here, at 10 am today.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department. — MNA

Myanmar War Veterans Organization
Central Organizing Committee meets

Yangon, 7 May—Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee held regular meeting No 2/2004 at the hall of MWVO Head-quarters on Pyay Road in Mayangon Township this afternoon, attended by Chairman of MWVO COC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Vice-Chairman Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) and members who are ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

First, Lt-Gen Thein Sein explained the aim of the organization, work programmes, carrying out of five major sectors, organizational works and future tasks. Secretary Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe sought approval of the minutes of the previous meeting and reported on accomplishment of the tasks. Next, he submitted the reports for the 2/2004 meeting.

 Afterwards, group leaders reported on their respective sectors. Vice-Chairman Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) gave a supplementary report. Later, Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave necessary instructions. — MNA

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

Saturday, 8 May, 2004

**Actively take part in nation-building tasks**

Today, efforts are being made with the united strength of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw for the Union of Myanmar to be a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

With the development of the State, a strong Tatmadaw must be built. Keeping in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, the Tatmadaw, which always puts in the first place nationalism, always serves the interests of the State and the people.

Formed with the offspring of the people, the patriotic Tatmadaw is performing the duties of national defence and undergoing training and engaged in public welfare tasks.

To be able to perform the national defence duty with high calibre, Tatmadaw members are trying to be equipped themselves with military, administrative and organizing skills.

The graduation parade of the 107th Intake of the Defence Services (Army) Officers’ Training School was held in the parade grounds of the school in Bahtoo Tatmyo on 6 May. Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Command-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, delivered an address on the occasion.

In his address, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that by striving to ensure the entire national people.

**YANGON, 7 May —** The participation of the respective ministries and organizations is important for the success of MRTV-4 programmes, said Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan today at a meeting to launch the channel covering programmes disseminating knowledge, entertainment programmes and news programmes.

The channel should include programmes imparting education and knowledge to the people and staff of the Ministry of Information, he pointed out at the meeting held at the ministry.

The minister also urged schools, training departments, research departments to install MRTV-4 receivers as the channel can telecast academic lessons.

Public organization programmes should be launched to increase the number of people using MRTV-4 receivers, he noted, adding, only then will the success be achieved. As the MRTV-4 has already received a number of programmes from the ministries, it will be launched soon, he said.

Collective efforts are needed for beaming better programmes, he stressed.

The MM Box of the MRTV-4 channel will beam three foreign and local cinemas or video plays, foreign TV series, musical programmes, karaoke songs, extracts from TV Myanmar and Myawady TV, dailies, weekly and monthly journals and magazines and other periodicals daily round the clock.

Listeners all around the nation can also switch on the programmes of Radio Myanmar, national races radio programmes and Yangon City FM programmes through the MM Box.

**MRTV-4 channel to be launched soon**

**YANGON, 7 May —** Under the joint arrangements of the Myanmar Computer Federation and the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology of Thailand, the Myanmar-Thai Co-workshop on Myanmar Language Implementation was held at the MICF Park in Hline Township here at 9 am today.

The workshop continues tomorrow. —** MNA

**Workshop on language implementation**

**Beware of computer worm Sascer**

YANGON, 6 May — Sascer, a computer worm, is spreading in computers through the Internet, beginning early May, and affecting over a million computers worldwide.

Although any of the four types, A, B, C and D, of the worm does not destroy files or application programmes, it can hamper the functioning power of a computer. Computer virus cannot spread without the involvement of a human action such as switching on an e-mail, but worms can automatically spread by searching the weakness of an operation system of a computer. The worm could be removed from a computer by downloading the software of McAfee and Norton Website, announced the Myanmar Computer Federation. — **MNA**

**UMFCCI officials meet guests**

**YANGON, 6 May —** Ambassador of Pakistan Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhury, together with Deputy Head of Mission Mr Habib-Ul-Rehman yesterday morning called on UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing. CEC members U Tun Aung (Myanmar Nyunt) and U Tun Aung (Tawwin Tint) at the UMFCCI head office here. They discussed matters on economic cooperation and extending of Myanmar business delegation to Trade Fair in Pakistan in October 2004 and others.

UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and CEC members also received the 3-member delegation led by CEO of State Bank of India based in Singapore Ms Padma Ramasuban at the head office at 3 pm. They discussed matters on economic cooperation. — **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

**Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address at the meeting. — MNA**

**The Pakistani Ambassador calls on UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing. — UMFCCI**

**E-National task Force Vice-Chairman U Aung Myint delivers an address at the co-workshop. — MNA**

**Stop Discrimination**

8 May 2004

Myanmar Red Cross Society

**World Red Cross Day —**
British troops face new Iraq prisoner abuse claims

London, 7 May—Britain’s Ministry of Defence said it was investigating fresh charges of mistreatment of prisoners in Iraq after a newspaper on Friday published the testimony of a British soldier who said he had witnessed severe beatings.

The Daily Mirror newspaper said the man had given military police full details of the attacks, including names and ranks of the soldiers involved in the beatings. The soldier, a trooper with the same regiment already at the centre of an investigation into abuse of Iraqi prisoners, said the violence was led by three ring-leaders. “I witnessed four beatings when people where punched and kicked,” the soldier told the Mirror. “They’d be on their knees, and when they dropped their hands they’d be kicked until they raised them again.”

On one occasion, a corporal went up to a prisoner who had a sandbag over his face and poked his fingers into the man’s eyeballs until he was screaming in pain. “I witnessed this at least 40 times,” the soldier said. — Internet

Ex-Iraq interrogator says many prisoners innocent

London, 7 May—A former US interrogator at Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib jail says that many of its prisoners are innocent.

Irasi, picked up at random by US troops and questioned by underqualified intelligence officers. Former military intelligence officer Torin Nelson said in an interview with the Guardian newspaper on Friday many of the detainees at Abu Ghraib were “innocent of any acts against the coalition”. “I’ve read reports from camp torturing units where the capturing unit wrote, ‘the target was not at home. The neighbour came out to see what was going on and we grabbed him.’” Nelson said. Internet

Around 60,000 Chinese high school students apply to join Air Force

Beijing, 7 May—Around 60,000 high school students have applied to join the country’s Air Force as pilots, involving several high schools, have passed their initial physical tests.

The applicants have to pass the national college entrance examinations scheduled for June, said the officials, who declined to say how many of them will be recruited.

The Air Force will conduct stringent second physical tests among the applicants that passed the college examinations and initial physical exams. The Air Force has started recruiting and training high-caliber servicemen to match the increasing complexity of weapons and facilities.

Last June, the Air Force announced that it had enrolled the first group of 19 graduates specializing in science and engineering from thousands of applicants from 74 Chinese universities.

They are the first group enrolled from civilian colleges.

The graduates have become the first students enrolled by the aviation college from universities without military backgrounds since China implemented the reform of military aviation college enrollment in 1987.

They will study aviation theories and flying in the China Air Force Aviation College for two years, said the officer.

Those who qualify will become pilots with a military bachelor’s degree, said the officer.

Britain’s Vodafone launches 3G in Europe

London, 7 May—British mobile telephone giant Vodafone announced Tuesday it had launched its first full third-generation mobile services in Germany and Portugal, the long-awaited technology.

The firm said it has enlisted Samsung and Sony Ericsson to make handsets for the service and users would enjoy improved quality, sound, pictures and videos, as well as increased speed when downloading games and ringtones.

It is planned as the prelude for a much wider launch of 3G mobile technology around Europe.

The launch is the second phase of a gradual roll-out of the much-hyped and delayed next generation of cellphone services by Vodafone.

In February Vodafone announced the launch of its first third-generation (3G) mobile service: a data card giving users high-speed Internet access for their laptop computers.

Vodafone already has 3G business coverage up and running in Italy and Germany using laptop connections and launched services to business customers in Britain in April.

“Today’s announcement is another important stage in Vodafone’s 3G journey and follows the successful European launch of our 3G Vodafone Mobile Connect Card for business customers,” said Vodafone’s chief marketing officer, Peter Bamford.

Hutchison 3G was the first company to launch the new technology in Europe in March 2003.

US engineer kidnapped in Baghdad

Dubai, 7 May—Several Westerners have been abducted in the Iraqi capital.

