Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses coordination meeting on translating Tipitaka Pali-Myanmar Dictionary into English.— MNA

More Pali-Myanmar-English dictionaries to be compiled for flourishing of Theravada Buddhism all over the world

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends meeting on translation of Tipitaka Pali-Myanmar dictionaries into English

Agricultural Mechanization, industrial, energy sectors designated as priority tasks

Coord meeting No 2/2004 of Industrial Development Committee held

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.
Towards emergence of more roads and bridges

In its drive for the Union of Myanmar to become a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the Government is paying serious attention to better transportation which plays a vital role in national development. In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, a strategy designed to construct the network of roads has been laid down and motor roads and rail roads have been built the length and breadth of the nation. The Ministry of Construction has built a total of 280,000 miles and 5 furlongs of roads throughout the country including 8828 miles and four furlongs of tarred road, 3264 miles of gravel road, 3112 miles and 3 furlongs of granite road and 3230 miles and 6 furlongs of earth road. These figures show that the length of roads in the country has increased 4800 miles and five furlongs after 1988.

From 1988 to this date, 183 bridges have been built—170 by Public Works, six by Myamna Railways and seven by Military Engineering Units—throughout the country. In addition to these endeavours, development affairs committees under the Development Affairs Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are trying their best for better transportation in rural areas which is one of the five rural development tasks laid down by the Head of State.

The development affairs committees have built 340 miles of tarred road in urban areas and 281 miles in rural areas; 271 miles of gravel road in urban areas and 1305 miles in rural areas; 92 miles of granite road in urban areas and 713 miles in rural areas; 489 miles of earth road in urban areas and 1226 miles in rural areas plus 285 concrete bridges in urban areas and 218 in rural areas; 194 wooden bridges in urban areas and 429 in rural areas and 480 and 328 in urban areas and 131 in rural areas. With the emergence of new roads and bridges in the country, people are now witnessing development in all sectors such as economic affairs, social affairs, education and health. Moreover, the network of roads in the country contributes towards strengthening of friendship among national brethren and it helps forge the national unity.

We firmly believe that more roads and bridges will play a key role in raising the living standard of the entire people will emerge in the country at a time when efforts are being made for the nation to become a modern and developed one.

Film entertainment to NC delegates

YANGON, 28 May — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee organizes entertainment programs for delegates daily at the gymnasium of Nyanhaymawin Camp. Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with “Chitchoh Di Achyurmar Hite”, an academy award-winning film for 2001, directed by Zarnaw Maung Maung and starred by Dway, May Than Nu, Khine Nyaunghnapin Camp. Yesterday evening, the delegates

Maritime Courses conclude

YANGON, 28 May — The Basic Maritime Course No 1/2004 and Advanced Maritime Course No 1/2004 of the new generation youths sponsored by the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) and Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), concluded at Thitha Thara Tun Tin hall in Ayeayawady Naval Region Command this morning.

Present on the occasion were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Commander Commander Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Commander of Ayeayawady Naval Region Command and officials. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Commodore Maw Thein gave speeches. Next, the commander and the mayor presented prizes to the outstanding trainees and certificated to the trainees.

Internal Revenue Dept holds meeting

YANGON, 28 May — The Internal Revenue Department held an annual meeting for 2003-2004 fiscal at its head office on Pansodan Street here this morning. Minister for Finance & Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Director-General of the department U Win Naing, heads of department, senior officials and others were present at the meeting. The Minister delivered an address at the meeting.

Selection for ASEAN Quiz

YANGON, 28 May — Selection of outstanding student candidates to ASEAN Quiz (2003-2004) to be held in Brunei in September took place at MRTV at noon today. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, MRTV Director-General U Khin Maung Htay, officials and students. Among 10 candidates from States and Divisions, Ye Win Tun of Bago BEHS-3 stood first; Aung Than Toe of Yangon Institute of Education Pracising School, second; and Ma Hsu Win Hlaik of Dagon BEHS-1, third. Naw Wai Win Phaw of Ablon BEHS-6 and Tun Wai Yan Lwin of Pyay BEHS-1 won consolation prizes.

Relief measures taken in high winds-hit townships of Rakhine State

YANGON, 28 May — The areas at the time of fishing and farming. Relief measures were taken by the rescue team led by the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Rehabilitation. The teams are providing necessary items and drinking water and preventing water-borne diseases.

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Poem: To the world’s pass masters

* Although your appearance is disfigured
  Only when others apply make-up to you
  Will you be handsome, and presentable
  To apply make-up, keep going
  Your ilk, you organize forever
  In reciprocation of gratitude, get special favour
  Loving-kindness, from those pass masters
  Hand a gift as response.

Po We (Trs)

Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein watches ASEAN quiz selection at MRTV.

A ceremony to pay respects to faculty members of Zoological Department of Yangon University was held for the second time on 25-5-2004. Of the collected funds, K 1.4 million were donated to social establishments by the Organizing Committee.

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Iraq council member ambushed

Baghdad, 28 May—A member of Iraq’s US-appointed Governing Council has escaped an ambush on her convoy, but her son was killed when his car plunged into a river during the attack, aides to other council members say.

Three bodyguards were wounded when the unidentified attackers fired on the convoy carrying council member Salama al-Khafaji, who had been in Najaf to negotiate an end to clashes between Shi’ite militiamen and US forces in the southern city.

“Our understanding is that there were some injuries but that (Khafaji) was not among the injured, according to initial indications,” said an aide to council member Mohammod Bahr al-Ulum, who was also in Najaf for the talks.

Khafaji, from Iraq’s majority Shi’ite community, was appointed to the council after the killing of another member, Akila al-Hashimi, in Baghdad last September.

It was unclear whether Thursday’s attack was an assassination attempt, or the result of banditry in an area where convoys have often come under attack by gunmen.

The aides said the convoy came under fire near a river at Yusufiya, some 40 km (25 miles) southwest of Baghdad, forcing the car carrying Khafaji’s son into the water.

A group headed by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, accused by Washington of supporting al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility for that attack.—Internet

New Iraq abuse photos emerge

US have soldiers tortured and humiliated Iraqi prisoners

Baghdad, 28 May—New photographs of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US soldiers at Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib prison have surfaced.

Obtained by the American television network NBC, the photographs broadcast on Wednesday show three naked Iraqi prisoners clamped together on the floor during an interrogation and the use of aggressive tactics against them.

One photo shows a man sitting in a chair with his back to the camera near the prisoners on floor. NBC said the man was identified as a civilian contractor.

Another picture shows a soldier, identified as a military intelligence officer, standing over the prisoners after apparently throwing an object at them. In the photo, the object appears to be suspended just off the floor.

A third photo shows a soldier with his knee pushing down on the neck of one prisoner, while apparently questioning another, according to the NBC.

The abuse scandal at the Iraqi prison has inflamed the world and undermined US efforts in the country before the planned handover of power on 30 June.

Seven US soldiers have been charged with physically and sexually abusing and humiliating Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib. —Internet

Fresh prisoner abuse charges hit British troops

London, 28 May—British forces faced fresh accusations on Thursday of abusing Iraqi prisoners, with details emerging of another civilian apparently killed by soldiers.

The death of Hassan Abd Al-Saad, thought to have been killed by British troops in Basra last August, could draw Washington’s closest ally deeper into an abuse scandal that has rocked the United States.

British Army investigators have handed the case to state prosecutors, and it could result in civil murder charges.

“Papers regarding Hassan Abd Al-Saad have been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service,” said a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence. She was unable to give further details.

Mr Menzies Campbell, deputy leader of the opposition Liberal Democrat Party, told the Independent newspaper: “The immediate question in people’s minds will be: how many similar cases are there? But in truth, one is too many.”

An investigation is under way into the death of Baha Mousa, a 26-year-old hotel receptionist who was allegedly beaten to death during interrogations last September.

An Iraqi engineer who was detained alongside Mousa, Kifah Talah, has described how laughing soldiers competed to see who could kick-box the detainee the furthest.

His testimony will form part of a compensation claim against Britain by 12 families of Iraqis who were allegedly beaten to death unlawfully by British troops.

Human rights group Amnesty International says British troops have been involved in at least 17 killings since May 1, 2003, when the war to topple Saddam Hussein officially ended, including an eight-year-old girl.—MNA/Reuters

E-governance conference to be held in Beijing

Beijing, 28 May—The Chinese Academy of Sciences, together with the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Information Industry, will hold an electronic governance conference and application conference from August 3 to 5 in Beijing.

