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Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Argentine President

YANGON, 25 May — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Nestor Carlos Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Argentina which falls on 25 May 2004. — MNA

Work coordination meeting of National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee held

YANGON, 24 May—A work coordination meeting of the National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee was held at Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Present at the meeting were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, Chairman of Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Chairman of Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members.

Joint Secretary of the commission Director-General of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as master of ceremonies.

Chairman of the commission Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein discussed matters on publication of clarifications by Work Committee at the National Convention to delegates, registration of the delegates and arrangements for their convenience.

Next, Secretary of the commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported on leave of the delegates for unavoidable circumstances and administration of the

delegates. Chairman of Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe reported on compilation of papers to be discussed group-wise. Chairman of Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung reported on food and accommodation for the delegates and staff.

Next, those present put suggestions on success of the National Convention.

Chairman of the commission Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein fulfilled the requirements and the meeting came to a close with the conclusion remark by the Chairman of the commission. — MNA

Buddha Dhamma Diploma presenting ceremony

YANGON, 24 May — The fifth ceremony to present diploma in Buddha Dhamma and to welcome freshers for 2004-05 academic year will be held at International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University of the Ministry of Religious Affairs on 1 June. Rehearsal will be held on 28 May and students are to report to the meditation hall of ITBMU without fail. — MNA

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, 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



Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein makes a speech at work coordination meeting of NCCC, Work Committee and Management Committee. — MNA

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22,380

Fish breeding ponds in Ayeyawady Division inspected

YANGON, 24 May — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on 22 May morning inspected Pathwe fish hatchery of the Fisheries Department in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Division, which will hatch over 11 million of fingerlings per year.

In the afternoon, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and the minister also saw over progress of the digging of 586 acres of fish ponds in Zephyukwin and Thephyu villages, Thabaung

Township.

Moreover, they inspected freshwater fish ponds of Yuzana group in Mingon Village and fish ponds in Uto Village.

The commander and the minister yesterday morning went to cold storage factory of Yuzana Group and 10-ton feedstuff factory and gave necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, the minister inspected progress of the digging of 1,771 acres of fish ponds of the Union Solidarity and Development Association in Pantanaw Township.

MNA

Home Affairs Minister inspects police stations in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 24 May — Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing inspected police stations, General Administration Departments, Bureau of Special Investigation and prisons Departments in Hinthada, Patheingyi and Maubin districts in Ayeyawady Division from 22 to 23 May.

On 22 May, the minister met with officials of the departments under the ministry in Nyaungdon Township and gave instructions.

Minister Col Tin Hlaing yesterday saw over police stations and staff quarters in Laymyathna Township and Yekyi Township and gave necessary instructions.

Later, the minister, met with departmental staff, members of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Union Solidarity and Development Association, Red Cross and Fire Brigade and War Veterans Organization totalling 500 at Yekyi Township Hall and urged them to actively participate in community welfare activities.

During his tour, the minister donated a set of computer to Yekyi Township USDA, cash and exercise books to township USDA, women affairs organizing committee and magazines and books for the library in the township. — MNA

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 25 May, 2004

Raise momentum of border areas development tasks

At the meeting of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held on 29 March, 2004, Chairman of the Central Committee Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that development of some border areas is greater than that of the interior regions, that efforts are to be made for maintaining the momentum of development, that there are tasks that have already been carried out to a considerable extent whereas there are still tasks to be carried out, that strenuous and continued efforts are to be made in order not to lose momentum, that steps will have to be taken for improvement of the living standard of local people and for alleviating poverty and that arrangements are to be made for human resource development to ensure constant development of border areas.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, it is necessary to make continued efforts for the successful realization of development tasks for border areas and national races, aimed at consolidating the national unity.

Under the leadership of and with the assistance of the government and the active participation and cooperation of the national race leaders and local people, villages in the border regions have become modern cities with enormous farms during the past 14 years.

Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the coordination meeting 3/2004 of the work committee held at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar on 22 May and delivered an address on the occasion. In his address, he said that the National Convention is in progress for perpetuation of the Union and for formulation of stable, better foundations and all national races are attending the Convention. Discussions on the future of national races indicate consolidation of national solidarity. It is believed that the National Convention will be a success, he added.

We believe that parallel development of border areas and other regions across the Union will ensure stronger national unity and perpetuation of the Union.

Emerald Lake

- * With urged to bloom amidst the lake
In great expectation, Kumudra
- * Banishing the darkness of night
The moon 'Sanda' comes up
- * Will the coming of the breeze
The silvery sheen is added
As i in embrace and petals open up
- * The clean and silvery sheen
Mixed with the golden petals
'Cause it's the fate to share love
Emerald Lake presents coincidence
It excels in emerald tint
With prettiness it's proud.
(Hailing the National convention)

Buddhist delegation leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 24 May—A Myanmar Buddhist delegation led by Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Chancellor Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujana Hitadara Dr Bhaddanta Nanissara left here by air for Thailand this morning to attend a ceremony to mark Buddha Day.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and heads of departments and laity. The delegation members comprise Director-General of the Religious



A Myanmar Buddhist delegation led by Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Chancellor Dr Bhaddanta Nanissara seen off at Yangon International Airport on 24 May. — MNA

Affairs Department Dr Myo Department for Promotion Sasana U Aung Thein
Myint and Director of the and Propagation of the Nyunt. — MNA

Minister for Forestry inspects timber shops

YANGON, 25 May — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, accompanied by officials, viewed timber shops opened by the ministry in Yankin, South Oakkalapa, North Oakkalapa and Shwepaukkan Townships and inspected the conditions of the distribution and sales of timber here this morning.

In the afternoon, the minister and party proceeded to Htoo, Shweme and Heinsoe private wood-based fac-

ories in Wartaya Industrial Zone, Shwepyithar Township and gave necessary instructions to the entrepreneurs.

Next, the minister and party went to No 5 Furniture Factory of Myanmar Timber Enterprise. The minister inspected the production process of finished goods at the factory and gave instructions on earning more foreign exchange and minimizing of loss and wastage systematically. — MNA



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe delivers a speech at the training course on operating of X-ray machine on 24 May. — MNA

Training course No 2/2004 on operating of X-ray machine opened

YANGON, 24 May—A training course No 2/2004 on operating of X-ray machine was opened at Civil Aviation Training Institute in Mingaladon this morning.

Present were Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung, officials of Department of Civil Aviation, Myanmar Criminal Investigation Department, Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Force and Customs Department and trainees. The minister said the course was conducted with the aim of systematic operating of devices and other modern equipment such as X-ray machine which will be used in preventing against smuggling of

contraband goods.

After formation of Yangon International Airport Development Supervisory Committee reforms at the airport were carried out like those in ASEAN countries. Customs officers will check the items with the use of X-ray machines as there are no customs counters at departure lounges for external and domestic flights, he said.

The one-week course is being attended by trainees of security units, Myanmar Criminal Investigation Department, Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Force and Customs Department. — MNA

Trainees of Maritime Course visit Yangon

YANGON, 24 May — Altogether 70 trainees of the Basic and Advanced Maritime Course 1/2004 (Yangon Camp), co-organized by Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) and Commander-in-Chief's office (Navy) together with course in-charge Major Thein Tun and officials as well as officials of Yangon Division USDA viewed along Yangon River by boat on 22 May.

They also visited Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters. Next, they paid homage to Kyaikhaik pagoda in Thanlyin and carried out clearing on pagoda plat-

form and donated K 12,340 to the pagoda. MNA



Deputy Director-General Thura U Soe Aung of Development Affairs Department inspects construction of gravel filled retaining wall of Chindwin River in Magway. — MNA

Development affairs works inspected

YANGON, 24 May — Deputy Director-General Thura U Soe Aung of Department of Development Affairs under the Ministry of Progress

of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs arrived ChaungU, Sagaing Division on 21 May afternoon. After attending a ceremony to mark supply of drinking water, he heard reports on measures to be taken for supply of drinking water presented by officials at division and township levels.

Next, he inspected paving of ChaungU-Amyint road, extension of Strand Road in Monywa. He met with staff of Myint Township Development Affairs Office and gave instructions on rural road, rural water supply and rural housing tasks. Later he attended a ceremony to mark sinking of a tube-well. — MNA

Iraq setbacks change mood in Washington

WASHINGTON, 24 May—President Bush is hearing increasingly bleak warnings that the US occupation of Iraq is heading for failure — from Republican and Democratic members of Congress, current and former officials and even some military officers still on active duty.

But so far, at least, the White House says it hasn't heard anything that makes it want to change course.

Weeks of military and political setbacks have produced a striking change of mood in the capital about the prospects for success in Iraq, where US and allied forces are struggling to establish security to allow a new Iraqi "caretaker government" to

begin work June 30. A series of Senate hearings last week showcased the growing fears of many foreign policy experts — a mood some described as "panic."

"I believe we are absolutely on the brink of failure," retired Marine General Joseph P Hoar, a former commander of US forces in the Middle East, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"We are looking into the abyss. We cannot start soon enough to begin the turnaround." If the current situation persists, we will continue fighting one form of Iraqi insurgency after another — with too little legitimacy, too little will and too few resources," warned Larry Diamond, a former advisor to the US occupation authority in Baghdad. "There is only one word

for a situation in which you cannot win and you cannot withdraw: Quagmire." Hoar and Diamond's assessments were grimmer than most. But the two men were far from alone. Maj General Charles H Swannack Jr, commander of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, which returned from Iraq in April, has given reporters an equally blunt view. "We are winning tactically, but have made a few tactical blunders ... [which] created strategic consequences in world opinion," Swannack said in an e-mail message. "We are losing public support regionally, internationally and within America — thus, currently, we are losing strategically." —Internet



TV Image shows metal parts, allegedly from a US missile, being held up in the remote desert area near Mogr el-Deeb, Iraq, 5 miles (8 km) away from the Syrian border, on 19 May 2004. —INTERNET

Gunmen kill police captain near Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 May—Gunmen killed a police captain and a university student who were headed by car to Baghdad from Baqouba on Sunday, a hospital official said.

Capt Haidar Hadi, who was based in the capital, was giving the student a lift when the gunmen opened fire. The attack occurred in the Hadida area of Baqouba, north of Baghdad. A police sergeant in the car was injured, said Nassir Jawad of Baqouba General Hospital.

Guerillas routinely target police and other

Iraqis who are working with the US-led coalition governing Iraq.

In southern Iraq, a mortar shell landed on a house in al-Iskan district of Basra on Sunday, killing one woman and injuring five men, said Khalid Abdelallah, an official at Mawanei Hospital. It was unclear who fired the mortar round. —Internet

Study boosts case for folic acid supplements

LONDON, 24 May—Scientists urged women trying to conceive to take folic acid supplements after finding that half of the population has an increased risk of having a child with a serious birth defect.

Dr. Peadar Kirke, a public health expert at the Health Research Board in Dublin, and colleagues in Ireland and the United States identified an altered gene that raises the odds of neural tube defects such as spina bifida after studying nearly 400 people born with a defect and more than 800 healthy volunteers.

The genetic variation puts half the population at an increased risk of neural tube defects, according to the researchers.

"Our study provides new data underscoring the importance of public health... programmes of folic acid supplementation and food fortification targeted at all women of childbearing age to prevent neural tube defects," Kirke said in a report published online by the *British Medical Journal* on Friday.

About 40 per cent of the population have one copy of the altered gene and 10 per cent have two copies. "The genetic variant is very common," Kirke said in an interview.

He advised women to take supplements of folic acid before getting pregnant and afterwards to prevent neural tube defects.

Folic acid is a synthetic compound of

folate, a B vitamin found in green leafy vegetables and liver. Women are advised to take supplements before conceiving and during the early months of pregnancy.

Neural tube disorders occur during the early development of the foetus when the spine does not close properly. Spina bifida, a defect of the spinal column, is the most common of them.

