Nibbanasacchikiriya ca, to realize the Nirvana; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- 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 tours townships in Magway Division**

YANGON, 22 June—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt together with Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, left Magway on 21 June morning and arrived Minbu District Hospital at 8 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Medical Superintendent Dr Kyaw Lin, specialists and nurses. The Prime Minister and party inspected the lecture hall wards, the extension of the hospital, the operation theatre, the medical stores and the lab. The Prime Minister heard reports on treatment, academic, construction and staff matters presented by the medical superintendent.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Minbu Basic Education High School where they were welcomed by members of the school board of trustees, the school head, teachers and students.

The General met district and township level authorities, departmental officials, social organizations and local people.

Chairman of Minbu District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myo Aung reported on location and area of the district, population, land resources, rainfall, water for irrigation, target for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy in 2003-2004, production, cultivation of 10 main crops, extended cultivation, boosting per-acre yield, food sufficiency of the district, livestock breeding, education, health and supply of potable water. Next, officials submitted reports on agriculture, rural development and establishment of forests. The Prime Minister attended to the needs.

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**Government laying emphasis on building economic, social and transport infrastructures and human resource development**

**Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets officials in Loikaw**

YANGON, 22 June — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win met departmental officials at the city hall in Loikaw on 20 June.

Present at the meeting were member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Aung Htee, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of Kayah State Peace and Development Council, local authorities, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, townswelders and guests.

Kayah State Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Khin Maung Latt reported on climate of the region, cultivable land, cultivation of paddy oil and kitchen crops and arrangements for cultivation of paddy of high per acre yield for 2004-2005.

(See page 9)

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**Preventive measures for Dengue Haemorrhagic fever inspected in Yangon City**

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greets departmental officials in Loikem.—MNA

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The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.
To make collective efforts for developing townships

The State Peace and Development Council, for the purpose of improving the living standard of tribal people and boosting national economic growth, has been constantly fulfilling the requirements for development of each and every region across the Union.

The Union of Myanmar being an agro-based country, has to depend on agriculture for development of its national economy. This being so, more and more dams and means for tapping underground water and river water pumping stations are being built to ensure sufficient water supply for agriculture.

State-level officials frequently travel all over the Union in order to meet the health, educational and agricultural needs of the regions they visit. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by responsible personnel, recently visited Magway, Myitkyina, Nantmauk, Yenangyaung and Pwintbyu in Magway Division and inspected the construction of hospitals and schools. While in Yenangyaung, the Prime Minister met members of township peace and development council, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsenders.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister said that administrative machinery has been systematized and focused at the central, state, division, district, township, ward and village-tract levels, that township-level departmental personnel are responsible for running the administrative machinery smoothly and that they are required to execute their duties with goodwill and work hard for the development of their respective townships.

As Nantmauk, Palin, Sanchaung, Saddan and Bokchaung dams in Myitkyina Township can supply sufficient water for agricultural purpose, great strides are being made in agriculture there. Main crops can be successfully cultivated there and the township is self-sufficient in rice and oil. However, it is necessary to extend the cultivation of these crops to help meet the rice consumption needs of other townships in the division.

We would like to call on township-level departmental personnel and local people to make strenuous efforts collectively for developing their respective regions and townships.

Cash donated for storm victims

YANGON, 22 June — The Myanmar Chinese Merit-making Association donated K 300,000 for the storm victims of Rakhine. A ceremony to hand over cash donations was held at the Myanmar Red Cross Society Building here at 11 am today.

MRCS Acting Chairman Dr Tun Sein accepted the cash donation and thanked the donor. — MNA

NC delegates entertained with films

YANGON, 22 June — The Entertainment and Welfare Subc ommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is organizing entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention daily at the Myanmar National Theatre Complex.

Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with a film entitled “Nay Ga Mwe De La” (The Moon born of the Sun) directed by Academy Maung Tin Oo and starring Kyaw Hein Min Mawgun, Tin Tin Tun and Eindra Kyaw Zin. — MNA

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

Harvesting at Hsinshweli hybrid paddy research plantation inspected

YANGON, 22 June — Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North-East Command, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife, departmental officials and local authorities, attended the ceremony to put fish into reservoirs and ponds in Lashio, northern Shan State, at 10 am on 19 June. The commander and party put fish into Humon Dam. Next, they inspected the 120-acre Hsinshweli hybrid paddy model plantation.

At 5 pm, the commander together with Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, inspected cultivation of perennial crops, 5,000 saplings of Maccadamia and 1 million saplings of Cattimore coffee. Next, the commander and party inspected cultivation of perennial crops and vegetables. After paying homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Lashio, they inspected drinking water lakes, perennial crops, growing of shady and flowery plants. They then paid homage to Buddha Images kept in Tilawaik Wizaya Htutaukpyi Pagoda.

Afterwards, they went to Shwedagon Pagoda replica Yantingaung Htutaukpyi MyoK Pagoda construction site and paid homage to eight Bronze Buddha Images. They inspected construction site of the pagoda.

On 20 June, the commander and the deputy minister arrived at Hsinshweli high yield hybrid paddy plantation of the local battalion under North-East Command. Lt-Col Myo Chi of the command reported on hybrid process of paddy strains. The commander gave a supplementary report on arrangements for production of paddy seeds to cultivate 200,000 acres of farmlands.

The commander and the deputy minister inspected thriving of paddy plantations, the nursery of Thitseint (Belleric myrobalan), groundnut, sunflower, Maccadamia and coffee and vegetable patches. The commander attended to the needs.

Next, they attended the ceremony to harvest 120 acres of Hsinshweli (F-1) hybrid summer paddy strain.

Secretary of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Shwe reported on the plan to put 1,000 acres of land under Hsinshweli (F-1) hybrid paddy and Myanmar Agriculture Service Shan State (North) Manager U Hla Gyi on cultivation and production process of the paddy strain.

The commander explained arrangements for uplift of living standard of local farmers and local food sufficiency. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein also explained efforts to be made for thriving the hybrid paddy strain.

Next, the commander and the deputy minister presented prizes to outstanding farmers. They then met the local farmers harvesting the paddy.

The commander and the deputy minister inspected winnowing of paddy and attended to the needs. — MNA
Lawyer wants Bush on witness stand over Iraq abuse

BAGHDAD, 22 June—President Bush and Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld should take the witness stand at the trial of a US soldier charged with abusing prisoners in Iraq, the soldier’s lawyer said on Monday. Policies adopted in Bush’s “war on terror” created a “ring abuse that stretched down the chain of command” to the solders at Abu Ghraib, notorious as a torture centre under Saddam Hussein.

He said his client — accused of jumping on a pile of prisoners and stomping on their feet — was instructed on a daily basis to soften Iraqi prisoners to obtain intelligence.

“Bush gave a speech declaring his war on terror and said the Geneva Convention no longer applied,” he told reporters after an impassioned address in the court room.

Bergeron said he would seek to put both Bush and Rumsfeld on the stand as witnesses.

A scheduled hearing for Staff Sergeant Ivan Frederick was postponed to July 23 after defence counsel, Gary Myers, failed to turn up in court, despite the judge’s earlier rejection of his request to represent his client by telephone to avoid the violent chaos gripping Iraq.