An Arab television station has aired what it said was a videotape showing an American engineer working for the Pentagon held hostage in Iraq.

Dubai-based Al-Arabiya network said it received the tape from a group calling itself the Islamic Rage Battalion, which said it had kidnapped the man on 3 May.

He was shown on Thursday blindfolded with a chequered Arab scarf and wearing a jacket.

“My name is Aban Elias from Denver, Colorado,” the captive was quoted as saying.

“I am a civil engineer working in Baghdad and we are working with the Pentagon. I was kidnapped and I call upon Muslim organizations to intervene to release me.”

The network said a copy of the man’s US passport showed he had been born in Iraq.

Al-Arabiya said he had been kidnapped in Iraq some time recently. It has aired what it said was a videotape showing a man said to be a US engineer kidnapped in Iraq. Al-Arabiya told AFP his first name was Ehab, a Jewish name, and that he was born in Iraq and later gained US nationality.

African countries urged to develop infrastructure

NAIROBI, 7 May—African governments should fully develop infrastructure in order to attract much needed foreign investment to their countries, the organizer of an international conference on improving Africa’s infrastructure said here.

“The key to creating wealth, jobs, and economic growth in Africa is to make it easier to start, operate and expand a business. That requires improving the regulatory and physical infrastructure and removing barriers to doing business.” International Finance Corporation (IFC) Director for Infrastructure Francisco Tourreilles told a Press conference in Kenya’s capital Nairobi.

Tourreilles made the remarks ahead of a key International conference on Improving Africa’s Physical and Regulatory Infrastructure scheduled to begin in Kenya on Wednesday.

There is limited foreign appetite for investment in infrastructure in Africa because of current uncertainty in the region’s political environment and the IFC is considering changing Africa’s development perception on investment, he added.

US says Iraq hostage shown on Al-Arabiya is American

WASHINGTON, 7 May—The US State Department said a Western hostage taken in Iraq and shown on the Dubai-based Al-Arabiya television station was an American.

A senior officer with the Air Force Draft Board said several thousand of them, who declined to say how many of them, are currently in Iraq after a newspaper on Friday published the testimony of a British soldier who said he had witnessed severe beatings.

On one occasion, a corporal went up to a prisoner who had a sandbag over his face and poked his fingers into the man’s eyeballs until he was screaming in pain.

The soldier said. — Internet

An Iraqi Shiite militiaman aims his rifle at the Al-Najaf cemetery in Najaf, Iraq on 5 May, 2004. Shiite militants loyal to a radical cleric ambushed a patrol of US troops on Wednesday in the holy city of Najaf. — AFP

Internet

The launch is the second phase of a key Inter- national conference on Improving Africa’s Physical and Regulatory Infrastruc- ture scheduled to begin in Kenya on Wednesday.

There is limited foreign appetite for investment in infrastructure in Africa because of current uncertainty in the region’s political environment and the IFC is considering changing Africa’s development perception on investment, he added.

Internet
Turkey condemns US inhumane treatment of Iraqi prisoners

ANKARA, 7 May—Turkey's officials, the opposition party and several non-governmental organizations condemned the US soldiers' treatment of Iraqi prisoners, describing the practices as "inhumane and shameful".

Turkish Daily News reported Wednesday the tortured of Iraqis as "heinous".

Many Turkish associations condemned the US soldiers' behaviour on Tuesday. The Human Rights Association (IHD) said in a statement that torture was banned in every situation either in war or in peace and called on the international society not to remain silent against the practices.

Civil Servants' Trade Union Chairman Ahmet Aksu said the pictures had reflected only a part of the terrible events experienced in Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

Spanish Premier says troops will not return to Iraq

MADRID, 7 May—Spain's new Prime Minister said on Thursday that he would never send Spanish soldiers back to Iraq, even if foreign troops were put under the authority of the United Nations or NATO.

"Spanish troops have spent time there and have completed their mission in Iraq," said Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. "There's no point in them going back."

In an interview at Moncloa Palace, Mr Zapatero dismissed the creation of a peacekeeping force under the United Nations "rather improbable or utopian" because of the unstable security situation in Iraq. Similarly, he rejected the idea of a NATO-led force similar to the one that exists in Afghanistan, saying that it was more likely that a force assembled by the Arab League "could give the Iraqis peace of mind."

Even as Mr Zapatero, 43, criticized the American-led war and occupation of Iraq, he struggled to portray himself as a loyal ally of the United States who was grateful for American help in facilitating Spain's troop withdrawal. He also pointed out that Spain had not encouraged other countries to leave. After Spain's decision to withdraw from Iraq, Honduras and the Dominican Republic decided to bring their soldiers home. Poland, Thailand, Kazakhstan and the Philippines have suggested that their troop commitments may not be open-ended.

"I've never asked them to do that, nor even suggested that," Mr Zapatero said of the other countries' decisions to withdraw. "I've respected the countries that have stayed and those that have left."

Mr Zapatero also refused to criticize the Bush administration for its handling of the abuses committed by American soldiers against prisoners in Iraq. "I want to be extremely respectful of the internal politics of a country that is an ally," he said, adding that President Bush "will know what he needs to do."

Philippines justifies anti-piracy efforts against US criticisms

MANILA, 7 May — The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs Wednesday slammed the United States Government for its keeping the Philippines in its watch list of countries whose anti-piracy policies are lax.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert argued that the Philippines has made "major gains" in the war against intellectual piracy and that "unfair criticisms do not aid in the war against intellectual property pirates".

The recent US Trade Representative Report included the Philippines in the list of 56 countries found have failed to curb piracy.

"Regardless of what this report says, the Philippines will continue to uphold the rule of law and observe due process in enforcing its laws," Albert said in a statement.

Meanwhile, she pointed out that proliferation of pirated VCDs and DVDs are rampant even in the United States itself. The Philippine Government has improved the legal mechanisms to protect intellectual property rights from closing sales outlets, arresting pirates and seizing truckloads of pirated material, the secretary noted.

"The Philippines fully understands and appreciates the importance of protecting intellectual property rights.

Russia opposes US proposal on limited sovereignty in Iraq

MOSCOW, 7 May—A senior Russian diplomat said Wednesday that Moscow opposes the US proposal to transfer limited sovereignty to the Iraqi Government on 30 June, warning it would dash people's expectations of full power and raise tensions in Iraq.

"The Iraqis are expecting the transfer of full sovereignty after June 30. If this does not happen, their expectations will be dashed and this could lead to another spiral of tension in Iraq," Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

US officials suggested earlier that the Iraqi Government would be given limited powers, particularly in security issues.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the US and the United Nations have confirmed the importance of Russia's call for an international forces that would involve all Arab countries and ensure the legitimacy of the handover of power in Iraq, Interfax reported.

Angola, Congo discuss increased bilateral cooperation

LUANDA, 7 May — Angola and the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) agreed Wednesday to seek ways to boost bilateral cooperation programmes.

Angolan Foreign Minister Joao Miranda, opening a two-day ministerial meeting Wednesday in Luanda, said the neighbours should draft "new strategies" to "increase future cooperation". He added that political and security problems that had kept Angola and DRC apart in the past had been "overcome".

The DRC International Cooperation Minister Mbusa Nyamusi described bilateral relations, especially in the economic field, as "positive". He simply wanted the deportations to take place with "respect for human dignity".

The Wednesday-Thursday bilateral talks in Luanda follows a tripartite meeting Tuesday in which Angola, the DRC and the Republic of Congo discussed common security issues and their participation in the upcoming UN-sponsored conference on the Great Lakes Region.

MNA/Xinhua
France says abuse of Iraqi prisoners unacceptable

PARIS, 7 May—France said on Wednesday the reported abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US forces was "totally unacceptable" and if confirmed would clearly violate international conventions.

France led the opposition against the US-led war in Iraq and French President Jacques Chirac last week reiterated a call for a swift return of sovereignty to Iraq within the framework set out by the United Nations.

"The treatment inflicted on certain Iraqi prisoners, such as are shown on pictures displayed by media in the last few days, are totally unacceptable," the French Foreign Ministry said.