The United States started fortifying flour with folic acid several years ago after its role was established in reducing birth defects. Since then the number of babies in the United States born with spina bifida or another serious defect called anencephaly has fallen by about 26 per cent.

Kirke said his findings provide further evidence for food fortification with folic acid.

Scientists have also found that daily supplements of folic acid or food fortified with it can help to prevent heart disease, stroke and blood clots.

Folic acid breaks down a substance in blood called homocysteine which is a cause of heart attack and stroke. —MNA/Reuters

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Iran wants US out of Iraq

TEHERAN, 24 May—The Iranian government has criticized US policies in Iraq and says it wants coalition forces to leave as soon as possible.

The BBC reported Sunday Iran wants, "the departure of the occupation forces as quickly as possible and the restitution of authority to the Iraqi people."

Since diplomatic ties between the United States and Iran have been severed for some time, Iran delivered its message via the Swiss Embassy.

The BBC said although Iran has officially thrown its weight behind moderate cleric Ayatollah Ali Sistani, some elements have sympathy for the younger and more militant Moqtada Sadr.

In a separate Sunday development, Iran denied it received confidential information from Ahmed Chalabi, a senior member of the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

However, Iran has acknowledged it had a "continuous and permanent dialogue" with Chalabi, who is accused of passing US secrets to Tehran.

Chalabi has fallen out of favour with the United States since reports on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction provided by his informants have proved false. —Internet

British Embassy under repeated attack as Iran vents anger over Iraq

TEHERAN, 24 May—The British Embassy here came under attack by stonethrowing protestors for the fourth day in a week, as Iranian opponents of the US-led occupation of neighbouring Iraq vented their fury on the key coalition partner in the absence of a US mission in Tehran.

Hundreds of police formed a cordon a block away to prevent the 400 or so student demonstrators approaching the embassy compound.

But at least two powerful firecrackers exploded against the building as a steady hail of stones breached the defences to rain home the message of anger, an AFP correspondent witnessed.

"Close the embassy," "Send home the lucky envoy," chanted the protestors, marshalled by members of the Basij volunteer militia, an alternative police force controlled by the regime's hardliners.

"We'll take the White House from President George W Bush, the Kremlin from the Russians and Downing Street from the British, we only need orders from the guide," a cleric speaking from a podium by loudspeaker told

the crowd, referring to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"We want the United Nations to condemn the attacks against the holy places .. and set a date for the withdrawal of the occupying forces from Najaf and Karbala," said a statement circulated by the protest's organizers. Shiite Islam is the majority denomination in Iran as it is in Iraq and the twin Iraqi shrine cities are widely revered here.

The demonstrators also took the US-led coalition to task for the abuses inflicted by its troops on detainees in Iraqi prisons, demanding that US and British leaders appear on television to "formally apologise to Muslims".

The Iranian foreign ministry said every reasonable precaution had been taken to protect the British Embassy but insisted nothing could be done to limit the right of free assembly. —Internet

PNA expects donations from Arab summit

GAZA, 24 May—Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said Saturday that he expects the Arab summit to agree on sending urgent donations to Palestinians in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah.

Erekat told "Voice of Palestine" radio that "we hope that the Arab countries will present initiatives in order to assist and relief all those who were affected by the Israeli military raid in Rafah".

MNA/Xinhua



US Marines survey the site where a US military convoy was ambushed near Falluja, Iraq on 23 May, 2004. Two servicemen were reported dead and at least five injured after four vehicles in the convoy were attacked, according to witnesses at the scene. —INTERNET

Iran sends diplomatic warning to US over Iraq

TEHERAN, 24 May— Iran said Sunday it had sent a formal message of warning to the United States about its actions in neighbouring Iraq.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi also denied suggestions made by some US officials in recent days that Iraqi Governing Council member Ahmad Chalabi had passed sensitive US intelligence about Iraq to Iran.

"We have warned the Americans about Iraq," Asefi told a weekly news conference. "It is natural for two countries which do not have

diplomatic relations to exchange messages."

Asefi did not comment on the contents of the warning, but officials and religious leaders in Shi'ite Muslim Iran have expressed outrage in recent weeks about the presence of US-led forces in the holy Shi'ite Iraqi cities of Najaf and Kerbala.

Asefi said the diplomatic message was sent via the Swiss Embassy in Teheran,

which represents US interests in Iran. Washington broke ties with Iran in 1980.

Asefi described as "baseless" accusations made by unnamed US officials in some US media that Chalabi — whose Baghdad headquarters were raided by US troops and Iraqi police last week — had leaked information to Iran that the officials said could "get Americans killed."

"We have not received any classified information, neither from Chalabi nor any member of the Iraqi Governing Council," he said.

"What is going on between us and members of the Iraqi Governing Council and all groups in Iraq is negotiation, the exchange of views and clear and transparent cooperation."

Asefi said the accusations against Chalabi, a former favourite of the Pentagon, were part of an effort to deflect attention away from Washington's problems in Iraq. "The Americans have in recent months lied about several issues and failed to prove them," he said. "It seems that lying is becoming institutionalized in American policy." *Internet*



US Marine Ziad Fatayergi, 21, from Houston, Texas, examines debris after a US military convoy was ambushed near Fallujah, Iraq, on May 23, 2004. Two servicemen were reported dead and at least five injured after four vehicles in the convoy were attacked according to witnesses at the scene. —INTERNET

Bush suffers minor abrasions in fall from bicycle

CRAWFORD (Texas), 24 May— US President George W Bush suffered minor abrasions after falling off a mountain bike on his Texas ranch on Saturday, the White House said.

The 57-year-old Republican president had cycled 16 miles of a 17-mile afternoon bike course when he toppled over while riding downhill on soil loosened by recent rainfall, White House Spokesman Trent Duffy told reporters.

"He had minor abrasions and scratches on his chin, upper lip, his nose, right hand and both knees," Duffy said.

He added that Bush physician Dr Richard Tubb was with the President, cleaned up the wounds and reported that Bush was fine.

Bush is to make a major televised speech on Monday night on his strategy for Iraq ahead of the 30 June deadline for transferring sovereignty to Iraqis.

Bush, who was wearing a safety helmet and mouth guard during the bike ride, declined the offer of a car ride home from Secret Service agents and instead pedalled the remaining mile to his house, Duffy said.

"It's been raining a lot, the topsoil was loose," the White House spokesman noted. *MNA/Reuters*

US bombing kills three Afghan civilians

KABUL, 24 May — At least three Afghan civilians were killed and several wounded in a US air attack in Afghanistan's southeastern province of Khost early on Friday, an official said.

The overnight raid in Tani Village to the south of Khost Town came after a patrol of US soldiers was fired at, Khost's Mayor, Jalil Ahmad Hasani, told *Reuters*. US patrols often call in close air support when they come under fire.

"We have no exact details yet. But the report we have indicates that three civilians, including two women, have been killed in the aerial bombardment and several others wounded," he said.

The Pakistan-based *Afghan Islamic Press* (AIP) reported that seven people were killed in the bombardment in the early hours of Friday morning, and the house they were in was flattened.

Eyewitnesses told AIP that a resident in the house had opened fire on US soldiers following an argument.

Hasani said the US military suffered no casualties, and a government team had

been sent to the scene to investigate.

The US military in Kabul was not immediately available for comment.

About 20,000 US-led troops are in Afghanistan hunting militants from the ousted Taliban regime and the al-Qaeda network it once sheltered. Some troops are based in forward posts, including in Khost, concentrated on the Afghan-Pakistani border. *MNA/Reuters*

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Britain disagrees with US on Iraq

LONDON, 24 May — A document leaked to the *Times of London Sunday* suggests the show of unity between Britain and the United States on Iraq may not be genuine.

"Heavy handed US military tactics in Falluja and Najaf some weeks ago have fuelled both Sunni and Shiite opposition to the coalition, and lost us much public support inside Iraq," the memo dated May 19 said. "The US have learnt lessons from this and are generally proceeding more cautiously."

The BBC reported the memo, an assessment of the British strategy before the handover of power to Iraqis June 30, admits, "there are signs of better organization by insurgents and a reservoir of popular support, at least among Sunnis."

The memo also mentioned two options being considered — deployment of more British troops to Iraq or the dispatch of a British-led NATO headquarters group.

"If we go down either route we should ensure that we use it to maximize our influence over American military decisions, and that we can prevent US action, either at the strategic or operational levels, which would jeopardize our objectives," the memo said. —*Internet*

GOP Senator rips Bush for failing to offer solid plans for Iraq's future

MED FORD, 24 May— Republican Senator Richard G Lugar on Saturday said the United States isn't doing enough to stave off terrorism and criticized President Bush for failing to offer solid plans for Iraq's future.

Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the nation must prevent terrorism from taking root around the world by "repairing and building alliances," increasing trade, supporting democracy, addressing regional conflicts and controlling weapons of mass destruction.

Unless the country commits itself to such measures, "we are likely to experience acts of catastrophic terrorism that would undermine our economy, damage our society and kill hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people," the Indiana senator said during an appearance at the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

Lugar said military might alone isn't enough to eradicate terrorism. "To win the war

against terrorism, the United States must assign US economic and diplomatic capabilities the same strategic priority that we assign to military capabilities," he said.

He later added, "Military action is necessary to defeat serious and immediate threats to our national security. But the war on terrorism will not be won through attrition — particularly since military action will often breed more terrorists and more resentment of the United States."

Lugar, who was awarded the Dean's Medal for distinguished service in international affairs, said it's still unclear how much control the Iraqi people will have over their nation's security when power is transferred to them

June 30. "I am very hopeful that the president and his administration will articulate precisely what is going to happen as much as they can, day by day, as opposed to a generalization," he said.

It's not the first time that Lugar has criticized Bush, a fellow Republican. In 2003, Lugar and Senator Joseph Biden, the committee's top Democrat, warned that the Bush administration had not given enough consideration to what would happen in Iraq after the fighting ended.

Also Saturday, Lugar blamed the Bush and Clinton administrations for not adequately funding the foreign affairs budget, noting that the military's budget is more than 13 times what the nation spends for diplomacy. —*Internet*



US Army soldiers secure an area after a car bomb blast in Baghdad, on 22 May, 2004. A car bomb in Baghdad killed at least five people and wounded a senior Interior Ministry official, five days after the head of Iraq's Governing Council was assassinated in a similar bombing. —INTERNET

US Marine dies in non-hostile incident in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 May — A US Marine died in a non-hostile incident while conducting security and stability operation, US military statement said on Saturday.

The dead soldier who was assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force died Friday near Camp Fallujah west of Baghdad, in a non-hostile incident, the statement said.

The death was under investigation and the name of the Marine was withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The latest casualty brought the US military death toll in Iraq to at least 793 since the start of the US-led invasion in March 2003. Among those about 577 were killed in combat action. — MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi militiamen run to take positions along the streets of Sadr City, Baghdad's largest Shiite neighbourhood, Iraq, on 23 May, 2004, after a fight between militiamen and US troops in the city.—INTERNET

UN rights boss concerned over US "wedding" strike in Iraq

GENEVA, 24 May— The top United Nations human rights official voiced concern on Friday over a US airstrike in Iraq which killed about 40 people near the Syrian border, saying security fears were "no licence to commit carnage".

In a statement, Bertrand Ramcharan, acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, expressed shock over the deaths of "some 40 civilians at a wedding party" in Qaim on Wednesday.

The US military said it had attacked a "suspected foreign fighter safe house"

near the Syrian border, killing around 40 people. But witnesses said the victims were celebrating a wedding.

In Baghdad, US military spokesman Brigadier-General Mark Kimmitt told a news conference the military was investigating reports that those killed were at a wedding, and that four to six of the dead were women.

Ramcharan said it was the occupying forces' responsibility to ensure the safety of Iraqi civilians and to "refrain from excessive use of force and indiscriminate attacks".