Afro-Asian legal consultative session opens in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 22 June—The 43rd annual session of the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Organization opened here Monday, aiming to tackle international legal issues.

“There are many Afro-Asian countries who are trapped in internal conflicts after gaining their independence, which leads to poverty and backwardness,” Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri said in her opening remarks, as quoted by The Jakarta Post online news service.

“Most of the internal conflicts appeared when the countries failed to realize the importance of welfare for their people,” she said. Such conditions, Megawati said, had created injustice that in turn could become the roots of terrorism.

“I expect the session can come up with legal recommendations to be used by Afro-Asian countries in their negotiations with developed countries,” she said.

The annual session, which ends on Fri,

SIA, ANA reach agreement on code-sharing operations

SINGAPORE, 22 June—Singapore Airlines (SIA) and All Nippon Airways (ANA) have reached a code-sharing agreement on flights between Singapore and Japan from August 1 this year.

According to a joint statement by the SIA and ANA on Monday, SIA’s two-letter code will be applied to ANA’s seven weekly flights between Singapore and Tokyo Narita, and SIA’s 42 weekly flights between Singapore and Tokyo Narita, Osaka Kansai, Nagoya and Fukuoka will carry the ANA code.

Zimbabwe to hold international travel expo

HARARE, 21 June—Zimbabwe will host an international travel expo in October at the Harare International Conference Centre with the theme being “Bringing business and people together,” according to the Sunday Mail on Sunday.

The expo is an annual event hosted by the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) and its emphasis is on stimulating tourist arrivals, showcasing Zimbabwe as a leading tourist destination, a platform to launch new products and services and an forum to network with other operators and open new business opportunities.

837 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 June—As of Monday, 21 June, 837 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 617 died as a result of hostile action and 220 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each. Since 1 May 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 699 US soldiers have died — 508 as a result of hostile action and 191 of non-hostile causes, according to the military as of Monday.

Iraq war ‘not worth fighting’

WASHINGTON, 22 June—Fifty-two per cent of Americans believe the Iraq war was not worth fighting, according to an opinion poll released today.

The joint survey by America’s ABC News and The Washington Post found seven in 10 Americans thought US casualties were “unacceptable”. And the number of those confident the war had enhanced long-term US security was down 11 points since the beginning of the year, to 51 per cent.

The poll results follow a report by a bipartisan commission investigating the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States that found no co-operative ties between the former Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda.

That was contrary to the Bush administration’s claims on going to war.

President George W Bush also insisted Baghdad had a massive arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, but no such weapons have ever been found.

The poll found that approval for the President’s handling of the US campaign against terrorism had fallen to 50 per cent.

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry was slightly ahead of him in terms of who was trusted to handle terrorism—48 per cent to 47 per cent.

Mr Bush had a 13-point lead over Mr Kerry on the same issue a month ago and a 21-point lead in April.

Evaluating Mr Bush’s overall job performance, 47 per cent of Americans polled approved and 51 per cent disapproved.

If the election was held today, Mr Kerry would have a four-point lead over Mr Bush in the three-way race including independent candidate Ralph Nader, according to the survey.

The poll found 76 per cent of Americans believed the Iraq war had damaged the US image in the rest of the world—13 points up from last year. Sixty-three per cent said it had caused long-term harm to US relations with countries that opposed the war.

S Koreans against troop dispatch to Iraq

SEOUL, 21 June—Responding to footage of a South Korean hostage in Iraq pleading for his life on Monday, many South Koreans are turning against the government’s plan to send more troops to the Middle Eastern country.

The South Korean government has reaffirmed its plan to send 3,660 troops to Iraq, with the first batch leaving in July. Their operations will mainly involve rehabilitation work rather than combat, it said.

The result was a significant reverse from a poll in October, which showed approval by 48.6 percent of respondents and opposition by 47.4 percent.

The switch of the public attitude was also shown in a survey by Yahoo.co.kr. It found 63 percent were opposed and 32 percent agreed.

The South Korean government has reaffirmed its plan to send 3,660 troops to Iraq, with the first batch leaving in July. Their operations will mainly involve rehabilitation work rather than combat, it said.
South Korean held in Iraq pleads for life

Iraqi guerillas gun down four US Marines

Baghdad, 22 June — Guerillas gunmen down four US Marines west of Baghdad on Monday, and South Korea said it would go ahead with plans to send thousands more troops to Iraq despite a threat by Iraqi kidnappers to kill South Korean seen pleading for his life on a videotape.

A US Army soldier was killed Monday and seven others were wounded in a mortar attack in north-central Baghdad, the US command said. The casualties indicated no let-up in attacks against Americans as the June 30 transfer of sovereignty draws near.

A videotape delivered to Associated Press Television News showed four Marines in uniform lying dead in what appeared to be a walled compound in Ramadi, an insurgent stronghold 60 miles west of Baghdad. One of the Americans was slumped in the corner of a wall.

The bodies had no flak vests — mandatory for US troops in contested areas — and at least one was missing a boot. One fieldpack was left open next to a body as if the attackers had looted the dead before fleeing.

The kidnappers, who identified themselves as belonging to a group led by Jordan-born militant Abu-Masuh al-Zarqaawi, gave South Korea 24 hours to meet its demand that Korean forces stay out of Iraq or "we will send you the head of this Korean."

"Korean soldiers, please get out of here," the man screamed in English, flailing his arms. "I don't want to die. I don't want to die. I know that your life is important, but my life is important."

South Korean media identified the hostage as Kim Sun-ho, 33, an employee of South Korea's Gana General Trading Co., a supplier for the US military.

South Korean government officials held an emergency meeting in Seoul on Monday, and the deputy foreign minister said the nation will not change its plan to deploy 3,000 soldiers beginning in August to assist the US-led coalition.

"There is no change in the government's spirit and position that it will send troops to Iraq to help establish peace and rebuild Iraq," Choi Young-jin said at a news conference.

Kim was abducted June 17 while making a delivery in the city of Fallujah, Choi said. South Korean information service station YTN said Kim had been in Iraq for about eight months. His distraught father, Kim Jung-sook, told the station his family last spoke to him in April.

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon said the government will campaign for the hostage's release. "The government will closely work with the US military command in Iraq and international religious and human rights organizations to get the Korean hostage released as soon as possible," Ban said in Gwangju, China, where he was attending a summit of Asian foreign ministers.

"Our message to the South Korean government and the Korean people: We first demand you withdraw your forces from our lands and not send more of your forces to this land. Otherwise, we will send to you the head of this Korean, and we will follow it by the heads of your other soldiers," the statement gave Seoul.

The statement gave Seoul 24 hours from sunset Sunday to meet its demand.
Spy chief says CIA had few Iraqi sources before war

NEW YORK, 21 June—The CIA had "less than a handful" of sources in prewar Iraq and could not get access to suspected weapons programmes, the departing head of the agency's spy service said Monday.

"As some have claimed, during the prewar period we did not have many Iraqi sources. We certainly did not have enough," James Pavitt, CIA deputy director for operations, said in a speech to the Foreign Policy Association.