The abuse scandal blew up last week when a US television station aired photographs that were taken by some of the six soldiers now facing court-martial for abusing prisoners.

Some of the photographs from the Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad showed naked Iraqi prisoners stacked in a pyramid.

"We understand the strong emotions provoked by such acts, which — if they are confirmed — are disgraceful and constitute clear and unacceptable violations of international conventions," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement. — MNA/Reuters

ISLAMABAD, 7 May—Pakistan's Foreign Office Wednesday confirmed that the US-led coalition forces, operating in Afghanistan, have intruded into Pakistani territory.

The Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan told a weekly Press briefing here Wednesday that the foreign troops on their search for terrorists moved across the Pakist-ani-Afghan border from and back on Monday evening.

The spokesman said the Pakistani Government has lodged protest with the United States over the incursion and requested the United States through "diplomatic and mili-tary channels" to hold inquiry into the inci-dent and share its details with Pakistan.

Pakistan shares an around 2,500 kilome-ter border with Afghanistan and the US-led coalition forces have long been charged by Pakistani media for repeated border viola-tions during their anti-terror missions. — MNA/Xinhua

US forces intrude into Pakistani territory

China, EU vow to safeguard, promote world peace, stability

BRUSSELS, 7 May—China and the European Union (EU) vowed to further strengthen cooperation and work together to safeguard and promote world peace, stability and development.

"China and the EU should endeavour to maintain international security on the basis of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation," said a joint Press statement issued following Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to the EU Headquarters here.

The statement said China and the EU should uphold "the vital role of the United Nations in maintaining peace, stability and security and promoting sustainable development throughout the world".

China and the EU also vowed to "promote multilateralism and democ- racy in international relations", according to the statement.

The statement spoke highly of Wen's visit. "Premier Wen's visit had particular significance for the promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides and for the further develop-ment of the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership." The visit was Wen's first official trip to the EU Headquarters, which followed tours of China by European Commission President Romano Prodi in April and Javier Solana, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs.

"The intensity of these high-level contacts is testimony to the depth and vigour of the rapidly growing partnership between China and the EU," the statement said. — MNA/Xinhua

IDB to grant $682m in loans to Ecuador

Quito, 7 May—The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is expected to provide 682 million US dollars to Ecuador in loans by 2006, 280 million of which can be freely used by the government, IDB representative to Ecuador Dora Currea said Wednesday.

The loans will be used for projects that seek to strengthen competitiveness and productivity and to promote social development in the country.

IDB has so far granted more than 3.7 billion US dollars in 169 loans to Ecuador.

Currea said Ecuador deserved this trust for the progress mirrored in the 3.5 per cent average growth of its gross domestic product (GDP). — MNA/Xinhua

Private companies asked to stop sending Filipinos to Iraq

MANILA, 7 May—The Philippine Government said Wednesday that it had asked private companies in Kuwait, Jordan and other Middle East countries not to send registered Filipino workers to Iraq until the country's security situation improves.

Fighting erupted in Kerbala shortly after mid-night when Mehdi Army militiamen fired mortar bombs, rocket-propelled grenade and machineguns at coalition positions in the town.

Philippine workers to Iraq after a Fili-pino truck driver was killed in a roadside ambush after delivering military supplies to a US base in the northern Iraq.

Roderigo Reyes, 51-year- old employee of the First Kuwaiti Trading Company, is the first Philippine civil-ian fatality in Iraq.

Last month, two Filipinos were injured in separate mortar attacks against a US base in Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

IBF wins $682m in loans to Ecuador

I q u i t o , 7 M a y — The I n t e r - A m e r i c a n  D e v e l o p m e n t  B a n k ( I D B ) i s e x p e c t e d t o provide $ 6 8 2 m i l l i o n U S d o l l a r s to E c u d o r i n l o a n s b y 2 0 0 6 , 2 8 0 m i l l i o n o f w h i c h c a n b e f r e e l y u s e d b y t h e g o v e r n m e n t , I D B r e p r e s e n t a t i v e t o E c u d o r D o r a C u r r e a s a i d W e d n e s d a y .

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C u r r e a s a i d E c u d o r d e s e r v e d t h i s t r u s t f o r t h e p r o g r e s s m i r r o e r e d i n t h e 3 . 5 p e r c e n t a v e r a g e g r o w t h o f i t s g r o s s d o m e s t i c p r o d u c t ( G D P ) . — M N A / X i n h u a

One coalition soldier killed in overnight clashes in Karbala

BAGHDAD, 7 May—A coalition soldier was killed in overnight clashes with militiamen of radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada Sadr in the holy city of Karbala, the coalition forces said Wednesday.

"There was one coalition forces soldier killed," a state-ment said.

According to the state-ment, the soldier was killed in a battle when the coalition forces took over several buildings occupied by Sadr's Mehdi Army in the city of Karbala, some 110 kilomet- res south of Baghdad.

The statement did not identified the nationality of the killed soldier.

Firefighting erupted in Karbala shortly after mid-night when Mehdi Army militiamen fired mortar bombs, rocket-propelled grenade and machineguns at coalition positions in the town.

The soldiers returned fire and the exchanges lasted until dawn. Witnesses said three gunmen were killed and nine wounded, including three in serious condition. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqis demonstrate outside the prison of Abu Ghraib, west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on 5 May, 2004. Hundreds of Iraqis marched outside the walls of the military jail in Iraq where US soldiers photographed themselves abusing Iraqi prisoners, and demanded the release of jailed relatives. —INPIRINT

Sadr's militia to agree to truce if US forces leave Najaf base

BAGHDAD, 7 May—Militia loyal to radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada Sadr will stop attacking US forces if they withdraw from the coalition base outside the holy city of Najaf, Sadr's spokesman said Wednesday.

"We would comply with a ceasefire if they withdraw from their base at the Sadr teaching hospital," Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel quoted Sheikh Ahmed al-Shabani as saying.

He said Sadr would also agree to the return of "Iraqi police with all its force into Najaf" and that the Mehdi Army militia would be deployed around the holy shrines of Najaf and Kufa.

US troops moved into a coalition base located in an area between Najaf and Kufa previously occupied by Spanish and Latin American forces. They have been running regular patrols in the outskirts of Najaf and setting up checkpoints to halt the movement of Sadr's followers between the two cities.

Gunfire and loud explosions were also heard in the city of Najaf overnight and a mortar attack was launched on the coalition base early Wednesday. — MNA/Xinhua

China and Europe vow to safeguard, promote world peace, stability and development.

"China and the EU should uphold the vital role of the United Nations in maintaining peace, stability and security and promoting sustainable development throughout the world. China and the EU also vow to "promote multilateralism and democracy in international relations", according to the statement. The statement spoke highly of Wen's visit. "Premier Wen's visit had particular significance for the promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides and for the further development of the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership." The visit was Wen's first official trip to the EU Headquarters, which followed tours of China by European Commission President Romano Prodi in April and Javier Solana, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs. The intensity of these high-level contacts is testimony to the depth and vigour of the rapidly growing partnership between China and the EU," the statement said. — MNA/Xinhua

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April was bloodiest month since Iraq war began

WASHINGTON, 7 May—More than 1,000 American troops were wounded in action in Iraq in April, representing one-quarter of all those wounded since the war began, according to Defense Department records.

More than 130 troops also were reported killed in Iraq in the bloodiest month for U.S. forces since the mission began in March 2003. Through May 1, a total of 4,133 American service members have been reported wounded in action since the Iraq war began last year. Of those, 1,073 came in April alone, and another 22 were reported on May 1, the day the database was most recently updated. With casualties continuing to mount, the Pentagon’s directorate of information operations and reports recently began updating its public records once a week. More than 740 service members have been killed in Iraq since the United States invaded in March 2003.

The Iraqi uprisings that began this March 31 have resulted in some of the most violent battles of the war. The Bush administration has sent 20,000 more troops to Iraq to try to subdue widespread unrest. —Internet

India asks US to explain troop abuse of workers

NEW DELHI, 7 May — New Delhi has asked the United States to explain disturbing reports about Indians being used as slave labour and held against their will by contractors in US military camps in Iraq, Indian officials said on Wednesday.

