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Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on his departure for Malaysia

YANGON, 1 June — At the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt of the Union of Myanmar left for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, by air this morning to pay a goodwill visit.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, members of State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council the Commander, senior military officers, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and heads of foreign missions in Yangon, resident representatives of UN agencies, the



Senior General Than Shwe and party see off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

charge' de affaires of Malaysia Embassy and officials and departmental heads. The Myanmar delegation members Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Foreign Affairs U

Win Aung, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and departmental heads accompanied Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrives at Malaysia on working visit

YANGON, 1 June — At the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, accompanied

by State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party, left here by air for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on a goodwill visit from Yangon International Air-

port this morning.

The aircraft carrying Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and his entourage landed at Kuala Lumpur International Airport at 11.30 am local standard time. Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Hla Maung and Head of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Yahaya bin Abdul Jabar welcomed the Prime Minister and party on board the aircraft.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were also welcomed by Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, a

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and his Malaysian counterpart Dato' Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi inspect the Guard of Honour. — MNA

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PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 2 June, 2004

To boost production of agriculture, forest and fishery sectors

The Government has been striving on all fronts for peace, development and modernization of the Union. In doing so, it has to face a lot of obstacles within and without. However, it is determined to build all the infrastructures all over the Union. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on the use of natural resources for national interests that for the development of the nation the Government and the people should cooperate and explore the rich resources of the nation.

Strong economic infrastructures are the sine qua non for the national economic growth. This being so, the Government is accelerating efforts at building economic infrastructures the length and breadth of the nation.

The agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors are the main pillars of the national economy and these sectors have a lot of potential for raising the socio-economic life of the entire people and for national development. The Government has been spending large sums of money on the construction of dams, river-water pumping stations and underground water supply projects to make sure that there is sufficient supply of water so that production of the agriculture sector can be increased. Therefore, it is only necessary to make the best use of the favourable environment the Government has provided.

Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions being the main rice-growing regions, the authorities and farmers in these regions will have to make constant efforts not only to increase the annual yield of paddy but also to extend the cultivation of other crops such as cotton, sugarcane and beans and pulses. If we study the forestry sector, one of the main economic sectors of the nation, we can see that more than 130,000 square miles of the nation's total area is covered with forest.

Now, in accordance with the project for the greening of dry and arid regions, there emerge teak plantations in these regions and the total area of teak plantations now stand at almost 1.1 million acres. Local people should take part in teak cultivation as well as in forest conservation work. If we study the fishery sector, we can see that Ayeyawady, Taninthayi and Rakhine States have favourable conditions for farming fish and prawn. It is only necessary to make effective use of these favourable conditions to boost the output of marine products.

We would like to call upon all those responsible and local people to make effective use of terrestrial and aquatic resources and to increase the production of the agriculture, forest and fishery sectors.

MEB branch opened in Pyu

YANGON, 1 June — The Myanmar Economic Bank branch was opened with ceremony in Pyu this morning.

Toungoo District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Ye Myint and Managing Director of MEB Col Hsan Tun formally opened the new branch by cutting a ribbon. Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Minister for Finance & Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun spoke on the occasion and the commander formally unveiled the signboard of the MEB branch. The minister later met with staff of MEB, Myanmar Small Loan Enterprise and Internal Revenue Department at the local. He also inspected the MEB branches in Kyauktaga, Nyaunglaybin and DaikU as well as Bago Division MEB branch.—MNA

Film entertainment to NC delegates

YANGON, 1 June — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee organizes entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention daily at the gymnasium of Nyaungnapin Camp. Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with "Maunt-Mu-Pai-Shin", an academy award-winning film for 2000, directed by Ko San Aung and starred by Dway, Lwin Moe, Htet Htet Moe Oo and Htun Eindra Bo. — 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



MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivers an address at the opening of the refresher course. — MNA

Refresher course for core peer educators opened

YANGON, 1 June — A refresher course for core peer educators under the Improving Adolescent Reproductive Health Project was opened with ceremony under the joint sponsorship of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, UNICEF and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) this morning at the MMCWA head office at the corner of Thanthuma and Parami Roads in South Okkalapa Township here.