Shi Guangliang, vice-secretary-general of the conference, said here Wednesday that eGovChina 2004 conference would include forums, symposiums, an exhibition and other events. The focus of development for e-governance in China has already shifted from infrastructure building to application and service providing.

Experts estimated that China has an e-governance-related market valued at 40 billion yuan (4.8 billion US dollars), including 14 billion yuan worth of software products and service.

Shi said that the exhibition will show, audio and visual and internet products, as well as high-speed broadband communication technologies. The conference will also set up an on-line exhibition at the official website, www.egovchina.org.

This is the third such conference since it was launched in 2002.—MNA/Xinhua

Americans face greater dangers because of the Bush administration’s mishandling of Iraq, says Kerry

Seattle, 28 May—Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry argued on Thursday that Americans face greater dangers because of the Bush administration’s mishandling of Iraq and vowed that if elected President, he would “never let ideology trump the truth.”

“They’ve made America less safe than we should be in a dangerous world,” Kerry said as he began an 11-day campaign focus on national security. “In short, they have undermined the legacy of generations of American leadership.

Although Kerry’s advisors promoted the speech as a major policy address, the Democrat did not state new ground. As he outlined positions he has taken on the campaign trail in recent months. He said he will provide details in the coming days.

The speech was designed to show that Kerry, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, would be strong in combating terrorism and in his command of the military in killing at least 37 civilians since May 1, 2003, when the war to topple Saddam Hussein officially ended, including an eight-year-old girl.—MNA/Reuters

Iraqi military casualty in Iraq climbs to 800

Baghdad, 28 May—As of Thursday, 27 May, 800 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 585 died as a result of hostile action and 215 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Poland, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, two; Salvador, Estonia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 662 US soldiers have died. According to the defence department, 476 as a result of hostile action and 186 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the US military: Three Marines were killed in Iraq’s Anbar province.

The latest identification reported by the Pentagon:

Army Pfc James P Lambert, 23, New Orleans; killed Tuesday in Fallujah, Iraq, when an explosive hit his patrol; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 62nd Air Defence Artillery, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, NY.

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China proposes amendments to US-UK resolution on Iraq

BEIJING, 28 May — China proposed on Wednesday major amendments to the US-British draft resolution on Iraq, calling for a time limit on the stay of the US-led multinational force as well as a say by Iraqis on its operations after power is transferred to a new Iraqi government on 30 June.

In a three-page paper, China said that the multinational force’s mandate shall expire in January 2005 in keeping with the timetable of Iraqi political process, and its extension should have the consent of the new Iraqi government and be decided by the Security Council.

The paper, circulated before closed-door consultations of the 15-nation council, also calls for establishing a mechanism of consultations between the force, mainly composed of American troops, and the Iraqi interim government on its military actions except for self-defence.

“The interim government of Iraq shall have its say on the security matter with responsibility to control the Iraqi army and police force,” the paper says.

The United States and Britain introduced a draft measure on Iraq on Monday, seeking the Security Council’s endorsement for the Iraqi power transfer and its authorization of the continued stay of the multinational force in Iraq after June 30.

But the text does not give a timetable for the withdrawal of the force. It only stipulates that the force’s mandate would be reviewed one year later or at the request of Iraqis. Likewise, the draft does not mention whether the new Iraqi government would have full control of its army, and have a say on the multinational force’s actions.

Besides security, China’s paper also covers Iraq’s political process, justice and humanitarian law, economic reconstruction and the role of the United Nations.

It says that the Iraqi interim government shall exercise full sovereignty, in the political, economic, security, judicial and diplomatic areas, including the power to control and dispose all the natural and economic resources, sign economic cooperation agreements and contracts, and enjoy judicial independence and the power to administer prisons in Iraq.

The US-British draft does not specify whether the Iraqi government has the right to sign economic contracts with foreign countries, nor does it say Iraq’s prisons, notorious for abuses by US troops, would be turned over to Iraqis.

Under China’s proposals, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan would consider arranging investigations on the reported violations of international humanitarian laws in Iraq.

Howard ‘concerned’ by Iraq war polls

SYDNEY, 28 May — Prime Minister John Howard is shown around the flight control tower at Baghdad Airport. The Prime Minister admitted he is concerned by recent opinion polls showing most Australians believe the war in Iraq is unjustified.

John Howard blames the feeling on negative news coming out of Iraq, such as the recent spurge in violence and the prisoner abuse scandal.

Mr Howard has also told Sydney’s Radio 2GB that he will raise the issue of getting broader international support for Iraq when he meets US President George W Bush on

He understands the need for that and the Americans are trying very hard to get that broader international support,” Mr Howard said.

“Things in Iraq would have been a lot better if that broader international support had been given in the first place. “I don’t want to go over old ground but the attitude taken by countries such as France and Germany, ever so slight, I think, was anything but helpful. “I hope there has been some change of heart there,”—Internet

India preparing national hydrogen energy roadmap

BEIJING, 28 May — India Wednesday said it was preparing a national hydrogen energy roadmap to effectively tap hydrogen as a reliable, sustainable, safe and affordable source of energy and welcomed international cooperation to make hydrogen applications a global reality.

In order to effectively coordinate the national efforts on hydrogen and fuel cell technologies and prepare a national hydrogen energy roadmap, the government has set up a national hydrogen energy board, Indian Ambassador to China Nalin Surie said here.

The national hydrogen energy roadmap, which would lead to the national hydrogen energy programme, will require a dual strategy — first, to provide assistance in framing the necessary policy support and legislation and second, to develop the required technology.

Russian plane heads for Iraq to evacuate energy company workers

MOSCOW, 28 May — A plane left Moscow for Iraq on Thursday to evacuate first group of workers of Russia’s Interenergoservis company one day after two of its employees were killed in an attack.

An II-76 aircraft belonging to the Emergency Situations Ministry is flying to Iraq to take home about 120 Russian experts working on reconstruction projects there. Interfax cited the ministry source as saying.

It is planned to evacuate 241 employees of the Interenergoservis company, which has been helping to rebuild power stations in Iraq, Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said earlier.

Several administrators from the company, some ten Russian journalists and several Russian specialists will stay in the war-torn country for the moment, and they are expected to return to Russia later, according to Yakovenko.

Two contractors from the Interenergoservis were killed and six others wounded in an ambush near Baghdad on Wednesday when the bus they were travelling in came under attack. Izz-Tass said that the six injured along with the bodies of the two killed in the incident will be brought back to Moscow by the plane.—Internet

Gore denounces US’s Iraq war plan

NEW YORK, 28 May — Former US Vice-President Al Gore denounced on Wednesday the Bush Administration’s Iraq war plan as “incomprehensible” and demanded the resignation of some top officials in the Administration.

In a speech made in New York University in Manhattan, Gore rated George W Bush as the most dishonest president since Richard Nixon, who resigned from the office of presidency in 1974 because of the Watergate scandal.

Blaming the officials for the “catastrophe” in Iraq, he said that Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and CIA director George Tenet should step down.

India men demonstrate in support for radical cleric Mustafa al-Sadr in the centre of Najaf, Iraq, on 27 May, 2004.—Internet

German, Mexican leaders in accord on Iraq

MEXICO CITY, 28 May — President Vicente Fox and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said they were working with other nations to achieve a UN consensus on the hand-over of power in Iraq.

“The (UN) resolution presented by the United States and Great Britain could be the base” of an eventual UN agreement, Schroeder said.

But he added that success depends on “assuring a complete transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqis” by June 30, the date set by US President George W Bush.

Talk of efforts to solve the crisis in Iraq at times threatened to overshadow the European-Latin American summit that starts Friday in the west-central city of Guadalajara. Schroeder met the Mexican leader before the summit.

While Schroeder said the Security Council resolution presented by the United States and Britain needed improvement, he stopped short of endorsing a Chinese alternative that would set a January 2005 deadline for the departure of coalition troops.

“I don’t think in the current situation you can put a deadline” for troop withdrawal, Schroeder said, adding that “obviously, there should be a day when this happens.”

Schroeder added that the United Nation’s chances of resolving the Iraq situation are dependent on “the Iraqis themselves improve security conditions.”—Internet

MNA/Xinhua

Indian troops patrol the centre of Basra, southern Iraq, on 27 May, 2004.—Internet

Chinese says does not support China’s proposals.