Indians who have fled Iraq complain of a nightmare of abuse by US troops and Iraqis and the constant threat of violence from fighting raging around them.

The accusations come on the heels of revelations that US soldiers murdered and abused Iraqi prisoners, sparking outrage in the United States and around the world.

“The US Embassy was requested for information about the numbers of such Indian nationals known to have been employed in this manner and also about the accounts that Indians who wished to leave were unable to do so and were compelled to remain in Iraq against their will,” India’s Foreign Ministry said.

Indian workers, including former police and soldiers hired for security jobs, said they paid Indian employment companies as much as 1,500 US dollars for visas to work in Kuwait, where they ended up working for US soldiers. Some of the pictures show Indians who have fled their job as a butcher at an Iraqi prison, the newspaper reported on Thursday.

The photographs are similar to those broadcast on CBS’ “60 Minutes II” and published by the New Yorker magazine showing Iraqi prisoners in various images of humiliation, the Washington Post reported.

The new collection included more than 1,000 digital images ranging from scenes of mundane military life to pictures showing crude simulations of US soldiers. Some of the pictures also appear to show American soldiers abusing prisoners, many of whom wear ID bands.

Here, The Post said that it could not eliminate the possibility that some of those images were staged. The article said the photographs, taken from the summer of 2003 through the winter, were passed among soldiers in the 372nd Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit based in Cresaptown, Maryland.

The pictures were among those seized by military investigators probing conditions at Abu Ghraib, a source close to the unit was quoted as telling the newspaper. —MNA/Reuters

“Washington Post” says new Iraq prison photos emerge

WASHINGTON, 7 May — A new batch of photographs obtained by The Washington Post include more graphic images of apparent Iraqi prisoners at a US military jail in Iraq, the newspaper reported on Thursday.

The photographs are similar to those broadcast on CBS’ “60 Minutes II” and published by the New Yorker magazine showing Iraqi prisoners in various images of humiliation, the Washington Post reported.

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A US soldier mans a defensive position on the northern side of Najaf, Iraq on 6 May, 2004. The soldiers were blocking Shia guerillas from reaching the government office in the city that was taken over in an operation by US forces. —Izuo

ICRC repeatedly warns US over Iraqi prisoner abuse

GENEVA, 7 May—The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Thursday it had repeatedly urged the United States to take “corrective action” at a Baghdad Jail which is at the centre of a scandal over Iraqi prisoner abuse.

The Geneva-based ICRC, which is mandated under various international treaties to visit prisoners, has had regular access to the Abu Ghraib jail since the US-led occupation forces began to use it last year, according to chief spokeswoman Abtoulla Notari.

“The ICRC, aware of the situation, and based on its findings, has repeatedly asked the US authorities to take corrective action,” she told Reuters. —MNA/Reuters

Mohammed Abd el Gabar, 5, is comforted by his father Aziz, left, as he is treated from shrapnel wounds in the Al Hakim hospital in Najaf, Iraq on 6 May, 2004. —Internet

Blast hits Iraqis in Baghdad after suicide attack

BAGHDAD, 7 May — A home-made bomb exploded in a busy street in central Baghdad on Thursday, hours after a suicide car bomb attack which killed up to 10 people and injured two Iraqi witnesses reported.

Four, US soldiers and foreign tourists reportedly injured in an explosion. —MNA/Xinhua

Mexico seeks to extend eco accords with 4 Latam countries

MEXICO CITY, 7 May — The Mexican Economy Secretary’s undersecretary for trade negotiations, said Mexico had benefited a lot from trade agreements in the areas of exports and foreign investments in the last 10 years.

“In terms of bilateral accords, we are not negotiating any right now. What we are doing is extending some economic complementation accords with Brazil, Peru and Argentina, and we will probably do it with Paraguay,” Villalobos said.

He said the Mexican Government has 12 trade accords with 42 countries and “that give us access to about one billion consumers for our exports.” Villalobos said more than half of the jobs generated in the country since 1994 are tied with the trade activities boosted by these accords. —MNA/Xinhua
Those who dare not show their face — 52

I pity myself for having to tirelessly refute slanders and fabrications. See, the VOA aired a slander as a news report again at 6 pm on 24 April 2004! The radio station quoted the so-called association to protect Myanmar prisoners as saying that members of the Military Intelligence tortured U Win Naing Naing during the interrogation. Likewise, the BBC at 8 pm on 26 April aired a fabricating the issue. With a sinister aim, the Naing Naing, and one thing sure is that it was airing the bone specialist surgeons, Khin Win is taking Vitamin fingers; that when he informed the prison officials about his palms under pillow whenever he slept; that sometimes, the repeated electroshocks destroyed blood veins of his hands; and that the condition of his hands were so bad that they needed amputating.

As it has been insincerely exaggerating the news, I pity the VOA for the radio station is becoming a department distributing slanders. What’s its purpose of making such an act to fuel the US anger over Myanmar? In reality, it is an impolite act that is against the norms of a civilized society. Why is the VOA so stupid to announce the slander? Has it any record pity the VOA for the radio station is becoming a當您The MI has no tradition of using such an unrest. Besides, the pain in Khin Win’s hands was not known this, and continue to air fabrications and slanders.

The repeated electroshocks destroyed blood veins of his hands; and that the condition of his hands were so bad that they needed amputating. 

It is quite clear. Action was taken against Khin Win, for he made connections with NLD abscoders, ABSDB terrorists and members of NCGUB, a coalition group formed with various fugitives of Myanmar, received financial assistance for activities opposing the Government, formed an illegal anti-government gang secretly, and laid down plans to distribute papers agitating people to incite terrorists and members of NCGUB, a coalition group imprisonment for his wrongdoing?

VOA so stupid to announce the slander? Has it any record pity the VOA for the radio station is becoming a

Efficient use of electricity

- Use daylight as the main source of light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- Preventing waste of electricity benefits
to the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

- Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million in a year
- The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flaptered
- Do not be softened whenever approached
Regional development tasks can...

from page 16

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye said that at present, the Government is building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, and Kayah State is also developing. Efforts should be made for continuous development of the state with greater acceleration.

In its national modernization drive, the Government has been striving for economic progress, community peace, the rule of law and reinforcing the national defence, and foundations have been laid nearly cent per cent in all sectors.

It is implementing the 24-zone development project, border areas and national races development project and five rural development project for progress of all the places of the Union, and giving priority to progress of states in launching the regional development drive.

When Vice-Senior General was a command commander of the area covering Kayah State 15 years ago, the population of Kayah State was only 150,000. Now it has exceeded 300,000.

In this regard, the Government is stressing the need to make plans not only for the present population, but also for the growing population in the future. Only then, will the Government be dutiful for the posterity. Because of the good will based on Union Spirit, the Government has been striving to develop Kayah State as other states and divisions. The national brethren have been living in the Union with unity and through thick and thin.

In the Kayah State national races including Kayaw, Bamar, Padaung and Shan are living together. So, Kayah State itself is also a mini Union. Efforts will have to be made for further vitalization of Union Spirit among the national people.

Regional development task can be accelerated only when the internal insurgency ends and peace and stability prevail in an area. At present, peace and stability begins to prevail in the state. It is sure that Kayah State will achieve more progress if armed insurgency meet its end in the region.

Service personnel assigned duties at the state should regard the region as their native land in developing Kayah State. They should also see the local people as their family members. He cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

At noon, the Vice-Senior General and party paid respects to Sayadaws of monasteries in Loikaw. Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pahtasami of Shwedawung Partyati School administered the Five Precepts. Sayadaws recited parittas. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented offerings to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pahtasami.

Secretary-I Lt-Gen Soe Win and party also presented offerings to Sayadaws. The congregation shared the merits gained.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project

YANGON, 7 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Mandalay City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and officials arrived at the briefing hall of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project (Sagaing bank) yesterday afternoon.

First, project in charge Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Huan Win of Public Works reported on the bridge construction tasks being carried out and future works to Lt-Gen Ye Myint, who then gave necessary instructions to him.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected construction of concrete piers and RP-8 concrete beam and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Aftewards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the briefing hall of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) construction project (Mandalay bank), where project in charge Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Huy Myint presented a report on progress in construction and future tasks of the bridge on the side of Mandalay bank. Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions and attended to the requirements.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint visited Dakhkina Yama Phaya gyi taik in Chammyathazi where he paid homage to Naya Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Maydiya Bhivamsa, supplanted on religious affairs and offered provisions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon).— MNA

Fourth coord meeting of National Convention

Vice-Chairman Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and committee and subcommittee members.

First, Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung explained management affairs for convening the National Convention.

Next, chairman of the various subcommittees and officials reported on progress in their respective works and future tasks. Officials of the Development Affairs Department, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, and Public Works, the Ministry of Construction also reported on their respective works.

In response to the reports, the chairman and the vice-chairman of the management committee gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the needs. Next, those present at the meeting took part in the discussions, and Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung made concluding remarks.

After the meeting, Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials inspected preparatory works being carried out in the Pyayungsu Hall where the National Convention is to be held and arrangements for the delegates.

MNA

Maj-Gen Lun Maung addresses fourth meeting of National Convention Convening Management Committee.— MNA

Convening Management Committee held

YANGON, 7 April — The fourth coordination meeting of the National Convention Management Committee took place at the meeting hall of the committee at Nyaungmyapin Kwin in Hsinbyushin Township here at 9 am today.

It was attended by Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairman Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and committee and subcommittee members.

Mr. Lun Maung explained management affairs for convening the National Convention.
Prime Minister attends opening of school building, multimedia classrooms at BEHSs in Mogok.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects block of Uranus Co Ltd in Mogok Gems Land.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt poses for documentary photos with officials and students at opening ceremony of multimedia classrooms at Mogok BEHS No 1.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt thanks the wellwishers for their donations for the building.

Next, the Prime Minister presented a computer set each for Mogok BEHS No 1, No 2 and No 3 to respective school heads.

Next, the Prime Minister delivered an address. He said that they attended the opening ceremony of the multimedia classrooms of the school while inspecting development tasks in Momeik and Mabein townships in Shan State (North) and Mogok Township in Mandalay Division.

Teachers, students, members of the School Board of Trustees and town elders at the ceremony were so active and happy. The government is implementing the national education promotion plan long-term plan. To maintain its tradition of higher education.

The Prime Minister inspected the blocks of organs formed for new buildings.

The Prime Minister gave instructions on expansion of the gems land, extraction of gems from the blocks of the gems land, and matters related to the gems land. The Prime Minister gave instructions on operation of the people for enforcing gems law, rules and disciplines.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to the block of Uranus Co Ltd, Managing Director U Win Aung inspected the gems land. At the block of Uranus Co Ltd, Managing Director U Win Aung inspected the extraction site.

Next, the Prime Minister gave instructions on operation of the people for enforcing gems law, rules and disciplines. The Prime Minister and party proceeded to the block of Uranus Co Ltd, Managing Director U Win Aung inspected the extraction site.
Attributes of Myanmar seafarers and marine officers permeating across the area of international water transport

**Mercantile Marine Officer Cadet Training Course No CD-32 opened**

YANGON, 7 May—Mercantile Marine Officer Cadet Training Course No CD-31 of Institute of Maritime Technology under the Ministry of Transport concluded in conjunction with the opening ceremony of the Course No 32 at the hall of IMT on Bayintnaung Road in Kamayut Township here this morning with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

The government is creating such opportunities for the national youths.

Nowadays, the government is making efforts for enabling the nation to keep pace with others, for bringing about harmonious and equitable development across the nation and for strengthening the national economy while striving for constant emergence of highly-qualified human resources capable of serving the interests of the State.

In striving for development of the national economic life systematic measures are being taken for harmonious development of production sector, transport sector and trade sector that contribute to economic development. At the same time, efforts are being made for development of maritime sector as it plays a key role in economic development.

Although there have been changes and developments in the fields of science and technology and communications and transport, trade, transport of commodity and transport of oil and gas have still to rely on water transport.

With development in tourism, cruise liners and luxury liners are popular again in the water transport sector.

The water transport sector is an essential service in the world and it is also popular as a strong economy. Therefore, the global nations, especially, the eastern nations are making efforts for development of maritime technology while striving for nurturing and producing highly qualified seafarers, marine officers and marine engineers to serve the interests of the State while striving for development of own socio-economic life.

The institute has been constantly producing highly-qualified seafarers, marine officers and marine engineers yearly in the fields of maritime technology and developments, for nurturing and producing human resources on maritime technology and for building the ocean liners.

Nowadays, it is obvious that there have emerged water transport infrastructures such as seaports of international level, world level jetties, modern container yards and shipyards.

For development of maritime technology, the Institute of Maritime Technology is being facilitated with splendid buildings, modern teaching and learning aids and modern equipment. In addition, arrangements have been made to upgrade Institute of Maritime Technology into Maritime College.

In accord with the curricula to be in conformity with conventions, rules and regulations of IMO, more courses are being conducted at the IMT.

Myanmar Maritime University which will produce mercantile marine technicians, maritime engineers, vessels and ships building engineers, architects and modern seaports building and management technicians has emerged. At a time when encouragement is being given to development of maritime technology and emergence of human resources on maritime technology mercantile marine officers produced by IMT are to strive to become good citizens capable of uplifting national prestige and integrity.

The attributes of Myanmar seafarers and marine officers permeating across the area of the international water transport such as good discipline, dutifulness, working skills and methodological precision should be further promoted. Nowadays, productive elements earning their livelihood from the donation received from foreign nations, undermining the dignity of Myanmar people and weaken- ing the economy of the State are now making the acquaintance of Myanmar seafarers to lure and instigate them.

In time of encountering such incidents, Myanmar seafarers should be loyal to the nation realizing the motives of the destructive elements so as to avoid such acts. Myanmar seafarers are to make collective and concerted efforts with brotherly spirit so as to enhance the dignity of Myanmar and Myanmar people facing and overcoming crisis and difficulties abroad including problems creating by destructive elements.

Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, the Principal of IMT, faculty members, course instructors, guests, mercantile marine officer trainees and their relatives.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that at a time when efforts are being made with own resources for the emergence of a modern and developed nation, producing highly-qualified maritime officers and engineers yearly in the fields of maritime technology contributes much towards the State and the people.

The institute has been constantly producing highly-qualified maritime officers and engineers with a view to enabling Myanmar mercantile marine officers to get a deserved role in the mercantile marine sector that is world-wide popular as a greatly profitable business. Therefore, newly qualified graduates are to always bear in mind that to earn more foreign currency.

With the aim of ensuring all-round development of water transport, the government has been making arrangements for development of international level infrastructures on water transport, for development of mercantile marine and marine technology keeping pace with changes and developments, for nurturing and producing human resources on maritime technology and for building the ocean liners.

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At a time when they are contributing to development of national economy through oversea jobs maritime technicians and maritime engineers in mercantile marine sector are to serve the interests of the State while striving for development of own socio-economic life. At a time when they have the opportunity of pursuing maritime technology in the nation the mercantile marine officer cadets are to make relentless efforts to become outstanding ones capable of bringing honour to the nation.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the mercantile marine officers to make earnest efforts through their maritime technology for enabling the nation to stand shoulder to shoulder with others, for further strengthening national economy and earning more foreign currency; to strive to become highly qualified ones able to uplift the dignity of the State and the people and to make efforts to become those capable of safeguarding and enhancing the national interests. Afterwards, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe presented a gift to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and the ceremony ended.—MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects construction of Konywa creek bridge.— YANGON COMMAND
The technical seminar of Kris-lite Co in progress. NLM

**Kris-lite technical seminar held**

**YANGON, 7 May**

Technical seminar on usefulness of light, effectiveness of security system and application to road safety equipment was held by Kris-lite (Myanmar) Co Ltd at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here at 2 pm today. Managing Director of the Kris-lite Co Mr Sims Teo extended greetings and General manager Mr Jimmy Teo and project director U Kyaw Moe Naing were also present on the occasion. Mr Alvin Chan, Mr Andy Yew and Mr Martin Klaasen gave talks. — NLM

**Myitkyina Open Golf Tour continues**

Rural water supply station inspected

**YANGON, 7 May — Director-General of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry of Progress for Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Myo Myint inspected the Kyantkkan water supply station in Minbu on 4 May morning. Officials reported on the works and he gave necessary instructions. Next, he inspected the digging of tubewell in Nyaungthaw village of Thauk Township. The tubewell is 870 feet deep and now supplying water with 139 strokes. Myint Thaung (KM Golf Centre) put his place behind the leader with 146, Kyaw Swa Lin (Ping) and Min Naing (Strixon) with 148 each.**

**Measures for ensuring smooth and secure transport coordinated**

**YANGON, 7 May — The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held the meeting at the hall of Yangon Division All Bus-line Control Committee (Yangon Division) in Tamway Township this evening.**

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Col Nyan Tun Aung, speaking on the occasion, said:

Even though team work represents the maritime engineering in the mercantile marine sector, success can be achieved only through leadership necessary for the captain who has to lead his subordinates in a systematically way. The newly-qualified graduates are going to discharge duties as junior leaders soon. So, they are to try to get themselves accustomed to the practice of self-help to become a good leader, he noted.

