### Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

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**Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Malaysian Deputy Minister of Transport Datuk Dauglas Uggah and party. — MNA**

**PM receives Malaysian guests**

YANGON, 13 May—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Deputy Minister of Transport of Malaysia Datuk Dauglas Uggah and party at Zeyathiri Berkman on Konmyinttha at 4.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, Director-General U Soe Tint of the Government Office and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

The Malaysian Deputy Minister for Transport and party were accompanied by Malaysian Ambassador Dato Cheah Sam Kip.

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**Kyee Creek Bridge in Saw, Gangaw District, put into service**

YANGON, 13 May—The opening of Kyee Creek Bridge on Gangaw-Htilin-Kyaakhtu-Sedoktara-Ngaphe Road in Saw Township, Gangaw District, put into service.

It was attended by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, Tactical Operations Commander of North-West Command Col Hla Shwe, local authorities, officials, departmental heads, members of social organizations and locals totalling around 1,500.

The minister in his speech said till 1988, the Ministry of Construction built roads stretching 1,308 miles in Magway Division, and from 1988 to date, the ministry has built more roads with a total length of 391.6 miles. In addition to the roads, it has built 10 bridges 180 feet or above.

The Kyee Creek Bridge Project was launched on 1 July 2003. The 280-foot bridge was built at a cost of K 45 million, he said.

The ministry has been translating one of the State’s goals into reality — ensuring smooth transport in all the States and Divisions. With better transport, the people will enjoy economic, (See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Friday, 14 May, 2004**

**Strive for extended cultivation of cotton for export**

The Union of Myanmar being an agro-based country, the Government is taking all the necessary measures for rapid development of the agricultural sector, the main pillar of the national economy, and for effective use of terrestrial and aquatic resources.

The Government always meets the needs of farmers in the regions suitable for agriculture so that they can boost the agricultural production. Moreover, it is encouraging the national entrepreneurs to reclaim virgin and fallow land in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and to engage in agriculture.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party on 9 May visited Magway Division and inspected the reclamation and land and cotton plantations of the Tatmadaw. In his meeting with responsible personnel at the project site for land reclamation being undertaken by Asia World Co Ltd in Salin Township, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye also urged the entrepreneurs to try to the best of their ability to extend the cultivation of cotton so that they could export their agricultural produce on a commercial scale.

Htoo Trading Co Ltd is also reclaiming land in Pwintthu Township and planting sesame, pigeon pra, cotton, mango, plum, bellaric myrobalan and thanaka (limonia acidissima). Similarly, Dagon International Ltd is planting beans and pulses and edible oil crops. Moreover, Tatmadaw cotton plantation camp has been set up and it is being planned to put 15,000 acres under quality cotton.

As Magway Division is very suitable for the cultivation of cotton, national entrepreneurs and farmers should try not only to grow beans and pulses, maize but also to extend the cultivation of cotton. Therefore, we would like to urge local authorities and national entrepreneurs to grow all crops and extend the cultivation of cotton for export.

**MRTV-4 meets to coordinate taping and telecasting of sports events**

**Yangon, 13 May** — A coordination meeting to tape and telecast sports events by MRTV-4 was held at Aung San Stadium this afternoon. It was attended by General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htike, officials of the Ministry of Sports, secretaries of Myanmar Sports Federation and guests. U Thaung Htike spoke on the occasion and then officials of the SPED explained related matters. Secretaries of MSF took part in a round of discussions and passed resolutions. — **MNA**

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.**

**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

**Deputy Minister receives guests**

Yangon, 13 May — Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein received an 8-member journalist delegation led by Director-General Mr Zhang Dewen of News and Information Department of the Government of the Yunnan Province of the People’s Republic of China at the Ministry of Information at 4 pm today. Also present at the call were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and the head of office.

They cordially discussed promotion of cooperation in news and information between the Ministry of Information of the Union of Myanmar and the News and Information Department of the Government of the Yunnan Province. — **MNA**

**UMFCCI officials receive guest**

Yangon, 13 May — Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh in Yangon Mr Md Arafuzzaman called on Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint Secretary-I Dr Maung Maung Lay and Central Executive Committee member U Tin Aung at the UMFCCI head office here at 11 am today. They discussed matters on bilateral trade promotion. — **MNA**

**No doubt darkness will be banished**

— Writers and journalists
— Allies in the profession
— Central Body meeting

Has concluded.

Looked toward the distant future

Forwarded proposals and decided National objectives

Have been laid down.

— Decisions
— To be implemented continually

Hand-in-hand happily

To be joyous forever

New path laid down

— Toward new peaceful golden land

— Composing with the pen’s capability

Reach destination without any mishap

To banish and remove all darkness

Group of ladies and gentlemen carrying the pen aloft

Will surely do the banishing.

*— Bryan Hilwar (Trs)*

(Honouring the Central Body Meeting of Third Conference of MWJA just concluded.)
Blair under fire on Iraq abuse

LONDON, 13 May—British Prime Minister Tony Blair has come under fire in parliament over a report from the International Red Cross about abuses against detainees in Iraq.

He denied being slow to act on the report by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC). But he admitted that the past few days had been "immensely damaging."

Blair admitted Wednesday he had not seen the ICRC report — drawn up in February — until Monday and did not know of the allegations contained in it before then.

The report was not passed to ministers in February because all of the allegations relating to British troops were already being dealt with, Blair said at the weekly Prime Minister’s Questions.

Opposition Conservative leader Michael Howard said the report’s allegations of Iraq being "immensely damaging." As fallout from the treatment of Iraqi detainees by coalition forces dominated the 30-minute session, Blair said any abuse by British or American forces was "completely unacceptable."

Accusing Howard of trying to extract "maximum political mischief" from the situation, he added: "What is not true is that allegations were made and nothing happened in respect of them."

The Prime Minister said the deaths of 33 civilians had been investigated, and that there was no case to answer. "The military police would shortly announce action on six others. — Internet

Two more GIs facing trial over abuse of Iraqis

WASHINGTON, 13 May—As news of an American’s beheading in Iraq rattled the public and politicians here, the US-led coalition said Wednesday in Baghdad that two more American military police guards would face courts-martial over abuses at Abu Ghraib prison, raising the number to nine.

But Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who had apologized Friday for the maltreatment at Abu Ghraib, insisted Wednesday that it was proper for the US military to use interrogation techniques in Iraq that include depriving prisoners of sleep and forcing them to assume stressful positions.

Rumsfeld rejected complaints that international rules were being violated and that Americans taken prisoner might be endangered as a result.

The Pentagon made available for viewing by members of Congress about 1,000 new photos from the prison, an estimated 300 to 400 showed abusive situations.

"What we saw was appalling," said Senator Bill Frist, a Tennessee Republican. Other members spoke of "savage, disgusting torture," and "stomach-turning scenes" that they said were worse than the earlier photos. Some said they now believed strongly that those inflicting the abuse must have been acting on orders.

"I expected that these pictures would be very hard on the stomach lining and it was significantly worse than anything that I had anticipated," said Senator John Warner of Virginia. "The worse case and multiply it several times over."

"We cannot allow Filipino lives to be placed at wanton risk in a situation where unpredictable attacks are rife." the Philippines — a strong ally of the United States — also has around 100 police, soldiers and medical personnel in Iraq.

A truck driver became the first Filipino casualty in Iraq when he was killed by attackers as he travelled with other foreigners last month. About a tenth of the Filipinos’ population — approximately eight million — work overseas, many as nurses, domestic helpers and construction workers.

China condemns abuse of Iraqi prisoners

MANILA, 13 May—A mortar attack on a US air base in northern Iraq has killed four Filipino civilian contractors, a spokesman for Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said.

The attack took place Tuesday night near the Balad air base north of Baghdad, spokesman Ignacio Bunye said.

He said Arroyo has extended her condolences to the families of those killed. Manila would review the safety of 3,000 Filipino civilians currently working in Iraq in the wake of the deaths, Arroyo said in a statement.

"If they cannot be adequately secured, they must be transferred or evacuated to other areas," Arroyo said.

"We cannot allow Filipino lives to be placed at wanton risk in a situation where unpredictable attacks are rife." the Philippines — a strong ally of the United States — also has around 100 police, soldiers and medical personnel in Iraq.

"We think a thorough investigation should be carried out and those who are held responsible should be prosecuted according to law," he told a news conference.