Chinese Ambassador Wang Guangya said the co-sponsors of the Iraqi resolution have agreed to consider China’s proposals.

The council is going to meet at the experts’ level on the US-British draft on Thursday, whose adoption needs nine “yes” votes, without veto by the five permanent council members — China, Russia, France, the United States and Britain.

The US-British draft does not specify whether the Iraqi government has the right to sign economic contracts with foreign countries, nor does it say Iraq’s prisons, notorious for abuses by US troops, would be turned over to Iraqis.

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US-led terror war “bereft of principle”

LONDON, 28 May — Washington’s global anti-terror policies are “bankrupt of vision” as human rights become sacrificed in the blind pursuit of security, a leading human rights group charged on Wednesday.

Amnesty International also rapped partners across the world in the United States’ self-declared “war on terror” for jailing suspects unfairly, stamping on legitimate dissent, and squeezing asylum seekers.

“The global security agenda promoted by the US Administration is bankrupt of vision and bereft of principle,” Amnesty head Irene Khan said, launching its annual report.

“Violating rights at home, turning a blind eye to abuses abroad and using preventive military force where and when it chooses has damaged justice and freedom, and made the world a more dangerous place.”

Specifically, Amnesty lashed Washington for unlawful killings of Iraqi civilians; questionable arrest and mistreatment of prisoners in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay and Afghanistan; and opposition to a new global criminal court.

“The world is crying out for principled leadership,” Khan added, saying the negative effects of US-led anti-terror policies had spread far and wide.

“Governments are losing their moral compass, sacrificing the global values of human rights in a blind pursuit of security.”

It singled out Britain for holding 14 foreignees without charge, Spain for closing a Basque-language newspaper, the European Union for ignoring human rights in its asylum thinking, and Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan for internal repression.

Amnesty also condemned the “callous, cruel and criminal attacks” by armed groups such as al-Qaeda.

The combined effect of those attacks and states’ violations of rights was to create the most serious assaults on rights and humanitarian law in half a century and make “a world of growing mistrust, fear and division”, it said.

With Iraq and anti-terror policies dominating world attention has been diverted from old wars, the group also noted. Conflict in Chechnya, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Nepal remain “a breeding ground for some of the worst atrocities.”

MNA/Reuters

US Army survey cites wider prisoner abuse

WASHINGTON, 28 May — A US Army synopsis of deaths and mistreatment involving prisoners in American custody in Iraq and Afghanistan shows a pattern of abuse involving more military units than previously known, The New York Times reported on Wednesday.

The summary, dated May 5, was prepared by the Criminal Investigation Command at the request of Army officials, according to the newspaper.

It outlines the status of investigations into 36 cases, including the continuing probe into the abuses at Abu Ghraib Prison on the outskirts of Baghdad, the paper said.

The Iraq cases date back to April 2003, the Times reported. In an incident reported to have taken place last month, a prisoner detained by Navy commandos died in a suspected case of homicide blamed on “blunt force trauma to the torso and positional asphyxia,” the paper said.

The US forces’ treatment of prisoners has come under scrutiny because of revelations about the physical and sexual abuse of Iraqi inmates at Abu Ghraib Prison. Seven US soldiers have been charged with abusing Iraqi prisoners there.

In a speech on Tuesday, US President George W. Bush said the prison “became a symbol of disgraceful conduct by a few American troops who disdained our country and disregarded our values”, and said the notorious prison would be demolished as a “symbol of Iraq’s new beginning”.

One of the oldest cases listed in the May 5 document involves the death of a prisoner in Afghanistan in December 2002, the paper said.

The document said enlisted personnel from a military intelligence unit at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and an Army Reserve military-police unit from Ohio were charged with “assaulting and mistreating the detainee,” according to the Times. — MNA/Reuters

Sri Lankan President to be awarded FAO medal

COLOMBO, 28 May — Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga will be awarded the prestigious Ceres Medal in recognition of her long-standing efforts and commitment to achieving a world free of hunger and poverty, the official Daily News said on Wednesday.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) which minted medal states that the organization conferred this medal as a token of its esteem and respect for President Kumaratunga’s commitment to improve food security and nutrition and to achieve the target set by the international community to halve the number of undernourished people in the world by 2015.

“It is in recognition of her efforts to foster rural development, food security and peace in Sri Lanka, her support to the international efforts to reduce hunger and undernutrition in the world, as well as her personal collaboration with the FAO in the 1970s,” the FAO said.

The presentation of the Ceres Medal to President Kumaratunga will be made by Jacques Diouf, FAO Director General at a ceremony held in capital Colombo on Friday.

The medal has been awarded since 1971 by the FAO to distinguished women who have contributed to the fight against hunger. — MNA/Kiriaka

US General linked to use of dogs at Abu Ghraib

WASHINGTON, May 27 — The US Army General sent by the Pentagon to bolster the collection of intelligence from prisoners at Abu Ghraib is said to have urged the use of guard dogs to frighten Iraq detainees, The Washington Post reported on Wednesday, citing sworn testimony by the top US intelligence officer at the prison.

Colonel Thomas Pappas testified that the idea came from Major- General Geoffrey Miller, then commander of the US detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and was implemented under a policy approved by Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, the top US military officer in Iraq, the newspaper reported.

Senior defence officials said on Tuesday that Sanchez was being replaced as the US commander in Iraq. But they argued the change was not triggered by the Abu Ghraib Iraq prisoner abuse scandal.

According to a transcript obtained by The Washington Post, Pappas told the Army investigator, Major-General Antonio Taguba: “It was a technique I had personally discussed with General Miller, when he was here” visiting the prison.

He said that they used military working dogs at Gitmo [the nickname for Guantanamo Bay], and that they were effective in setting the atmosphere for which, you know, you could get information from the prisoners. Pappas said in the testimony. — MNA/Reuters

“NY Times” admits it fell for Iraq misinformation

NEW YORK, 28 May — The New York Times acknowledged on Wednesday it had failed to adequately challenge information from Iraqi exiles who were determined to show Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and overthrow him.

In an unusual note from the newspaper’s editors, “The Times and Iraq,” the newspaper said it found a number of instances before the March 2003 US and British invasion of Iraq and early in the occupation, “of coverage that was as rigorous as it should have been.”

The note said editors “should have been challenging reporters and pressing for more skepticism.”

The Bush Administration also has been faulted for relying on inaccurate or incomplete intelligence in asserting Saddam had on-going weapons programmes, a primary reason cited for significant biological, chemical or nuclear weapons have been found.”

The Times said it had relied on Iraqi exile Ahmad Chalabi, once considered Washington’s top Iraq ally. Until last week Chalabi was paid by the United States for intelligence information that has proven to be faulty in many cases.

Chalabi was an “occasional source” in its articles since at least 1991 and introduced reporters to other exiles, the newspaper said.

“Complicating matters for journalists, the accounts of these exiles were often

Iranian protesters carry posters during a protest in front of the British Embassy in central Tehran, on 27 May, 2004. The protesters demonstrated on Thursday against the attack of Najaf and Karbala by the US-led forces in Iraq. — Reuters

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 29 May, 2004 5
Smoke billows over central Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 May, 2004 after several strong blasts were heard in the center of the city.

More carnage in the streets of Baghdad as a car bomb killed at least five people outside the home of an Iraqi ministerial aide on 22 May 2004.

Images of Iraq

An injured person is rushed to the Al Kindi hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 May, 2004.


A car bomb exploded in Baghdad on 22 May 2004, killing at least five people and destroying several vehicles.

An injured person is rushed to the Al Kindi hospital in Baghdad, Iraq on 22 May, 2004 after a car bomb exploded in front of the home of a senior Iraqi security official, killing at least five people and injuring several.

A wounded child lying in bed in the hospital in Ramadi, on 20 May, 2004.
Border and rural area developments

Newly opened Saddan Yadana Bridge in Neikban Village, Kawa Township. — PHOTO: MNA

New building of Basic Education Middle School in Kawhtin Village, Kyaukto Township. — PHOTO: MNA

Wanpong Hospital built in Shan State(East) is providing health care services to people living in border areas. — PHOTO: PANRDA

Newly opened Saddan Yadana Bridge in Neikban Village, Kawa Township, Bago Division. — PHOTO: MNA
Myanmar — the nation we love

Dr Lwin Ko

(Continued from yesterday)

Mandalay International Airport was built at a cost of US $5.15 million plus K6,543 million, and Hanthawady International Airport is under construction. At present 18 airports can handle landing and taking off of passenger jets, up from only six in 1988. Six new jetties were built at Yangon-Thilawa, and another two, at Ahlon. Bo Aung Kyaw, the managing director, said a network of roads are linking all parts of Myanmar.