Present on the occasion were MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, UNICEF Resident Representative Mr Najib M Assifi, officials, honorary patrons, Yangon Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay, personnel from NGOs and others. MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Mr Najib M Assifi spoke on the occasion. The six-day course is being attended by 40 core peer educators. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein delivers an address at the seminar. — MNA

Seminar on ASEAN Economic Cooperation held

YANGON, 1 June—Under the project of ASEAN Information Seminar Series (FY 2003-04), Seminar on ASEAN Economic Cooperation, sponsored by ASEAN Information Seminar Series Organizing Management Committee led by Ministry of Information was held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park this morning. It was attended by Chairman of the Management Committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and committee members, members of ASEAN Culture and Information Sub-Committee, heads of department under the ministry and officials, those from departmental organizations and social organizations and mediamen.

Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein made a speech. He said that Myanmar has been making integrated and well-coordinated efforts together with ASEAN member countries and ASEAN dialogue partners in the interest of the whole region and itself since it has become an ASEAN member on 23 July 1997.

The Heads of ASEAN nations laid down ASEAN Vision (2020) at the Second ASEAN Informal Summit held from 15 to 17 December 1997. The aim of the ASEAN Vision is to turn the ASEAN into an organization in which nations with peaceful, tranquil and prosperous communities are making concerted efforts. In the process, Hanoi Plan of Action has been laid down and is being implemented. In this connection, concerted and collective efforts are to be made among ASEAN nations and together with other countries in economic and social sectors. The Bali Concord II Declaration was issued at the 9th ASEAN Summit held at Bali, Indonesia from 7 to 8 October 2003 to reinforce the ASEAN Vision 2020. Under the declaration, efforts are to be made to establish a peaceful, tranquil and prosperous region based on ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. In this context, the 6-year Vientiane Action Plan has been laid down and is being implemented to be able to continue implementing the Hanoi Plan of Action. The objectives laid down by the Heads of ASEAN nations could not be fully implemented through only cooperation among the Governments, and cooperation among the peoples of ASEAN nations is imperative. The ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information has laid down and is implementing plans yearly for realization of ASEAN Awareness.

The ASEAN Information Seminar Series and the ASEAN Quiz are plans on information for ensuring successful realization of ASEAN Awareness. That is why the Ministry of Information has been participating in the tasks, taking a leading role. The ASEAN Information Seminar Series which began last year were held three times at the MICT Park, Yangon last year. To impart information and knowledge to people in Mandalay the ASEAN Information Seminar Series (FY 2003-2004) and Understanding ASEAN, the first session of the ASEAN Information Seminar Series (FY 2003-2004) was held at Swan Hotel in Mandalay on 2 April. The Integrating ASEAN's Newer Members, the second session of the ASEAN Information Seminar Series (FY 2003-2004) was held at the MICT Park, Yangon on 4 May and the two sessions were attended by over 100.

The ASEAN Economic Cooperation, the third meeting, is held today and it is believed that those present at the meeting will be able to widen their horizons of knowledge as panel of discussions will be conducted, he said. Next, Adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Maung Maung Yi reported on ASEAN Economic Community (AEC); Deputy Director-General of Customs Department Thiha Thura U Thein Tun Tin on ASEAN Free Trade Area and Myanmar; Deputy Director of AFTA Unit Daw Tin Tin Htwe, on behalf of Adviser Dr Daw Khin Ohn Thant of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Establishing Free Trade Area with ASEAN Dialogue Partners; and Deputy Director-General U L Zaw Shan of Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department of the Ministry of Industry-1 on ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme (AICO Scheme) and the first session of the seminar came into recess. The second session of the seminar continued in the afternoon. Director-General U Khin Maung Latt of Directorate Hotels and Tourism of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism reported on ASEAN and Myanmar Tourism Development; Deputy Director-General U Thein Lwin of Energy Planning Department of the Ministry of Energy on Future Key Role of Myanmar in ASEAN Energy Sector; and Director-General U Win Pe of Transport Department of the Ministry of Transport on Current Status of ASEAN Cooperation in Transport. This was followed by a general round of discussions. The seminar ended with the concluding remarks by Adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Maung Maung Yi.—MNA

Four US soldiers killed in weekend action in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 May— Four Americans are now reported dead in weekend fighting in Iraq.