"We also demand that the United States and Britain adhere to the Geneva Convention and other international conventions, and protect the basic human rights of Iraqi prisoners and prisoners of war." China, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, opposed the US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese Premier starts visit to Ireland

DUBLIN, 13 May—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao arrived here on Tuesday for a two-day official visit to Ireland, the last leg of his five-nation European tour.

Wen’s visit to Ireland, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, came just after the “Emerald Isle” had been oversaid over the May 1 grand ceremony marking the bloc’s biggest-ever enlargement with the entry of 10 new members. Wen is scheduled to discuss issues of common concern with his Irish counterpart, Bertie Ahern, later on Tuesday.

Before holding a joint press conference on Tuesday, the two leaders will attend a ceremony for signing a memorandum of understanding on listing Ireland as a tour destination for Chinese citizens.

On Wednesday, Wen will attend a business breakfast and visit the office of Iona Construction Group, a self-financing affair.

"We will also meet with Irish President Mary McAleese before departing for Shannon, west Ireland, where he is scheduled to visit Shannon Development and the University of Limerick. — Internet

Fears for reconstruction as contractors flee Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 13 May—The beheading of an American by militants on videotape has sent a wave of fear through Western contractors working on the reconstruction of Iraq.

In the wake of the killing of Nick Berg, 26, who was working on restoring communications towers, there are fears that Western staff and companies may flee Iraq, and the already slow reconstruction effort may grind to a complete halt.

It is a far cry from the bonanza of lucrative reconstruction contracts envisaged before the war, that were supposed to make the invasion and occupation of Iraq a self-financing affair.

Today the American group Bechtel employs two security staff for every one of its Western employees in Baghdad. The biggest American contractor, Halliburton, has seen 34 of its employees killed in Iraq.

There is little sign of reconstruction. Electricity is still only available for 12 hours of the day in Baghdad, a city of 5 million people. There is no sign of road building, and Baghdad’s sewer system is collapsing.

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MNA/Reuters
Assad says US policy in Iraq encourages terrorism

MADAM, 13 May—Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said US policy was encouraging terrorism in Iraq and instability in the region.

He also said in an interview published on Wednesday that some in Washington might want war with Syria. The comments to Spanish newspaper El Pais and Italy’s La Repubblica were published a day after President Bush imposed economic sanctions on Syria and accused Damascus of supporting terrorism.

"For the first time the United States has turned into a source of instability instead of a contributor to stability. Syria has unleashed a hatred that is finding an echo in terrorism," Assad said.

Assad said the United States should instead help combat terrorism in its neighbour Iraq and in the Palestinian territories by adopting a "fair" political position, fostering economic development and cultural understanding.

Assad said in the interview, conducted before Bush imposed the sanctions, that Syrian-US relations were complicated by conflicting messages from Washington.

"There is one side that wants to cooperate with Syria through dialogue and reciprocity, and another that does not want this contact and is looking for pressure and perhaps war," Assad said.

"On the other hand, there is dialogue between Syrian and US institutions, above all in the question of the fight against terrorism.

Syria has suffered from the US occupation of Iraq. Assad said, citing a fall in foreign investment in the region and heightened tensions between Syria’s own tribes and families.

"Now we are going to see the effects on security. Iraq is chaotic and uncontrolled, there are arms being smuggled out toward Syria, also a rise in extremism and a feeling of hatred toward the United States which did not exist before." In ordering sanctions on Tuesday, Bush accused Damascus of supporting terrorism, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and failing to prevent anti-US guerrillas entering Iraq.

The sanctions ban US exports to Syria except for food and medicine, freeze assets of Syrians the United States suspects of terrorism and prohibit Syrian flights to and from the United States, among other measures.

Assad said Syria supported dismantling all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region — including Israeli nuclear warheads — a plan it presented to the UN Security Council.

"The conclusion we draw is that the US is not sincere. Otherwise it would have backed our proposal," he said. — Internet

Syria defiant ahead possible US sanctions

DAMASCUS, 13 May—Syria was defiant on Tuesday, saying it would not cave in to foreign pressure before possible fresh US sanctions, chiefly for supporting anti-Israel groups.

The nation was “solid and cohesive in the face of all challenges and foreign pressure practiced against Syria to affect its principle stances,” a statement quoted Prime Minister Mohammad Najib al-Otari as telling a weekly Cabinet meeting.

Syria was “capable of facing those challenges and overcoming their ramifications”, he was quoted as saying.

On Monday, sources in the Syrian government or to ban exports to Syria of US products other than food and medicine, the sources said.

The White House has declined to comment on the timing of the possible sanctions. Syria has said the sanctions would harm US interests more than those of the Arab state and would harm US interests more than those of the Arab state.

President Bush is due to announce new sanctions on Syria on Tuesday.

US officials have been preparing for a possible move against Syria since Bush told Syrians to respond to sanctions by adjusting it when appropriate.

In ordering sanctions on Tuesday, Bush accused Damascus of supporting terrorism and failing to stop guerrillas from entering Iraq.

Syria, on a US list of states accused of sponsoring terrorism, denies giving more than political support to militants, who it says, are fighting Israeli occupation in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

The Syria Accountability Act signed by Bush in December offers him a menu of options, including imposing sanctions on Syria for allegedly supporting terrorism and failing to stop guerrillas from entering Iraq.

Syria has said the sanctions would harm US interests more than those of the Arab state especially in view of the modest trade level of about 300 million US dollars per year.

— Internet

First Dutch soldier killed in Iraq, one wounded

AMSTERDAM, 13 May—A Dutch soldier was killed and one was wounded in a grenade attack in the town of Samawa in southern Iraq, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

The ministry said in a statement that a number of hand grenades were thrown at Dutch soldiers on a bridge in the southern Iraqi town where they are based at 1750 GMT on Monday.

Two soldiers were wounded. One later died after being taken to a field hospital. The spokesman said he did not believe there was an exchange of fire with the attackers.

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and Defence Minister Henk Kamp will cut short visits abroad and return home after the attack. Dutch news agency ANP reported.

Some Japanese ground troops on a non-combat mission focused on reconstruction and humanitarian work are also based in the mainly Shiite town of Samawa, where foreign soldiers had not been the targets of any major attacks until now.

— MNA/Reuters

British Airways announces to raise in fares

LONDON, 13 May—British Airways (BA) announced on Tuesday to raise its fares in the face of soaring oil prices. The European largest airline said that it would add a 5 pound or 8.8 US dollars surcharge to return trip tickets and 2.5 pounds or 4.5 US dollars to one-way tickets.

BA’s move followed similar announcement from Australia’s Qantas, which said it was slapping surcharges to tickets to cope with rising costs.

Continuing tensions in the Middle East and increasing oil demand from the United States are behind the recent jump in oil prices. Crude oil prices hit 13-year highs of more than 40 dollars a barrel earlier this month.

BA said the announced fuel surcharge would apply to tickets bought in Britain for international flights while in markets outside Britain, a surcharge of 4 US dollars will be added to BA tickets.

The airline also said it will review this surcharge on a regular basis with a view to adjusting it when appropriate.

— MNA/Reuters

Loud explosions heard in Najaf

NAJAF, 13 May—Large explosions were heard late Wednesday in the centre of Najaf, and residents said US forces appeared to be making an armed incursion into the Shiite holy city.

At least one civilian was killed and another was wounded, Iraqi authorities said.

Militant cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has been holed up in Najaf since early April, when he launched his rebellion against the US-led coalition with his armed militia.

Soldier from Chesapeake killed while on guard duty in Iraq

CHESAPEAKE, 13 May—A soldier from Chesapeake was killed by hostile fire while on guard duty in Iraq, the Defence Department said today.

Army Pfc. Andrew L. Tuzon, 21, died Monday in Mosul, Iraq, the department said in a news release. He was a military policeman assigned to the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Ga.

No other details were immediately released. — Internet


Al Sadr urged fighters in southern Iraq, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.
Malaysia calls for continued accusation against abuse of Iraqis

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 May— Malaysia has called on the international community to continue to express disgust and abhorrence at the United States over the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by its forces in Baghdad.

“We must express our disgust and abhorrence to what has happened, other than that, the countries responsible for the abuses have to take action,” Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar told reporters after meeting Arab ambassadors in Putrajaya, the Federal Administrative Centre, on Tuesday.

It is not enough just for them to express their sorrow or feel sorry about it, there must be action taken against those who are responsible at various levels of the US Armed Forces,” he said. “Otherwise, he said, people would think that the United States would look lovingly upon people who did not share the same religion, ethnicity and culture with them.