In 1988-89 Myanmar consumed 2.225 million kilowatt hours of electricity. At present, the total electricity consumption of the nation is over 5,064 million kilowatt hours. Thus, the nation has doubled its power generation capacity within the period of 16 years, and consumed 2,839 million more kilowatt hours. However, at present, the electricity generation capacity has not yet met the power demand of the advancing life styles of the people, and increasing number of advanced facilities including industries, condominums, hotels and hospitals. Thus, plans are under way to generate 2,000 million more kilowatt hours of electricity within a five-year period.

In 1988, there were over 67,016 units of telephones and 310 telephone stations in the nation. There are now over 342,317 units of telephones in addition to mobile phones — cellular, CDMA and GSM — and 460 telephone stations, 205 microwave stations, with over 33,000 lines, and 5,089 telephone lines, in the nation.

At present there are 18 oil and gas fields in the nation, up from 13 in 1988, and the nation’s crude oil output has reached 7,710 million barrels, up from 4,299 million barrels in 1988.

The sector the successive governments in the past failed to implement is the border areas and national races development sector. The Tatmadaw Government has enacted laws, issued objectives and formed the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and the committees for development of border areas and national races.

Up to now, the ministry has built 627 basic education primary schools, 61 basic education middle schools, 62 basic education high schools, 82 station health centres, 29 rural health centres, 40 sub rural health centres, eight hydroelectric power stations in border areas, 31 border area agriculture offices, 115 agricultural stations, 17 dams, and 14 tractors.

Moreover, it has erected or is erecting post offices, radio telephone lines, trunk lines, telegraph offices and satellite communication stations at suitable towns. The expenditure on the border areas and national races projects will increase to K22,852 million within the coming five-year period.

- 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 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 flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appealed

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 26-5-2004
Agricultural, industrial, …

(from page 1)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win said that the meeting will discuss in detail effective development of industrial zones, progress of construction of farm machinery and machine auto production. The Head of State has already laid down five guidelines for industrial development. Later, the industrial sector of the nation started to develop in accordance with the policy and aim. The number of industrial zones has reached 19 at present. The agricultural, industrial, and energy sectors have been regarded as the priority sectors. And so there has been no need to assign respective offices to rapid development of the industrial sector in 2004-2005. Thus, efforts are required for industrial development. Although the annual growth of the industrial sector is high, gross domestic product is only 13 per cent. According to the aim of the current third five-year plan, its contribution will increase to 20 per cent. Thus harmonious efforts between the State and the private sectors are needed. With the assistance provided by the Government, building of the advanced steel mills in Mandalay, Monywa and Ayethaya industrial zones will be completed this year. The steel mills will help improve the quality of the products of the industrial zones. The zones will also produce a large number of machinery including power-tillers, winnowers and pumps.

Priority will be given to manufacturing of farm machinery. The industries at the industrial zones are small and medium ones, collective provision of technology and capital is also required. All will have to render assistance in terms of farm machinery production, setting of basic industries and assembling of cars.

Next, Secretary of Industrial Development Committee Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaug made clarification, saying that efforts are being made with added momentum for industrial development, adding we are all responsible to make relentless efforts for industrial development as the 2004-2005 is designated as the year for industrial development. In accord with the objectives laid down by the Head of State committees for industrial development at different levels have been formed to supervise and implement tasks for development of industrial sector and ministers and deputy ministers are serving as those in charge for development of industrial zones.

The government has been placing emphasis on development of farm equipment beginning 1995 and it is required to widely use farm equipment as sown acreage has been on the increase. Accordingly, more investment is required for producing farm equipment.

Myanma Industrial Development Bank disbursed loans by over 61 per cent to the industries for development of industrial sector. Therefore, officials of committees for development of industrial sector at different levels, officials of industrial zone supervisory committees and industrial zone management committees and industrialists are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts.

Next, Chairman Myanma Industrial Development Committee Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin reported on kinds and number of automobiles produced by the industrial zones and systematic testing of the vehicles and requirement for construction of workshops in Mindat-Matupi Road, and availability of machinery. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected road construction tasks and gave necessary instructions. They inspected and the construction of conduit pipes between mile post Nos 2/5 and 2/6, earth works between mile post Nos 4/0 and 5/0 and other road construction tasks and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint next inspected the 4-acre tea plan-
tion at mile post No 8/0 where an official of Myanmar Agricultural Service and District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Sein reported. At the tea estate, U Zaw Hein of MAS (District branch) reported on cultivation of tea along Mindat-Matupi Road to Lt-Gen Ye Myint, who then gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into tea nursery at Bawgwee farm. At the farm, 55 acres of tea were cultivated for 2004-2005 and 186 acres of tea saplings have been cultivated for 2005-2006. After that, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected road construction between mile post Nos 8/6 and 15/0 and paving of gravel between mile post Nos 15/0 and 15/1. After inspecting the road section between mile post Nos 15/0 and 15/1 and the road section between Nos 15/1 and 16/3, Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed inspection of earth works being carried out by heavy machinery at mile post No 186. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party then inspected construction of road works at road sections from mile post Nos 19/1 to 200 by Myanma Industrial Development Bank disbursed’m machinery at mile post No 470 and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the camp of Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway Group, stopped over there and left for Matupi. Along Mindat road section between mile post Nos 20 and 50, 30 miles of road have been completed. 30 miles of road have been constructed, 30 miles of drains dug and 25 conduit pipes laid.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects the construction of Mindat-Matupi road section in Chin State. — MNA

Coord meeting on holding of International Rice Year held

YANGON, 28 May — The Committee for Organizing International Rice Year held a work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on Kaba Aye Pryce at Yangon on 28 May.

It was attended by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Cooperatives, FAO, the International Rice Research Institute, UMFCCI, the Rice Millers Association and the Rice Industry Co-operative.

At the meeting, the minister made an opening speech. The sub-committees reported on progress of their tasks being implemented, followed by a general round of discussions as to the number of brochures and posters for the exhibition and competition to mark International Rice Year.

Next, the minister gave necessary instructions on displays of various models and models and posters for the exhibition and competition to mark International Rice Year.

The International Rice Year Exhibition will be held at the Rice Research Institute in Hmeinwe, as well as at the Agricultural Museum of Myapetha Lake in October to enable farmers and the public to know the cultivation and production of rice, major crop in Myanmar.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects the construction of Mindat-Matupi road section in Chin State. — MNA

Ministry of Commerce presents prizes to best exporters

YANGON, 28 May — The Ministry of Commerce pre- sented prizes to exporters of 2003-2004 financial year at the meeting hall of the ministry.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone delivered an address on the occasion.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented first prize to Managing Director U Maung Weik of Maung Weik & Family Co Ltd for exporting the largest amount of export items abroad by sea, second to Asia Winner Industrial Ltd Managing Director U Aung Naing and third to Fisheries & Marine Products 2000 Ltd Managing Director U Zaw Lay who exported 20.95 million US dollars worth of products. 2003-2004 financial year.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented the first prize to Managing Director U Aung Aung of Five Stars Trading, second to Asia Winner Industrial Ltd Managing Director U Aung Naing and third to Fisheries & Marine Products 2000 Ltd Managing Director U Zaw Lay who exported the largest volume of export items abroad by sea.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone presented first prize to Managing Director U Aung Aung of Five Stars Trading, second to Asia Winner Industrial Ltd Managing Director U Aung Naing and third to Fisheries & Marine Products 2000 Ltd Managing Director U Zaw Lay who exported the largest volume of export items abroad by sea.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun gave away prizes to Manager U Aung Aung of Five Stars Trading, Daw Nan Mya Aung of Academy Trading, Managers Daw Khin Myint and Daw Khin Myint of Golden Peacock Trading and Manager U Nyunt Tin of Sun Dew Trading. Later, the winners expressed their grati-
Li-Gen Ye Myint meets departmental personnel, local people in Saw of Magway Division, Mindat of Chin State

Education High School No 1, they inspected the computer training course No 1/2004 being attended by 32 trainees. Next, they met departmental personnel and social organization members at the hall of the school. Also present were the commander, Chin State Chairman Col Tin Hla, local authorities and local people. Chairman of Mindat District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Sein Ya reported on cultivation of tea, breeding of domestic cows and building of roads linking towns and villages. Departmental officials also reported on their respective sectors. Li-Gen Ye Myint attended to their needs. They went to Theravada Buddhist Missionary Bhakoyang of Sasana Alinayang Pariyatti Monastery in Mindat where they donated provisions to Bhakoyang Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kheminda. On arrival at Mindat District Hospital (50-bed), Li-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the X-ray room, operation theatre, lab, medical store and patient wards. They proceeded to Women’s Domestic Science Training School of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and met 30 trainees attending the training course No 2. They also inspected sale of products of the Ministry of Industry Lt-Gen Thurau Shop (Branch) in downtown Mindat. At 2 pm, they went to Taungupittu Pariyatti Patipatti Monastery (Branch) in Mindat and paid homage and donated provisions to Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pattasaun.