In conclusion, the minister said that at a time when the government has been making all-out efforts to transform the nation to a peaceful, modern and developed one, the graduates are to always keep in mind that they have been nurtured to become human resources so as to perform duties on State-owned vessels and foreign vessels.

Next, the minister presented Best Cadet awards (maritime and engineer) to cadet Si Thu Lwin and cadet Ko Ko Maung; the deputy ministers, awards (maritime and engineer) for excellent performance in study to cadet Ne Lin Tun and cadet Ne Tun Oo; Brig-Gen Myo Myint, the award for outstanding performance in study to cadet Kyaw Thet Tun; and Principal U Win Thein, awards to outstanding companies.

Afterwards, the principal and deans presented completion certificates to the cadets.

**Drive safely**

**YANGON, 7 May — The Myitkyina Open Golf Tour, co-organized by Northern Command, Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar Professional Golfers’ Association and sponsored by Jade Land Myanmar Co Ltd, continued for the second day at Northern Star Golf Club in Myitkyina town.**

After the second round, Zaw Zaw Latt (Pun West) was leading the professional golfers division with 139 strokes. Myint Thaung (KM Golf Centre) put his place behind the leader with 146, Kyaw Swa Lin (Ping) and Min Naing (Strixon) with 148 each.

In the men’s amateur division, Thein Zaw Myint scored 142 strokes in the first place. His runners-up were Win Aung Latt with 145 and Dheko Htet Doe with 146.

1 K million will be presented to the first prize winner, K 600,000 to the second and K 400,000 to the third in the professional division. Similarly, the first prize winner can get gifts worth K 400,000, the second K 300,000 and the third K 200,000.

The tour sponsors were Rothems of Pall Mall Myanmar Pre Ltd, Myanmar Sibbi Co Ltd, May and Mark Co Ltd, Kaung Myat Co Ltd and Pun Sun Hotel.

The third round of the tour continues tomorrow.

**Mercantile Marine Officer Cadet Training Course concludes**

**YANGON, 7 May — The concluding of Mercantile Marine Officer Cadet Training Course No 31 was held in conjunction with the prize presentation at the Institute of Marine Technology on Bayintnaung Road in Kamayut Township here this morning.**

Present on the occasion were Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, Officer on Special Duty of the ministry Brig-Gen Myo Tin, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, the principal of the institute, deans, faculty members and students.

On the occasion, the minister delivered a speech. In his speech, the minister said that with the aim of bringing about highly-qualified human resources of international level in the nation, the institute has produced 1,235 maritime officers and 1,124 maritime engineers up to 2004 academic year. He said that in the 2004 academic year, the institute has nurtured and taught the students maritime engineering theoretically and practically to possess all the characteristics of a skilled and competent officer.

Thanks to the measures taken to broaden the scope of Myanmar maritime field in cooperation with foreign marine universities and institutes, qualified maritime officers and engineers were sent abroad for further study, and it represented a landmark in the history of the Myanmar Maritime University, he said.

The technical seminar of Kris-lite Co in progress. NLM

**The technical seminar of Kris-lite Co in progress. NLM**
## West African Gas Project takes off in 2006

Lagos, 7 May — The West African Gas Project (WAGP) estimated to produce 400 million cubic feet (about 11.3 million cubic metres) of natural gas per day at the peak of its capacity is to take off in 2006, a senior Nigerian official said on Wednesday.

The project, which was to construct a 600-kilometre long pipeline from Nigeria’s Lagos to Ghana’s Koradi, with supply points at Benin Republic’s Cotonou and Lome in Togo, was originally scheduled to start in 2003 but was delayed due to lack of fund.

Funsho Kapoluko, group-managing director of the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation told reporters in Lagos that “all the parties to the project have doubled their efforts to ensure that the project takes off in the next 24 months”.

He said the countries taking part in the project, Nigeria, Ghana, Republic of Benin and Togo, had opened an escrow account to finance the take-off of the project, noting that the project could boost the economic development of the West African sub-region. The WAGP is spearheaded by Nigeria, Africa’s top oil producer with a daily crude oil output of over two million barrels.

China’s largest pork supply province expects 36% export increase

Chengdu, 7 May — Sichuan, the leading pig raising province in southwest China, predicts its 2004 pork exports will exceed 100,000 tons, worth about 130 million US dollars, or a 36.8%-per cent increase year-on-year, according to the Provincial Bureau of Commerce.

The optimistic forecast was based on remarkable rise in pork exports in the first four months this year, according to the bureau.

Sichuan’s pork output ranks first in the country. It exported record 75,000 tons of pork in 2003, worth 95 million US dollars, statistics show.

The province is mulling to found its council for pork exporting enterprises in the second half of this year.

According to Xie Kaiba, bureau director, the setup of the council is aimed to forge a well-framed market and enhance self-discipline of pork processing and exporting enterprises to protect credibility of pork products from Sichuan.

Despite a major pork processor and exporter in China, Sichuan has had so far no pork exports to the European Union, Japan and the United States, three potential markets which bar pork imports from China.

The province now has ten major exporting marketers including Hong Kong, Russia, Singapore, and Macao.

Hebei Province sees fast eco growth in first quarter

Shijiazhuang, 7 May — North China’s Hebei Province, one of the leading grain producers of China, registered 162.51 billion yuan (19.65 billion US dollars) in gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter of this year, a rise of 12.3%-per cent year-on-year, the latest statistics have shown.

The increase rate was 1.2 percentage points higher than that for the same period of last year, according to the provincial statistics bureau.

The fastest growth was also reported in other economic fields, according to the bureau.

The province’s added industrial output value of share-holding enterprises surged 27.7 per cent year on year to reach 28.7 billion yuan (3.47 billion US dollars), contributing 13.9 percentage points to the total industrial growth of the province.

The province registered a fixed assets investment to-talling 37.35 billion yuan (4.53 billion US dollars) in the three months to March, up 48.4 per cent over the corresponding period of last year.

China’s Forest Products Joint Venture Corporation Limited Price Quotation No. (01/2004-2005)

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CLOSING DATE: 18.5.2004 (Tuesday) 12:00 Noon

Please contact F.P.J.V.C Ltd. No. 422-426, Corner of Botataung Pagoda Road and Strand Road for further details.

Tel: 202060, 202101 (ext.) 127.

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for F.P.J.V.C Limited LLC

P.O. Box 109.

Ph:248108/723043

(F) Donmmir Somgatt & Boonna Attorneys at Law, Thailand.


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**DONATE BLOOD**

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Apple sells record songs on iTunes

LOS ANGELES, 7 May — Apple Computer said on Wednesday that music fans have purchased a record amount of 3.3 million songs from its new iTunes Music Store since its launch one week ago.

In addition to the 3.3 million purchased songs, the company said, iTunes users have downloaded more than 500,000 free songs from popular artists including Foo Fighters, Avril Lavigne and Courtney Love during Apple’s week-long “Free Song of the Day” anniversary promotion.

Our third generation iTunes Music Store just blows away any other online music service,” said Steve Jobs, Apple’s CEO. “With over 700,000 songs and innovative features like iMix, it’s the easiest to use and most fun to use online music store in the world.”