MNA/Reuters

Brazilian petroleum company sets up office in Beijing

BEIJING, 24 May— Brazil's petroleum giant Petrobras set up a representative office here Sunday, and visiting Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva attended the inauguration ceremony.

Lula said the establishment of Petrobras' representative office in Beijing, together with the upcoming signing of a strategic cooperation agreement between Petrobras and China Petrochemical Corp., showed part of the concrete steps for developing the strategic partnership between Brazil and China.

Petrobras, as Brazil's biggest state-owned enterprise, plays an important role in Brazil-China economic and trade ties, he said, adding there is huge potential in energy cooperation between the two countries. — MNA/Xinhua

Study warns against spread of narcotics in Baghdad

Study warns against spread of narcotics in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 May — An Iraqi health study warned against the spread of narcotics among the Iraqis, especially the unemployed, said *Azzaman* newspaper Saturday.

"The phenomenon of narcotics is considered a new thing in our Iraqi society," said the study made by the social care department.

The newspaper pointed out that there is a market for these materials, and demanded an immediate solution to such a problem.

The study pointed out that heroin and morphine, and other materials derived from them are widely used among youngsters, and warned of the dangers of these materials, for they, containing hazardous and even lethal, are more dangerous than

hashish.

It also pointed out that there are closed areas for addicts, which is considered a security breach and a real confusion, for they lie down on the sidewalks and disturb the passersby, but the study did not name these areas.

The study called on educational institutions to enlighten people about the dangers of narcotics to the young, and called on families to take their role in preserving their children from dealing with narcotics in any way.

MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Arabia ups stakes on OPEC oil output increase

AMSTERDAM, 24 May — Leading OPEC producer Saudi Arabia on Friday upped the stakes in the cartel's bid to tame runaway oil prices, proposing a bigger-than-expected oil output increase.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said OPEC should raise production quotas by more than two million barrels per day from existing limits of 23.5 million barrels daily.

"The recent revisions in oil demand and supply projections for the coming months point to an increase in required production from OPEC by an excess of two million barrels per day," Naimi said in a statement given to reporters in Amsterdam.

"Saudi Arabia will propose an increase in OPEC's production ceiling by more than two million barrels per day and has already allocated

its customers around nine million barrels per day as of June 2004," the statement said.

Oil prices fell after the statement, slipping briefly below 40 US dollars for US crude which by 1710 GMT was off 65 cents on the day at 40.15 US dollars a barrel.

A Saudi delegate said the nine million BPD figure was not entirely for export and included oil used domestically for Saudi refineries.

OPEC's most influential member, Saudi Arabia holds the only significant volumes of spare capacity in the 11-member group.

MNA/Reuters

Paper says Ad rates rise on Arab TV channels

ABUDHABI, 24 May— Advertising rates on Arab satellite channels skyrocket during reality TV programmes and can be up to 130 per cent of regular prime time rates, the *Gulf News* reported here Saturday.

A new report from Arab Advisers Group said that the prime time on Arab television channels extends from 9 p.m. to mid-night, with Saudi Arabia as the reference time zone.

Saudi Arabia's weight as the region's largest market dictates its dominance in regionally specific advertisements. Buying television commercial spots in the Arab world has grown over the past years with the development of Arab satellite TV stations, according to the report titled TV Advertising Rates in the Arab World.

With the huge success of regional Arabic stations, the TV advertising rates increased dramatically, especially with the adoption of hit programmes that attracted

a huge number of audience.

Examples are LBC's Star Academy and Miss Lebanon with a rate of 11,000 US dollars, MBC's Fear Factor with a rate of 10,000 dollars, and Future's Superstar with a rate of 11,500 dollars for a 30-second commercial spot, the report showed. TV advertising rates depend on various factors that all determine the number of viewers watching at a certain time. The main factors that determine the audience are time of the day, day of the week, special programmes, special seasons and big events.

The 43-page report compares and analyses TV advertising rates in the Arab World. It covers five major satellite channels, namely

MBC, MBC 2, LBC, Future, and Al Jazeera.

Also included are two pay-TV providers, Showtime and Orbit. These channels are representative of the general channels, news channels and pay-TV channels operating in the region.

The rates for regional satellite TV stations are usually higher than the rates for local. For example the rate for Future satellite TV's prime time reaches 5,500 dollars while the local channel has a rate of 3,000 dollars during the same time.

As for the LBC satellite channel, the rate for prime time reaches 7,000 dollars and on the local channel during the same time reaches 5,000 dollars, the report added. — MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan to continue efforts for peace, stability in South Asia

ISLAMABAD, 24 May— Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali Saturday reiterated that Islamabad would continue its efforts for the promotion of peace and stability in South Asia, according to the *Associated Press of Pakistan*.

The two leaders made these remarks while attending a comprehensive briefing in Rawalpindi, twin city of Islamabad, given by Foreign Secretary Riaz Khokhar on the international and regional situation with particular focus on South Asia.

Both Musharraf and Jamali welcomed the recent statement by the Indian Prime Minister-designate Manmohan Singh that the Congress-led coalition would continue with furthering of the peace process with Pakistan. In this connection,

the two leaders attached importance to the forthcoming commencement of a composite dialogue on all outstanding issues. In early January, Pakistani and Indian leaders agreed to start dialogue designed to solve their bilateral disputes. —MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi Shiites clean the rubble from their shops which were shelled by mortars during a fight between militiamen and US troops in Karbala, Iraq, on 23 May, 2004.

INTERNET



Iraqis check the damage caused by a mortar shell that hit the roof of a house in Baghdad's central Salahiyah neighbourhood on 22 May 2004.



Smoke bellows over central Baghdad, Iraq, on 24 May 2004 after several strong blasts were heard in the center of the city.



Seven year-old Iraqi boy Akil is attended by his father in the hospital in Ramadi, Iraq, on 23 May, 2004, after his family house was hit by a rocket five days ago.



An Iraqi man points a mortar shell struck a house in the southern city of Basra on 23 May 2004. Five Iraqis, including two children, were killed by the explosion.



Iraqi girl Kholood, 2, lies in a bed in the hospital in Ramadi, Iraq, on 23 May, 2004. Kholood was injured by shrapnel into her back when US helicopters fired on a wedding party, killing more than 40 people, on 19 May 2004. Kholood lost her parents and four of her brothers and sisters during the attack.

Images of Iraq



Iraqi mother Suad Hashim with her daughter Fatima and son Ali, right, are treated at al Mawani hospital in Basra, Iraq, on 23 May, 2004, after a mortar shell landed next to their house.



An Iraqi youth surveys damage to his shop in a battered area in the city of Karbala, south of Baghdad on 23 May 2004.



An Iraqi woman walks in front of a damaged hotel in the city of Karbala, south of Baghdad on 23 May 2004.

Border and rural area developments



Kyeinkharankha hydro power station built in Myitkyina, Kachin State, is generating 25 kilowatt and supplying electricity to villages in the township.



Under the rural area development programme, a library of Information and Public Relations Department has been opened in Ywadow Model village in Kalaw Township, Shan State (South).



People living in Haka of Chin State are now having an opportunity to enjoy TV programmes broadcast from TV retransmission station built in the region.

Subject	'1988	2004
Basic education school	-	At least 3 schools in 5 villages
Rural health centre	1337	1404
Rural housing	-	395
Rural water supply (village)	-	5024
Rural roads	-	3529
Agriculture and livestock breeding (chicken and pig)	-	34 camps in two to four townships in each state and division



The government is striving day in, day out for better transportation throughout the country and people are now enjoying fruitful results of these endeavours. The photo shows the Union Highway at the entrance to Kengtung, Shan State (East).



Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein enjoys entertainment programmes presented to the delegates of National Convention at Nyaungnatpin, Hmawby. — MNA

Entertainment presented to delegates of National Convention

YANGON, 24 May — The entertainment and welfare committee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is presenting entertainment programmes to delegates to the National Convention at the hall of the stadium at

Nyaungnatpin camp in Hmawby Township here starting at 7 every evening.

With Myint Myint Kyi and Khaing Thazin Thin as dancers and Panthe, Pauksi and Gyothein as comedians, the Anyeint troupe of the Department of Fine Arts of the

Ministry of Culture entertained the delegates yesterday evening.

Among the spectators were National Convention Convening Commission Chairman and also State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen

Thein Sein, National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Work Committee Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Work Com-

mittee Secretary U Thaung Nyunt, members of the work committee, the management committee, subcommittees, and delegates to the National Convention.

After the entertainment, NCCC Joint-Secretary-1 Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint

presented a cash award of the NCCC and Yangon Division delegate to the National Convention Dr Khin Shwe also presented a cash award. Myint Myint Kyi, leading dancer of the Anyeint troupe, accepted the cash awards. — MNA



Secretary of the NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents reports. (News page 1) — MNA



Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presents reports. (News page 1) — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs sends felicitations to Argentine Foreign Minister

YANGON, 25 May — On the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Argentina which falls on 25 May 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Rafael Bielsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Argentina. — MNA



Joint-Secretary 1 of NCCC Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint presents a cash award to an artist. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for PRC

YANGON, 24 May — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo left here by air for the People's Republic of China this afternoon to attend the 5th West China International Economic Trade Fair to be held in Changdu, Xichung, People's Republic of China.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Officiating Chinese Counsel-

lor to Myanmar Mr Yu Boren, Chinese Economic and Commercial Counsellor Mr Tang Hai, heads of departments of the Ministry of Cooperatives, and families of the delegates. The Myanmar delegation

comprised Director of the Cooperatives Department U Kyaw Hlaing, Deputy Director of the Directorate of Trade U Myat Tun Kyaw, and Exo Gift Shop Chairman U Aye Min Oo. — MNA

Seminar on National Globalization and Industrial Relations held

YANGON, 24 May — The opening ceremony of Myanmar, ASEAN, Japan, National Seminar on Globalization and Industrial Relations, jointly organized by the Labour Department of Ministry of Labour, ASEAN, Ministry of Health, Labour

and Social Welfare of Japan was held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here at 9 am today.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, heads of departments under the Ministry, Ambassadors and

officials of Japan and ASEAN countries to Myanmar, experts from Japan, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Industrial Producers Association, delegates from Industrial Zones and observers.

The deputy minister and Vice President of the ILO Association of Japan Mr Tadashi Nakamura gave speeches.

The seminar continues tomorrow at the same venue.

MNA

Rural development tasks inspected in Magway

YANGON, 24 May — Deputy Director-General U Khin Latt of the Department of Development Affairs under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, together with Magway Division Development Affairs Director U Soe Tint, inspected measures being taken for rural development tasks in Aunglan and Taungdwingyi townships, Magway Division, on 20 May.

Next, they inspected progress of rural housing projects being implemented by Development Affairs committee. Aunglan Township Development Affairs built a total of 20 houses during 2003-2004 fiscal year. They also inspected construction of village-to-villager road built by Taungdwingyi Township Development Affairs Committee. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein makes a speech at opening ceremony of Myanmar, ASEAN, Japan, National Seminar on Globalization and Industrial Relations. — MNA





Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe gives clarifications. MNA (News page 1)

Regional development measures...

(from page 16)

Giving instructions, the commander said measures are under way to seasonally cultivate paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil crops and vegetables on a commercial scale so as to keep the 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport green and lush all the year round. He continued that as now is the rainy season, monsoon paddy is to be grown without leaving a single inch of farmland till the sown acreage exceeds the target. He pointed

out that the Government is rendering technical assistance in every approach to local farmers with the aim of further boosting the agricultural production so that local farmers will earn more income and enjoy higher living standard.

Later, departmental officials reported on conditions in which assistance needs to be provided for regional development. In response to the reports, the commander saw to the requirements. — MNA

Minister for Industry 1 tours Mon State

YANGON, 24 May — Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee Minister for Industry 1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and officials, inspected the first chosen project site for Construction of Myawady Industrial Zone in Myawady Township and the second chosen site between Myawady and Thin-gannyinaung on 22 May morning. Then, the

minister and party inspected the development of Myawady and the friendship bridge linking Myanmar and Thailand.