"Until we put people on the ground in northern Iraq, we had less than a handful," said Pavitt, who has announced plans to retire in August. He said the CIA was unable to gain access to the "heart of Saddam's weapons programmes." But in the months before the war the agency got closer to the political and military inner circles and collected intelligence the US military found vital when it entered Iraq, he said.

The CIA's presence in Iraq is now the largest any where since the Vietnam War, Pavitt said.

The Bush administration and US intelligence agencies have been criticized for prewar allegations that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Although CIA Director George Tenet, who will resign next month, had assured President Bush there was a convincing case, no stockpiles of unconventional weapons have been found. —Internet

Syrian President says Iraq situation hurting neighbours

DAMASCUS, 21 June—The "anarchy" in Iraq is promoting terrorism and having a negative affect on neighbouring countries, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said in an interview on Wednesday.

"There is a lot of anarchy in this country and what is happening is affecting its neighbouring countries, especially Syria," Assad said in the interview given to the Chinese news agency Xinhua and reproduced in Syrian papers before beginning a five-day visit to China. He said the US-led war in Iraq had created a more favourable "climate for terrorism in the region."

"What is happening in Iraq is negatively affecting peace processes, development and the economy and is worrying to Middle Eastern countries," he said Monday.

Asked about sanctions that the United States placed on Syria last month, Assad said they were "part of a new form of international relations, where hegemony and intervention" predominated.

On 11 May, US President George W. Bush imposed sanctions on Syria for its alleged support of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction programme. Adding to existing US terrorism penalties, they include a near-blanket ban on US exports to Syria and the power to freeze Syrian assets in the United States. Assad said Syria was still working to establish a stable relationship with the United States, and that negotiations were still underway.

He also said peace negotiations between Syria and Israel had been held since 2000 because Israel rejected "every proposition in favour of peace as well as the return of (occupied) land." —MENA/Reuters

Turkish driver shot dead by US troops in Iraq

ANKARA, 21 June—A Turkish truck driver was shot dead and two other men were wounded by US troops after failing to stop at a checkpoint near Baghdad, Turkish television reported on Sunday.

A US embassy spokesman in Ankara said he could not confirm the shootings, which CNN Turk said had happened on Thursday evening.

The actual foreign direct investment was calculated at $440 billion taka ($2 billion US dollars) in 2006-2007 fiscal.

The Philippines' new leader, President Gloria Arroyo, said in a presidential address that she will work for a fresh six-year term in the 10 May elections, which showed Arroyo winning by the Congress on Sunday night, Nacionalista (N) party leader and presidential candidate Peter Joseph "Pete" Cayetano said on Monday.

"We will combine the rule of law and reconciliation process to consolidate our nation and prepare to meet tough times ahead," Arroyo said in a Presidential Palace statement.

"The Filipino people have spoken and let us give room for unity and solidarity," she said, noting that both opposition legislators and her supporters in the Congress fought a "valiant fight".

The 22-member joint congressional committee finally finished the canvass of votes Sunday night, which showed Arroyo winning by a margin of 1,123,576 votes over opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in the election.

Out of the total 176 certificates of canvass, Arroyo received 12,905,808 votes as against 11,782,232 votes for Poe. The disputed counting of votes from the May 10 polls finally concluded Sunday.

Arroyo is expected to be formally proclaimed the winner by the Congress on Thursday or Friday.

Earlier, weeks of political tension and uncertainty haunts Manila as the authorities warned against a possible plot to take advantage of the slow counting and destabilize the country.

On Sunday, powerful bombs were found and defused near the offices of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of National Defence while the final votes were being tallied. The Philippine military and police are gearing up for possible violence in the run-up to the proclamation and inauguration of a new president by June 30.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police will remain on red alert at least until Wednesday next week in anticipation of last-ditch attempts to prevent a proclamation.

"We will continue to do our best to prevent a plot to destabilize the country," said Arroyo.

"I deeply congratulate the new leader, President-elect Arroyo, for leading her country to a peaceful and successful transition to a new administration," said US President George W. Bush.

"President Arroyo also called for unity and solidarity in her presidential address, and we congratulate her for that as well. We look forward to working closely with President Arroyo and her government in the years ahead.

Doctors find SARS virus in tears of patients

LONDON, 21 June—Tears could be a means of spreading SARS but analyzing samples taken from tear ducts could also help with detecting the virus early, doctors in Singapore said on Monday.

Dr Seng Chee Loon of the National University Hospital in Singapore and his colleagues found the virus in samples taken from tear ducts they analyzed from 36 patients suspected of being infected last year.

The highly infectious respiratory illness, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), has infected more than 8,000 people in nearly 30 countries and killed nearly 800, according to the World Health Organization.

The outbreak, which first emerged in southern China in 2002, was brought under control, but public health experts fear it could re-emerge. In the Singapore study three of the eight patients who had probable SARS had the virus in their tears. All of them were newly infected. In one patient the virus was only found in the tears. —MENA/Reuters

Dhaka plans to attract $2b private investment yearly

DHAKA, 21 June—Bangladesh has set the target of attracting $1.20 billion taka ($2 billion US dollars) private investment yearly to achieve its millennium development goals.

The Financial Express Sunday quoted an official as saying that the share of private investment in the country's gross domestic product has to be enhanced from the existing 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent by the Year 2007 for achieving the millennium development goals.

Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment Mahmudur Rahman said that of the average investment growth, 80 billion taka ($1.33 billion dollars) of private investment is to be available in 2004-2005 fiscal, 120 billion taka ($1.96 billion dollars) in 2005-2006 fiscal and 160 billion taka ($2.66 billion dollars) in 2006-2007 fiscal. The actual foreign direct investment was calculated at $440 million dollars in 2003 calendar year, reflecting an increase of 31.70 per cent over the previous year's amount of $328 million dollars, he said. —MENA/Xinhua

Iraqi workers repair the old oil pipeline leading from the Basrah refinery to the al-Maithia oil terminal south of the city of Basra on 21 June, 2004. —INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 23 June, 2004 5
Iraqi officials challenge US airstrike claims

Fallujah (Iraq), 21 June — Top Iraqi security officials in the flashpoint town of Fallujah on Sunday challenged US assertions that a house destroyed by a deadly American airstrike was used by al-Qaeda fighters.

The US military said the attack on Saturday which killed 22 Iraqis was launched against a safe house for Muslim militants commanded by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, depicted by the Americans as the core of Iraq's insurgency.

But Brigadier Nouri Aboud, a member of the Fallujah Brigade entrusted by the US military with inspecting the site, said there was no evidence to suggest the site was anything but the home of an extended Iraqi family.

“We inspected the damage, we looked through the bodies of the women and children and elderly. This was a family,” he told Reuters. “There is no sign of foreigners having lived in the house. Zarqawi and his men have no presence in Fallujah.”

Brigadier-General Mark Kimmitt said in Baghdad on Saturday a “precision strike” hit the house used by fighters loyal to Zarqawi, accused by Washington of leading a bloody campaign of suicide bombings and of decapitating a US hostage last month.

“We have significant evidence that there were members of the Zarqawi network in the house,” Kimmitt said. “Security in Fallujah is crucial to efforts to stabilize Iraq as an interim government takes over when the US occupation formally ends on 30 June.