YANGON, 28 MAY—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla and ofﬁcials, arrived at Saw Township Hospital on 25 May morning. Li-Gen Ye Myint and party heard reports by ofﬁcials and inspected the hospital. At Yawmingsu U Bo Hlaing Hall, they met departmental personnel and local people. Ofﬁcials reported on matters related to the township. Next, they proceeded to Loket domes- tic cow breeding farm in Mindat Township. Ofﬁcials submitted reports on breeding of domestic cow. Li-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. At Mindat Basic Education High School No 1, they inspected the computer training course No 1/2004 being attended by 32 trainees. Next, they met departmental personnel and social organization members at the hall of the school. Also present were the commander, Chin State Chairman Col Tin Hla, local authorities and local people. Chairman of Mindat District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Sein Ya reported on cultivation of tea, breeding of domestic cows and building of roads linking towns and villages. Departmental officials also reported on their respective sectors. Li-Gen Ye Myint attended to their needs. They went to Theravada Buddhist Missionary Bhakoyang of Sasana Alinayang Pariyatti Monastery in Mindat where they donated provisions to Bhakoyang Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kheminda. On arrival at Mindat District Hospital (50-bed), Li-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the X-ray room, operation theatre, lab, medical store and patient wards. They proceeded to Women’s Domestic Science Training School of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and met 30 trainees attending the training course No 2. They also inspected sale of products of the Ministry of Industry Lt-Gen Thurau Shop (Branch) in downtown Mindat. At 2 pm, they went to Taungupittu Pariyatti Patipatti Monastery (Branch) in Mindat and paid homage and donated provisions to Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pattasaun.

Chairman U Kyaw Myo Win speaking at group discussions of Delegates of Workers.— MNA

Chairman U Kyaw Myo Win speaking at group discussions of Delegates of Workers.— MNA

Chairman U Khin Zaw speaking at group discussions of Delegates of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia.— MNA

Chairman U Khin Zaw speaking at group discussions of Delegates of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia.— MNA

Chairman U Kyaw Myo Win speaking at group discussions of Delegates of Workers.— MNA

Delegate groups of... (from page 16)

sectors concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drawing the State Constitution clarified by the NCCWC. The discussions chairman gave the concluding remarks and the discussions were adjourned at 9.55 am.

Delegates of State Service Personnel Group

The Delegates of State Service Personnel Group held the discussions at the meeting hall-7 at 9 am. U Myat Ko of the Ministry of Home Affairs presided over the discussions with U Aung Maung of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and U Hla Tin of the Ministry of Commerce. Deputy Director U Htun Win of work group 9 and Assistant Director U Hein Min acted as masters of ceremonies. The master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting as there were 108 delegates out of 109 listed accounting for 94.64 per cent.

First, U Myat Ko of the Ministry of Home Affairs spoke on the occasion. Next, the proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drawing the State Constitution clarified by the NCCWC were submitted to the group discussions. In so doing, U Hla Tin of the Ministry of Mines read out the paper on energy, power mining and forestry sectors. U Hla Thaung Myint of the Ministry of Rail Transportation on the transport and communication sector and U Tin De of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the foreign affairs sector.

Those present participated in the discussions. Next, the discussions recessed at 10.10 am. Afterwards, the coordina-
The National Convention, which has been adjoined temporarily, is now in progress beginning 17 May 2004. The decoration and accommodation prepared at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, where the coordination meetings were held, was completed in all the rooms and halls in the compound of the Presidential Residence on Aihlon Road at 8 am on 23 June 1992. It was attended by 15 representatives from National League for Democracy, six from Shan Nationalities League for Defence, three from National Unity Party, one each from Union PaO National Organization, Myo (a) Khami National Unity Organization, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party and Lahu National Development Party.

With Order No 35/92 dated 28 May 1992, a leading committee was formed to organize the coordination meeting on 24 April 1992, the State took initial measures to convene the National Convention extended greetings to them at the National Convention, the State also cordially met and greeted the delegates and encouraged them. As the outcome of the coordination meetings were also held on 30 June and 10 July 1992, on which the chairman of the committee hosted a dinner in honour of the delegates, the leadership of the State also cordially met and greeted the delegates and encouraged them. As the outcome of the coordination meeting, agreement was reached on designation of eight delegate groups and the method to be employed to select the delegates, and adoption of the National Convention objectives.

The National Convention is a convention that will have to represent the whole nation, the entire Union and the mass of national races and that is held to lay down fundamental principles and detailed basic principles to serve as basis in formalizing the Constitution. It is the law that is systematically framed to determine how the power belonging to the entire people, and to whom or which organizations that power shall be given. It is the most basic of all the laws. In defining other laws, that should not deviate from the constitution.

For such a vital Constitution, the National Convention is the most powerful and most appropriate fundamental principles through coordination for the benefit of the whole Union.

It was on 5 January 1993 that all the delegates to the National Convention arrived at the hotels in Kyakkasan Grounds. The chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission extended greetings to them at Pyayung Hall in Kyakkasan Grounds on 7 January. All the delegates were in cheerful mood. There were 702 delegates in eight delegate groups. The eight delegate groups are: the delegate group of political parties, the delegate group of the State, the delegate group of racial and ethnic minorities, the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, the delegate group of Shan, the delegate group of the Shan people, the delegate group of Shan State Kokang Democratic Party and Lahu National Development Party.

The National Convention commenced at the meeting hall in the compound of the Presidential Residence on Aihlon Street on 9 January 1993. On the occasion, the chairman of the NCCC extended greetings, followed by Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe’s clarification on chapter headings in Chapter II of the National Convention. The Work Committee also presented its research findings worth considering. Then, the delegates returned to their respective hostels. There were 702 delegates, mess hall, hospital, clinic, shops, food stall, barber shops and laundry centres in Kyakkasan Grounds. There were also eight meeting halls for eight delegate groups. Each of the delegate groups had five members of the panel chosen in majority consent.

In the first place, the chapter headings to be included in the Constitution were discussed in individual delegate groups. The delegates were to read out what they wanted to discuss and had the right to present their opinion without any limitation to time length. There arose those who added points to and who left out points from what had been clarified by the chairman of the Work Committee. Likewise, there were also those who were for and who were against the chairman’s clarification. There were also agreement, disagreement and debate in their discussions. Books on the convention procedures were distributed to individual delegates. It was safe to say that the procedures were in fact convention rules and that they were learned before the National Convention to be successful and in order. Discussions were held in group-wise meetings and plenary meetings within the frame of the six objectives of the National Convention. The six objectives became the six objectives of the State in discussing the 104 fundamental principles of the State in Chapter I.

They were: non-disintegration of the Union, non-dissolution of national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty, flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy system, further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values, namely justice, liberty and equality in the State, and for the Tamils to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State.

It being the principles absolutely necessary according to the course of Myanmar history, Myanmar topography, attitudes and traits of Myanmar people, the delegates to the National Convention not only accepted them but also regarded them as the fundamental principles of the State.

Frequent discussions were held and papers collectively compiled in our group. (There were those who compiled separate papers as they did not see eye to eye with the views held in our group.) Some of the papers were endorsed by five members of the panel, the papers were to be submitted to the Work Committee. If all the papers compiled by respective groups had been collected, the Work Committee Committee was to discuss the meeting of the National Convention at the meeting hall on Aihlon Road.