The minister and party then inspected the site for Special Industrial Zone on east of Mawlamyine Industrial Zone. Chairman of Mawlamyine District PDC Lt-Col Tin Aung and Secretary of Mon State PDC Lt-Col Soe Myint Aung reported on the project. The minister

instructed to choose the plots far from farmland.

The minister, the deputy minister and party visited No 1 Sittaung Paper Mill of Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries in Sittaung, Mon State and inspected project site for Tanaw Dam, 2 miles far from the mill.

Next, the minister and the deputy minister arrived at newly built Chipper Factory by China National Machinery and Equipment Import and

Export Corporation and inspected repairing of chemical tankers, installation of transformer, cutting machines and crane. The minister then presented a basket of fruit to Chinese technicians of CMEC before he gave necessary instructions on paper production. The minister and party visited Winthazar shop of Bago in the afternoon and inspected the sale of products of the ministry. — MNA

Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science holds third meeting

YANGON, 24 May — Third meeting of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science was held at Diamond Jubilee Hall in Kamayut Township here this morning. Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Minister Col Aung Myo Min, departmental heads under the Ministry, Chairman of Myanmar

Academy of Arts and Science U Than Oo and members, officials and guests attended it. The minister gave an address and the chairman of the academy greeted those present. Then, Secretary of work committee Director-General of Department of Higher Education (Lower Myanmar) U Saw Lwin

explained a brief annual report before Vice-Chairman of work committee Dr Hla Wai reported on the programmes to be discussed by 5 subject-groups. In the afternoon, five groups of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science discussed tasks on respective subjects and future plans.

MNA



Dr Myo Thant Tin of Yangon Division makes an address at delegate group of workers' group-wise discussion. — MNA

NC delegate groups...

(from page 16)

Other invited delegate group held its coordination meeting at the meeting hall-8 at 8.50 am. Chairman U Sai Aung Tun of Myanmar History Committee presided over the meeting together with members of panel of chairmen and delegates to the National Convention U Paw Laik Kham of Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Vice-Chairman of MHC U Tun Aung Chain. Deputy Director U Aung Kyi of the group-10 under the

National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director U Win Myint as co-master of ceremonies. The meeting was attended by 104 out of 105 delegates. U Sai Aung Tun gave an opening speech and explained detailed basic principles that should be laid down for power-sharing sectors such as legislation, executive and judiciary over the clarifications of the National Convention Convening Work Committee and matters related to compilation of papers.

Next, NC delegates U Saw Hla Tun, Phado Aung

San of Phayagon Special Region, Dr Ma Nan Tuja of Kachin State Special Region-2, U Chan Lan of Kachin Special Region-1, Naing Aung Naing of New Mon State Party, U Lwee Zi Kyaw Kyaw of Kayinni National Progressive Party (KNPP) (Splinter, Hoya), U Saw Tun Oo of Burma Communist Party (Rakhine Group) and U Sai Khwan Hein of Shwepyithar MTA Group discussed compilation of papers and submitted some papers to the chairman. Then, the meeting ended at 9.45 am with concluding remarks by the chairman.

MNA

MMPE hosts dinner to China Film Association

YANGON, 25 May — Visiting study delegation members led by Secretary-General Mrs Liu Xiuwen of Film Association of People's Republic of China were hosted a dinner by Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel in Alanpya Phaya Road here yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, the directors general and managing directors under the ministry and officials.

Before the dinner, the deputy minister and study-delegation members exchanged the souvenirs.

MNA

MRCS to hold meeting

YANGON, 24 May — The Myanmar Red Cross Society will hold its 55th Central Council's meeting at the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on 24 and 25 June. Invitations have been sent to members of the MRCS Central Council, chairmen (state/division health officers) of state/division Red Cross supervisory committees, state/division Red Cross brigade commanders (state/division police officers).

MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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 appeased

4.95 kilos of heroin seized in Kutkai Township

YANGON, 24 May — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, local Tatmadawmen and MPF, acting on information, on 5 May, laying in wait at the road side about three miles south-west of Tima Village, Kutkai Township and intercepted three suspicious-looking persons who were on their way from

Tekkana Village for inspection. The three managed to flee leaving their rucksacks which contained heroin weighing 4.95 kilos concealed in 330 soapcases.

Action is being taken in connection with the seizure of the drugs under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police station concerned. — MNA



4.95 kilos of seized heroin. — MNA

ICRC concerned for detainees in secret US jails

GENEVA, 24 May — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Friday voiced renewed concern about an unknown number of detainees, rounded up in the US global war on terror and being held secretly in various countries.

Spokesman Eros Bosio said that the humanitarian agency had asked US authorities repeatedly for information on, and access to, such detainees, arrested in countries including Afghanistan and Pakistan over the past two years.

Accusations that US troops abused Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib Prison near Baghdad, triggered in part by a leaked ICRC report, caused an international outcry.

Many suspected al-Qaeda and Taleban fighters captured in the so-called war on terror are being held at US facilities in Bagram, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but some are "held incommunicado at undisclosed locations", according to the ICRC.

"The permission has not been granted yet. For us having access to them is a very important humanitarian prior-

ity," Bosio told Reuters. "It is not just related to Afghanistan, it is a global matter."

The detainees are thought to include Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, considered a top al-Qaeda leader and mastermind of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States that killed some 3,000 people. He was arrested in March 2003 in Pakistan and is among those who have disappeared into secret locations in US custody.

The *New York Times* reported last week that the CIA used a technique known as "water boarding" on Mohammed, which involves strapping a person down and pushing him under water to make him believe he might drown. For the past two years, ICRC officials have regularly visited detainees at the US military airbase in Bagram, where some 300 people are being held.

It is the only detention centre which ICRC visits in Afghanistan, but it remains concerned that detainees are being held elsewhere, according to the spokesman.

"We have insisted that the ICRC be notified of all people arrested in Afghanistan and that they quickly be transferred to places fit for detention where they can be visited and registered upon arrival," Bosio said.

ICRC officials also regularly visit detainees held at Guantanamo Bay since January 2002, who number 600. A visit is due later this month.

US authorities are responsible for ensuring that detainees at Bagram and Guantanamo Bay are treated in accordance with international humanitarian law, according to the ICRC. It has repeatedly called for their legal status be clarified.

MNA/Reuters

AL urged to recognize NFLI as legitimate representative

DUBAI, 24 May — An Iraqi group fighting US-led occupation forces has called on the Arab League to recognize it as the legitimate representative of Iraq and allow it to attend an Arab summit in Tunis.

The National Front for the Liberation of Iraq (NFLI) said the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council had no right to speak for Iraqis and also called for Arab support in its fight against occupation forces to hasten Iraq's independence.

"The right of holding the seat of the Republic of

Iraq can only belong to a representative of the National Front for the Liberation of Iraq because it is... the legitimate representative of the Iraqi people as it is struggling to win back freedom, independence and sovereignty," the statement said.

The statement was posted on an Islamist web

site on Sunday but seemed to have been written earlier this month because it was addressed to an Arab foreign ministers meeting ahead of the two-day summit which began on Saturday in Tunis.

Governing Council member Nasser Kamel Chaderji is representing Iraq at the summit which is expected to call, among other things, for an end to the occupation as soon as possible.

"We call on you to... consider the NFLI as a national liberation movement, to allow an NFLI member to represent Iraq in the Arab League until the Iraqi people regain their freedom, independence and full sovereignty and until the creation of a legitimate national government," the NFLI statement said.

It said the group was formed last July and was an umbrella group for "resistance factions" throughout Iraq.

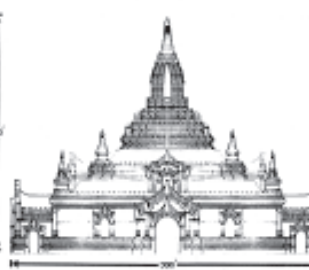
In November, NFLI distributed leaflets with a list of "spies" it said it had uncovered and warned Iraqis not to cooperate with US forces or they would be killed. — MNA/Reuters

Don't smoke

တကောင်းမြို့၊ ရှေးဟောင်း လေးမျက်နှာတရားကြီး ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင် တည်ဆောက်ရာတွင် ကုသိုလ်ယူ ငါဝင်လှူဒါန်းနိုင်



အေဒီ (၁၁)ရာစု အနောက်တောင်အာရှဒေသတစ်ခုတွင် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော ဤတော်ရာကြီးသည် ခုလျှင် ၁၀၀ နီးပါး ရာသီ ခုတော် ဝန်ကြီးကြီး ဦးကျယ်က ခုလျှင် ခုတော် နှစ်စဉ် ဦးကျယ်က တော်ရာကြီးအတွင်းသို့ လျက် အုတ်ကုန်းကြီး တစ်ခုကို ရှေးဟောင်း ယဉ်ကျေးမှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ ကြီးကြပ်မှုဖြင့် တကောင်းမြို့ဟောင်းတွင် ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင် တည်ဆောက်မည် ဖြစ်သည်။



အုတ်တစ်ချပ် (၁၂ x ၉ x ၄) - ၄၆/-
တိလိပ်ပြတစ်စုံတစ်ရာ - ၄၀၀/-
သစ်တစ်ချပ် - ၆၀၀/-
ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင် (အသေး) တစ်ချပ် - ၂၀၀/-
သစ် (တစ်စုံတစ်ရာ) - ၁၀၀/-
သစ်တစ်ချပ်၊ တစ်ချပ် (၁၂ x ၁၂) - ၅၀/-

ယဉ်ကျေးမှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန (ဝန်ကြီးရုံး)

ရှေးဟောင်းသုတေသနဦးစီးဌာန (ရုံးချုပ်)

ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအမွေအနှစ်ဝေသည့်ဌာန (ဗန္ဓု ဝေး)

တကောင်းမြို့၊ လေးမျက်နှာတရားဝေါဟာရအဖွဲ့

မိုး၊ ၅၄၂၃၇၂၊ ၅၄၂၃၇၂

မိုး၊ ၅၁၂၃၇၁၊ ၅၁၂၃၇၁

မိုး၊ ၁၂ - ၁၂၃၇၅၊ ၁၂ - ၁၂၃၇၅

Philippine Senate opposes plan to deploy workers in Iraq

MANILA, 24 May — The Philippine Senate Friday said that the government should not lift ban on deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Iraq before the peace and order are restored there.

Manuel Villar Jr., chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, thumbed down the recommendation of the Iraq Team, which has been sent to Iraq for situation assessment, on a selective deployment of workers to three military bases it regarded "safe".

Villar said that the recommendation contradicted the Team's recent assessment that "not all Filipino overseas workers in Iraq stationed in US-led Coalition military camps, bases and facilities are safe".

"How can the military bases be classified as 'safe' when they are the targets of suicide bombings and mortar attacks?" he asked. "The government should remain firm in its resolve to suspend the deployment of OFWs to Iraq until the peace and order situation

improves."

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Saturday ordered the indefinite suspension of the deployment of Filipino workers who intend to work as drivers in volatile Iraq after a Filipino truck driver was killed in a roadside bombing in April and another one was killed during a mortar blast in a US military camp last week.

So far, a total of 57 "distressed, but healthy" Filipino workers have returned since the government announced the setting up of evacuation centers in Iraq.

However, Roy Cimatu, head of the Iraq Team, recommended Friday that the government allow Filipino civilian workers to be redeployed in Iraq but only in select areas where security could be guaranteed, includ-

ing Camp Victory in Baghdad, Camp Anaconda in Balad and Camp Taji, located between the two cities.

He noted that despite the incidents, demand for Filipino workers in US bases was still very high. "They are in fact asking us for some 700 workers next week."

But Villar warned that hostilities toward US forces and their allies may intensify following the expose on the abuses committed by American soldiers against Iraqi prisoners of war.