Apple said its new iTunes Music Store features the industry’s largest online music catalogue of over 700,000 songs from all five major music companies and over 450 independent music labels, as well as groundbreaking new features including:

— “iMix,” a new way for users to publish playlists of their favourite songs on the iTunes Music Store for other users to preview, rate and purchase. Apple said users published more than 20,000 Custom playlists to the music store in the week.

— “Party Shuffle,” a new playlist that automatically chooses songs from a user’s music library, displays just-played and upcoming songs, and allows users to easily add, delete and rearrange the upcoming songs on the fly.

— Radio Charts from more than 1,000 radio stations, enabling users to easily find and buy the top songs played on local radio stations in major US markets and buy directly from the charts with just one click.

— A new Music Video section featuring more music videos than ever, and a new Movie Trailer section with the most popular movie trailers on the Internet and links to buy songs from the soundtrack or audiobooks related to the movie.

— The rights to play songs purchased from the iTunes Music Store, including songs previously purchased, on up to five personal computers, two more than before.

Apple said last month that it had sold 70 million songs on the store in its first year and was selling 2.7 million songs a week.

— “Free Song of the Day,” a joint venture between pSi-Oncology Pte Ltd, which is a joint venture between SGH, Biotech Research Ventures Pte Ltd and pSMDeca Limited, a British company that produced the biodegradable silicon.

— Radio Charts from more than 1,000

— Current drug and radiation treatments used against liver cancer usually kill healthy cells as well, preventing doctors from giving the required doses in some cases, especially to patients too ill to withstand traditional heavy radiation.

“But we have now found the ideal vehicle to enable us to release the treatment at a controlled rate over a sustained period of time,” said Dr Pierce Chow, the director of experimental surgery at Singapore General Hospital.

Silicon-carrying radioactive isotopes are ground into powder and directly injected into the tumour with a syringe, bypassing the rest of the body. Silicon is the main component of sand.

The ground silicon dissolves completely to form harmless silica acid and water in the body.

Chow told Reuters he expects the impact of the technology, which took two years to develop, to be revolutionary since it targets a group of patients previously excluded from traditional treatment for fear of the complications that could follow.

Liver cancer is the most common cancer in Asia and Africa and affects 400,000 individuals worldwide suffer from the year. SGH said in a statement.

In Singapore, there are about 300-400 new cases each year, said an SGH spokes-

woman.

There is no cure for liver cancer and patients may live six to 18 months after treat-

ment according to the website of the Singapore Health Pro-

motion Board.

If the clinical trials for the new technique prove success-

ful, the therapy could be widened to treat other cancers, said Chow.

The research is done by Singapore-based pSi-Oncology Pte Ltd, which is a joint venture between SGH, Biotech Research Ven-


tures Pte Ltd and pSMDeca Limited, a British company

that produced the biodegradable silicon.

— MNA/Reuters

Three people feared dead after boat capsizes in Zambia

LUKUSA, 7 May — Three people are feared dead after the boat they were travelling in capsized on a river in western Zambia, police confirmed here Tuesday.

The boat, which capsized at Shelveshimo Harbour, was carrying eight people. Five survived while the three are still missing.

Acting police spokesperson Chipimosha Kapela said in an interview that the accident occurred on 30 April.

Kapela said a combined team of police officers and those from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and Army personnel were searching for the people believed to have drowned.

— MNA/Xinhua

Lion cub attacks girl in Hubei wildlife park

WUHAN, 7 May — A lion cub attacked a 10-year-old girl Wednesday at a wildlife park in the central China’s Hubei Province, causing seven severe wounds, none of which is life threatening for the moment.

The wounded girl, Yuanyuan by name, was with her mother and over 20 others entering an area in the park which is open to tourists but no barrier is set to separate

them from the animals, the local media reported Thursday.

“We were walking in the middle of the crowd,” the media quoted Cao Hong, the girl’s mother. “Two lions were lying on our left and a young one was on our right.”

They had walked for a few hundred meters when the lion cub on their right suddenly pounced on Yuanyuan and put its front paws on her shoulder, Cao was quoted as saying.

“I yelled at it, carried Yuanyuan in my arms and tried to run away with her. But the lion grabbed her so tightly that we could not get away,” Cao recalled.

A group of four or five zoo staff rushed to the site and hit the lion on the head with a club, who then loosened its grip of the girl’s shoulder but Yuanyuan on the left calf instead.

— MNA/Xinhua

At least 17 dead after bus overturns in Morocco

RABAT, 7 May — At least 17 coach passengers were killed in Morocco on Tuesday after their bus skidded and overturned on a main highway, MAP state news agency said.

Reporters at the scene, near Ain Harrouda, 10 miles north of Casablanca, said the coach travelling from Marrakesh to Rabat belonged to a local company and there were no foreign tourists on board.

— MNA/Reuters

Snake-fanged masks, jade give clues to early Maya

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 8 May, 2004 13

Hello world,

Poisonous beverage kills two people in S China

NANNING, 7 May — Poisonous beverage killed two people with another one hospitalized in Nanning City of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Monday.

Investigations show that the beverage contains “Dushiqiang”, a powerful raticide that is banned in China.

According to local police, they were poisoned after drinking a timed beverage they took with them while walking a square near Nanhui Lake in the city. The local police department is now searching for the source of the beverage and also investigating the three others who had alcohol together with them before the accident.

— MNA/Xinhua

All rights reserved.
Brazilian soccer player Andre Late (L) jostles for the ball with German Espinota of Ecuador’s Liga Deportiva Universitaria, during their match in the second round of the Copa Libertadores, in Quito on May 5, 2004. Ecuador’s Liga beat Brazil’s Santos, 4-2.—INTERNET

Youngest player breaks J-League record

Tokyo, 7 May—Schoolboy Takayuki Morimoto became the youngest player to score in the J-League when the 15-year-old striker snatched an 87th-minute winner to give Tokyo Verdy a 2-1 victory at home to JEF United Ichihara on Wednesday.

A total of 11,000 runners will participate in the international leg of the relay, starting on June 4.

The players refused to report for pre-match prepa-

dations," goalkeeper Johnny Rothen said: "It's magnificent. There's noth-

ingen like reaching the Champions League

Moscow, 7 May — Monaco's players said they turned a Champions League

nightmare into a moment of magic by coming from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with Chelsea on Wednesday to reach the final.

The semifinal second-leg draw at Stamford Bridge earned Monaco a 5-3 aggregate win and booked them a final

against Portuguese champions Porto in Gelsenkirchen. Germany on May 26.

Monaco captain Ludovic Giuly told reporters: "We've done something magical. I don't think we've really realized what we've done.

"At 2-0 down we were out and we abso-

lutely had to react. We went 2-1 and we

were in with a chance, and when we scored

the second goal we knew it was all over and

that we were in the final."

"Paying tribute to goalkeeper Flavio Roma, Giuly said: "Flavio made some amaz-

ing saves in the first half and I think that was the

key."

"If he hadn't made them, we'd have been 4-0 or 5-0 down and the game would have been over."

Instead, he said: "The second goal killed them and qualified us."

Croatian striker Dado Prico, a second-

half substitute, said: "At 2-0, it was a terrible nightmare. Everyone was thinking 'this is just not possible'.

"They (Chelsea) deserved to be in front because although we had a few chances, we didn't really get into the game. But in the

end, Monaco deserved to qualify."

Savouring the moment, midfielder Jerome Rothen said: "It's magnificent. There's noth-

ing like reaching the Champions League final, especially because tonight we ran the full gamut of emotions.

"Now we've got our last challenge ahead of us. I hope we succeed because a final is

only beautiful if you win it."

Chelsea skipper John Terry echoed Giuly's

analyses of the impact of Argentine Hugo

Barra's goal seconds before the break.

"It killed us," Terry said. "If we could have gone in at halftime with a clean sheet it would have given us a great boost.

"I thought we played well in the first half, one of the best games we've played."

"It just wasn't so good for us tonight,"

Col said. "We're all gutted."

Monaco turn nightmare into night of magic

Tokyo, 7 May — South Korea striker Ahn Jung,

he celebrated the birth of his first child with two goals as Japan's Yokohama F-Marinos crushed Binh Dinh 6-0 on Wednesday to edge closer to the Asian Champions

League quarterfinals.