At the plenary meeting, group-wise and party-wise papers as well as individual papers were read out. The papers were typed with pages somewhere between 100 and 200. The combined pages of all the papers totalled in thousands.

The plenary meeting was presided over by nine members of the panel, each from eight delegate groups and one from the Work Committee. When all the papers had been read out, the panel of the plenary meeting excerpted similarities and dissimilarities and categorized, analyzed and reviewed them with the use of manpower and computers. Later, they were evaluated. When completed, the evaluated paper of the panel of the plenary meeting was read out. As the advantage and disadvantage of all papers and opinions were to be reviewed, the paper of the panel had thousands of pages. It took from one week to ten days to read out the papers of eight delegate groups in the plenary meeting. Reading out the paper of the panel also went into four or five days to one week.

After a considerable length of time, the Work Committee announced the six objectives of the State. In the first place, the chapter headings to be included in the Constitution. The 104 fundamental principles were put in Chapter I, the State Structure in Chapter II, basic principles relevant to the Head of State in Chapter III, and basic principles for legislative, executive and judicial sectors in Chapters IV, V and VI. The functions and rights included in Chapters IV, V and VI will be determined after the Constitution now in progress. With open and frank discussions, debates, compromise, the meetings were interesting. There was no animosity in the process of debates. The best and most appropriate solutions were sought through debates and discussions.

The delegates had chances to get to know each other at plenary meetings, group-wise meetings, breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea time and dinner. Although they were on quick steps towards home when the National Convention goes into recess, the thought of parting with intimate cronies drove them to sadness. The delegates were entertained with a film once in a while but songs, music and dances on a daily basis. I made friends with most of the delegates as I arrived at the National Convention earlier than others and returned home when the National Convention went into recess. We helped each other and fulfilled one another’s needs. We held discussions in our walk, in our room, at restaurant, and on the way. We got benefits through exchange of our knowledge.

The decoration and accommodation in Nyaunghnapin camp are far better than those in Kyakkasan Grounds. It is believed that the delegates will be able to concentrate on their discussions with peace of mind and body for the success of the National Convention. I am also excited as I have made friends with new delegates. It is incumbent on us to meet, discuss and coordinate happily, enthusiastically and healthily with nationalist sentiment keeping in the fore the national interest.

(Translation: KTY)
it — was published under the articles and six sub-clauses of pure pizza from the putative law laying down rules to pro-
be too early to talk about Pizza in diameter. The centre should
Gazzette third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

**INVITATION FOR TENDER**

No. 001/TRT/2004-2005

Sealed Tenders from eligible suppliers are invited for the supply of 5700 Tyre Sets with Tube and Flap Size 9.00 x 20 x 14 ply Rating - Lug Type, prices to be quoted in Myanmar Kyats-Yangon.

(a) Tender Documents are available at the Office of Procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport, No. 375, Bogoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar, Commencing on the 1st June, 2004.

(b) Tender will be closed on 10th; June, 2004 at (16:00) hours.

(c) The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders.

(d) Detailed information will be available at the Office of the Procurement & Stores Department, or contact Phone Nos. (01) 252574 or (01) 376549.

Managing Director, Road Transport.

**MITSUBISHI FUSO**

Tokyo, 28 May — Japan’s major automaker Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp. announced Wednesday that it will recall about 168,000 large vehicles due to clutching
housing defects.

One fatal accident, two accidents involving injury and 15 accidents causing physical
damage occurred in connection
with the defect, the Japanese truck maker said, adding three other vehicles caught fire.

Last Thursday, Mitsubishi Fuso admitted at a press con-
ference that it had neglected the problem since 1996 and
recognized the need to recall vehicles with the defects.

The truck maker also ad-
mitted to the cover-up in
March in this connection in
connection with the Yokohama accident.

Seven former Mitsubishi Fuso
Motors officials were arrested over the cover-up.

Subject to the recall are the Great Heavy-duty truck
produced between June 1983
and April 1999, the truck
maker said in a report filed
with the Ministry of Land, In-


dustry and Transport. The company said exces-
sive vibration in the propel-
er shaft could lead to a crack in the clutch housing of the truck.

If this happens, the shaft, which transmits power to the wheels from the engine, could fall off the vehicle and result in damage to the vehicle itself such as brake malfunctions, the company said.

Between 1992 and 2003, about 70 clutch housing de-
fect problems were reported.

**Shell gets licence to distribute gasoline in Indonesia**

Jakarta, 28 May — The Dutch transport and trading company Shell gets li-
cense to distribute gasoline in Indonesia, an official said here Wednesday.

Tubagus Haryono, head of independent government agency regulating oil and gas in downstream sector BP Mugas, said that several other foreign companies are also interested in the field.

“The company which has gotten a licence is Shell. But there are other foreign com-
panies such as Chevron, Texaco and Total, which are
going to invest here,” Tubagus told reporters, with-
out elaborating on the amount of the investment.

He said that along with Shell, 15 other local compa-
ies also get licence to dis-
tribute gas and gasoline.

The 16 companies will be given fixed licence be-
fore operating, he said, with-
out giving specific date when they will start operation.

Tubagus admitted that with the subsidy price of gas and gasoline, foreign com-
panies are reluctant to invest in Indonesia.

However, he said he hoped the government could sell some gasoline accord-
ing to market price by the
2005. **MNA/Xinhua**

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**ITALIAN LAW ON PIZZA PURITY A MOUTHFUL**

Rome, 28 May — It may be otherwise talkful about Pizza Police, but Italian legislators are mulling a detailed draft law laying down rules to pro-
tect real Neapolitan pizza.

The draft law to separate pure pizza from the putative kind — all three pages, eight articles and six sub-clauses of it — was published late in the state seal in the Official Gazette on Tuesday.

It decrees that a Neapol-
tan pizza must be round and no more than 35 centimetres in diameter. The centre should not be higher than 0.3 centi-
metres and the crust cannot rise over two centimetres.

The law specifies what kind of flour, salt, and yeast and tomatoes have to be used. The sub clauses go even fur-
ther.

Margherita, the classic type, must be topped with just any type of mozzarella but mozzarella “from the southern appenine” moun-
tains.

And restaurateurs be-
ware, you can not call a pizza “Margherita extra” unless it is topped with mozzarella made from buffalo milk — a southern Italian specialty.

Rolling pins are blapheme-
rous and dough machines are heretical. The law says the dough must be kneaded by hand.

Take a bulk of this phrase from a government document that usually offers the latest on tax brackets and bilateral trade.”On the whole, the pizza must be soft, elastic and eas-
ily foldable in half to form a “libetto”.

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**MOORECJO JAILS DRUG LORDS IN KEY TRAFFICKING CASE**

The crackdown on drug smugglers acquired renewed urgency among coup leaders as guerrillas in March linked cannabis smugg-
lers in Morocco’s Rif moun-
tains with the European drug trade.

Their arrests were hailed by Moroccan authorities as a major victory in the fight against drug smugglers. In a corruption case a month ago, the pair were jailed for three years.

**MNA/Reuters**

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV SEA MERCHANT VOY**

NO (509)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (509) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.5-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of a W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**AGENTS FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER GENT P/ O: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER STREET, YANGON, MYANMAR.**

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**TRADE MARK CAUTION**

The Siam Cement Public Company Limited, a Com-
pany incorporated in Thai-
land, of No. 1, Siam Cement Road, Bangsue Sub-district, Bangsue District, Bangkok Metropolitan, Thailand, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:

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**ADVERTISEMENTS**

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**CHINA TO ALLOW INSURANCE COMPANIES TO INVEST ABOARD**

Beijing, 28 May — China is working on a programme to allow insurance companies to invest overseas capital mar-
kets, said a high-level Chi-
nese official.

“The State Council has approved in principle our pro-
posal to allow insurance com-
panies to invest in overseas capital markets,” said Ma Delun, deputy director of the State Administration of For-

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“We and the Chinese Secu-
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**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

Saturday, 29 May, 2004

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**THE SMOKE PERSISTS IN THE AIR**

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**MNA/Reuters**

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British Royal Navy ship visits Vietnam

HANOI, 28 May—A British Royal Navy ship named Exeter arrived Vietnam’s Ho Chi Minh City on Wednesday, starting a five-day visit to the country, while Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong is in Britain to boost relations between the two countries.