"It is clear that Iraq is no longer a safe place for our Filipino workers and troops, so the government should instead focus on its contingent plans for a forced evacuation of OFWs," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Putin says Moscow moving towards backing Kyoto

Moscow, 24 May — Russia's President Vladimir Putin on Friday came out in favour of rapid moves to approve the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, Russian news agencies said.

"We are in favour of the Kyoto process. We support it. We have a few worries about the obligations which we will have to take on," ITAR-TASS quoted him as telling a news conference.

The fate of the Kyoto Protocol has depended on Russian approval since

Washington pulled out in 2001, since it cannot come into force without the backing of developed nations responsible for 55 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions.

"The fact that the EU has met us halfway in negotiations on the WTO (World Trade Organization) entry

could not but have helped Moscow's positive attitude to the question of ratifying the Kyoto Protocol," *Interfax* quoted him as saying. Minutes before Putin's announcement, Russia and the European Union signed a deal on the terms of Moscow's entry into the WTO.

MNA/Reuters

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ - ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းစွာ သာမက ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာခြင်းနှင့် စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခ ပြည့်စုံခြင်း ကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များကိုစားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုးမွှားကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့် လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင်တန်းသို့သော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်းနွမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြေပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရုပ်သိမ်းမှုကင်းရှင်းစွာ ခြင်္သေ့ခြင်္သေ့အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယဉ်ကျေးမှုသဘောတရားကိုစားသုံးပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ဆေးရွက် သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ ကွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက်မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တို့အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Kerbala street life revives as US troops withdraw

KERBALA (Iraq), 24 May —Iraqis ventured back onto the streets of Kerbala on Saturday after US forces withdrew, giving the holy city some respite after weeks of clashes between US troops and Shiite militia fighters.

There was no official word from US commanders, but residents said US troops, including tanks and armoured vehicles, began pulling out early on Friday.

On Saturday the streets were once again busy with traders and shopkeepers after weeks of subdued activity.

Despite the withdrawal, residents said they expected fighting to resume in the days ahead and said militia-men loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr remained holed up in the city centre, even if they were less visible than before.

Militia fighters, who refer to themselves as the Mehdi Army, said they were ready to resume fighting at any time.

"We are awaiting any moment for the resumption of fighting and it's possible we may start it," said a fighter called Abu Karar, leader of a group of about 250 gunmen positioned near the Imam Hussein Mosque, a central Kerbala landmark.

In recent weeks, US forces and the Mehdi Army have fought fierce street-to-street battles not far from the mosque, one of the most important shrines in Shiite Islam.

Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the most revered Shiite cleric in Iraq, called on US troops and Shiite militiamen this week to withdraw from Kerbala and from the nearby city of Najaf, home to another major Shiite shrine, the Imam Ali Mosque.

Some Kerbala residents saw the US withdrawal as an invitation to Sadr's fighters to quit the city as well — a prospect the guerillas said was out of the question.

"We are clearing the debris left by the Americans and in a second we're ready to get back to fighting," said Kadhim Ibrahim, one of around 2,000 fighters hiding out in buildings in Muqayam, an area that saw the heaviest fighting last week and is not far from the Imam Hussein shrine.

Schools, which had been shut during the fighting, reopened, and witnesses said US-backed Iraqi police, overwhelmed by Sadr's fighters when the uprising against the US-led occupation erupted last month, were back on the streets.

MNA/Reuters

Global poverty reduction conference to be held in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 24 May — The World Bank-backed global poverty reduction conference will be held in Shanghai from May 25-27.

Yukun Huang, the country director of the World Bank Beijing Office, heralded the conference as the first global conference for poverty eradication.

"This is the first such conference that only focuses on poverty reduction

in the world," said Huang in an interview with Xinhua.

According to Huang, experience of some 50 successful poverty reduction models selected from diverse countries will be introduced and exchanged during the conference, which will be attended over 1,000 representatives from dozens of countries and regions, as well as from international institutions all over the world. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan, US, IEA agree on need for oil production to meet demand

TOKYO, 24 May — Japanese Trade Minister Shoichi Nakagawa, US Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham, and International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director Claude Mandil agreed Saturday that oil-producing countries should supply enough oil to meet the global market demand, *Kyodo News* reported Sunday.

During separate meetings on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum in Amsterdam, the three agreed such oil supply is necessary to stabilize rising oil prices, *Kyodo* said.

From the standpoint

of consuming countries, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Nakagawa said "we hope to strongly call on oil-producing countries for plentiful supply to meet rising demand."

In an informal meeting in Amsterdam earlier Saturday, OPEC postponed a decision on lifting production quotas until a full meeting June 3 in Beirut, while voicing deep concern over price increases, according to *Kyodo*.

On Friday, leading OPEC producer Saudi Arabia called for the cartel to raise daily quotas by more than two million barrels in an effort to curb price rises.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy introduces carbon fund to Chinese enterprises

BEIJING, 24 May — The Ministry of the Environment and Territory of Italy organized a promotion drive here Saturday to introduce its fund encouraging reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

China's Ministry of Science and Technology co-sponsored the backgrounder on the Italian Carbon Fund.

An official with the Chinese ministry said that the two countries have agreed to cooperate on

emissions reduction and climate change research.

The Italian Government joined several international funds with similar environmental targets.

Five Chinese enterprises knew much about international funds for emissions reduction, let alone prerequisites and application procedure of those funds.

Some 50 representatives from governmental organs, enterprises and research institutes attended the meeting. — MNA/Xinhua

WTO optimistic about restoring Doha talks

KAMPALA, 24 May — A senior World Trade Organization (WTO) official said Saturday morning in the Ugandan capital Kampala that the WTO is optimistic about resuming the Doha Round of global trade talks and sees a substantial chance for Africa to benefit from the talks.

Deputy Director-General of the WTO Kipkorir Aly Azad Rana said at the Economic Commission for Africa's meeting of African finance and economy ministers that the international trade body is now negotiating "positively" with partners to restore the talks aimed at agricultural and non-agri-

cultural market access into the developed world.

Rana reported to the African decision makers that the WTO hopes to see significant improvement in July and restore the "momentum" to the talks.

The deputy said there is a great chance for Africa, the poorest continent, to benefit from the restoration of talks if a "fair, market-oriented system in agriculture" is set up. However, Rana said African trade, finance and economy ministers must coordinate and engage in the negotiations immediately, if they want to benefit from improved market access and trade expansion. — MNA/Xinhua

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ခရီးသည်တင်မော်တော်ယာဉ်များအား မြို့တွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည်ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတ်မှတ်ခေါက်ရေနင်အညီ စက်မှုဆိတ်တော်ပေးထားပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများအတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက်တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင် ပို့ဆောင်ပေးလျှော့နှုန်းထားသည့် သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ပို့ဆောင်ခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနံပါတ်များသို့ တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

- (၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)
- (၂) ကြို့မိကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့ချုပ် (ဖုန်း ၂၅၁၂၅၁၅/၂၅၁၂၅၁၅)
- (၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ (ဖုန်း ၅၄၁၉၀၅/၅၄၁၉၀၄)

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့်ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကျွစွာနှင့် စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သောရောဂါများမှာ အသုံးပြုရောင်းချခြင်း၊ အသုံးပြုခြင်း၊ အသုံးပြုခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါ ဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြောထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ -

၁။ ကယောဇီကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremors)၊ ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန် နာရီ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်း မရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံဗဟုများ ကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုများများနာကျင်ပေါ် ရုတ်တရက်သလိုခံစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွသောက်သည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိဘဲ နာထဲတွင် ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ စော်ကားမော်ကားသံများ ကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinations)။

၃။ အတက်ကြွ ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits) (ဝက်ရူးဖြစ်ရောဂါကိုသိတတ်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Depressive Illness)။

၅။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)။

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချို့ယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက်ရုံဖြင့် ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဓာတ်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)။

၈။ မိမိ၏ဇနီးကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲမှားခြင်းများ ဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Morbid Jealousy)။

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှုကျူးလွန်သည့်အထိ ဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။

အထက်ပါဆိုကျိုးများကို မခံစားရစေရန် အရက်သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကို စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန် တိုက်တွန်းအပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေးဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေးဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Bangladesh ferry sinks with 300 passengers

DHAKA, 24 May — A ferry carrying up to 300 people sank in a Bangladesh river during a storm on Sunday and eight bodies have been recovered so far, police said.

The double-decker ferry was sailing to Dhaka on the Meghna River from the southern Madaripur area when it was swamped by a sudden storm near Chandpur, 106 miles from the capital.

First reports available with police said eight bodies, including women and children, had been found. No other details were immediately available.

Inland Water Transport Authority officials say about 1,000 people die in ferry accidents in the country on average every year, but the number of missing is far more.

Bangladesh is struggling to clean up one of the world's deadliest ferry industries ahead of the annual rainy season next month, when hundreds are killed every year in shipping disasters on the country's turbulent rivers.

The government has banned night sailing by small ferries and issued warnings to owners of larger vessels not to take on excess cargo and passengers. Listening to weather bulletins is also now mandatory for sailors.

"We are taking extra precautions in the months of May and June — preceding the rainy season — when powerful storms often strike," Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain said in an interview on Friday.

MNA/Reuters

တိဘီရောဂါကာကွယ်နှိမ်နင်းရေး

(က) ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားကူးစက်ပုံ

- ဤရောဂါသည်တိဘီရောဂါဖြစ်သော ကူးစက်ရောဂါဖြစ်သည်။ ဝေဒနာရှင် ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ နှာချေလျှင်၊ သလိပ်တံတွေးမှ တစ်ဆင့် ရောဂါပျံ့နှံ့မှုများလေ့ထွက်ပျံ့နှံ့မှု ကူးစက်သည်။
- အသက်အရွယ်မရွေး လူတိုင်းတွင်ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည်။
- အဆုတ်တွင်အများဆုံးဖြစ်ပွားပြီး ကိုယ်ခန္ဓာအနှံ့အပြားတွင်လည်း ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။
- ဆီချိုရောဂါ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုကူးစက်ရောဂါနှင့် အာဟာရချို့တဲ့မှုရှိသူများတွင် အဖြစ်များသည်။

(ခ) ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများ

- ရက်ရှည်ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း (ရက်သတ္တပတ် သုံးပတ်နှင့်အထက်)။
- ချောင်းဆိုးသွေးပါခြင်း။
- သလိပ်တွင်သွေးပါခြင်း။
- အဖျားတာရှည်ခြင်း။
- ခံတွင်းပျက်ခြင်း၊ ဓမ္မပန်လွယ်ခြင်း။
- ကိုယ်အလေးချိန်လျော့နည်းပိန်ချိုးခြင်း။
- ကျောရင်အောင့်ခြင်း။

(ဂ) ကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်ခြင်း

- ရင်သွေးငယ်များအား ကာကွယ်ဆေး(ဘီစီဂျီ)ကိုမပျက်မကွက်ထိုးပေးပါ။
- အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအစာများကိုစားသုံးပါ။
- သင့်တင့်လျော့ပတ်သောကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုပြုလုပ်ပါ။
- ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ နှာချေလျှင် လက်ကိုဝတ်စုံကို အသုံးပြုပါ။
- သလိပ်နှင့်တံတွေးကိုစည်းကမ်းမဲ့ထွေးခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- ဆေးလိပ်သောက်ခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

(ဃ) ကုသမှုယူခြင်း

- တိုက်ရိုက်ကြည့်ရှုအချိန်တိုနှင့်ကုသခြင်း ရောဂါကင်းသည့်အထိ ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။
- ကုသမှုခံယူခြင်းသည် အခြားသူများသို့ကူးစက်စေခြင်းမှ အကောင်းဆုံးကာကွယ်ခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။
- တိဘီရောဂါသံသယရှိလျှင် နီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် စစ်ဆေး၍ တိဘီရောဂါရှိပါက အစွမ်းထက်သောတီဘီဆေးဝါးများဖြင့် အခမဲ့ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

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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.