Fallujah residents say the American military uses hardline tactics that kill innocent civilians and create new enemies in Iraq’s most rebellious city.

Fallujah police chief Colonel Sadar al-Janabi criticized the US military for the strike on the house in Fallujah’s Martyr’s District, saying it was a “destabilizing move.”

Britain to investigate claims its troops mutilated Iraqi bodies

London, 22 June — The British Government is to investigate media allegations that British soldiers mutilated the bodies of Iraqis killed in a firefight last month near the southern Iraqi town of Majar al Kabir, the Ministry of Defence said on Monday.

“On 15 May, the police came and asked us to send ambulances to the British base to collect some bodies. When we brought the 22 bodies, it was a surprise to us to see some of these bodies mutilated and tortured,” the paper quoted Majid as saying.

But Majid’s judgment has been quesed by a senior doctor at the Amara General Hospital, where the bodies were first taken, the paper said.

The senior doctor, who spoke on condition of anonymity, even hinted that Majid had been under enormous pressure from angry relatives of the killed Iraqis.

Britain confirms lost communications with “seized” navy vessels

London, 22 June — The British Ministry of Defence (MoD) confirmed on Monday that it had lost contact with three small patrol boats on the Shatt al-Arab River between Iran and Iraq, following reports that Iran has seized three British Navy vessels in the area.

On 30 June, 30 miles west of Baghdad, has been relatively quiet since the Fallujah Brigade set out to pacify the town at the heart of guerrilla resistance to US troops and their Iraqi allies.

In April, hundreds of Iraqis were killed in fierce fighting between US Marines and guerrillas in Fallujah. A truce was later agreed, under which the Fallujah Brigade was put in charge of security.

Fallujah residents say the American military uses hardline tactics that kill innocent civilians and create new enemies in Iraq’s most rebellious city.

British police chief Colonel Sadar al-Janabi criticized the US military for the strike on the house in Fallujah’s Martyr’s District, saying it was a “destabilizing move.”

MNA/Reuters

Militants killed in failed Nigeria jailbreak

Bauchi (Nigeria), 21 June — Three imprisoned Islamic militants were killed and four wardsen injured in a gunfight after a jailbreak attempt in northeastern Nigeria, officials said on Sunday.

The dead inmates were members of a small Muslim militant group modelled on Afghanistan’s Taleban which staged a failed uprising in northeastern Nigeria late last year.

Deputy police commissioner Edwin Tonkor said nine militants had attempted to escape on Saturday from the medium security Potiskum Jail. Three were killed and six arrested, while four wardsen were injured, two seriously.

“They overpowered the wardens, seized the key to the prison, opened the gates and confiscated a gun from one of the wardens,” said Audu Badayo, a member of the House of Representatives from the Potiskum area of Yobe State.

“There was a shootout and as a result three were killed and the rest were captured.”

The men staged an uprising at the end of last year in five towns in Yobe State, where they torches police and government buildings.

The government sent hundreds of troops to quell the fighting, and at least 20 people died. A detained member of the group said they were fighting to overthrow the government and turn Nigeria into an Islamic state because it had sold out to the West.

MNA/Reuters

Cambodia to spend $30m to build stock market

Phnom Penh, 22 June — Cambodia’s Economy and Finance Minister Keat Chhon said Monday that Cambodia will spend 30 million US dollars to reform financial and other related sectors for the building of stock market in 2007.

“The money will be used for the prepara- tion of banking, accounting and bankruptcy laws, selecting human resources and strengthening the insurance sector,” Keat Chhon told reporters after the opening ceremony of a seminar. But he added that those laws were to be ratified by the Cambodian’s National Assembly.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Vice-President arrives in Tunis for official visit

TUNIS, 21 June — Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong arrived in Tunis Sunday afternoon to start his first official visit to the Republic of Tunisia.

Zeng was met at the Carthage Interna- tional Airport by Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi, who gave Zeng a warm welcome reception at the airport.

In a written statement issued upon his arrival, Zeng said Sino-Tunisian friend- ship is deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples although the two countries are far away in distance.

The two nations have expanded coop- eration in different fields with remarkable achievements since the establishment of diplomatic relations 40 years ago, he said, adding that deepening Sino-Tunisian friendly cooperative ties is conducive to the fundamental interests of the two peo-
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

To promote the education standard of the nation, new school buildings are being built across the country. Photo shows new school building of Indaing Basic Education High School, Hlegu Township, Yangon Division. — MNA

Pyinbonyi dam built in Bago Township is supplying water to farmland.—IPRD

Wankaung bridge built in Kengtung Township, Shan State (East).—PBANRDA

Earth road linking Pyu and Bangluang village is being upgraded, gravelled in Pyu Township. — PBANRDA

A rural house built by Development Affairs Department in Nyaungwaing village in Kyauktan Township, Yangon Division.—PBANRDA

Pyinbonyi dam built in Bago Township is supplying water to farmland.—IPRD
Measures for observing Myanmar Women’s Day coordinated

YANGON, 22 June—The work coordination meeting to hold Myanmar Women’s Day, which will fall on 3 July, 2004, was held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation on Thanlwin Road, this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were President of Myanmar Women’s Day Organizing Work Committee President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General, members of work groups, advisors and invited guests.

President of MWA F Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivered an opening address. Next, the heads of the groups of tree planting, for publishing women’s affairs anniversary magazine 2004, for organizing mode of dress show and education through media reported on implementation of tasks. Presidents, vice-presidents and members of the work committees gave supplementary reports. Then, leaders of Myanmar Women’s Day Organizing supporting groups reported on the preparatory work. Next, those attending the meeting discussed related matters and made decisions.

The meeting ended after concluding remarks of MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe. — MNA

Cash and kind donated to hail Myanmar Women’s Day

YANGON, 22 June—To hail Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July, a ceremony to donate cash and kind by wellwishers was held in the meeting hall of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation this morning, attended by MWA F President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

Also present on the occasion were MWA F Vice-Presidents Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win and Central Executive Committee members.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented Dr Daw May May Yi K 100,000 donated by MWA F Patron Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife and K 100,000 donated by Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw Hla Min and wife.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted K 300,000 donated by members of the State Peace and Development Council. Then, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted K 2 million donated by YCDC, K 1.5 million by U Tun Myint and Daw Aye Aye Nyunt of Kyetshasoon Biriani; K 1 million each by U Zaw Win of Aroyun1 Construction, U Tin San of ACE Construction and U Maung Wait and family; two Olympia typewriters worth K 876,000 by Tin San of ACE Construction and U Maung Wait and family; two Olympia typewriters worth K 876,000 by Than Oo of MSC Construction, U Maung Muang of Swewgaba Construction, U Yan Win of AI Construction, U Naw Aung of Aung Chantha Construction and Service Co and U Shein Win of Tailan Construction; K 300,000 each by U Than Lwin and Daw Myint Myint Zaw and U Sein Thit of Tostaco Co, and 600 longyiis worth K 480,000 by Agga Maha Thiri Thudama Thiendi Daw Hse and certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers.