Two died in clashes with Shiite militiamen in the city of Kufa. The fighting that began there Sunday continued into this morning — straining a cease-fire that was called there last week.

Supporters of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr ambushed a patrol with small arms fire, killing one soldier.

They fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a tank, killing another American.

The US military said two other Americans died over the weekend in separate attacks.

One soldier died Sunday when a roadside bomb exploded south of Baghdad.

Another died from wounds suffered in a mortar attack Saturday in the northern city of Mosul. — *Internet*

May is third deadliest month of the Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 31 May—At least two US troops died in Iraq on Memorial Day, boosting the total death toll there to an estimated 810.

The two latest casualties - soldiers killed in a continuing battle in Kufa with Shiite guerrillas, boosted May to the third deadliest month of the war that began in March 2003.

May also ranks as the most perilous month for US National Guard and reserve troops since the war started. At least 22 so-called "weekend warriors" perished, accounting for nearly a third of the fatalities in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In April, part-time troops accounted for fewer than 1 in 5 of the fallen.

The growing toll of Guard and reserve forces was predicted by military officials, stemming from an influx of thousands of reservists as part of a massive rotation of US forces over the past few months. With the replacement operation nearly done, the force of 138,000 in Iraq consists of nearly 40 percent civilian-soldiers.

The overall number of fatalities for May is far fewer than April, the war's bloodiest month, with 134 dead. Even so, May's estimated death count at 79 is just short of the 83 who fell in November 2003, the second worst month. The Pentagon ascribed the November violence to an guerilla offensive timed to coincide with the Muslim holy

month of Ramadan.

In April, it was pitched battles that raged for days between US Marines and Iraqi forces in the Sunni stronghold of Fallujah and south of Baghdad in the Shiite sectors of the country that led to the soaring body count. A recent ceasefire in Fallujah worked out between guerillas and US troops reduced attacks there in May.

May also has brought a rise in non-combat deaths: 20 Americans succumbed to vehicle accidents, drowning and accidental electrocutions. That is about double the non-hostile deaths in April.

Nearly half of all US combat deaths in May resulted from improvised explosive devices, remote-controlled bombs that since August have been the guerillas' weapon of choice in nearly half of all successful attacks on US troops. But May saw a considerable rise in the use of mortars, which accounted for at least 10 US deaths and have been a growing menace in recent months.

Only three of the dead in May have been officers, while slightly more than 40 percent were sergeants and other non-commissioned officers.

Internet

Britain confirms oil co executive killed in Khobar

LONDON, 31 May—A British oil company executive is among those killed by gunmen in the oil city of Khobar, Saudi Arabia, the British Foreign Office confirmed on Sunday.

Michael Hamilton in his 50s, a senior executive for Apicorp, the Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation, was shot in his car by al-Qaeda-linked militants as he drove to work at around 0730 local time on Saturday.

The attack was "yet another reminder about the terrorist threat that we face", Prime Minister Tony Blair said Sunday on BBC's Breakfast with Frost programme. Responsibility has been claimed by a group with

apparent links to al-Qaeda.

On Saturday, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw condemned the attack and vowed that Britain stands with the government and people of Saudi Arabia in their fight against terrorism.

The British Foreign Office has updated its travel advice, advising against all but essential travel to Saudi Arabia and warning visitors to "take great care". — *MNA/Xinhua*



US soldiers stand guard as an Iraqi extinguishes debris of a vehicle following a car bomb on Kindi street, in a western Baghdad neighbourhood on 31 May, 2004.