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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER**
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG Voy No (410) are hereby notified that the vessel arrives on 25-5-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.

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Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Guangdong to establish AIDS revention zones

GUANGZHOU, 24 May — South China's Guangdong Province sets to establish three demonstration zones in the counties of Doumen and Yangdong and the city of Taishan, where Methadone treatment is planned to be used in AIDS care.

Latest statistics show that by the end of March, Guangdong had recorded 5,182 HIV/AIDS cases, ranking fifth in China, including 190 AIDS patients and 53 deaths from AIDS.

Experts say that the de-facto number of HIV-positive people in Guangdong is over 30,000, mainly concentrated in the Pearl River Delta.

Li Jianzhong, an official of the provincial department of health, said Guangdong has submitted the plan to the Ministry of Health and started to investigate and count people in the high-risk group and to train related medical staff.

Li says patients who receive Methadone treatment will be charged no more than 10 yuan (about one US dollar and 20 cents) a day. In the three demonstration zones, the behaviour of drug abusers, sex workers and others in the high-risk group will be strictly supervised and all the staff working in the zones will receive regular HIV tests.

MNA/

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For London Fog Industries, Inc.
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.
Unit 225 Summit Parkview
360 Ahlone Rd., Dagon Twp.,
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
kelvin.chia.yg@net.com
Dated 25 May 2004

China increases government spending on medical equipment

BEIJING, 24 May — The Chinese Ministry of Public Health announced here Friday that it would spend 1.5 billion yuan (approximately 181 million US dollars) this year on purchasing ambulances, in-care equipment, and devices for testing and treating infectious diseases.

Another 573 million yuan (some 70 million US dollars) will be used to buy outfits for medical personnel, emergency rescuing equipment, laboratory devices for provincial and municipal disease control centres, vehicles with special purposes and testing machines for AIDS and schistosomiasis (commonly known as snail fever), according to Zhao Zilin, deputy director of the ministry's finance department.

MNA/Xinhua

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Yangon, Union of Myanmar
kelvin.chia.yg@net.com
Dated 25 May 2004

Russian foreign trade surplus up in first quarter of 2004

Moscow, 24 May — Russia's foreign trade surplus in the first three months of this year totalled 18.094 billion US dollars, compared with 15.25 billion in the same period of 2003, the Federal State Statistics Service said Friday.

The country's total foreign trade turnover in the January-March period increased 20.4 per cent year-on-year to hit 56.484 billion dollars, the committee said.

Exports totalled 37.289 billion dollars and imports reached 19.195 billion dollars, up 20 per cent and 21.3 per cent respectively.

Exports to the countries of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) grew 35.8 per cent to 4.581 billion dollars and imports from them increased 21.6 per cent to 3.087 billion dollars.

In the meantime, exports to non-CIS countries rose 43.1 per cent to 26.498 billion dollars and imports rose 29.9 per cent to 12.743 billion dollars. —MNA/Xinhua

Beer-drinking Belgians gaining taste for wine

BRUSSELS, 24 May — Belgians, producers of some of the world's most renowned beers, now prefer to uncork a bottle of wine when they get home from work, according to a survey published by national newspaper *De Morgen* on Friday.

Three in five Belgians opt for wine over beer when they have a drink at home, and 94 per cent choose wine

JUNIOR LEADER

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The New Light of Myanmar

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UN chief warns of consequences of bio-diversity loss

UNITED NATIONS, 24 May — The consequences of failing to stop the loss of bio-diversity are too awful to contemplate, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Friday in his message for the International Day for Biological Diversity.

Annan called for national policies and new additional financial and technical resources to support international treaties such as the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety, which seeks to protect natural biological diversity from organisms modified by modern biotechnology.

"Our highest priority should be to guarantee the health and effective function-

ing of the earth's life support systems — on land, in the seas and in the air," he said, stressing that biological diversity provides the basic goods and ecological services on which all life depends.

He noted that biological diversity has now been recognized as crucial to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, which is important to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The goals, adopted by the UN summit in 2000, set targets to reduce poverty and hunger by at least half and manage the environment for the benefit of present and future generations by 2015. MNA/Xinhua

Beer-drinking Belgians gaining taste for wine

at a restaurant, *De Morgen* said after surveying 5,000 people. Now you have people sitting in the sun at a pavement cafe with a glass of wine. Ten years ago that was unthinkable," *De Morgen's* wine critic Frank van der Auwera said.

"Not so very long ago wine was just something that the solicitor, priest, doctor or notary drank behind closed

doors," van der Auwera added. Belgium is the home of Interbrew, makers of premium lager Stella Artois and soon to become the world's biggest brewer after a tie-up with Brazil's AmBev.

The country also brews hundreds of niche beers, many high-strength monastic recipes with roots in the Middle Ages.

MNA/Reuters

မညာရေဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Putin urges further efforts in implementing Mideast roadmap

Moscow, 24 May—Russian President Vladimir Putin said Saturday that further efforts must be taken in implementing the Middle East roadmap peace plan.

"Coordinated efforts are needed to improve the situation in the Middle East and ensure the implementation of the roadmap peace plan," Putin said in a letter to Arab leaders who kicked off a re-scheduled two-day summit in Tunisia on Saturday.

The Kremlin Press service quoted Putin as saying that there is no alternative to the roadmap for settling the conflict in the region.

"Any unilateral steps must not predetermine the final settlement, which can be reached only through direct negotiations and mutually acceptable agreements between the parties on a firm international legal basis stipulated primarily in UN Security Council resolutions,"

Putin said.

Putin also expressed Russia's concern that the provisions of the road-map, which was approved by both parties to the conflict and has an international legal status, have not been put into practice.

Russia is a member of the international Quartet on the Middle East, along with the EU, the UN and the United States, which has drawn up the roadmap peace plan aiming to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The roadmap peace plan requires reciprocal steps toward peace from both Israel and the Palestinians and envisions a full Palestinian statehood by 2005.

Putin in his letter expressed the hope that decisions made by the participants of the ongoing Arab summit would have a serious positive impact on further developments in the region.

"It is my hope that the decisions to be made at the summit will facilitate the implementation of the roadmap peace plan," he said. Putin also called for the role of the United Nations in Iraq.

"It is the UN that must become the principal partner of the Iraqis in reviving their country after the occupation period is over," Putin said.

"The fact that the situation in Iraq has not been settled remains a factor of destabilization in the region," he said.—MNA/Xinhua

OPEC "concerned" but no deal yet on more oil

AMSTERDAM, 24 May—OPEC on Saturday expressed "deep concern" about high-flying world oil prices, saying it wanted to cut fuel costs to support world economic growth.

But the president of the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries, Purnomo Yusgiantoro, said no decision was made during informal talks in Amsterdam on raising crude supplies. OPEC will set policy in Beirut on June 3, he said.

Ministers even declined to make a recommendation for Beirut on a Saudi proposal to lift oil quota limits by at least 8.5 per cent, two million barrels a day, to topple US crude prices from 40 US dollars a barrel.

Producers face heavy pressure from big petroleum importers who fear rising energy costs could slow

strong economic growth.

The Group of Seven economic powers, meeting this weekend in New York, is expected to call for swift OPEC action.

Leading OPEC producer Saudi Arabia, acting unilaterally, is not stalling on efforts to cut prices which it considers too high for the long-term health of world fuel demand.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi released a statement on Friday saying Riyadh was already committed to output of nine million barrels a day next month.

That is up from about 8.3 million BPD in April and

a rise of nearly 18 per cent over its existing OPEC quota of 7.64 million, raising eyebrows among some fellow cartel members, even though they can pump no more.

"This is all about what Saudi Arabia wants to do. They have to protect long-term demand because they control 30 per cent of the world's proven reserves," said consultant Gary Ross of New York's PIRA Energy.

"At the end of the day Saudi Arabia is the only country with significant spare capacity and they are not going to be constrained by others with none."

MNA/Reuters

Vietnamese PM visits Hubei Province

WUHAN, 24 May—Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai visited Hubei Province in central China on Saturday.

Khai and his party toured the Economic and Technology Development Zone of Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province.

The Economic and Technology Development Zone of Wuhan has attracted a total investment of nearly 50 billion yuan (6.04 billion US dollars) from 21 countries since 1993, sources said.

Luo Qingquan, governor of Hubei, said friendship between Hubei and Vietnam has been strengthened with increased economic and cultural exchanges between the two sides. Luo expressed his belief that Khai's visit to Hubei will upgrade the economic, trade and cultural exchanges between the two

sides to a new level.

During Khai's Hubei tour, the entrepreneurs from the two sides held meetings to exchange views on information technology, finance, infrastructure construction, tourism and trade.

Khai said his trip is aimed to strengthen cooperation and mutual trust between Vietnam and China.

Vietnam has sent many delegations to China to learn the experience of China and welcomes more Chinese delegations and entrepreneurs to visit Vietnam, he said.

Khai and his party will leave Wuhan for Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province in northeast China, Sunday.

MNA/Xinhua

Georgia plans road to link Adzhara with Turkey

ISTANBUL, 24 May—Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili said on Friday work would begin next year on a highway linking Turkey's biggest city Istanbul to Batumi, a Georgian port at the opposite end of the Black Sea.

Saakashvili also plans an airport for Batumi, the capital of former breakaway region Adzhara. Saakashvili, who also said work on a railway to Kars in eastern Turkey would begin shortly, hopes better transport links with Turkey will help Adzhara.

"The only way to develop the Adzhara Region is by integrating it with Turkey through trade and tourism," Saakashvili told a gathering of Turkish and Georgian businessmen on an official visit to Turkey. He said the planned road and rail links would help develop Batumi's tourism potential and would boost the access of Turkish businessmen to the Caucasus region and to Russia beyond.

Saakashvili, 37, gave no details about the planned road

and Turkish Government officials were not immediately available for comment.

"With a nine-hour drive you will be able to get to Batumi from Istanbul," Saakashvili said, despite the cities being over 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) apart.

Georgia is especially important to Turkey because it is a transit country for a multi-billion dollar oil pipeline due to start pumping crude from the Caspian Sea to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan next year. Georgia, an impoverished former Soviet republic plagued by corruption and organized crime, says it expects revenues of about 50 million US dollars a year from the pipeline. —MNA/Reuters



A rare Philippine eagle nicknamed 'Kabayan' (Filipino for compatriot). The Philippine eagle is on the brink of extinction and is the rarest of all large forest eagles.—INTERNET

Sri Lankan former FM crosses over to government

COLOMBO, 24 May—Sri Lankan former foreign minister Tyrone Fernando has crossed over to the government and become a member of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) headed by President Chandrika Kumaratunga, the official *Daily News* said on Saturday.

On the invitation of President Kumaratunga, Fernando joined the SLFP and received his SLFP membership from the president at a simple ceremony held at the President's House in capital Colombo on Friday.

The SLFP and the leftist JVP or People's Liberation Front are the two main constituents of the United People's Freedom Alliance government led by President Kumaratunga.

Fernando quit the UNP three weeks ago in protest over what he called "a great injustice" for exclusion from the 13th Parliament while being included in the UNP national list for the April 2 parliamentary elections.

Fernando, an Oxford University educated veteran politician, had been a member of the UNP led by former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe for 30 years.

He has been an elected member of Parliament for 27 years and has held a variety of ministerial positions for 20 years.—MNA/Xinhua

Ship carrying 4,000 cars sinks off Singapore

SINGAPORE, 24 May—A ship carrying 4,000 cars sank after colliding with an oil tanker south of Singapore, port officials said on Sunday.

The collision between the oil tanker *MT Kaminesan*, which was loaded with 279,949 tons of crude oil, and car carrier *MV Hyundai No 105* occurred on Saturday just before midnight, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) said in a statement.