Daw Khin Lay Thet accepted K 300,000 donated by U Soe Myint of FMI and K 200,000 each by Dr Khin Shwe of Zaygaba Co, U Nyan Thit Hlaing of New Generation Construction, U Tun Win of TA Construction and U Maung Maung Gyi of Maung Maung Gyi Construction.

Daw Than Than Nwe also accepted K 380,000 donated by other wellwishers. Later, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe thanked the donors. Today’s donations totalled K 13,336,000. — MNA

$3,000,000 donated by wives of State Peace and Development Council members through Vice-President Daw Khin Win Shwe.

The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

Cash and kind donated to hail Myanmar Women’s Day

YANGON, 22 June—To hail Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July, a ceremony to donate cash and kind by wellwishers was held in the meeting hall of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation this morning, attended by MWA F President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

Also present on the occasion were MWA F Vice-Presidents Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win and Central Executive Committee members.

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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 every day 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

5.8058 kilos heroin seized in Lashio

YANGON, 22 June—A combined team including members of local intelligence unit, Special Anti-Drug Squad, Myanmar Police Force and local nationals, acting on a tip-off, searched the house of Daw Nan Nyo of No. 1, Tharaphi Street, Region-2, Ward-8, Lashio, on 10 June and arrested her sons Chein Yeik and Laja together with 5.8058 kilos of heroin.

Action is being taken against the accused by the police station concerned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

MNA

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Coord meeting for organizing Fourth World Buddhist Summit held

YANGON, 22 June — A coordination meeting of the Work Committee, Decoration Subcommittee and Information Subcommittee for organizing the Fourth World Buddhist Summit took place in Maha Pasana Cave at Kaba Aye Hill here this morning with an address by Work Committee Chairman Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Preparatory tasks for holding the summit to be held here in December up to international standard were carried out by organizing subcommittee and 70 per cent has been completed, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung said.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko briefed them on tasks being carried out and future plans. Decoration Subcommittee Chairman Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Information Subcommittee Chairman Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein also gave instructions on sectoral tasks undertaken and needs.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the work committee chairman.

Govt laying emphasis …

(from page 1)

Next, Kayah State Education Officer U Win Tin reported on number of schools and strength of teachers, ratio of students and teachers, opening of multimedia teaching centres, pass rate of the matriculation examination and arrangements for enrollment of school-age children. Next, Head of Kayah State Health Department Dr Khin Maung Win reported on hospitals, station hospitals and health care services provided for rural people. Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Col Myint Oo reported on education, health and transport sectors of the region, measures undertaken for development of border areas and national races, use of telephone, construction of TV relay stations for Myawady TV and regional development. In his discussions, the Secretary-1 said he and his party made trips to townships in Kayah State to promote regional development with greater momentum. There is sparse population in Kayah State and there are rich land resources left to boost agricultural production. People in the region engaged in agriculture as their main livelihood, he said. Economic progress and development of Kayah State mainly relies on agricultural sector because of the local people’s skill, rich land resources and fair climate, he added. The Union is rich in land and water resources and the majority of the people depend on agriculture. That is why economic progress is based on agricultural sector, he said. He said the government has been promoting agriculture after making investments in the sector adding that net cultivation acreage of the country and acres for double and mixed cropping increased considerably. With the increase in cultivation acreage, rural and other economic sectors developed. Per capita income of the people living in states and divisions is on the increase.

He said the government is implementing border areas development special project, rural development tasks and projects on major regions for equitable development of the states and divisions. By doing so, universities and colleges have emerged in Kayah State, he added. He said universities and colleges were opened for producing educated persons and basic education schools were also opened. Sufficient number of intellectuals and intelligentsia are needed for development of the State. Therefore, the government is laying emphasis on building not only economic, social and transport infrastructures but also human resource development. He said basic infrastructures needed for national and regional development had been established to the most possible degree and concerted efforts are to be made for the emergence of a new modern and developed nation in combination with prevalence of peace and tranquillity and momentum of national consolidation in the nation. Under such circumstances, it is incumbent upon the national people living in Kayah State to make relentless efforts together with the government for the region to be on a par with other states and divisions in terms of development. Only when there prevail peace and tranquility in Kayah State will there be progress in the region based on knowledge and education. It is imperative for the Union including Kayah State to see rapid progress to keep pace with changes and developments in the world. Development and prevalence of peace and tranquility in the region are interrelated and the government, on its part, is making efforts day in and day out with goodwill for ensuring development and prevalence of peace and tranquility in the region. The seven-point road map of the State has been laid down for the emergence of a modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Accordingly, the National Convention is being held in accord with the future political programmes. The entire national people are to actively participate in successful realization of the seven-point political road map of the State by doing their bit with Union Spirit. With integrated and well-coordinated efforts, the entire national people will be able to properly and rapidly establish a democratic society in conformity with Myanmar environment.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented TVs, VCRs and computers to the respective school heads of Nos 1.2, 3 and 4 and Lawpaw state high schools and 500 dozen of exercise books for Lokaw state high schools to the township educational officer. The Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted those present at the meeting. The Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Loilem where they were welcomed by Col Thaung Aye of Loilem Station and officials of Loilem district and township. The Secretary-1 and party arrived at Mongnaw on 21 June. They were welcomed there by Col Han Myint of Mongnaw Station, Shan State Commissioner U Sein Thin, Police Col Thura Tin Hla of Shan State Police Force, departmental officials and Tatmadawmen.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party went to Mongnaw basic education high school and met officials, teachers and town elders there. Township Officer U Mg Mg Lwin of Mongnaw General Administration Department and officials reported on the tasks and requirements of the township and the commander gave a supplementary report. Secretary-1 then fulfilled the requirements for education, health, transport, hydro-electric power and others. He gave instructions on working energetically for regional development and cooperation with local people. Then, the Secretary-1 greeted those present. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the site chosen for new school building, people’s hospital and toured Mongnaw.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, accompanied by officials, inspected areas of Forest Department in Mongnaw. Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Aung Myo Min met officials concerned and teachers. Departmental heads also inspected respective departments and fulfilled the requirements. The Secretary-1 and party left Mongnaw for Heho and arrived back here in the afternoon. — MNA

The price presentation ceremony for 2004 Olympic Day Commemorative Badminton Tournament was held at YMCA on 22-6-2004. President of Myanmar Badminton Federation U Maung Maung Swe, Executive U Mya Thaung and officials seen together with winners. — SMN
New disease appears in northern Iraqi farms

BAGHDAD, 21 June—Subhi Al Jumaily, undersecretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, has announced that a new disease has appeared in some farms of the northern area of Iraq that was never seen before, Al Masirah newspaper reported on Saturday.

The disease caused serious damage to such plants as eggplants, potatoes, tomatoes and pepper.

Bringing crops from neighbouring countries without conducting proper tests in border centres is the reason behind the spread of such a disease, Al Jumaily was quoted as saying. The ministry had issued an order to consider the regions of Al Shikhan in Mosul, 400 kilometers north of Baghdad, and Qarouk in Dibosh, 460-kilometer north of Baghdad, as diseased regions, he said.