Photographs of stripped and hooded Iraqi prison inmates being abused by their captors have caused outrage throughout the world and prompted apologies over the past week from US President George W Bush and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

“I think we should be very satisfied that there are positive reactions to it on the part of the Muslim countries and the international community because it is not a Muslim issue, it is an issue of treatment of prisoners which is universal and against the International Law and Geneva Convention,” he said. Meanwhile, he hoped that the United States would comply with the deadline of June 30 to hand over power to Iraq so that the Iraqis would be given the opportunity to determine their own future.

“When the United Nations passes the new resolution, which I hope will make it clear that Iraqs should decide their own fate and destiny,” he added. — MNA/Xinhua

NZ army chief says abuse photos of Iraqi prisoners abhorrent

WELLINGTON, 13 May—Images of Iraqi prisoners being tortured and humiliated are abhorrent and an affront to military discipline, says New Zealand Army Chief Major General Jerry Mateparae.

“Everyone who has seen those images would say they are abhorrent and an affront to proper military discipline,” General Mateparae was quoted Wednesday by The Dominion Post as saying.

He was reluctant to comment on how damaging it was to the coalition military effort in Iraq but “it is a huge issue for the Americans” with President Bush apologizing to senior commanders regarding the matter.

He said the New Zealand military over the last five years had put a lot of emphasis on the laws of armed conflict. Soldiers, sailors and airmen had been reminded of their obligations before every deployment.

“There’s the common sense thing that you would treat people as you would want to be treated. Then there are the rules of engagement and so on and the handling of prisoners — we don’t interrogate them,” General Mateparae said.

All personnel were trained on how to treat prisoners humanely and “our people know if they do conduct an illegal act they will be held accountable”.

This included the elite Special Air Service (SAS), which is often involved in high-risk operations — “their’s nothing dirty in the tasks they go about”, he said.

General Mateparae, who visited the 61-strong New Zealand engineering contingent in Basra last month, emphasized that while the New Zealand contingent were working and based with British forces, they were not part of the occupation force.

However, this did not eliminate the threat. Over the weekend they were again confined to base in Basra because of local unrest and a confrontation with British forces.

Overall General Mateparae said the troops were enjoying their work and making a positive contribution.

“They had a good working relationships with those around them — both the Iraqis and the British — but contingency plans were in place if they had to be withdrawn before they were due to return home in September, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

British court allows Iraqis to challenge death cases

LONDON, 13 May—Lawyers for 12 Iraqi families who allege their relatives were unlawfully killed by British troops won the right on Thursday in London’s High Court on Tuesday to challenge the government’s refusal to open independent inquiries.

The Ministry of Defence has refused to accept responsibility for the deaths, but the families’ lawyers are demanding a judicial review to examine whether the killings were a violation of the victims’ right to life under European law.

The High Court case came as both British and American soldiers stand accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners after media organizations published photographs of alleged torture.

The government was hit by another report on Tuesday by human rights group Amnesty International which accused British soldiers in Iraq of killing several civilians — including an eight-year-old girl — when they posed no apparent threat.

It was not immediately clear if the cases cited by Amnesty overlapped with those before the High Court.

In court, Justice Andrew Collins ruled the 12 families should be given permission to argue that the European Convention on Human Rights applied to their cases. “Permission means merely that the point is arguable,” he said.

The families’ lawyer, Phil Shiner, argued that because the Iraq war was officially over when the victims died, and Britain was an occupier, the European Convention should apply.

He said many of the deaths occurred when the victims were at home or going about their daily lives. One man was working on a farm, another was fishing on a river and another was returning home in his car.

Shiner alleged British soldiers shot and killed them, and the British Army refused to properly investigate the killings. — MNA/Reuters

Franco reviews attack on EU farm trade offer

PARIS, 13 May—French farmers joined their government on Tuesday in condemning the European Union’s offer to scrap farm export subsidies to help world trade talks, but EU diplomats said it was unlikely Paris could block the move.

France is the largest beneficiary of the 43 billion euro EU farm aid paid each year and it has voiced the loudest condemnation of EU Trade and Agriculture Commissioners Pascal Lamy and Franz Fischler for the offer.

“We refuse to allow agriculture to be the bargaining chip in international negotiations,” said Jean-Michel Lerneray, the head of France’s largest farm union, FNSEA.

“They have no right to sell off agriculture,” he told a news conference.

Farmer Minister Herve Gaymard, speaking in Ireland, renewed his assault, again criticizing the European Commission for a tactical error in the talks by giving an ‘unconditional’ offer to scrap farm export subsidies.

EU diplomats said France had been joined by Ireland as the most outspoken at a meeting of trade envoys last Friday in opposing the Commission’s offer, which is conditional on other World Trade Organization (WTO) members taking similar steps.

But it was unlikely France could gather a blocking majority of votes in the 25-nation EU to stop any deal.

“The cat is out of the bag now,” said one northern European diplomat, adding that it would be hard for the bloc to go back on its words.

Another EU envoy said others had voiced concern over the Commission’s plans, naming Belgium, Spain, Italy and new members Poland and Slovakia, although they were more muted than France.

“The elimination of export subsidies has to be agreed and it will be difficult to agree,” the envoy added.

The farm talks are key to the success of the world trade negotiations, stalled after their collapse in Cancun last year. The EU had been under pressure to make concessions on farming in order to get the rest of the discussions going again. — MNA/Reuters

One Russian expert killed, two others kidnapped near Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 13 May— Unidentified attackers killed a Russian expert and kidnapped two of his colleagues working in an electric power plant near Baghdad, said Al-Azhar newspaper Tuesday.

The team of Russian experts working in reconstructing the power plant of Missaya was attacked on its return to Baghdad, said a source in the Iraq Ministry of Electricity.

“One of the experts was killed and the other two were held hostages by the gunmen,” he said.

Eight Russians were kidnapped in Iraq in April and were being held by the Iraqi Government without drawing almost all its workers in Iraq.

Kidnappings were rampant in Iraq as insurgents need ransom money to fund their attacks or tried to revenge countries that joined the US-led coalition. — MNA/Xinhua
Kerry attacks Bush over ties to health industry

LOUISVILLE (Ky), 13 May — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry lashed out on Tuesday at President George W Bush over his campaign contributions from companies picked to administer the new prescription drug cards for seniors.

Despite the uproar over the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, Kerry stayed focused on his week-long message of a "badly broken" national health system and the rising cost of care and drugs since Bush came to office.

Kerry said health insurance premiums for small businesses have risen 47 per cent in just three years, putting jobs at risk in what he called "the most inefficient, ineffective delivery of service you can possibly have."

"For four years, President Bush has been in office, and for four years the situation has gotten worse," Kerry told small business owners at a local pottery factory. He also seized on Bush’s campaign contributions from companies chosen to offer the new Medicare-endorsed drug discount cards, including pharmacy benefit managers Medco Health Solutions Inc. and health insurer Aetna Inc.

"We’re going to do is break this cycle and start putting the worker, the individual citizen, the people, in front of the campaign contributions," Kerry said.


The Massachusetts senator wants to offer tax credits of up to 50 per cent to help small businesses provide coverage for their low- and moderate-income employees. This credit would cover up to 50 per cent of the cost of employees’ premiums.

"We can’t just stand back and pretend that they aren’t struggling," he said.

Bush is backing the so-called Association Health Plans, a concept that would let small businesses or other groups join together to purchase insurance.

Kerry said those plans would only make matters worse, "increasing costs and removing consumer protections."

Kerry has called on Bush to take full responsibility for the Iraqi prison abuse scandal and for the resignation of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"Our troops shouldn’t stay a week more if the Prime Minister does not get Bush to sack Rumsfeld," said Francesco Rutelli, a close ally of Berlusconi’s long-standing rival, European Commission President Romano Prodi.

"If our country wants to have a crumb of international credibility and dignity that’s make an official request for the dismissal of (Rumsfeld)," the centre-left leader said in an interview with la Repubblica newspaper.

Bush gave his Defence Secretary resounding support on Monday and Rumsfeld himself has made clear he will not quit despite evidence of abuse of Iraq detainees by US soldiers that has enraged the Arab world and embarrassed Washington’s allies.

The city’s largely Kurdish police force has been the target of frequent attacks, as have the officials and offices of Kurdish political parties in the city.

### Calls grow for Italian troops to quit Iraq

ROMA, 13 May — Opposition leaders pressed Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on Tuesday to withdraw Italian troops from Iraq following a prisoner abuse scandal that has rocked the US and British governments.