"All the cars sank. But there is no spill (of crude oil) from the tanker," said MPA spokeswoman Theresa Pong.

MNA/Reuters



Bollywood stars Hrithik Roshan (L) and Priety Zinta perform at the International Indian Film Academy award ceremony in Singapore on 22 May, 2004. Roshan won the award for Best Actor and Zinta won the award for Best Actress.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Olisadebe seals title for Panathinaikos

ATHENS, 24 May—Panathinaikos lifted the Greek league trophy for the first time in eight years on Saturday with a final day 1-0 win over Paniliakos.

The Athens team made their travelling support wait until the 76th minute when Emmanuel Olisadebe broke the deadlock.

Panathinaikos needed to win to fend off champions Olympiakos who beat Aegaleo 3-1 to finish two points behind their local rivals. The title victory broke a seven-year winning streak for Olympiakos who will have to settle for a place in the group stages of the Champions League.

Nigerian born super-sub Olisadebe claimed only his third goal of the season with a smart turn and fierce shot which prompted a pitch invasion by the 6,000 Panathinaikos fans at the stadium in Pyrgos.

The goal also sealed relegation for Paniliakos who along with Proodeftiki will be playing in the Second Division next season.

PAOK Salonika took the third Champions League berth with a 1-1 draw at Aris Salonika.

Aegaleo and Panionios, who beat Proodeftiki 3-1, will make up the UEFA Cup contingent.

AEK Athens won away 3-1 at Kallithea but may forfeit their UEFA Cup place because of debt problems. —MNA/Reuters

Larsson gets double to leave Celtic with Cup win

GLASGOW, 24 May—Sweden striker Henrik Larsson enjoyed a glorious end to his Celtic career when he scored twice to help secure a 3-1 Scottish Cup final victory over Dunfermline Athletic to wrap up the domestic double on Saturday.

The prolific Larsson assumed centre stage to spoil spirited Dunfermline's hopes of a first cup success since 1968 after they took the lead through Andrius Skerla's 40th minute header.

The Swede raced away to coolly slot home the equalizer after 58 minutes before brilliantly turning Dunfermline's Aaron Labone to drill a 71st minute shot into the corner of the net.

Bulgarian midfielder Stilian Petrov wrapped up the win after 84 minutes when he drove the ball home as the underdogs wilted.

Yet an upset had appeared on the cards as Celtic found few openings in the first period against a counter-attacking side content to soak up the pressure and stifle their opponents.

That policy worked perfectly and Jimmy Calderwood's Dunfermline side created several chances before Skerla struck.

Gary Dempsey drilled a free-kick just wide after four minutes before 37-year-old striker Craig Brewster, who scored the winner in Dundee United's 1994 victory over Rangers — forced a fine save from Celtic keeper David Marshall after Barry Nicholson had picked him out with a searching

long ball.

Celtic seemed ill at ease and their best opening did not arrive until the 25th minute when Alan Thompson slammed an effort narrowly wide from Chris Sutton's intelligent pass.

They were unlucky when Stilian Petrov's effort was disallowed after he tucked the ball home in the 34th minute with Larsson deemed guilty of a foul in the build-up.

But those were rare moments of cohesion as Dunfermline continued to disrupt Celtic's rhythm and Darren Young unleashed a venomous deflected shot that flashed past Marshall's post.

Celtic fell behind in contentious circumstances as Dempsey's corner was met by Skerla whose header looked harmless until Derek Young challenged Marshall

and the ball dropped into the net.

Celtic won a series of corners at the start of the second half, one of which saw Dunfermline's Gary Mason kick the ball off his line, and the pressure paid off when Larsson equalized.

The champions were transformed and Larsson beautifully turned Labone from Thompson's short pass to fire into the corner of the net before Petrov's killer third goal handed delighted manager O'Neill his sixth trophy in four years.

Larsson — who can now focus on playing for Sweden at Euro 2004 next month — ends his seven-year stay with 242 goals from 315 appearances. He sits behind only Jimmy McGorry (470) and Bobby Lennox (273) as the Glasgow side's third top scorer.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham sticks neck out for another tattoo

LONDON, 24 May—England soccer captain David Beckham surprised fans and dismayed media commentators by acquiring another tattoo, a winged cross, etched across the back of his neck.

British newspapers on Saturday clucked their disapproval as they showed pictures of Beckham with the tattoo, his ninth, as he trained in Spain with Real Madrid

teammates.

The tabloid *Daily Mirror* said the design, stretching from ear-to-ear, left the shaven-headed Beckham "looking more like a soccer thug than the England captain", while the top selling *Sun* newspaper said he had gone from "fab to yob".

Beckham flew tattooist Louis Malloy to Madrid from Manchester on Thursday for the latest addition to his multi-million pound body.

"He didn't tell me the whole story behind the design," Malloy told the *Daily Mirror*.

"But it's a religious iconography, like a protective talisman over his children," he said. "David just loves his tattoos. He's a very good customer."

The winged image was added the same day as Beckham declared he was

Euro 2004 stadiums cost more than doubled

LISBON, 24 May—Six stadiums hosting the European championships cost more than twice their estimate, Portugal's public audit agency said on Thursday.

Cost overruns at the six smaller stadiums have sent their host cities' debt soaring, the Public Accounts Court said.

The biggest cost overshoot happened on a 30,000-seat stadium in Braga, a city of about 70,000 people some 350 kilometres north of Lisbon, which cost 83.9 million euros, 180 per cent higher than the initial estimate. Seventy-eight per cent of Braga's debt is related to Euro 2004 spending.

The high debt thus caused Braga and another city Leiria to face serious spending limits for 20 years, although Braga's mayor Mesquita Machado promised that the city's spending will not be affected.

According to the accounts, the stadiums in Braga, Leiria, Coimbra, Guimaraes, Faro/Loule and Aveiro cost a total of 290 million

euros (345.6 million US dollars), 107 per cent more than the original estimate.

It said that public spending for the tournament including those from the central government will be more than 600 million euros.

Ten stadiums in eight cities will host the 16-team tournament, which kicks off on June 12. The central government had agreed to pay 25 per cent of stadium costs and subsidize interest rates for construction. However, it only paid 13 per cent of the final costs for the six stadiums and the interest rate fund was quickly exhausted, the report said.

Minister Without Portfolio Jose Luis Arnaut, who is overseeing the Euro 2004 project, told state radio RDP there had been no overruns in central government spending.

MNA/Xinhua

Wisla Krakow clinches Poland's league title

WARSAW, 24 May—Wisla Krakow clinched Poland's First Division soccer title on Saturday two rounds before the season's end.

Before this weekend Wisla had a five-point advantage over their closest rivals, Legia Warsaw.

Wisla beat ninth-placed Gornik Leczna 1-0 on Friday, and Legia drew on Saturday 2-2 with fourth-ranked Groclin Grodzisk, handing the title to Wisla.

It was the ninth title in the history of the Krakow club and the fourth in the last six seasons.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Portuguese player Luis Figo (L) and Real Sociedad's Larrea battle for the ball during their first division soccer match at Madrid's Bernabeu stadium May 23, 2004.—INTERNET

Bayern finish runners-up in Hitzfeld farewell

BERLIN, 24 May—Bayern Munich secured a Champions League spot with a 2-0 victory over SC Freiburg on Saturday in their final Bundesliga game of the

season and their last under coach Ottmar Hitzfeld.

The outgoing champions finish runners-up to Werder Bremen and will enter the group phase of European club soccer's premier event.

Germany midfielder Sebastian Deisler, starting a Bundesliga game for the first time in over six months after recovering from depression, opened the scoring with a deflected effort from outside the box on 18 minutes.

France defender Bixente Lizarazu wrapped it up from a penalty in the 73rd minute.

Bayern end the season without a title and Hitzfeld has been told to leave to make room for Felix Magath, who will join from VfB Stuttgart.

Werder, who sealed their fourth crown with two games to spare, signed off with a 3-1 defeat at Hansa Rostock.

The northerners will now chase their first domestic double when they play Second Division Alemannia Aachen in the German Cup final next Saturday in Berlin.

Bayer Leverkusen snatched third place and a ticket to the qualifying round of the Champions League

with a 2-0 win over VfB Stuttgart, who will have to be content with fourth place and a UEFA Cup spot.

Bulgaria striker Dimitar Berbatov gave Leverkusen the lead on 63 minutes and midfielder Bernd Schneider doubled it with five minutes left, following up after a penalty by goalkeeper Hans-Joerg Butt bounced off the post.

Modest VfL Bochum will also play in Europe after crowning a surprise run with a 3-1 win over Hanover 96 which gave them fifth place in the final standings.

Borussia Dortmund ended a disappointing season with a 1-1 draw at Kaiserslautern and finish sixth, narrowly missing out on a UEFA Cup spot.

TSV 1860 Munich and Eintracht Frankfurt were relegated after defeats that left them second and third from bottom respectively. They will play in the Second Division next season alongside bottom club Cologne, who have been relegated for weeks.

TSV 1860 lost 3-1 at Borussia Moenchengladbach while Eintracht lost 2-1 at Hamburg SV.

MNA/Reuters



Claudine Schaul, of Luxembourg, holds the winner's trophy after defeating Lindsay Davenport (news) of the USA during their final match at the Strasbourg international tennis tournament, eastern France, Saturday, May 22, 2004. Schaul won, 2-6, 6-0, 6-3.—INTERNET

MRTV-3
**25-5-2004 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 Welcome to Bagan
9:12 **Headline News**
9:12 Travelogue (Kalaw)
9:15 **National News**
9:20 The National Museum (II)
9:25 Tu Hna Thwe
9:30 **National News**
9:35 A Day in the life of the PaO Family
9:40 Song "Auspicious Day, May 17th"
9:42 Tour in Myanmar "Mingun Bell"
9:45 **National News**
9:50 Greening of the Hills and Ranges, in order to achieve climate change (Shimataung) (Magway Division)
9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**25-5-2004 (Tuesday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
15:36 Welcome to Bagan
15:40 **Headline News**
15:42 Travelogue (Kalaw)
15:45 **National News**
15:50 The National Museum (II)
15:55 Tu Hna Thwe
16:00 **National News**
16:05 A Day in the life of the PaO Family
16:10 Song "Auspicious Day, May 17th"
16:12 Tour in Myanmar "Mingun Bell"
16:15 **National News**
16:20 Greening of the Hills

- and Ranges, in order to achieve climate change (Shimataung) (Magway Division)
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30 **National news**
16:35 Music for Your Ears (Than Sann Lyric Notes)
16:40 Thabotseik Village on Seaside
16:45 **National News**
16:50 The Making of a Myanmar Saung (Harp)
16:55 Kayan Dance
17:00 **National News**
17:05 Weaving Industry of Pakokku
17:10 Song "This Rain"
17:15 **National News**
17:20 An Umbrella For Style
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
19:36 The National Museum (I)
19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 Myanmar Footwear & Bags
19:45 **National News**
19:50 Ancient City, Pakhangyi
19:55 A Dance to the Harvest
19:58 Tour In Myanmar "Patheingyi"
20:00 **National News**
20:05 Song "Journey Towards A New Golden State"
20:10 Usefulness of Nipa Palm
20:12 Mosaic Painting of Myanmar
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Myanmar Natural Resource Spirulina
20:25 Song "Beauty of Wakema"
20:30 **National news**
20:35 Myanmar Orchestra (Thichinkhant)
20:40 Pride of place in Bagan (The Ananda Temple)
20:45 **National News**
20:50 Akha Weaving Training School
20:55 The Beauty and Grace of the hands
20:58 Photo Exhibitions of