The ministry forbade crops coming from these two areas from entering into the rest of Iraqi cities until effective means were found to fight and eliminate this insect, which is called Colorado potato, he added. Al Jumaily pointed out that this insect appeared for the first time in 1998 within exported crops that were denied permission to enter at the Rabea border point in northern Iraq.

The disease infected eight million square metres in America and 6 million square metres in Europe, and the ministry is keen to fight the disease in northern Iraq, Al Jumaily said.

The Union of Myanmar International Co-operative Day

3 July 2004

Well wishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 22 June—The Development Affairs Committees under the depend upon agriculture 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 four-inch 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 & 253888), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagyin Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Mayagew Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-5057).

Saudi Arabia licenses 2,247 projects in first quarter of 2004

ABU DHABI, 21 June—The Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) has licensed a total of 2,247 projects worth 15.33 billion US dollars in the first quarter of this year, an Arabian web site MENAFN.com reported on Saturday.

According to SAGIA’s licensing figures, there were 919 industrial projects, 1,323 non-industrial ventures and five agricultural projects.

Among the projects, two are an Anglo-American joint venture, the Environmental Protection Systems, and Tata Power Company of India which has entered into a joint venture with the Al-Zamil Group.

The kingdom’s water sector had attracted a British investor with Environment and Water Chemicals and Systems turning AES Arabia into a 100-per-cent foreign investment company.

The deal coincided with the construction of a new manufacturing plant with an investment of 2.66 million US dollars, bringing the total investment of the company to around 5.33 million dollars.

US, Ancom agree on customs reduction

LIMA, 21 June—Three members of the Andean Community (Ancom) and the United States agreed on the terms of customs reduction on industrial and agricultural products, the Peruvian media reported on Saturday.

The agreement was reached during the second round of negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) held in the United States between the country and three Ancom members of Peru, Colombia and Ecuador, a spokesman for the Peruvian delegation was quoted as saying.

The term of customs reduction ranged from five to 10 years on different products.

The Peruvian delegation, after returning from the United States, said it will defend the scheme of the free zones and the topic’s inclusion in the negotiation.

On the intellectual property, the delegation put forward the protection of biological diversity, the genetic resources and the traditional knowledge.

It also voiced concerns over the interests of those small- and medium-sized companies.

The Ancom groups Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.—MNA/Xinhua

Spain demanding withdrawal of forces from Iraq, Palestine

MADRID, 21 June—About 3,500 demonstrators on Saturday gathered in the centre of the Spanish city of Barcelona, demanding the withdrawal of the occupation forces from Iraq and Palestine.

The protest, called by the organization Atream La Guerra, demanded an immediate return of political and economic sovereignty to the people of Iraq and Palestine, the Urban Guard said.

During the protest, demonstrators shouted shout slogans against the governments of US President George W Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

A spokesman for Atream La Guerra, Francesc Tubau, read a statement denouncing the United Nations (UN) resolution passed on June 8, for it “legitimizes the political and military power of the United States in Iraq.”

The protest was held ahead of the planned June 30 handover of power by the United States to the Iraqi Government.

Portugal confirms death of national in Iraq

LISBON, 21 June—The Portuguese Foreign Ministry confirmed Saturday the death of the Portuguese citizen Luis Manuel Pires, who was confirmed as bomber in south Iraq.

The ministry’s Consular Affairs and Portuguese Communities Deparment Director General Simaoes Bento said that the death of the Portuguese citizen was communicated by the British Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq’s capital.

The blast took place near the city of Barrora, where the British troops were deployed.

Montero, who was working as a security guard for the Petroleum Products Corporation, was not registered in the local Portuguese Embassy, and thus it will be hard to contact his family, the Portuguese official said.—MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

20th Meeting of ASEAN National Tourism Organizations

5th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea National Tourism Organizations

3rd ASEAN-India Tourism Consultations

23rd Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Marketing

11th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment

11th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development

Taunggyi, Union of Myanmar

30 June — 1 July, 2004

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 23 June, 2004 11
Qinghai-Tibet railway will help improve ecology

LHASA, 21 June — The construction of the Qinghai-Tibet railway will not only change the economic and social landscapes in the Tibet Autonomous Region, western China, but will also bring an improvement in the ecological picture there, some experts hold.

The ecological improvement, or in some ways, reduction in ecological deterioration, will hinge upon a better consumption structure of the local people, said Wang Taifu, economist with the Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences, after doing research on how the railroad would impact social progress in the region.

“The railway builders are paying special attention to the ecological conservation requirements along the road,” said Wang.

“Meanwhile, completion of the railway will upgrade the transportation conditions in Tibet significantly and change profoundly the current consumption structure of both urban and rural dwellers in the region, thus conserving the fragile local ecological environment,” Wang argued.

“It is reported that inhabitants of the rural areas, which account for about 85 per cent of Tibet’s total area, usually burn dried cow dung, firewood, straw, pine branches and thorns as domestic fuels.

“No matter if it is cow dung, or bush or mountainous naked plants that are burned as fuels, it will impose threats to the ecological environment,” Wang said.

When the railway starts operation, the regional transport cost will be reduced by a big margin. Areas within a 400-kilometre reach from any station of the railroad may use coal and natural gas instead of animal manure and firewood. This will improve the living standards of the plateau dwellers, and at the same time, reduce their reliance on eco-fuels and subsequently mitigate damages to the local ecological environment, according to Wang.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION
CHAMPAGNE MOET & CHANDON A Company incorporated in France of 20, avenue de Champagne 51200 EPERNAY - FRANCE is the Owner of the following Trade Mark—

DOM PERIGNON
Reg. No. 4647/1998
Reg. No. 590/2004
in respect of “champagne raw or manufactured, cigars, cigarillos, cigarettes, smok-er’s articles; matches, match boxes.”

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 23 June 2004

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
Invitation to sealed tender
1. Sealed tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Major Operation Theatre Equipments, Orthopaedic Instrument Implantation Sets, Dental Maxillo Facial Instruments, Auto Clave (Dental) and Suction Machine (Dental) which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats—

Sr. No Tender No. Description Quantity
1. 10(T)1/MR (CMO) Major Operation Theatre Equipment 1-Lot 2004-2005
2. 2 Orthopaedic Instrument Implantation Sets 1-Lot 2004-2005
3. 3 Dental Maxillo Facial Instruments 1-Lot 2005
4. 4 Auto Clave (Dental) 1-No 2004-2005
5. 5 Suction Machine (Dental) 1-No 2004-2005

Closing Date- 22.7.2004 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours.
Opening Date- 22.7.2004 (Thursday) (14:00) Hours.

Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 22.6.2004 during the office hours.

For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602,605, 612

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon

UAE denies reports on ExxonMobil’s deal
ABU DHABI, 22 June — The Abu Dhabi Supreme Petroleum Council (SPC) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has denied reports that oil giant ExxonMobil had won the contract to develop the offshore oilfields of Upper Zakum, the official WAM news agency reported Monday.

“The report is unfounded and baseless. The issue is still subject to competition between three firms, namely Shell, BP and ExxonMobil,” the SPC was quoted as saying on Sunday. —MNA/Xinhua

Drug-resistant TB found in NZ

WELLINGTON, 22 June — A deadly infectious disease sweeping Eastern Europe and Central Asia has been identified in New Zealand and statistics suggest conditions here could help it spread, The Dominion Post reported Monday.