Berlusconi is due to meet US President George W Bush in Washington next week and centre-left opposition leaders said he should use the visit to demand publicly the resignation of US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

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The Massachusetts senator wants to offer tax credits of up to 50 per cent to help small businesses provide coverage for their low- and moderate-income employees. This credit would cover up to 50 per cent of the cost of employees’ premiums.

“We can’t just stand back and pretend that they aren’t struggling,” he said.

Bush is backing the so-called Association Health Plans, a concept that would let small businesses or other groups join together to purchase insurance.

Kerry said those plans would only make matters worse, “increasing costs and removing consumer protections.”

Kerry has called on Bush to take full responsibility for the Iraqi prison abuse scandal and for the resignation of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

“Our troops shouldn’t stay a week more if the Prime Minister does not get Bush to sack Rumsfeld,” said Francesco Rutelli, a close ally of Berlusconi’s long-standing rival, European Commission President Romano Prodi.

“If our country wants to have a crumb of international credibility and dignity it’s make an official request for the dismissal of (Rumsfeld),” the centre-left leader said in an interview with la Repubblica newspaper.

Bush gave his Defence Secretary resounding support on Monday and Rumsfeld himself has made clear he will not quit despite evidence of abuse of Iraq detainees by US soldiers that has enraged the Arab world and embarrassed Washington’s allies.

The city’s largely Kurdish police force has been the target of frequent attacks, as have the officials and offices of Kurdish political parties in the city.

### Calls grow for Italian troops to quit Iraq

ROMA, 13 May — Opposition leaders pressed Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on Tuesday to withdraw Italian troops from Iraq following a prisoner abuse scandal that has rocked the US and British governments.

Berlusconi is due to meet US President George W Bush in Washington next week and centre-left opposition leaders said he should use the visit to demand publicly the resignation of US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

“Our troops shouldn’t stay a week more if the Prime Minister does not get Bush to sack Rumsfeld,” said Francesco Rutelli, a close ally of Berlusconi’s long-standing rival, European Commission President Romano Prodi.

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Int’l child trafficking runs rampant in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 13 May — In Southern Africa every year, there are always a number of children sold by their parents with hopes that they could have a better life after being taken to big cities like Johannesburg. But contrary to the parents’ good wish, these children end up being forced into sex trade.

A few days ago, Kreston, a social worker at a conference on human trafficking Tuesday in Pretoria, which named South Africa a major destination and source for international child trafficking.

Some parents were doing their children’s best by handing over their children to people promising them better education and work opportunities. These children often end up on the opposite side of the world being sexually exploited,” said Susan Kreston of the Council of the National Centre for Justice and the Rule of Law in the United States.

As many children were sent to South Africa from Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Lesotho, and as far as from Russia, many South African children were sent to Europe and Asia to work as sex slaves or labourers or both, showed a 2003 study on migration.

Oman’s mega polypropylene project to boost economy

ARE. DIAL, 13 May — Oman’s multi-million-dollar polypropylene plant being built in Sohar as a joint venture between the government and a top South Korean firm is to boost the national economy, UAE’s English daily Khaleej Times reported on Wednesday.

The 3rd of July, the Oman Polypropylene project (OPP) is aimed at signing a memorandum on Monday, is set to play a pivotal role in Oman’s Vision 2020 economic strategy and its ambitious industrialization drive, top Oman officials were quoted as saying. Using local raw materials, the project will result in the emergence of several ancillary units and generate employment opportunities for a significant number of nationals, the officials said.

With an initial capacity of 340,000 tons per year of different grades of polypropylene, the project, which is expected to go on stream by September 2006, will receive its feedstock from the 1.2-billion-dollar Sohar Refinery under construction nearby.

Most of the output will be exported, with the remaining quantity used locally by small industries.

The project will be financed by international banks. A number of agreements were due to be signed by the end of May. The Omani Government was considering setting up a plastics park to encourage manufacture of polypropylene-based products. — MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwean Mazda car maker explores regional markets

HARARE, 13 May — Zimbabwean automobile maker Willowvale Mazda Motor Industries (WMMI) is exploring regional export markets, a top executive of the company said on Tuesday. The WMMI chief executive Ben Kumalo said the company’s vehicle exports had become viable after Zimbabwean central bank announced export incentives last month.

The company, which manufactures a wide range of Mazda cars, currently does not export vehicles, but says there was big scope to do so.

“We are exploring the regional export market potential in view of the favourable export incentives that were announced by the governor of the Reserve Bank during his recent monetary policy review,” said Kumalo.

“We believe that there could be opportunities for the export of some of our products,” he added.

The plans were part of WMMI’s efforts to boost production at its factory in Harare, which was currently operating at just 20-per-cent capacity.

It produces an average of 140 cars a month, all to supply local market, where Kumalo said demand was good. “The local market demand is currently good, but is at a lower rate than in the past due to the macro-economic challenges the country is facing,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Uganda’s horticulture exports up by 25 per cent annually

KAMPALA, 13 May — The Uganda Revenue Authority said in a report on Tuesday that the country’s annual horticulture exports increased by over 25 per cent in the past five years.

The report said that the horticulture exports has recorded a drastic increase since 1999 when it earned the country only seven million US dollars.

Meanwhile, Keith Henderson, the executive director of the Uganda Flower Exporters Association, recently told the Monitor newspaper that Uganda currently exports 3,500 tons of flowers a year and earned the country 26 million dollars last year.

“The achievable target is to double this, earning 50 million dollars annual export revenue for Uganda and create at least another 4,000 new jobs over the next three years, or sooner if possible,” Henderson said.

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 everyone

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 flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

MNA/Xinhua

Uruguay investigates explosion at SKorean ship

MONTevideo, 13 May — Uruguayan port and judicial authorities on Tuesday began investigation into an explosion at a South Korean ship anchored at Montevideo port.

Twenty seven people were hurt in the blast, mainly due to exposure to toxic fumes leaked from an ammonia tank aboard the ship, Song Kyung 201.

Seven of the 19 victims hospitalized, all foreigners, remained in intensive care.

It was hard to know who were on the ship at the time of the blast, because people could move freely in or out of the ship, Fernandez Franzini, the Army’s public relations chief, said. There were grouped about 80 people, were affected by the blast.

The site of the accident remains closed to the public, but most parts of the port had returned to normal by Tuesday morning. — MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Alcoholic Hallucinosis

Alcoholic Psychosis

Morbid Jealousy

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MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Cash donated to honour Tipitakadhara Tipitaka
Kovida Sayadaws

YANGON, 13 May — The cash donation ceremony to hold the 56th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida. The ceremony was held at Wizaya Mingala Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Amin Maung, departmental heads, authorities and wellwishers.

At the ceremony, the commander, the deputy minister and officials accepted K 4,870,000 donated by 61 wellwishers including K 200,000 each by Yangon Division All Bus-line Control Committee; All Highway Bus-line Control Committee; and Thiri Thudhamma Manjotadaha U Bo Gyi-Daw Than Than; K 100,000 each by Yangon North District All Bus-line Control Committee; U Kyaw Win (Crocodile Garment Factory); U Myint Win (Dagon Myothit (North) Economic Development Zone); Thiri Thudhamma Manjotadaha U Bo Gyi-Daw Than Than of Bahan Township; U Ko Latt-Daw Tin Tie Myint (Kyiha Jewellery Shop); and K 470,000 donated by Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman of Northern Command Daw Tin Tin Nwe, senior military officers, Secretary of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, accompanied by officials concerned went to Hamyinji mines, Dawei, on 27 May morning.

The commander heard reports on history of the mines, and minerals exploration presented by Division General Manager U Khin Maung Lay of No 2 Mining Enterprise.In response to the report, the commander fulfilled the requirements and inspected minerals exploration with the use of heavy machinery and then, gave necessary instructions to the officials.

After inspecting Myay Kyawtu Basic Education Middle school, the commander proceeded to Hamyinji village monastery and paid homage to the President Sayadaw.On 9 May, the commander encouraged local people carrying out sanitation works in Dawei hospital.

Next, the commander asked after patients undergoing treatment, operation theatre and health care and presented cash assistance to the patients. Then, he met with Medical Superintendent Dr Myo Thant, doctors, nurses and staff. Medical superintendent Dr Myo Thant presented reports on health care services and requirements.

The commander fulfilled the requirements. Afterwards, respective officials donated a total of K 600,000 for sinking a tubewell and Dr Myo Thant accepted the donations.