- Shwedagon Pagoda
21:00 **National News**
21:05 Myanmar Traditional Snack "Dawei Ngamoun" (Fish Crispies)
21:10 Song "Do You Love me?"
21:12 Old Master Artist U Ba Yin Galay
21:15 **National News**
21:20 Making Myanmar Marionette
21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
21:36 Welcome to Bagan
21:40 **Headline News**
21:42 Travelogue (Kalaw)
21:45 **National News**
21:50 The National Museum (II)
21:55 Tu Hna Thwe
22:00 **National News**
22:05 A Day in the life of the PaO Family
22:10 Song "Auspicious Day, May 17th"
22:12 Tour in Myanmar "Mingun Bell"
22:20 Greening of the Hills and Ranges, in order to achieve climate change (Shimataung) (Magway Division)
22:25 Song "Greetings From Chin Hills"
22:30 **National news**
22:35 Music for Your Ears (Than Sann Lyric Notes)
22:40 Thabotseik Village on Seaside
22:45 **National News**
22:50 The Making of a Myanmar Saung (Harp)
22:55 Kayan Dance
23:00 **National News**
23:05 Weaving Industry of Pakokku
23:10 Song "This Rain"
23:15 **National News**
23:20 An Umbrella For Style
23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**25-5-2004 (Tuesday) &
26-5-2004 (Wednesday)
Evening Transmission &
Morning Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Pano-

- rama & Myanma Sentiment"
23:36 Welcome to Bagan
23:40 **Headline News**
23:42 Travelogue (Kalaw)
23:45 **National News**
23:50 The National Museum (II)
23:55 Tu Hna Thwe
24:00 **National News**
00:05 A Day in the life of the PaO Family
00:10 Song "Auspicious Day, May 17th"
00:12 Tour in Myanmar "Mingun Bell"
00:15 **National News**
00:20 Greening of the Hills and Ranges, in order to achieve climate change (Shimataung) (Magway Division)
00:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
00:30 **National news**
00:35 Music for Your Ears (Than Sann Lyric Notes)
00:40 Thabotseik Village on Seaside
00:45 **National News**
00:50 The Making of a Myanmar Saung (Harp)
00:55 Kayan Dance
01:00 **National News**
01:05 Weaving Industry of Pakokku
01:10 Song "This Rain"
01:15 **National News**
01:20 An Umbrella For Style
01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

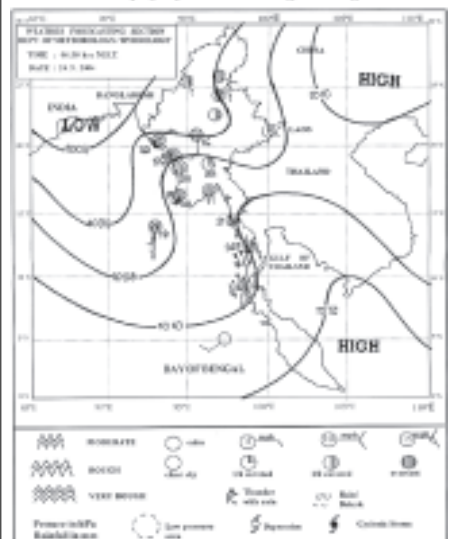
**26-5-2004 (Wednesday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
03:36 The National Museum (I)
03:40 **Headline News**
03:42 Myanmar Footwear & Bags
03:45 **National News**
03:50 Ancient City, Pakhangyi
03:55 A Dance to the Harvest
03:58 Tour In Myanmar "Patheingyi"
04:00 **National News**
04:05 Myanmar Modern Song "Journey Towards A New Golden State"

- 04:10 Usefulness of Nipa Palm
04:12 Mosaic Painting of Myanmar
04:15 **National News**
04:20 Myanmar Natural Resource Spirulina
04:25 Song "Beauty of Wakema"
04:30 **National news**
04:35 Myanmar Orchestra (Thichinkhant)
04:40 Pride of place in Bagan (The Ananda Temple)
04:45 **National News**
04:50 Akha Weaving Training School
04:55 The Beauty and Grace of the hands
04:58 Photo Exhibitions of Shwedagon Pagoda
05:00 **National News**
05:05 Myanmar Traditional Snack "Dawei Ngamoun" (Fish Crispies)
05:10 Song "Do You Love me?"
05:12 Old Master Artist U Ba Yin Galay
05:15 **National News**
05:20 Making Myanmar Marionette
05:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
05:35 Welcome to Bagan
05:40 **Headline News**
05:42 Travelogue (Kalaw)

- 05:45 **National News**
05:50 The National Museum (II)
05:55 Tu Hna Thwe
06:00 **National News**
06:05 A Day in the life of the PaO Family
06:10 Song "Auspicious Day, May 17th"
06:12 Tour in Myanmar "Mingun Bell"
06:15 **National News**
06:20 Greening of the Hills and Ranges, in order to achieve climate change (Shimataung) (Magway Division)
06:25 Song "Greetings From Chin Hills"
06:30 **National news**
06:35 Music for Your Ears (Than Sann Lyric Notes)
06:40 Thabotseik Village on Seaside
06:45 **National News**
06:50 The Making of a Myanmar Saung (Harp)
06:55 Kayan Dance
07:00 **National News**
07:05 Weaving Industry of Pakokku
07:10 Song "This Rain"
07:15 **National News**
07:20 An Umbrella For Style
07:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas


WEATHER

Monday, 24 May, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division and Kayin State and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Ayeyawady Division, Kachin, Shan and Chin States, scattered in upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Magway Division. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Maungdaw (2.44) inches, Pyaw (2.09) inches, Sittwe and Myeik (1.77) inches each and Minbu (1.57) inches.

Maximum temperature on 23-5-2004 was 32.0°C (90°F). Minimum temperature on 24-5-2004 was 20.7°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-5-2004 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 23-5-2004 was (4.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 24-5-2004 was 39mm (1.53 inches) at Yangon Airport, 11mm (0.43 inch) at Kaba-Aye and 1mm (0.04 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 346 mm (13.62 inches) at Yangon Airport and 312 mm (12.28 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 455 mm (17.91 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from Southwest at (16:30) hours MST on 23-5-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 25-5-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagaing Division, Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, scattered in Chin State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Moderate monsoon. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-5-2004:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-5-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).


 Tuesday, May 25
View today:

- 7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်
8:10 am
6. Song of Yesteryear
8:20 am
7. မုတ်သားတောရေလှောင်တံခွန်
8:30 am
8. International news

- 8:45 am
9. Grammar Made Easy
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English For Everyday Use
4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. အဆာသင်တန်းသို့ လှည့်ပေးရန်
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ်
(အထူးပြောသုံး) (အင်္ဂလိပ်)
5:15 pm
6. Dance of national races
5:30 pm
7. မနိုးချောင်းဝဲတား
5:35 pm
8. ခံစားနားဆင်တေးစာတိုဝင်
5:45 pm
9. သားငါးပွဲကြီး ပြည့်အစဉ်
5:55 pm
10. Sing And Enjoy

- 6:30 pm
11. Evening news
7:00 pm
12. Weather report
7:05 pm
13. The Mirror Image Of Musical Oldies
7:20 pm
14. ရန်ပုံငွေအသုံးပြုမှု တိုင်းရင်းသား
ကျေးရွာ
7:30 pm
15. ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး (အပိုင်း-၁)
7:40 pm
16. ကျေးလက်ဒေသတစ်ဖွင့်အကူအညီ
8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းညွှန်
"အချစ်ဆိုသည်မှာ" (အပိုင်း-၃၅)
21. Calcio Serie A Highlight
22. The next day's programme


 Tuesday, May 25
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: Good for me (Amy Grant)
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: I wanna dance (Whitney Houston)
8:50 am National news/Slogan
9:00 am Music: I love your smile (Shanice)
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music: Night shift (Commodores)
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music -Whose heartache is this (Reba)
-Only my heart knows (Tom Jones)
9:00 pm English Lesson: Look Ahead (14)
9:15 pm Article/Music
9:25 pm Weekly sports reel
9:35 pm Music for your listening pleasure -Put your arms around me (Natural)
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein asks after National Convention delegates undergoing medical treatment



Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein asks after health of delegate U Kyaw Aye of delegate of national race group.—MNA

YANGON, 24 May—Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development

Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein together with Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Vice-Chairman of

National Convention Convening Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Chairman of National Convention Conven-

ing Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and NCCC members, this evening visited Defence Services Gen-

eral Hospital (1000-bed) and Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) where delegates to the National Convention are undergoing medical treatment and asked after health condition of the delegates and provided cash assistance of NCCC.

On arrival at Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) in Mingaladon Township, Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party were welcomed by Deputy Director of Directorate of Medical Services Col Myint Maung, Commander of Mingaladon Station Brig-Gen Min Thein, Commandant of the hospital Brig-Gen Than Sein, the deputy commandant and specialists/ heads of department.

Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party met with delegate of national races U Kyaw Aye and delegate of peas-

ants U Shaungwa Daung Lwan at the special ward and enquired after the health condition. Lt-Gen Thein Sein provided cash assistance provided by NCCC to the delegates who are undergoing medical treatment there.

Afterwards, Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party proceeded to Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) where they were welcomed by Commandant of the hospital Lt-Col Tun Tun, specialists and medical staff.

Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party met delegate of peasants U Thein Lwin at the intensive care unit and asked after the health condition.

After providing cash assistance of NCCC to the delegate, NCCC Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party left the hospital.—MNA

Regional development measures inspected in Hlinethaya and Htantabin townships

YANGON, 24 May — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected regional development activities in Hlinethaya and Htantabin townships in Yangon North District this afternoon and attended to the requirements after giving instructions to officials.

The commander arrived at the Panhlaing river-crossing bridge construction project in Hlinethaya at 3.30 pm. At the briefing hall there, the commander heard reports on construction of the bridge and availability of construction materials and gave instructions on efforts to meet the set standards, minimizing loss and wastage, and speedy completion.

Next, engineers and officials conducted the commander and party round the project. The minister then urged officials concerned to work hard for speedy implementation of the project as the completion of the bridge would accelerate the development pace of wards and villages between Panhlaing river and Twantay canal.

Panhlaing bridge now under construction is 1,940 feet long, with a 500-foot-long main bridge and a 1,440-foot-long approach structure. It also has a 28-foot-wide motor road and a 4-foot-wide pedestrian lane on both sides. It is of iron-reinforced concrete type with a 75-foot-wide clear-



Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects Panhlaing river-crossing bridge.—MNA

ance. And it can bear 60 tons of loads.

Later, the commander and party went to the Kokkwa estuary near Anyasu village in Htantabin. They inspected measures being taken there for prevention of erosion by the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems and the laying of sandbags. After giving instructions, the minister fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the commander and party met with departmental officials at township level, social organizations, townsmen and local farmers at the office of the township peace and development council. On the occasion, local authorities reported on arrangements for extended cultivation of monsoon paddy and assistance to be rendered.

(See page 9)

NC delegate groups hold coord meetings on compilation of papers

YANGON, 24 May — The delegate group of workers and other invited delegate groups to the National Convention held coordination meetings on compilation of papers on respective sectors that are included in writing the State Constitution at the designated meeting halls of Nyaungnapin Camp this morning.

The workers delegate group held its coordination meeting at the meeting hall-5 at 8.45 am. Present were Alternate Chairman Dr Myo Thant Tin of Yangon Division, members of panel of chairmen U Bo Thein of Shan State (East), U Kyaw Myo Win of Bago Division (West), U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Division, U Kyaw Win Tun of Mandalay Division and delegates of workers. Dr Myo Thant Tin gave an

opening speech regarding the compilation of papers, and those present made discussions. Next, five paper compilation sub-groups were formed. The sub-group-1 is to compile the paper on defence, security

and foreign affairs sector; the sub-group-2 the paper on financial and planning sector; the sub-group-3 the paper on economic, agricultural and transport sector; the sub-group-4 the paper on energy, electric,

mining and industrial sector; and the sub-group-5 the paper on social, management and judicial sector. The delegate group of workers will start compilation of papers tomorrow.

(See page 9)



Chairman U Sai Aung Tun of Myanmar History Committee makes a speech at coordination meeting of other invited delegates group.—MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.