On Wednesday afternoon, officers of the ship, which has a crew of 266 people, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Durkin, called on the People’s Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, the Command of the Military Zone No 7 and the Vietnamese Navy Command, after laying a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Memorial.

During their stay in the city, crew members will visit the Cu Chi tunnels, play sports with local teams and participate in charity activities.

On Thursday, their ship will host visiting groups from the Military Zone No 7, local naval cadets, universi- ties, and charity organiza-

Flood prevention on Yangtze River faces severe situation

WUHAN, 28 May—Flood prevention on the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River still faces a severe situation this year, said an official in charge of water resources here Wednesday.

Cai Qhua, director of the Yangtze River Water Resources Committee, made remarks at a meeting held Wednesday on flood preven-
tion in central China’s Hubei Province.

According to the forecasts from the meteorologi-
cal and hydrology depart-
ments, there will be two “rainfall strips” to cover southern China’s large area, including Hubei, along the middle reaches of the Yangtze River.

Ebola unlikely to spread to Uganda from Sudan

KAMPALA, 28 May—Ugandan Health Minister Jim Muhwezi has said that the Ebola disease which broke out in the Sudan recently will unlikely spread to Uganda, the New Vision reported on Wednesday. However, the Ugandan minister Jim was quoted as saying that the government will do anything possible to protect the people in case of an outbreak of the disease.

A health worker team sent to northern Uganda has concluded that there is no trace of Ebola, he said, urg-
ing Ugandans to stay calm.

Ebola broke out recently in Hai-Cuba, Yambo Province in the Sudan’s West-
er Equatorial Province and four people died of and 11 others contracted the disease.

Mexican Congress urges govt to normalize relations with Cuba

MEXICO CITY, 28 May—The Mexican Congress urged the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday to seek a necessary “approach” with the Cuban delegation in an upcoming summit in western Mexico to reestablish full diplomatic relations with the island country.

The Congress made the call in a proposal sent to the permanent commission of the 3rd summit of the Euro-
pean Union (EU), Latin America and the Caribbean countries, to be held in Guadalajara City on 28-29 May.

“We undoubt-
dedly con-

consider that reconciliation could be worked out during the summit based on the diplomatic practice, mutual respect and the good will to formally and quickly resume the political and diplomatic relations,” said the Congress, stressing the importance of opening dia-

logue over the differences that kept the two countries apart.

The commission agreed that the summit was a per-
fect chance to restore the good relations between the two countries soon.

The Mexican Government in early May reduced its centenary ties with Cuba to the minimal level by recalling its ambassa-
dor to the island and only leaving a Charge d’Affaires there.

The move came after Cuban leader Fidel Castro criticized Mexico in a May Day speech for Mexico’s support last month for a UN rebuke of Cuba’s human rights record.

Caribbean death toll from floods nears 2,000

PORT-A-PRINCE (Haiti), 28 May—The death toll from devastating floods and landslides in Haiti and the Domini-

can Republic rose to at least 1,960 on Wednesday.

The toll rose dramati-
cally with the discovery of more than 1,000 bodies in Mapou, a southeastern Hai-
tian Town where communi-
cations are poor, said Martin, the head of the civil protection office for Haiti’s southeast region.

Haiti’s death toll stood at about 1,660, including 1,000 in Mapou, 500 else-
where in Haiti’s southeast region, 158 in the riverside town of Fond Verettes, and two in the south, at Port-a-

Piment. Authorities in the neigh-
bouring Dominican Repub-
lic said they had recovered 300 bodies.

ADB launches programme to boost
region’s trade finance system

SINGAPORE, 28 May—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday night launched its 150-million-US-dollar Trade Finance Facilitation Programme (TFFP) to boost liquidity and stability of the trade finance system in the Asia and Pacific Region.

A second revolving PCG facility, in the form of a risk-sharing arrangement with the European Bank for Recon-
struction and Development (EBRD), which will guaran-
tee letters of credit issued by accredited local banks in the CAs, and a revolving loan facility, was launched.

Under the programme, ADB will offer short-term loans to the banks accredited for participation in the PCG facilities, to help fund the hard currency borrowing re-
quirements of their private sector exporter and importer clients.

By the end of the year, some 30 local banks in priority emerging markets should be accredited under the TFFP as issuing banks, making them eligible for ADB guaran-
tee support and direct loans.

Martin Endelman, senior co-financing officer of the

Abroad offers help for projects in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 28 May—India has offered to engage in reconstruction and reha-

bilitation projects in the north and east areas in Sri Lanka, the state-owned Daily News said on Wednesday.

Indian High Commiss-
ioner in Colombo Nirupam Sen said that Indian firms were seeking contracts to help rebuild north and east areas ravaged by two decades of ethnic conflict in the country.

“If we are welcome there, we will be happy to carry out reconstruction in North-East areas including the uncultivated areas,” Sen told a ceremony at the Indian Cul-
tural Centre in Colombo in northern Jaffna Peninsula.

Regional confirm-
in-Hungary (PCG) to support and en-
richment projects in the  north

CARIBBEAN

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 29 May, 2004

13

Miss Universe candidates pose in evening gown on their first round presentation show in Quito, on 27 May, 2004. The 2004 competition is being held in Ecuador and show will broadcast live from Quito on 1 June. —INTERNET

Singapore Airlines is to start taking delivery of the supersonic Airbus A380 aircraft on schedule from 2006 despite other major carriers announcing delays in their take-up dates. —INTERNET

ADB’s Office of Co-financ-
ing Operations, said that through the programme, the ADB can work through estab-
lished commercial market mechanisms to help keep con-
firmation levels in place during economically turbulent peri-
ods to avoid having to use more aggressive solutions.

The TFFP, part of a broader strategy to use fi-
nancial intermediation to promote private sector de-
velopment and, through this, economic growth, also com-
plements the ADB’s public sector loans to the banking sectors around the region.

India offers help for projects in

Sri Lanka

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tural Centre in Colombo in northern Jaffna Peninsula.
Modrica win Bosnian Cup after penalty shoot-out

SARAJEVO, 28 May — Modrica Maxima won their first Bosnian Cup with a 4-2 penalty shoot-out victory over fellow Premier League side Borac Banja Luka on Wednesday.

Modrica players kept their heads in the shoot-out, which followed after the game ended 1-1, converting the last four of their five penalties.

Modrica, who are in their first season in the top flight, enjoyed the best of possession in the first half but it was Borac who went ahead in the 40th minute with a close-range strike from Sinisa Djuric.

Modrica pressed hard in the second half, hitting the post and the bar before equalizing in the 72nd minute through Zoran Novakovic.

Both clubs came from the Serb Republic, which joined Bosnia’s Football Association two years ago, and it was the first time a team from that region have the Cup. Siroki Brijeg have already secured their first Premier League title. — MNA/Reuters

Shevchenko signs new four-year deal with Milan

MILAN, 28 May — AC Milan’s Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko, top scorer in Serie A last season, has signed a new deal with the Italian champions which ties him to the club until at least 2009.

Milan said on Wednesday that Shevchenko, whose current contract was due to run out in July 2005, had signed a four-year extension to his deal.

The daily Gazetta dello Sport on Wednesday said English club Chelsea were ready to make a serious offer for the 27-year-old former Dynamo Kiev striker who helped Milan to the “scudetto” with 24 goals.

Owen saddened by Houllier’s departure

SANTA MARGHERITA DI PULA (Italy), 28 May — England striker Michael Owen said he felt sick on hearing that Gerard Houllier had been sacked as manager of his club Liverpool.

“I don’t really want to say whether it is right or wrong but you always get that sad feeling, that sick feeling in your stomach when you see someone you know going through a bad experience,” Owen told reporters at England’s Euro 2004 training camp on Tuesday.

“I have seen (former England manager) Glenn Hoddle get sacked, having to go up on the telly, and the same with (Kevin) Keegan, you get a sick feeling but life goes on,” Owen said.

The current Liverpool boss was fired by the Premier League club on Monday, having contributed enormously to his development as a player.

“He (Houllier) joined Liverpool after the 1998 World Cup so most of my career has been under him,” the striker said. “He’s seen me grow as a player, he’s worked on different things and I would like to think I am a better all-round player as a result.”

Owen defended the Frenchman’s tactics, which were often described as excessively negative.

“He tried to go more offensive in the last year and was quoted himself as saying we would be more aggressive,” Owen said.