Commander inspects Hamyinji mines

YANGON, 13 May — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, accompanied by officials concerned went to Hamyinji mines, Dawei, on 27 May morning.

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Blood circulation devices donated to ministries

YANGON, 13 May — A ceremony to donate 30 Blood Circulation Devices (BCD) of MH Shalu brand worth K 52,80000 for enabling good blood circulation by Fame Hotel & Trade Co Ltd and Ngwe Zin Oo Health Family for the fourth time was held at the Tatmadaw Guest House in Inya Road, here, this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Director of Medical Services Col Than Aung and senior Tatmadaw officers, officials of the Ministry of Health and wellwishers.

First, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win accepted 30 BCDs enabling good blood circulation donated by U Khin Maung Kyaw, Daw Ni (a) Daw Kyu Kyu Lwin of Fame Hotel & Trade Co Ltd and Ngwe Zin Oo Health Family.

Next, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win handed over eight BCDs for military hospitals under Directorate of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence and 22 BCDs for hospitals under the Ministry of Health. Afterwards, the Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence thanked the donor. — MMA

MWJA Meeting delegates on tour

Yangon, 13 May— Members of Central Executive Committee and members of Central Body of Chin State and divisions who attended the Third Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Central Body Meeting this morning visited Union National Races Village in Thakayta Township and the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road.

The excursion group led by Vice-Chairman-2 of MWJA U Than Maung (Than Maung) arrived at the Union National Races Village where they were welcomed by Director U Ye Naing and officials of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department. Director U Ye Naing extended greetings and explained about the village.

Next, officials conducted them on a tour of the village. The delegates were entertained to traditional dances and songs.

Afterwards, the delegates went to Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road. Staff Officer (Grade-II) Maj Kyaw Kyaw Myint of the Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute welcomed them and briefed them.—MMA

MWJA visit the Defence Services Museum. — MMA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Malaysian Deputy Minister of Transport Datuk Dauglas Uggah and party. (News on page 1) — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects construction of roads, bridges

YANGON, 13 May—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials, on 9 May morning, inspected Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat Road.

First, the minister inspected progress in upgrading of Pakokku-Pauk road, stocking of gravel and work being carried out section-wise by special road construction groups. Next, the minister inspected the sites chosen for construction of Kyaw Creek bridge and Yaw Creek bridge, where he was briefed on the sites chosen for construction of the bridges, current and axis. The minister gave instructions and inspected the sites chosen. After that, the minister inspected Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat road.

On 10 May morning, the engineers of Public Works reported on progress of Mindat-Matupi road to the minister who gave instructions on close supervision for timely completion of the work and inspected progress of extension of Mindat-Matupi road.

Next, the minister and party proceeded to Tawni Creek construction project site on Gangaw-Kale road.

Senior Engineer U Zaw Win Myint reported on progress of work and future tasks to the minister who gave instructions on close supervision for timely completion of work and minimizing loss and wastage and attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the minister inspected construction of Kyunlonhla Bridge and work in progress. Next, the minister also inspected the finishing touches to Panmon Bridge on Gangaw-Kale road.—MNA

The delegates from States and Divisions arrive Yangon International Airport to attend the National Convention. (News on page 16) — MNA

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 13 May— The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657). — MNA

Donate blood

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Donate blood
Health officials warn India faces “AIDS” tidal wave

GENEVA, 13 May — India, where an estimated 4.5 million people carry the HIV virus, faces an AIDS “tidal wave” and may have already overtaken South Africa as the world’s most infected country, health experts warned on Tuesday.

China, where officials said at the weekend that AIDS was spreading rapidly, is also a major concern with 840,000 estimated HIV infections amid unreliable data in some areas, they added.

Seniors from the World Health Organization (WHO), UNAIDS agency and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria were speaking at a news conference to launch WHO’s annual World Health Report.

The WHO’s report warned the world was not ready for the full social and economic impact of AIDS, which has killed 10 million people worldwide and 1.3 million HIV sufferers — the highest number worldwide — against an official 4.5 million reported in India, according to Richard Feachem, executive director of the Geneva-based Global Fund.

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EU accused of fueling trade in illegal timber

BRUSSELS, 13 May — The headquarters of the European Union (EU) has been accused of using Indonesian timber from illegal logging in its buildings.

Greenpeace International on Tuesday described the EU building in Brussels as “forest crime scenes”. The environmental organization claimed under cover investigations show that wood used in renovations of the two buildings originates from companies known for illegal and destructive logging in Indonesia’s last rainforests.

Around 50 Greenpeace activists Tuesday demonstrated at the entrance of the EU headquarters, holding banners and posters like “stop illegal timber trade”. “Not only does the EU allow the import of illegal wood into Europe, it is fueling the trade in illegal and destructive timber through its own building projects”, said a handout released by the activists. They also showed to the Press photos which indicate that plywood imported from Indonesia was used in the EU building projects.

The European Commission, the EU’s executive, has denied the allegations. A spokesperson said that as far as the EC is aware, “all the timber used in the renovations come from renewable sources.”

Asian timber sources, and added that the matter “remains under investigation.”

Vietnam Towers import tariffs on clinker

HANOI, 13 May — Vietnam’s Ministry of Finance has just slashed the tariff on clinker imported from non-ASEAN countries to 25 per cent from 40 per cent.

Besides, the tariff on the product coming from the Association of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) members is expected to be reduced to 10 per cent from the current 20 per cent by the end of this year, according to Vietnam’s Investment Review on Wednesday.

The import tariff reduction taking place in domestic prices for raw materials for cement production will help the domestic cement industry slash production costs.

The local demand for cement is predicted to increase to 25.7 million tons this year, compared to 22.6 million tons last year. — MNA/Xinhua

US oil hits new 13-year high, waits for OPEC barrels

SINGAPORE, 13 May — US oil prices struck new 13-year highs above 40 US dollars a barrel on Wednesday as the market remained concerned over tight supplies, despite a call by the world’s biggest exporter for OPEC to raise output next month.

US light crude climbed to a peak at 40.38 US dollars a barrel, less than one US dollar off the all-time high for New York crude futures at 41.15 US dollars, reached in October 1990 after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

At 0524 GMT, US crude was up 28 cents at 40.34 US dollars a barrel.

Saudi Arabia has riddled a rollercoaster this week, dropping one US dollar on Monday when Saudi Arabia proposed that the OPEC producers’ cartel raise output limits by 1.5 million barrels a day (BPD) to cool down red-hot prices, which have surged 20 per cent this year.

The kingdom proposed the increase be adopted at the scheduled June 3 OPEC ministers’ meeting in Beirut. But the market bounced back to highs not seen since just before the first Gulf War on doubts that the OPEC increase would tip the supply-demand balance in an already constricted market.

The Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries has been pumping 1.5 million to 2.0 million BPD above its official production ceiling of 23.5 million BPD since it agreed to cut supply by one million BPD from April 1.

But David Thurtell, commodities strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney, said Saudi Arabia was likely to ensure that more barrels hit the market after June.

“OPEC members will overproduce on the new quota. There will be a similar level of overproduction, say 1.5 million BPD, on top of the higher production ceiling, which will be at 25 million,” Thurtell said.

“OPEC knows that all high oil prices do is damage economies and asset markets, and with them the demand for oil, while encouraging development of competing oil resources,” he added.

The market should come to its senses soon and come down in the next couple of months,” he said.

President Purnomo Yusgiantoro said on Tuesday he was consulting other OPEC members about the Saudi proposal, which is likely to find backing from Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, which both opposed the April cut to output limits.

Iran at the weekend said it would not go against any proposal to raise production at the June meeting. — MNA/Reuters

Thai FM to attend ISC-Symposium in Switzerland

BANGKOK, 13 May — Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai would visit Switzerland during May 13-14 to attend the International Students Committee (ISC) Symposium, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced Wednesday.

The 44th ISC-Symposium will be held at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, within the framework of this year’s general topic “The Challenges of Growth and Prosperity.”

The symposium draws 600 political leaders, business executives, and academics around the world, as well as 200 gifted international students, and over 100 media representatives from more than 60 nations.