INTERNET

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A US soldier stands behind his jeep and takes aim following a car bomb on Kindi street, in a western Baghdad neighbourhood on 31 May, 2004. — *INTERNET*

Flights to Iraq virtually stopped for lack of security

Moscow, 31 May— Flights to Iraq have virtually been stopped because of lack of security, a spokesman for the Russian Transport Ministry told *Tass* answering the question as to how the airlift between the two countries is operated.

"Flights to Baghdad do not meet the international requirements for security", he said, recalling that a bus that carried a group of staffers of Interenergosservis company came under fire. Two men were killed and seven wounded. The representative of the Russian Transport Ministry said civilian planes "must not make flights to the dangerous zone".

Meanwhile, the Russian aviation offi-

cials have not imposed an official ban on flights to Iraq. "Flights to Iraq will depend on the concrete situation in the region", said the source.

Avialinii- 400 company was the country's only air carrier that made charter flights to Baghdad. According to a representative of the company two charter flights that were scheduled for the first half of June have been cancelled. — *Internet*

WHO says smoking takes a heavy toll in poor countries

WASHINGTON, 31 May—Smoking and cultivation of tobacco have hit poor countries hard as people neglect food, education and health for tobacco related addiction, the World Health Organization said, urging nations to adopt stronger regulatory mechanisms and promote prevention programmes.

"The poorest people tend to smoke the most and bear the greatest health and economic burdens in many societies. For the poor, money spent on tobacco is money not spent on basic necessities such as food, shelter, education and health care," WHO said in a statement released Friday in ahead of the World No Tobacco Day on Monday.

"Beyond consequences borne by the individual, national economies also suffer

through the loss of foreign exchange in the import of tobacco, the loss of tax revenue due to smuggling and damages to the environment caused by cultivation," the world health body said.

It said the cultivation and consumption of tobacco creates a cycle of poverty, pushing the ravages of smoking beyond health concerns.

This year's No Tobacco Day comes as WHO attempts to build greater momentum for adoption of the UN

Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), currently signed by 118 countries. The agreement would come into effect when 40 nations ratify it and 16 countries have so far done so.

According to WHO, smoking kills one person in every 6-1/2 seconds and tobacco kills 4.9 million people annually, which is expected to double in the next 20 years.

MNA/PTI

China creates 6.92 million new jobs in 2003

BEIJING, 31 May— China created 6.92 million new jobs last year, with the total number of registered employed standing at 744.32 million, latest statistics show.

Nearly half of the total employed, or more than 365 million, are engaged in agriculture, according to a report jointly released by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MOLSS) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The number of people employed in industry accounts for 21.6 per cent of the total, or 160.77 million, according to the report, while the tertiary industry, or the service sector, employs 218.09 million people, nearly one third of the total.

Statistics show that the number of registered employed in urban areas stood at 256.39 million in 2003, an increase of 8.59 million

from the previous year, while the private economy employed 49.22 million people, an increase of 6.54 million.

According to the MOLSS, China created 3.6 million new jobs in the first four months this year, accomplishing 40 per cent of the year's target.

This was a good start for the year, said Zhang Xiaojian, Vice Minister of the MOLSS, at a national conference on promoting employment.

Zhang said that China's fast-growing economy serves as a prerequisite for tackling the nation's employment issue.

MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills four near US HQ in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 31 May—A car bomb exploded Monday near coalition headquarters, killing four people and wounding 25 in violence that US authorities believe was aimed at blocking the coming transfer of power. Four American soldiers were reported killed in other attacks.

Shiite leaders also urged US troops to halt "aggressive patrolling" in a bid to save a tattered truce with a radical cleric's militia

around Shiite holy cities south of the capital.

Monday's blast took place in Baghdad's Harithiyah district, about a half-mile from

where the head of the Iraqi Governing Council, Izzadine Saleem, was assassinated in a May 17 car bombing. US soldiers pushed back scream-

ing crowds as ambulances raced to tend to the wounded.