The World Health Organization issued a public health warning after a report found a worrying increase in cases of tuberculosis resistant to the two medicines most commonly used to treat it, Isoniazid and Rifampicin.

It is estimated that there are 300,000 new cases of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis worldwide each year. Without the right drugs, MDR-TB is untreatable and, in most cases, fatal.

New Zealand Health Ministry figures show this country has had 16 cases of MDR-TB since 1995, when monitoring began.

TB cases in New Zealand have increased by 20 per cent in the past four years. Last year, about one in 10 cases were resistant to Isoniazid, raising concerns that the number of MDR cases could rise in the future.

Health Ministry spokesman Andrea Forde was quoted as saying MDR-TB was an issue for all health authorities but was mostly preventable. Most cases occurred because patients did not take their medicines properly, or did not complete the course of medicines.

Environmental Science and Research microbiologist Tim Blackmore, however, said that MDR-TB rates were “extraordinarily low” in New Zealand and most cases were imported — brought in by immigrants in recent years.

Though most resistant TB was brought in from overseas, Blackmore did not believe more effective screening was needed. TB could be dormant for years and might not show up till activated.

Under existing rules, anyone coming to New Zealand for more than two years must have a medical and chest X-ray.

Meteorite to be displayed around New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 22 June — The meteorite that crashed last weekend through a house in Auckland, New Zealand, is likely to be made into a travelling showpiece, the National Radio reported Monday.

The Auckland couple Phil and Brenda Archer have rejected offers of up to 20,000 US dollars for the 1.3-kilo grapefruit-sized rock that crashed through the roof of their Ellerslie home last Saturday morning.

They will meet two representatives from Wellington’s Te Papa Museum next week on how to make a professional display with the meteorite.

Phil Archer said the display was likely to include the couch and ceiling which were damaged by the rock’s entry into their home.

The walls and carpet in the lounge where the rock crashed were removed because of damage, he said.

The meteorite is a rare form of stony meteorite, which is believed to be 4.5 billion years old.

The Archers have been bound by their insurance company for the damage.

He said they rejected bids for the 4.5-billion-year-old rock.

The Archers, who are retired and own real estate, said they might sell the rock once it had been shown around New Zealand.

The couple have received calls from potential buyers in the United States, Britain and Israel.

More health care funding sources under study in HK

HONG KONG, June 22 — Funding other than tax is necessary to sustain Hong Kong’s high standard of public health care, a spokesman for Hong Kong Health, Welfare and Food Bureau said Sunday.

Research into a medical savings scheme has found heavy reliance on general taxation to finance the healthcare system could render it vulnerable in times of economic and fiscal difficulty, the spokesman noted.

General taxation accounts for more than 50 per cent of the total funding sources available to Hong Kong’s healthcare system.

Although it is committed to supporting a public healthcare system with funds mainly from taxation, noted the bureau, to have a sustainable system, other sources of funding, such as a medical savings scheme, should be explored as supplementary components.

The study found that there is no single best combination of funding sources which can meet the needs of the economy, as each must take into account its own situation, such as the level of healthcare subsidies, rate of taxation, economic development and demographic trends, in drawing up an action plan.

The bureau said it hopes to garner more public opinion on the issue by releasing the findings. — MNA/Xinhua
**Hellenic chief wanted in match-fixing scandal**

JOHANNESBURG, 22 June—South African police are searching for the head of the country’s premier soccer league club Hellenic after nine referees were arrested following match-fixing allegations, police said on Sunday.

Hellenic team chief DumiSani Ndlou and other officials were being sought as part of the investigation dubbed “Operation Dribble”, police spokeswoman Sally de Beer said.

“There is a charge of intimidation. We have got a warrant of arrest for him and we are looking for him,” she said.

De Beer said more arrests were expected later on Sunday.

“We are still busy in two provinces at the moment, so we’re hoping to make more arrests,” she said.

The referees in custody have been charged with bribery and are to appear in a Johannesburg court on Monday and Tuesday.

A task team headed by provincial police commissioner, Africa Keamo, and consisting of several detectives, began the investigation two months ago at the request of the South African Football Association President Molefi Oliphant.—MNA/Xinhua

**Super Rooney fires England through**

LISBON, 22 June—Teenager Wayne Rooney fired England to a 4-2 comeback win over Croatia and a place in the Euro 2004 quarterfinals against hosts Portugal after another astonishing two-goal performance on Monday.

The same trio did the damage with Owen feeding the ball wide for Scholes who touched it on for Rooney to crash in an unstoppable 22-metre shot past Butina and put England ahead.

Owen had a glorious chance to add to his four-match goal drought just after the restart, put clean through by Rooney only for his lob over the keeper to sail over the bar. Rooney made no mistake when Owen put him through on goal but could only half volley and it was only fitting for the teenager providing the assist for Scholes’ equalizer, nodding the ball on after a Michael Owen effort had been blocked.

Rooney had not finished with the Croatians yet though.

**New footage shows Frei spitting**

LISBON, 22 June—Just hours after Switzerland’s Alexander Frei was cleared by UEFA, new television footage showed the spitter at England midfielder Steven Gerrard during a Euro 2004 match last week.

Frei, who had strongly denied any wrongdoing, was let off by a UEFA disciplinary commission for lack of evidence on Sunday. However, footage shown by Swiss television showed Gerrard in the later in the day showed Frei brushing past Gerrard and spitting at the back of his neck.

Gerrard wipes the back of his neck while turning to glare at Frei who walks away trying to look innocent.

“We are looking at it and will consider whether we should open an investigation, ” UEFA spokesman William Gaillard said.

Italy forward Francesco Totti was banned for three matches last week for spitting at a Denmark player during a Group C match.

Switzerland played their final Group B game against France on Monday. Earlier Gaillard said Frei had been accused of spitting at two England players — captain David Beckham and Gerrard.

**Olic cleared after failing drugs test**

LISBON, 22 June—Croatia striker Ivica Olic tested positive for a banned substance during the European Championship but will be allowed to continue playing, UEFA said on Sunday.

Olic tested positive for methylprednisolone after his team’s Group B match against France on Thursday in which he came on as a 73rd-minute substitute.

UEFA’s control and disciplinary committee decided, however, that Olic had not done anything wrong and cleared him to continue playing.

Olic suffered a rib injury during a warm-up against Denmark on June 5 and was given a pain-killing drug which contained methylprednisolone.

The Croatian Football Federation (HNS) was fined 6,600 euros for failing to comply with the correct doping procedures. The HNS has three days to appeal against the fine.—MNA/Reuters

**Late Henry double sends France through**

COSIMIA (Portugal), 22 June— Holders France secured a safe passage to the Euro 2004 quarterfinals when they overcame stubborn Swiss resistance to win their last Group B match 3-1 on Monday.

Thierry Henry’s late double carried the French to victory after Switzerland had levelled Zinedine Zidane’s early goal through 18-year-old striker Johann Vonlanthen, who became the youngest scorer in the tournament’s history.

France topped the group and will play Greece in the quarterfinals on Friday.