The so-called “3 Days in May” constitutes a significant platform for the exchange of ideas by overcoming national, general, and cultural boundaries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also said that Mr. Surakiart was scheduled to give the opening address at the symposium entitled “Partnership through Multilateralism: A Step Forward to Enhancing Global Growth and Development.” — MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely
Excessive coffee enema may be toxic to body

BANGKOK, 13 May — Coffee detoxification can become a double-edged sword and the detox treatment misuse may put people at risk of coffee addiction or other health problems, warns Dr. Banchob Chumhaw-sawadikut of the Balavi Natural Health Centre.

Dr. Banchob Chumhaw-sawadikut said that coffee enema is another method of an alternative medicine that provokes a hit among health-conscious people, The Thai News Agency reported Tuesday.

The method is believed to help the liver purge toxins out of body system through caffeine which can be absorbed via colon vein.

However, the doctor warned that some people turn to coffee detox programme instead of limiting their junk food intake with misconception that it may help them losing some weight.

To get benefit from coffee enema, Dr. Banchob urged patients to use standardized kits and avoid reusing a disposable enema bag as it can be contaminated with fungi which may cause a fungal disease.

The treatment if repeated too often can cause caffeine addiction leading to insomnia, nervousness, and irregular heartbeat. Detoxification can be easily done by refraining from eating meat and rice.

To help excretion system function more effectively, Banchob suggested that people should eat fresh fruit, water or herbal drinks a day and drinking water mixed with lemongrass in the morning.

MNA/Xinhua

NZ tourism continues to show outstanding growth

WELLINGTON, 13 May — New Zealand tourism is an economic powerhouse that is delivering benefits across the country, Tourism Minister Mark Burton said Wednesday.

According to the latest Statistics New Zealand Accommodation Survey, guest nights increased by 3 per cent in March 2004 and eight of New Zealand’s 12 regions recorded increases.

New Zealand tourism continues to show outstanding growth. The year 2003 saw over 2 million overseas visitor arrivals for the second year in a row, and an impressive 3.9 per cent increase on 2002’s record international visitor spending.

Burton said in a statement. New Zealand has emerged as an international success story in a year when the global tourism sector faced such major challenges as SARS, global conflict, and terrorism.

MNA/Xinhua

Monsanto suspends biotech wheat programme

KANSAS CITY, 13 May — Biotech crop pioneer Monsanto Co on Monday suspended plans to introduce what would be the world’s first biotech wheat, bowing to a storm of protest from around the world over the company’s genetics experiment with a key food crop.

Monsanto said it had reached the decision after “extensive consultation” with customers in the wheat industry and would continue to monitor the industry to determine “if and when” it might be practical to move forward.

“It was a lot of things coming together once,” said Monsanto spokesman Chris Horner, who cited declining spring wheat acreage as well as discontent among wheat growers and buyers as factors in the decision. “We realized there was not alignment across the board about the best way forward.”

St. Louis-based Monsanto has been testing Roundup Ready wheat, which has been genetically modified to tolerate application of its Roundup herbicide, for six years and spent millions of dollars on the project.

“Monsanto” poses “unique threat to human society”

GENEVA, 13 May — The world is not ready for the full social and economic impact of AIDS, UN agencies warned Tuesday.

The UN agency said unless nations pulled together to define a plan, it would destroy any hope of a better life for tens of millions, including non-sufferers, living in abject poverty around the globe.

The world at large “is far from ready for the come — catastrophic, social and economic consequences for many communities and countries if the epidemic continued unchecked,” WHO said in its annual report.

Although it has seemed a familiar enemy for the last 20 years, HIV/AIDS is only now beginning to be seen for what it is: A genuine threat to human society whose impact will be felt for generations to come,” it said.

It was already undermining the UN Millennium goals of eradicating by 2015 poverty and hunger, reducing infant and maternal mortality, and combating spread of other diseases, and achieving universal primary education, it added.

WHO’s annual report on key aspects of international health — this year focusing on AIDS, the leading cause of death among 15-59 year-olds worldwide — is to be examined at the agency’s annual assembly next week.

The 170-page report, entitled “Changing History”, injected a small note of optimism into the overall gloom emerging from its AIDS statistics — 34.46 million people infected, with five million joining them every year.

A concerted international effort to get the latest treatments to sufferers and promote ways to avoid infection would turn the tide, it said, even though no vaccine was in sight despite years of research.

It cited many cases in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa and Asia — where the latest anti-retroviral drugs had pulled sufferers back from the brink of death and restored them as active citizens contributing to their national economies.

But of the six million people in developing countries who need the therapy, only 400,000 got it last year, the report said. More than 90 per cent of AIDS victims live in just 34 countries.

The report said although Africa is home to two-thirds of all people living with the disease, it accounts for only 11 per cent of the world’s total population of some six billion.

MNA/Reuters

AIDS does not mean death

AIDS does not mean death as long as treatment is available.

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MNA/Reuters

Travel agencies brought over 263,000 tourists to Macao in March

MACAO, 13 May — A total of 263,388 tourists who travelled in groups visited in March 2004, marking a 47-per-cent increase as compared with the same month of last year.

According to a news release by the Statistics and Census Services of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) Tuesday, among the travel-liers are 238,552 from China’s Mainland, 12,170 from Taiwan Province, and 64,807 from the Hong Kong SAR. Meanwhile, some 12,000 Macao residents took trips as members of tourist groups, up 63.9 per cent over March of 2003. More than 53,000 tourists chose China’s Mainland and Taiwan Province and Thailand as their favorite traveling destinations. The document also shows that tourism agencies have brought 543,828 travellers to Macao in the first quarter of 2004, up 19.8 per cent over the same period of last year.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Xinhua
Heinz Kerry earned more than $5m in 2003

HK to build world’s longest cable-stay bridge

New flight launched to link China, Russia and Europe

Panamanian police seize 282 kilos of cocaine

TRADE MARK CAUTION

CAUTION

Valuable claims are hereby notified that the vessel MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (352) are hereby notified that the vessel will be on Claims Day.

New York Times

 Yours sincerely,

Agent for: M/S Eagle Corporation

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CAUTION

Sarah Shilo

New York Times

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New York Times

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Groups push US to ratify global tobacco treaty

WASHINGTON, 13 May—Anti-tobacco and other groups called on Tuesday for the Bush Administration to push for quick US ratification of a global treaty to limit the impact of smoking in public places.

The World Health Organization accord, which US officials signed on Monday, would also ban tobacco advertising and increase the size of warning labels on cigarette packages and other tobacco products.

Consumer and health groups said the United States must quickly submit the agreement to the Senate for ratification. Forty nations must ratify the accord for it to take effect.

“Signing it is absolutely the right thing to do, but it will only be meaningful if it is backed by concrete action,” said John Seffrin, head of the American Cancer Society.

More than 100 nations signed the treaty but only India, Norway, Hungary, New Zealand and eight other nations have ratified it. Health and Human Services Department spokesman William Pierce said no decision has been made about when to submit the treaty to the Senate.

There are some concerns the United States will drag its feet.

Infact, a nonprofit corporate watchdog said the Administration’s ties to tobacco companies — including Bush advisor Karl Rove’s former role as a Philip Morris consultant — could thwart ratification, especially in an election year. The group also said the Administration has a “clear pattern” of signing treaties and abandoning them, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

US officials said the tobacco pact includes a number of efforts the government has already undertaken, including efforts to prevent tobacco smuggling.

“The United States has long been a world leader in anti-smoking efforts,” Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said in a statement.

Tobacco companies’ reaction was mixed. RJ Reynolds spokesman Seth Moskovitz said the United States already has “ample authority” to regulate the industry. Altria-owned Phillip Morris has said it supports most of the treaty’s provisions.

“Smoking has been linked to lung cancer, emphysema and other respiratory disorders. Those who do not smoke but inhale it secondhand can also suffer from cancer and asthma.” — MNA/Reuters

International pharmaceutical exhibition opens in Vietnam

HANOI, 13 May—The biggest-ever international exhibition on medicines and pharmaceuticals in Vietnam opened on Wednesday, with the participation of 100 enterprises from Europe and Asia.

Fifty-four local companies and 46 foreign ones, mostly from China, India, South Korea, France and Poland, showcased their new and traditional medicines, nutrition products, cosmetics, and medical equipment at the four-day Vietnam Medi-Pharm Expo 2004.

Indonesian Minister to leave office for vice presidential race

JAKARTA, 13 May — Indonesia’s Minister of Transportation Agum Gumelar will leave his office following his nomination as vice-presidential candidate, the vice-president confirmed Tuesday.

Vice-President Hamzah Haz said Agum is ready to leave his post after the retired general was named as vice-presidential candidate.