US officers said no prominent political figures were in the area at the time and they were uncertain of the target. It also was unclear whether it was a suicide attack.

However, the dead did include Sabiha Aref, 72, the sister of former Iraqi Presidents Abdel-Salam Aref and Abdel-Rahman Aref, who served as head of state in succession between 1963 and 1968. She was killed by flying glass while cooking lunch at home, a relative said on condition he not be named. — *Internet*



Iraqi doctors and nurses surround a woman inside a Baghdad, Iraq hospital on 31 May, 2004 after she was injured in an explosion in Baghdad. A car bomb exploded Monday near the headquarters of the US-run occupation authority, killing at least two people and injuring more than 20. — INTERNET

China to build park on ruins of ancient kingdom

CHENGDU, 31 May—China is seeking overseas cooperation in building a multi-million dollar cultural park at the site of the earliest and largest ruins of the ancient Shu Kingdom in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The expansion of the existing museum site will cost an estimated investment of 42.16 million US dollars and yield an annual profit of 300 million US dollars when it starts operation, said Li Chengyun, a leading official of the Deyang City, at the Fifth Western China Expo held in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan.

The cultural park is located at the ruins of Sanxingdui, which is near present-day Guanghan City on the Chengdu Plain. Construction of the expansion project will take eight years and comprises 11 projects including a cultural research centre, a group of museums, a film studio, an art education centre and hotels.

Construction of the project has been approved by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and relevant government departments and won the approval from experts. Sanxingdui, which was listed among China's top 10 archaeological findings of

the 20th Century, has long been suspected to be the remains of the ancient Shu Kingdom that suddenly disappeared in southwest China between 3,000 and 5,000 years ago.

Some of the most striking pieces were found accidentally in 1986 at Sanxingdui, a small village in Guanghan City, when workers unearthed two pits. Archaeologists have excavated city walls, with an average height of three to five metres, with the highest being six metres, sacrificial pits, ruins of residences, tombs, jade and stone pits as well as bronze ware such as big masks and figurines at the site.

Experts estimated the number of visitors to the park would be more than 2.2 million annually and the annual profits gained from the park would be 150 million US dollars by 2005. By 2010 when the whole tourist zone opens, the annual tourist arrivals will climb to 3.6 million and the tourist income will exceed 320 million dollars. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Saudi guards oil after attack, seeks to calm fears

KHOBAR (Saudi Arabia), 31 May—Saudi Arabia was tightly guarding its vast energy network, still running as normal after a militant attack in Khobar, as its oil minister planned on Sunday to reassure Western executives over security.

World oil markets have been on edge over the possibility of a militant strike in top crude exporter Saudi Arabia, now pumping more than 9 million barrels daily in a bid to cool scorching prices.

But a purported statement from al-Qaeda boasting of a hit on "American companies... specialized in oil" and claiming the attack on the eastern oil city of Khobar will heighten dealers' concern about supply security in the Middle East.

"No Saudi Aramco facilities or personnel were affected by the incidents in al-Khobar on May 29, 2004, and normal operations continue at all of the company's installations," state-run Saudi Aramco said in a statement received by *Reuters*.

"...the company is committed to carrying out the Saudi Arabian government's policy of providing a reliable supply of oil to meet world energy demand."

Suspected al-Qaeda militants killed some hostages after Saudi commandos stormed a building on Sunday to rescue some 50 foreigners in a Khobar housing compound. Hostage-taking is a new twist in the wave of militant violence sweeping the kingdom.

But pledges of secure supplies from oil giant Saudi Aramco might not go far enough to soothe the jittery world markets, where prices again were threatening to pierce the 40 US dollars a barrel mark. Markets reopen on Tuesday after a long weekend holiday.

— *MNA/Reuters*

ဝက်ပွင့်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Bomb kills two US-led soldiers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 May—A large bomb has killed two soldiers of the US-led coalition in Baghdad, an army spokesman says.

US Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt told a news conference one soldier was killed immediately by the 500-pound improvised explosive device and a second died later from his wounds.

Kimmitt said the attack took place in the last 24 hours. He did not elaborate. He said a member of the US-backed Iraqi Civil Defence Corps was also killed in a separate attack in the last 24 hours.

Improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, have been one of the deadliest weapons against US occupation soldiers in Iraq.

They are hidden near sidewalks and in cans, bottles and even animal carcasses and have been described by the US military as one of the biggest challenges facing American soldiers in Iraq. — *Internet*

Anti-American sentiment grows in Iraq city of Najaf

NAJAF, 31 May—Thousands of leaflets urging Najaf's residents to hand in their weapons litter the street near a US tank parked by the governor's office.

Almost all of them have been ripped up. "People read the leaflet and get annoyed and then deliberately tear it," said Ahmed Mussawi, a tea boy standing opposite the fortified offices, where flyers not caught on the razor wire flutter in the air.

US troops have been able to move more freely in the holy city's main streets since radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's truce offer last week led to a reduction in violence after almost two months of clashes that killed hundreds of Iraqis.

Fighting has taken its toll on the once thriving city, scaring away hundreds of thou-

sands of Shiite pilgrims from nearby Iran and elsewhere who flocked to its shrines, the most sacred in Shia Islam.

As anti-American sentiment grows, some Shiites are reassessing their deposed ruler in a more benevolent light.

"It has turned out that Saddam Hussein was more merciful than Bush. Yes, it's true Saddam hurt us but Bush is more unjust and relies on brute force. Bush failed to understand the Iraqis," said Sadeq Hassani, 47, a farmer.

"I expect America will lose in Iraq. God willing we will defeat them." — *Internet*



An Iraqi fireman extinguishes a burned out car at the scene of a car bomb explosion in Baghdad, Iraq on 31 May, 2004. A car bomb exploded Monday near the headquarters of the US-run occupation authority, killing at least two people and injuring more than 20. — INTERNET

Indian telecom witnesses 98.73 billion rupees FDI inflow

NEW DELHI, 31 May—Indian telecom sector witnessed inflow of foreign direct investment worth rupees 98.73 billion till January 2004 from August 1991 with the highest contribution coming from Mauritius at 72.3 per cent.

The highest amount of FDI of rupees 39.71 billion came in the Year 2001 while the Year 1998 also saw substantial FDI coming to telecom sector at rupees 17.76 billion, the Department of Telecom sources said.

In 2002, the FDI inflow was rupees 10.82 billion and it slowed down in 2003 to rupees 3.01 billion.

While in 1997, FDI worth rupees 12.45 billion had flowed in, in 1999 and 2000, it was rupees 2.13 billion and rupees 2.89 billion respectively.

Up to January this year, FDI worth rupees 90 million had already come into the sector.

In terms of sector, holding companies contributed maximum of this FDI at rupees 48.42 billion (49.05 per cent) while cellular mobile telephone services provided rupees 25.86 billion or 26.20 per cent.

Manufacturing and consultancy services fetched about 16 per cent of the total actual FDI inflow during the last 13 years at rupees 15.76 billion. — *MNA/PTI*

Car bomb rocks busy Baghdad street

BAGHDAD, 31 May—A car bomb has exploded in a busy Baghdad street, causing several casualties.

A US military source said two people were killed and about 17 Iraqi civilians were injured in Monday's blast, according to Aljazeera's correspondent Imad al-Atrash.

The source said there were no casualties among occupation soldiers. A US occupation soldier said the blast was caused by a car bomb.

The explosion took

place in al-Kindi street near the Green Zone, the US-led occupation authority's headquarters in Baghdad.

While US occupation troops practice strict security measures within the Green Zone, it is still difficult for them to control the situation outside the massive compound.

Later in the day a site close

to Baghdad airport used by the US occupation forces as headquarters was attacked by mortar shells and columns of smoke were seen billowing from the site.