The French took the lead after 20 minutes when captain Zidane rose virtually unchallenged at the near post to head in a right flank corner from Robert Pires. It was the playmaker’s third goal of the tournament.

For a spell France threatened to add a second. Bixente Lizarraga’s half-volley was deflected wide and Henry missed a decent chance from a Willy Sagnol cross by heading past the post.

Switzerland, fielding five in midfield in a reshaped team, equalized in the 26th minute, Vonlanthen latching on to a shrewdly-angled through from Ricardo Cabanas and sliding a low diagonal shot beyond Fabien Barthez inside the far post.

Vonlanthen, at 18 years and four months, was three months younger than England’s Wayne Rooney who scored against Switzerland last Thursday.

It was deserved reward for the Swiss for spells of good, controlled possession football, but they collected the first half’s only yellow card when Hakain Yakini was cautioned for shirt-tugging on Pires.

Raphael Wicky followed him into the referee’s notebook in the second half for a foul on substitute William Gallas as the Swiss defended their position resolutely. Henry was also cautioned for diving.

France, pressing forward, lacked guile and flair. They reasserted themselves after the break, pressing forward, lacking guile and flair. And when they did, they collected the first half’s only yellow card when Hakain Yakini was cautioned for shirt-tugging on Pires.

**Evans wants more from Rooney**

LONDON, 22 June—Everton chairman Bill Kenwright says Wayne Rooney is now worth 50 million pounds in the transfer market after the 18-year-old striker’s sparkling Euro 2004 performances for England.

“(Manager) David Moyes and I agreed Wayne has to be a 50-million-pound player now,” Kenwright was quoted as saying in Sunday’s News of the World newspaper.

“We do smile about what Wayne is worth but, again, we also talk about who’s going to be alongside him with us next season.

“I would turn down any bid for him and say: ‘Thank you very much, what else do you want to talk about?’”

Rooney gave the France rearguard a torrid time despite England’s 2-1 defeat at the hands of the defending champions in their opening Group B match at Euro 2004 in Portugal.

The teenager then became the youngest scorer at a European Championship when he put two goals in England’s second match, a 3-0 victory over Switzerland. England play their final Group B tie against Croatia in Lisbon on Monday.—MNA/Reuters

**French forward Thierry Henry(R) jumps to head off the ball next to Swiss defender Patrick Muller during their Euro 2004 group B football match at the Estadio da Luz Stadium in Lisbon, 21 June, 2004.** —INTERNET

**England’s Frank Lampard (R) scores against Croatia in their Euro 2004 Group B soccer match at the Luz Stadium in Lisbon, on 21 June, 2004.** —INTERNET

**France’s Zinedine Zidane (R) controls the ball as Switzerland’s Ricardo Cabanas watches during their Euro 2004 Group B soccer match at the Estadio da Luz Stadium in Lisbon, 21 June, 2004.** —INTERNET

**England’s Steven Gerrard (R) is fouled by Totti during their Euro 2004 Group C match at the Luz Stadium in Lisbon, on 21 June, 2004.** —INTERNET
Rainfall on 22-6-2004
— 0.35 inch at Yangon Airport
0.79 inch at Kabata-Aye and
— 0.24 inch at central Yangon. Total rain-
since 1-1-2004 was 41.26 inches at
Yangon Airport and 39.33 inches at Kab-
ata-Aye and 44.06 inches at central Yangon.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 22 June, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagar Division, rain has been scattered in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Mon States, upper Sagar, Mandaly, Magway, Yangon, Ayeawyady, Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagar, Yangon and Bago Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall re-
corded were Hmawbi (4.92 inches), Hkamti (4.21 inches), Hpah (4.02 inches), Machanbaw (3.90 inches), Zunngau (3.39 inches), Hintadao (2.80 inches) and Tharawady (2.56 inches).

Maximum temperature on 21-6-2004 was 26.5°C (80°F). Minimum temperature on 22-6-2004 was 19.5°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 h MST on 22-6-2004 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 21-6-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 22-6-2004 was 10mm (0.35 inch) at Yangon Airport, 20mm (0.79 inch) at Kabata-Aye and 5mm (0.20 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1048mm (41.26 inches) at Yangon Airport and 999mm (39.33 inches) at Kabata-Aye and 1112mm (44.06 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabata-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at 09:25 h MST on 22-6-2004.

Bay interference: Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of the 23-6-2004: Rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Kayah, Chin, Kachin States, upper Sagar and Yangon Divi-
sions, scattered in Shan, Mon, Kayin States, Ayeawyady, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and isolated in the remain-
ing areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Rakhine States and upper Sagar Division.

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Gulf of Mottama, Deltic and Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of general decrease in rain in southern Myanmar areas. Fore-
cast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-6-2004: Some rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-6-
2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood warning (issued at 12:30 h MST on 22-6-04) According to the flood monitoring stations today, the water level of Chindwin River at Hkamti is (113)cm. It may reach its danger level of (136) cm during the next 48 hrs commencing noon today.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Iranian Ambassador

YANGON, 22 June — On behalf of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Myanmar Mr Rasoul Eslami, who had completed his tour of duty, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha this evening.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. — MNA

National Convention delegates group of State service personnel meets

YANGON, 22 June — The coordination meeting of the panel of chairmen of delegates group of State service personnel was held in Meeting Hall 7 of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hnawby Township, Yangon Division, at 9 am today.

The meeting was presided over by U Ko Ko Kyaw of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with U Myat Ko of the Ministry of Home Affairs and U Hla Tin of the Ministry of Commerce as members of the panel of chairmen.

Deputy Director U Htay Win of working group-9 of National Convention Convention Work Committee acted as master of ceremonies with Assistant Director U Htain Min as joint-master of ceremonies.

The master of ceremonies declared the start of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman as the number of delegates attending the meeting stood at 107 out of 109 accounting for 98.87 per cent.

Next, proposals of delegates group of State service personnel to be submitted to the National Convention plenary session concerning basic detailed principles to be laid down for the sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors were read.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected preventive measures for dengue haemorrhagic fever being taken by departmental officials, social organizations and local people in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

On arrival at South Okkalapa Township Development Committee Office, they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, departmental heads, No 2, 6, South Okkalapa Township.

This raining season, Yangon Division Health Committee in cooperation with YCDC and Malaria Control Group carried out such preventive measures for dengue haemorrhagic fever as health educative talks and sanitation tasks at schools, wards and nurseries.

They inspected dredging of the drains using heavy machinery on both sides of Manaung Road for proper drainage and repair of culverts.

Afterwards, they inspected sanitation in drains in Mingala Taung-nyunt Township and gave the necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Minister inspects construction of Ponnyataung Hill tunnel

YANGON, 22 June — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, together with officials concerned, inspected the construction site of Ponnyataung Hill tunnel of the Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay railroad on 19 June. He fulfilled requirements and urged the personnel concerned to make efforts for completing the works as scheduled.

On 20 June, the minister and party arrived Monywa railway station of the Ponnyataung Hill tunnel construction project. Together with Deputy Commander of North-West Command Col Tin Maung Ohn, the minister inspected the construction of the tunnel from Monywa bypass and bridges along the route. — MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.