“I resign from my position automatically,” Hamzah Haz was quoted by Kompas online as saying.

The United Development Party (PPP) on Monday formally announced the pair of Hamzah-Agum as presidential-vice presidential candidates in the presidential election on July 5.

Agum has signed the letter of his nomination as vice-presidential candidate, Hamzah said, adding that Agum is also ready to leave his post as minister of transportation. — MNA/Xinhua

During the exhibition, a seminar on pharmaceutical production and services and a number of business-to-business talks will be held, helping participants better understand pharmaceutical trading in the country as well as their potential partners.

“Because China is close to Vietnam in terms of disease treatment, and its pharmaceuticals are familiar to many people, many Chinese enterprises have participated in the exhibition, in a separate section,” said the exhibition’s organizers.

Now, around 60 per cent of pharmaceuticals available in the Vietnamese market are imports. Total value of locally-made pharmaceuticals is estimated to increase to 278 million US dollars this year, a year-on-year rise of 16.3 per cent.

Vietnam’s pharmaceutical industry recorded a growth of 15 per cent this year, said the Vietnam Pharmaceutical Corporation. The country’s annual spending per capita on pharmaceuticals was increased to 7.6 US dollars in 2003 from 6.7 US dollars in 2002.

China to host World Engineers’ Convention

BEIJING, 13 May—Zhang Yutai, vice-president of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), announced here recently that China is prepared for an “Olympics for engineers” from November 2 to 6 in Shanghai.

Together with the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) and Shanghai Municipal Government, CAST will sponsor the World Engineers’ Convention 2004, which was initiated by the World Federation of Engineering Organisations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Zhang said topics for discussion at the convention would include computerized network infrastructure, bio-engineering and life sciences, transport and sustained development of super metropolitan areas, environmental protection and disaster prevention, agricultural engineering and food safety, natural resources and energy, and environmentally-friendly manufacturing.

Some 12 well-known engineers are invited to deliver speeches at the convention, he said.

Wu Huan, vice-president of the CAE, said that the Chinese engineers are eager to exchange views on the latest engineering advancements with their global counterparts.

An exhibition of future engineers will also be organized in the same period of the convention. A total of 100 designs and original ideas, coming from high school or college students, would be shown at the event.

The organizing committee for the convention kicked off on official website, www.wec2004.org. — MNA/Xinhua

ADB to focus annual meeting on poverty reduction

MANILA, 13 May—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Tuesday that it will give priority to poverty reduction in the Asia and Pacific Region in its 37th annual meeting due to be held from May 15 to 17 on Jelu Island, South Korea.

The ADB said in a statement that over 3,200 delegates are expected to attend the three-day meeting to discuss the challenges of alleviating poverty in the Asia and Pacific Region. The meeting will be focused on how to reduce poverty and assist its developing member countries to reach the millennium development goal of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, the statement said.

Delegates comprising finance and economics ministers, international finance institutions, representatives of the financial and banking sectors, civil society and media will also have the opportunities to discuss a wide range of issues, it said.

As the region’s premier finance development institution, the ADB meeting is expected to discuss the ADB ongoing reforms, which are aiming at increasing its development effectiveness.

In addition, the question of a single currency for East Asia, capital market development, corporate restructuring, challenging intra-regional financing and the role of domestic credit rating agencies in Asia are also likely to generate much discussion.

Despite its economic dynamism, the region is still home to some 720 million people living with less than 1 US dollar a day, or two-thirds of the world’s poor, the ADB said.

The ADB earlier forecast the economy of the Asian and Pacific Region will grow 6.8 per cent in 2004, higher than the 6.3 per cent growth in 2003. — MNA/Xinhua
Thailand nears deal to buy Liverpool stake

Bangkok, 13 May — A bid by Thailand's billionaire Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to buy a stake in English Premier League club Liverpool is "almost 100 per cent" complete, a Thai Government spokesman said on Tuesday.

Thaksin's spokesman, Jakrapong Penkair, said an agreement would be announced jointly by the Thai Government and Liverpool next week, subject to regulatory approval. "It's almost 100 per cent," he told reporters. "Both sides are confident we will make the announcement. As far as we are concerned, we have finished the process."

Thaksin, a telecoms tycoon before he entered politics, met Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry in Bangkok on Monday and said he wanted to buy a 30 per cent stake for "more than" 100 million US dollars.

Thaksin suggested the Thai public might at least part of the deal. "Thailand will buy it first and then we'll discuss later whether the money will come from the people or from the government or the private sector," he told reporters.

Liverpool chairman David Moores, whose family has controlled the club for more than half a century, hinted in January he might relinquish some of his 51 per cent share.

Any deal would need to be approved by the Liverpool board.

"The Prime Minister told the Cabinet meeting today that the negotiation was com- pleted yesterday, but we have not announced it because Liverpool needs to go through a few more steps before it can make a formal announcement," Jakrapong said.

Thaksin, estimated by Forbes to be worth 1.4 billion US dollars, has said the deal would inject cash into a new stadium. Liverpool want more seating than at their current 45,000-capacity Anfield ground and even considered a ground-share deal with city rivals Everton.

Champions Valencia hailed as “complete team”

Madrid, 13 May — Spanish media hailed Valencia and lambasted Real Madrid’s shortcomings on Monday after Rafa Benitez’s side clinched their second league title in three seasons.

Valencia made the most of slip-ups by Real Madrid and Barcelona to win the Primera Liga with a typically slick 2-0 victory over Sevilla on Sunday.

"Unlike Madrid, Valencia are a complete team," said daily El Mundo. "With fewer stars and less glitter, Valencia have more resources and a greater ability to prevent themselves being exposed than Real."

Rival daily El Pais highlighted Valencia’s impressive trajectory in recent seasons saying that they had entered a "golden age" of success in the last five years.

"Cup winners in 1999, fi-nalists in the Champions League in 2000 and 2001, winners of the league in 2002, and this season, Valencia have responded with enor-mous efficiency to the chal-lenges presented by modern football."

Valencia trailed Real Madrid by eight points at the beginning of March, but fought back strongly in the run-in while their illustrious rivals folded under the pressure.

They took over at the top on April 11 after Real slumped to a 3-0 home de-feat against Osasuna and re-tained the leadership from then on.

There was universal agree-ment that Valencia’s victory was a triumph for the traditional footballing virtues of a strong team spirit, care-ful planning and good coach-ing.

"Valencia won their sixth league title thanks to the hard work of recent years," said Valencia daily Las Provincias. "The rewards keep coming as shown by the way they obtained the new title by crushing their millennium/galactic rivals."

The media’s assessment was supported by Valencia captain David Albelda and his team mates.

"This title is a victory for humanity and hard work," said Albelda. "It is proof that in this life money isn’t everything. We are deserving winners. We have a very down-to-earth squad, keen to do things well and we have worked full out all sea-son."

Fellow midfielders Ruben Baraja, who scored Valen-cia’s second goal against Seville, agreed with Albelda’s verdict.

"Winning the league ahead of an all-powerful team like Real makes this triumph even more valuable," he said.

Korea’s Seongnam romp to 15-0 Asian Champions League win

Stoix, 13 May — South Korea’s Seongnam Ilhwa trimmed Indonesia’s Persik Kediri 15-0 to return to the top of their group in the Asian Champions League on Monday.

The victory, a record in the competition, was all the more surprising after Seongnam’s early-sea-son slump in the K-League. Three players struck hat-tricks as the South Korean title holders, bottom of the K-League six matches into the 2004 campaign, spec-tacularly recovered their form to take the Asian crown in their opening match of the season.

The huge win sent Seongnam top of Group G ahead of Japan’s Yokohama F-Marinors on goal difference with one match left to play. Seongnam, whose goal dif-ference is now five better than Yokohama’s, play at Vietnam-ese club Binh Dinh, while the J-League champions travel to Persik on the final day of matches on May 19.

Russian-born Denis Lakhtinov and Croatian Jasenovic scored four goals apiece and South Korea striker Kim Do-hoon netted three as Seongnam put themselves firmly in the driv-ing seat to qualify for the last eight.

Champions League win

Young Benfica player collapses after training

Lisbon, 13 May — A player in Benfica’s junior squad collapsed after training on Tuesday in a “serious” condition in hospital, Portuguese news agency Lusa re-ported.

Bruno Baião, an 18-year-old midfielder, collapsed un-consciously in a cafe after a practice session, Benfica doctor Joao Paulo Almeida told Lusa. "His condition is considered serious," Almeida said.