The attacks follow the death of a US soldier on Monday of wounds sustained a day earlier in a mortar attack in northern Iraq.

Internet

Red Crescent says Iranian quake toll rises to 35

TEHRAN, 1 June — The death toll from an earthquake that shook northern Iran on Friday rose to 35, most of whom were crushed in rockfalls on the road from Tehran to the Caspian Sea coast, the Iranian Red Crescent said on Sunday.

Mehran Nourbakhsh, director of public relations for the aid group, said 28 people were killed when boulders tumbled onto their cars on the road north from Tehran.

State television showed the twisted and flattened shells of cars, some of them burned out after their petrol tanks caught light.

MNA/Reuters

Britain says four Britons, Iraqi escape Baghdad attack

LONDON, 1 June—Four British civilians and one Iraqi escaped after their convoy was attacked in northwest Baghdad on Sunday, Britain's Foreign Office said on Monday.

One Iraqi was killed and the body had been recovered, it said.

"Four British citizens and another Iraqi national travelling in the convoy got out of the vehicle, flagged down a passing Iraqi vehicle and drove away," a Foreign Office spokeswoman said in a statement.

"None of the four British citizens were injured or killed," she added. "The Iraqi was wounded — we believe not seriously."

Witnesses on Sunday said gunmen strafed the three-

vehicle convoy with small arms fire as it travelled along a highway and that two Westerners were killed.

Locals and police said on Sunday the attackers had dragged away three survivors after the attack but the Foreign Office spokeswoman said sources who had visited the scene did not believe that was the case.

After the attack a crowd of cheering Iraqis leapt up and down on the crippled vehicles and later set them ablaze.

MNA/Reuters

Hu Jintao joins children in marking Children's Day

BEIJING, 1 June — Chinese President Hu Jintao joined hundreds of children here Monday to celebrate the International Children's Day, which falls on June 1, chatting and even playing table tennis with them.

The President visited the China Science and Technology Museum, one of the major attractions for children in Beijing, and the Beijing Municipal Children's Palace on Monday morning.

Hu was welcomed by jubilant children at the museum, and he took a close look at about 600 pieces of

state-of-the-art materials and products with the children, including the returning capsule of China's first manned flight, two robot dogs capable of performing on command, products and models on environmental protection.

The President later visited the Beijing Municipal Children's Palace, the

biggest of its kind in the capital city and spacious enough for up to 5,000 children.

Hu was shown web pages made by children at the palace, and watched with interest children drawing pictures, and later an art performance by children.

After enjoying the performance, the President talked with the kids practicing on the basketball court, and played table tennis with a youngster.

MNA/Xinhua

China opened 1,176 air routes by end of 2003

BEIJING, 1 June — The General Administration of Civil Aviation of China had opened 1,176 air lines by the end of 2003, with the total mileage for air traffic up to 2.29 million kilometres.

According to the administration, from March 28, 2004, China would open 20 new domestic air lines and 15 new international routes.

"Air routes are just like bus lanes on the ground. Only with air lines, can passengers take flights," said an official with the administration. — MNA/Xinhua



A Shiite Muslim Iraqi fighter of the Mehdi Army militia walks with his rocket propelled grenade launcher on his shoulder, close to the Abbasiyah Bridge, the scene of fighting in the town of Kufa on 29 May, 2004. — INTERNET

မြို့ခြံခွတာ၊ ထိန်းပါးလေ့ရှိ၊ ထုတ်တုန်မြင့်

Iraqi killed, 12 wounded in clashes in Najaf

BAGHDAD, 31 May—An Iraqi was killed and 12 others were wounded during the past 24 hours as clashes continued in the holy city of Najaf on Sunday.

Explosions and gunfire rocked the city after fierce clashes broke out at about 9.00 am (0500 GMT) near Najaf's sprawling cemetery and the 1920 Revolution Square, witness Muhsin Jawad at the scene told Xinhua.

The two sides traded fire and loud blasts were heard from US tanks and the militia's rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and machine guns, Jawad said.