“Some of the teams he started were very attack minded, a lot of games this year with a back four and only Didi Hamann sitting in midfield. Some occasions it worked, some it didn’t.”

Owen said the identity of Liverpool’s new manager would not affect his future at the club, with contract negotiations still ongoing.

“The manager had nothing to do with my contract situation,” Owen said. “I am not sure when my future will be sorted. We have met on two occasions so far and there are more in the pipeline but these things take a while these days.

“I won’t do a Bosman, I wouldn’t do that to the club,” Owen added. “I am not trying to struggle every last penny out of everyone.

“I just want to be playing in some way and when we get to second in the league a few years ago. It obviously needs improvement because we are fourth and 30 points behind Arsenal. It’s a massive gap.

“The chairman is saying it may take a while to appoint a new manager so I will just sit tight. I can’t put a percentage chance on me signing a new contract.”

Barcelona to contract Brazilian player Luis Fabiano

SAO PAULO, 28 May — The vice-president of the Spanish club Barcelona, Sandro Rosell, arrived Wednesday in Sao Paulo with the players of the Brazilian national team, to try to contract striker Luis Fabiano.

Rosell will hold talks with directors of the Sao Paulo and with Fuentes’ manager.

He will remain in Brazil till next week, to see, from the tribunes of the Mineirao de Belo Horizonte stadium, the “classic” party between Argentine and Brazilian national teams, who will contend the 6th match of the South America World Cup qualifying tournament.

Luis Fabiano was summoned by coach Carlos Alberto Parreira to participate in the Brazilian team in the next two encounters of the qualifying tournament.

Luis Fabiano Clemente will be 24 years old next November 8, and was the top goal scorer, along with 19-year-old Rodrigo Fabri, of the 2002 Brazilian Championship. In 2003, he ended in the second position after scoring 29 goals, two below leader Dimba.

Boca survive scare to reach Libertadores semifinals

BUENOS AIRES, 28 May — Defending champions Boca Juniors survived a scare before going on to beat Sao Caetano on penalties and reach the Libertadores Cup semifinals on Tuesday.

Boca, who could face River Plate next if their arch-rivals overcome Colombia’s Deportivo Cali on Wednesday, came from behind to snatch a 1-1 draw at home in the quarterfinal second leg match and force penalties after a goalless first leg.

The Argentine team also missed their first effort in the shootout before winning 4-3, helped by wayward shooting from the Brazilians.

Champions three times in the last four years, Boca were banned from playing at their usually impregnable Bombonera Stadium because of problems at their Argentine championship derby with River ten days ago.

Instead, they staged the game in the stadium of neighbors Racing Club.

Boca barely looked dangerous and their only first-half chance fell to Guillermo Barros Schelotto, who fired over from close range after Sao Caetano’s Anderson Lima had inadvertently chested the ball to him.

Sao Caetano midfielder Gilberto, who hit the crossbar early on, put the visitors in front in the 58th minute with a superb effort, collecting a back-heeled pass from Fabricio Carvalho, cutting inside a defender and placing the ball into the corner.

Ronaldo ready to play against Argentina

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 May — Brazilian striker Ronaldo said Wednesday that he is physically recovered and willing to play against Argentina in next Wednesday’s 5th match of the South American World Cup qualifying tournament.

Ronaldo Luiz Nazario de Lima referred in Rio de Janeiro to the disappointing season he spent with Real Madrid, which ended in January and is currently being reviewed by his former manager Fabio Capello.

Ronaldo talked of his two friendly games played with the “caranbibo” selection against France (0-0) and Catalonia (5-2) were important for his recovery.

“For me, who was coming from some bad matches with Real Madrid and was still recovering from a muscular injury, they served as a good recovery in the face of the two important games of the play-offs,” Ronaldo said.

The Brazilian national team will first face Argentina next June 2 in Belo Horizonte, and then the Chilean team four days later.

“The match against Argentina is the most important one of the play-offs and we have to seize the advantage of playing at home to defeat them,” he said.

Ronaldo recognized that he did not go through a good period in Spain, despite becoming the season’s top goal scorer, but said he faced the crisis without problems.

“I also said that after the match against Chile he will take some holidays, and thus he apparently ratified that he does not intend to play in the America Cup.”

Substitute Antonio Barjio equalized with his first touch in the 70th minute, clinically finishing after an assist pass from Carlos Tevez.

Away goals and extra time are not used in the competition so the tie went straight to penalties.

Schelotto’s first effort for Boca was saved by Silvio Luiz but Sao Caetano missed their next two kicks.

The contest went to sudden death, where goal-keeper Roberto Abbandoncini converted for Boca and Sao Caetano’s Marcelo Mattos sent his kick high of the goal.

Portugal keen to keep coach Scolari

LISBON, 28 May — Portugal will try to keep coach Luiz Felipe Scolari if the national side plays well at Euro 2004, Portuguese Soccer Federation Chairman Gilberto Madaill said.

Portugal’s sports newspapers have that reported Scolari, who steered Brazil to the 2002 World Cup title, has been contacted by Benfica to take over as coach.

“Everything that has been said about the coach’s future is speculation,” Madaill told Record sports newspaper.

“If Portugal has a good run at Euro 2004, we are, naturally, going to do everything possible to keep him here since he feels good here.

“But if hiring him as World Cup champion was an immense job, and if he adds, as we hope, that title of European champion, it will be even more complicated to keep him.”

Portugal striker Helder Postiga said he would concentrate on Euro 2004 before considering his future in the English Premier League, following a disappointing first season at Tottenham.

“Right now I want to have maximum focus on the national side,” Postiga, who is training with the side at Obidos, told O Jogo sports newspaper.

“But if things keep going on like they did in the last season, I can’t stay there, because what I really want is to play.”

Asked about his role as back-up to Pauleta Resendes and Nuno Gomes, Postiga said, “I don’t consider myself the third option. I’m working to grab that (starting) spot.”

Portugal are in Group A at Euro 2004 with Greece, Spain and Russia. The tournament kicks off on June 12.

Portugal-Pakistan men's hockey

LISBON, May 28, 2004 — Portugal men’s hockey team beat Pakistan 3-1 in the first match of their European Championship qualifying campaign at the Sport Lisboa e Benfica Olympic Games Stadium.

Portugal dominated the game, scoring three goals in the first half.

Portugal have never won a European Championship but have qualified for the Games in every edition since 1982.

Portugal-Pakistan women's hockey

LISBON, May 28, 2004 — Portugal women’s hockey team beat Pakistan 3-2 in the first match of their European Championship qualifying campaign at the Luz Stadium.

Portugal dominated the game, scoring three goals in the first half.

Portugal have never won a European Championship but have qualified for the Games in every edition since 1982.
11:20 am 9. Happy and Educational
8:15 am 10. Headline News
9:12 am 11. National News
8:28 am 12. Poetry, A Home Industry
9:30 am 13. National News
3:25 pm 15. Vnm Naga Harvest Dance
8:28 pm 28. Petry Road, A Home Industry
3:25 pm 29. Handiworks of Pride
9:12 am 11. Kayin Traditional
9:15 am 8. National News
8:15 am 7:30 am
29-5-2004 (Saturday)
17:05 Weekly News Highlights
17:05 Weekly News Highlights
17:05 Weekly News Highlights
17:05 Weekly News Highlights
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Yangon, 28 May — Works, Industries and Information Minister Daw Yin Yin Than handed over K 25.2 million donated by Myahteindan Sayadaw to the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The money was accepted by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

The ceremony was graced by the attendance of State Ovadacarya Myint Htun, Division Ovadaçariya Agga Maha Pandita Abyaditya Agga Maha Suddhammagotrika Bhaddanta Sobanna, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha and MNA Kyaw Aung of Mandalay division.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council U Tun Yin Law, Yangon City Councilor U Aung Myo Win of Bago Division, and U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Division.

The discussions of Delegate groups of National Convention held discussions at the meeting hall of Yangon Division, this morning, attended by members of the panel of chairmen of respective groups and delegates. Next, discussions chairman U Tun Win Law gave a speech. Representative U Khin Maung Gyi of National Unity Party submitted his proposal concerning basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drawing the State Constitution. Next, discussions chairperson U Tun Yin Law gave the concluding remarks and the discussions were adjourned at 9.30 am.

Delegate of Workers Group

The discussions of Delegate groups of National Convention held discussions at the meeting hall-1 at 9 am to day. U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party presided over the discussions.

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.