Benfica striker Miklos Feher collapsed and died during a Premier League game in January. The cause of the Hungarian’s death has not been determined.

"Baião had finished his training, had gone to a cafe and while he was talking on his mobile phone he fell down unconscious," Almeida told Lusa.

£38m France’s Amelie Mauresmo stretches to a backhand return to compatriot Nathalie Dechy during their match at the Rome Masters WTA tournament, on 12 May, 2004. Mauresmo won 7-5, 6-2. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 14 May, 2004

Irureta extends contract as Deportivo coach

Madrid, 13 May — Deportivo Coruna coach Javier Irureta will remain in charge of the Primera Liga club for a seventh successive season after extending his contract for an extra year on Tuesday.

"I am very grateful to the president and the board for placing their confidence in me for another year," Irureta told a news conference in La Coruña. "I hope that we can continue developing along the same lines as we have done in previous years and that this agreement will be a boost to the confidence of everyone involved."

The 56-year-old former Atlético Madrid player guided the club to the Champions League semi-finals for the first time in their history this season, where they lost 0-0 on aggregate to Portuguese side Porto.

Deportivo are guaranteed to finish no lower than fourth in the Primera Liga, which will earn them a place in the Champions League qualifying round.

"Once we’d achieved our objective of earning a place in the Champions League then we sat down to negotiate the deal and everything was settled very quickly," Irureta said. — MNA/Reuters

Businessman Morgan launches rival bid for Liverpool

Liverpool (England), 13 May — Local businessman Steve Morgan has launched a rival bid for Liverpool in an attempt to stop Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra taking a 30 per-cent share in the Premier League club.

Morgan has written to Liv-erpool asking for talks over a 73 million-pound (128.2 million US dollars) cash in-jection, part of which would come from a rights issue under-written by him.

It is the second time this season Morgan has offered to invest in the club. Liver-pool chief executive Rick Parry met Shinawatra on Monday.

"In my view, the future of Liverpool Football Club is best served by the people who love the club the most, its supporters, of whom I am proud to be one," Morgan said in a statement on Tues-day.

"This proposal will not only keep ownership of the club with its supporters, where it rightfully belongs. It will also inject 73 million pounds of new capital to strengthen the playing squad and help finance the pro-posed new stadium."

Morgan’s proposal com-prises a rights issue, which is expected to raise 61 mil-lion pounds, and a new share issue directed at supporters aimed at generating a fur-ther 12 million pounds.

Morgan, the former owner of building company, Redrow, would underwrite the share issue through his company Bridgемere In-vestments Limited.

"This proposal would keep the club under the control of its true supporters and enable the ordinary fans to participate in the fortunes of the club for the first time," the statement said.

"In addition, the club’s commercial rights to Asia and indeed any other part of the world would remain where they belong — in the ownership of the club. This would enable LFC alone to benefit from the use of these rights, which is essential to generate future income."

Liverpool are keen for new investment to help fund a move to a new stadium on Stanley Park in time for the 2008 season as well as pay for at least part of the deal.

"We are concerned, we have finished the process." — Irureta

Lusitano’s Fabio Liverani, left, and his teammate Rodrigues Cesar from Brazil celebrate at the end of the Italy’s Cup soccer match between Juventus and Lazio at Turin, northern Italy, on 12 May, 2004. Lazio tied up and won the trophy on 4-2 aggregate score. — Internet

Parry met Shinawatra on
**Weather**

**WEATHER**

Thrusday, 13 May, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09.30 hours MST;
During the past 24 hours, southwest monsoon has advanced in the South Bay and southern part of Myanmar areas. Weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State, rain or thunderstorms have been widespread in Kachin, Mon States, upper Sagamig Division, scattered in Rakhine State, lower Sagaing and Bago Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Kachin State. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Myikyina (3.76) inches, Myek (2.88) inches, Kyakaiky (2.95) inches, Cocos Island (1.50) inches and Bhamo (1.34) inches.

Maximum temperature on 12-5-2004 was 33.0°C (91°F). Minimum temperature on 13-5-2004 was 21.5°C (70.7°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 h.m. MST on 13-5-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 12-5-2004 was 6.2 hours approx. Rainfall on 13-5-2004 was 1mm (0.04 inches) at Yangon Airport, 7mm (0.28 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 5mm (0.3 inches) at Yangon Airport and 102 mm (4.0 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 98 mm (3.86 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 16 m/s from southeast at (17.30 hours) MST on 12-5-2004.

Bay influence: Monsoon is moderate in South Bay and Andaman Sea areas and is generally elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 14-5-2004: Rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine, Shan, Mon, Kayin and Sanguy, Yangon, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Kachin State. Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%). The state of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of thunder conditions in central Myanmar areas.

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Summary of observations recorded at 09.30 hours MST;
During the past 24 hours, southwest monsoon has advanced in the South Bay and southern part of Myanmar areas. Weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State, rain or thunderstorms have been widespread in Kachin, Mon States, upper Sagamig Division, scattered in Rakhine State, lower Sagaing and Bago Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Kachin State. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Myikyina (3.76) inches, Myek (2.88) inches, Kyakaiky (2.95) inches, Cocos Island (1.50) inches and Bhamo (1.34) inches.

Maximum temperature on 12-5-2004 was 33.0°C (91°F). Minimum temperature on 13-5-2004 was 21.5°C (70.7°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 h.m. MST on 13-5-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 12-5-2004 was 6.2 hours approx. Rainfall on 13-5-2004 was 1mm (0.04 inches) at Yangon Airport, 7mm (0.28 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 5mm (0.3 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 16 m/s from southeast at (17.30 hours) MST on 12-5-2004.

Bay influence: Monsoon is moderate in South Bay and Andaman Sea areas and is generally elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 14-5-2004: Rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine, Shan, Mon, Kayin and Sanguy, Yangon, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Kachin State. Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%). The state of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of thunder conditions in central Myanmar areas.
Prime Minister hosts dinner in honour of delegates to MWJA Central Body meeting

YANGON, 13 May—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hosted dinner in honour of members of Central Body of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, observers and literati who attended the Third Conference of the Central Body of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association at Karaweik Palace this evening.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, presidents and officials of social organizations, MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) and CEC members, literati, delegates to the meeting and guests.

After dinner, the Prime Minister had a cordial conversation with those present.

Delegates to National Convention arrive

YANGON, 13 May—Delegates to the National Convention from States and Divisions arrived here by air, train or car today. They are from Chin State, Taninthayi Division, Sagaing Division, Rakhine State, Kachin State, Shan State (North), Shan State (South), Kayin State, Shan State (East) and Ayeyawady Division.

The Chairman of the Invitation and Accommodation Subcommittee, chairman of township Peace and Development Councils, officials and Red Cross members welcomed them at Yangon International Airport, Yangon Central Railway Station and Dagon Highway Bus Terminal, and conveyed them to the hostels at Nyaungnhapin camp in Hmawby Township, where the National Convention is to be held.

The delegates from Yangon Division and Shan State (North) who arrived at the reception camp in Kyaukkasan Grounds were also accommodated at Nyaungnhapin Camp.

Construction of Pathein Bridge inspected

YANGON, 13 May—Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials inspected construction of Pathein Bridge on Pathein side on 10 May.

Deputy Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung Win and officials reported on progress of work, stockpiling of materials, construction of approach road.

The commander gave instructions on worksite safety and completion of the project in time and inspected the site.

The commander and party inspected construction of earth road linking Pathein-Ngwehsaung and Pathein-Chaungtha Road. Officials reported on progress of work and the commander fulfilled the requirements.

The commander inspected laying of concrete along the Pathein-Ngwehsaung Road.

Internet and e-Mail Course, Basic Computer Course and Advanced Computer Course opened

YANGON, 13 May—The Internet and e-Mail Course No 1, Basic Computer Course No 43 and Advanced Computer Course No 31 sponsored by Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association were opened at the Office of Yangon Division USDA at the corner of Sayasan Road and West Race Course in Bahan Township here at 11 am today with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Also present on the occasion were USDA Secretary-General Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, USDA CEC members Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Commander of No 3 Military Region Col Tint Hsan, officials, trainees and guests.

The commander, in his speech, said that the courses are being opened with the aim of enabling the youths of today to keep pace with changes and developments in science and technology and of ensuring human resources development. The commander urged the trainees to make strenuous efforts to establish a high living system and create a good social environment.

Next, USDA CEC member Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing explained the purpose of opening of the courses and the ceremony ended.