Ahn, whose wife gave birth to a baby girl on Mon-

day, netted a goal in each half as the J-League title

holders cruised past the Vietnamese team at Interna-

tional Stadium.

The result increases

pressure on South Korean champions Seongnam Ilhwa, who need a big home

win against Indonesian side Persik Kediri next Tuesday.

Only the top team in the seven first-round groups

reaches the Asian quartifinals to be played over two legs in September.

Yokohama lead Group F

with 12 points from five matches, three points ahead of Seongnam — whom they beat three times.

Monaco’s win brought the

team closer to a place in the last eight.

Ahn goals help Yokohama to 6-0 Asian

Champions League win

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WEATHER
Friday, 5th May, 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State and rain or showers have been isolated to scattered in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Tametin (1.81) inches, Massi (1.57) inches, Mgaaladon (Yangon) (1.30) inches and Aunglan (1.18) inches. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Bago, Sagaing, Magway, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Thanlwin Divisions, and (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Chin and Mon States and about normal in the remaining areas.

Maximum temperature on 6-5-2004 was 37.5°C (100°F). Minimum temperature on 7-5-2004 was 21.0°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 7-5-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 6-5-2004 was (4.00) hours approx. Rainbow on 7-5-2004 was 33.10 inches (1.30 inches) at Yangon Airport, 27.00 inches (1.06 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 34.00 inches (1.34 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 38 mm (1.50 inches) at Yangon Airport and 40 mm (1.57 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 46 mm (1.81 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind-speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from Southeast at (12:30) hours MST on 6-5-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 8-5-2004: Rain or showers will be scattered to widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Ayeyawady, Bags, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the seas: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain or showers in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-5-2004: Possibility of isolated rain or showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Weather outlook for second weekend of May 2004: During the coming weekend, rain or showers will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

ASLEP IN JESUS
U Saw Vawter Loo (76)
Retired Director-General of Irrigation Department
Eldest son of U Eugene Loo-Daw Katherine Po Myat; beloved husband of (Daw Helen Loo); loving father of U Aung Kyaw Zaw-(Daw Hannah Thin), Daw Jenny Loo-U Victor Minus, Daw Cindy Loo-U Ye Htut Thein, Daw Kathy Loo-U Saw Luther, Daw Wendy Loo-Daw Dr Sui Kian-Mg Hwe, U Aung Kyaw Latt-Dr Ne Wai So P., U Aung Kyaw Hine-Dr Hla Myo Daw; 16 grandchildren, the eldest son of 16 grandchildren, U Saw Vawter Loo fell asleep in Jesus on 8-5-2004 at 4.45 am.

All relatives and friends are informed that a funeral worship service will be held at Judson Church, University Estate on Pyay Road on Saturday 8-5-2004 at 9.00 am after which the cortege will leave for Ye Way Christian Cemetery where his remains will be cremated.

Note: Buses will be available for those who need transportation from both Insein and Shwe Pyi Thar Residences, leaving at 8.00 am.

The bereaved family

ASLEP IN JESUS
U Saw Vawter Loo (76)
Retired Director-General of Irrigation Department
Eldest son of U Eugene Loo-Daw Katherine Po Myat; eldest brother of Dr Saw Aloza Loo-Naw Say Say Paw, (Naw Everetta Loo) U Saw Kyaw Hla, U Saw Roscose Loo-Naw Kyin Yee, (U Saw Silas Lo)-Daw Hla Myin, Daw Beatrice Loo-U Saw Miller, U Saw John Loo-Daw Thaung Mya, Naw Charity Loo-U Saw Enoch called to His Heavenly Home at 4.45 am on Thursday 6-5-2004, at Ma 58/B, Taungthone Lane, Taungthone Quarters in Insein. Funeral Service at the Judson Church, University Estate on Pyay Road on Saturday 8-5-2004 at 9.00 am after which the cortege will leave for Ye Way Christian Cemetery from which the cortege will leave for Ye Way Christian Cemetery for cremation of the remains.

Note: For those who need transportation, buses will await them both at the Insein and Shwe Pyi Thar residences, leaving at 8.00 am.

The bereaved family

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 8 May, 2004 15
R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No. 223/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon, Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296664, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296161, Production 297032 (Office) / 297028 (Press).
Dinner hosted to mark graduation of 107th Intake of DSAOTS

YANGON, 7 May— To mark the graduation of the 107th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School, a dinner was hosted at the convocation hall of DSAOTS in Bahtoo, Tatmyo, Yawkaw Township, yesterday evening. Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye graced the ceremony with his presence.

Also present at the dinner were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Hwre, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Chief of Armed Forces Training Li-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, ministers, senior military officers of Ministry of Defence, deputy ministers, the Bahtoo Station Commander and senior military officers of Bahtoo Station, departmental heads, graduating officers and their parents and relatives.

First, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cordially greeted the graduating officers.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye had the dinner together with the graduating officers and their parents and relatives.

Regional development task can be accelerated only when internal insurgency ends, peace and stability prevails

YANGON, 7 May — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Hwre and Li-Gen Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, ministers, deputy ministers, and responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, left here by air for Loikaw in Kayah State on 5 May morning.

On arrival at Loikaw Airport at 8.15 am the same day, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party were welcomed there by Shan State Peace and Development Council Chairman, Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Kayah State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Myint Oo, state-level departmental officials, and locals.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party went to the town hall in Loikaw, where he met with local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations, and town dwellers.

On the occasion, Col Myint Oo reported on the area of Kayah State, national races residing there in unity, development measures, border area development tasks, regional agricultural undertakings, sufficiency of rice, edible oil and other crops, livestock breeding industries, progress of implementing projects for 2003-2004, and development of health and education sectors.

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on measures taken for national development by setting short-term projects, progress of undertaking them, condition of increase in individual income, improvement of agriculture, fish and meat, forest and mining sectors, the rate of economic growth in the region, and efforts each state and division put to the State’s economy.

Later, Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win spoke on the occasion. He said that under the leadership of the Government local officials, employees and people are working hard in harmony for regional development. As a result, all the divisions and states are becoming prosperous more and more speedily.

It is all over the whole Union including Kayah State that a network of railroads, motor roads and river-crossing bridges are built and extended while airlines and telecommunication lines are extended. Therefore, distance has lost its meaning and frequent contacts among national brethren has resulted in the further strengthening of friendship and the flourishing of Union Spirit.

As the infrastructure of transport, economy, health and education was built in a short time with added momentum, basic political requirements such as regional stability, national solidarity and so on have firmly been established. It is therefore necessary for local officials, employees and people to continue to work harder for further regional development.

Apparent is the unprecedented success achieved in the measures taken for regional agricultural development through the efforts to extend the sown acreage and ensure adequate supply of water. When compared with the past, the present achievement in agriculture is far greater to an extent that the region has sufficient rice to feed its own people.

Previously, the sown acreage in the region stood at over 85,000 acres. But now, it has reached 140,000 acres. Moreover, the acreage of farmland in which crops can be grown all the year round has been extended to over 200,000 acres.

Given the ratio of the population and the existing land resources in the region, concentrated measures should be taken for regional development with the agricultural sector as the pillar since the region is replete with land resources.

Efforts are also to be made to undertake agriculture on a commercial scale as there has been a better transport network of motor roads and railroads to bring firm produce to markets.

Kayah State is included in the development zones project, the rural development project and the border areas development project, which are being implemented by the State.

With favourable conditions promising regional development, Kayah State only needs cent-per-cent stability and hard work.

In line with the political, economic and social objectives, the Government is making all-out efforts with greater momentum to ensure equality among states and divisions in terms of development. Thanks to these relentless efforts, every state and division has now possessed development infrastructure.

With the application of these infrastructure, accelerated steps are to be taken to modernize the nation.

Now is a time when measures are being taken to implement the objectives:

“Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution and Building of a new modern developed nation in accordance with the new State Constitution”: two of four political objectives.

As part of measures to enable these objectives to take shape, the seven-point policy programme has been laid down. Therefore, the discipline-flourishing democratic nation is to be built unitedly with momentum.

(See page 8)