An Iraqi was killed and 12 others were injured, including two children, medical source in Najaf said.

Clashes between Shiite Muslim militiamen loyal to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and US forces have broken out repeatedly in the Najaf area since the firebrand

clergy offered a truce on Thursday, under pressures from other Shiite factions in a bid to end fighting in the holy city.

After normal life seemed temporarily restored in the city over the past few days following the truce, many shops were closed and residents rushed for shelters on Sunday as Najaf's streets looked deserted again.

Sadr, who has led an uprising against the US forces throughout southern Iraq for the past two months, said he would only disarm his militia and withdraw from Najaf if the US forces also withdrew.

The US-led coalition agreed Thursday to suspend its military operations in Najaf after Shiite leaders

struck a deal with Sadr to withdraw his Mehdi Army from the holy cities.

Sadr was wanted to answer for charges in relation to a suspect murder of a rival cleric last year and the US-led coalition has been trying to isolate him and to disband his Mehdi Army militia.

After the ceasefire came into force as of late Thursday, the US-led occupation authority announced a suspension in an effort to "kill or capture" the young cleric, saying the future of Sadr would be discussed among religious and political leaders.

For his part, Sadr said in an interview with al-Jazeera TV late Friday that "peace would only be possible when foreign forces left Iraq."

MNA/Xinhua



Kashmiri protesters shout slogans during an anti-American protest in Srinagar on 29 May, 2004. — INTERNET

Cambodia declares fight against illegal tree cutting

PHNOM PENH, 1 June — Cambodia on Monday launched a campaign against the illegal tree cutting and land grabbing and vows to take severe penalty actions against people involved.

"This is a campaign that could not wait for the new government to start, the old government still has the authority to work and to take actions on powerful officials that grab the land for their ownership," Prime Minister Hun Sen said Monday at the inauguration ceremony of the new Forestry Administration building in Phnom Penh.

Prime Minister Hun Sen on Monday ordered all ministries, concerned departments and all sorts of Armed Forces, all levels of local authorities to cooperate effectively with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery and the Ministry of Environment to stop the illegal cutting and burning of trees and illegal land grabbing.

Hun Sen told the people involved to stop immediately these violation acts and give back the land grabbed to the government. Hun Sen said that there was a lot of anarchy of tree cutting between 1993 and 1998 when he started for the first time the campaign against illegal tree cutting and land grabbing.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore receives large number of foreign tourists in April

SINGAPORE, 1 June — Singapore received a total of 651,860 foreign tourists in April this year, up 220 per cent over the same month of last year, according to a statement issued by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on Monday.

The STB said that the number of foreign tourists in April this year registered a 5-per-cent increase over the same period of 2002, which recorded 622,301 foreign tourists to the island state.

China continues to main-

tain its position as the second largest source for Singapore's visitor arrivals. In April 2004, the number of Chinese visitors reported a rise of 17 per cent over April 2002.

In April 2004, visitor arrivals from Indonesia, the

Philippines and India jumped 28 per cent, 27 per cent and 26 per cent respectively.

The average occupancy rate for hotels in April of this year is estimated to have increased 78 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua



Images of Iraq

An Iraqi man carries a boy through the rubble of a destroyed house outside Kufa, Iraq on 31 May, 2004, after a night of fighting between US troops and Shiite gunmen.



Iraqi children are seen through a bullet-riddled windscreen in the southern town of Amarah, 365 kms south of Baghdad, after it was hit by British troops on 30 May, 2004.



Iraqis walk past an explosion damaged building in the Iraqi town of Najaf on 29 May, 2004.



A physician attends to an injured Shiite boy in a hospital in Kufa, near the Southern Iraq city of Najaf on 31 May, 2004. The boy was wounded after clashes between US troops and Iraqi guerillas.



An Iraqi boy looks at the collapsed ceiling of his house after an overnight US air strike over the city of Najaf, on 29 May, 2004.



An injured Iraqi youth lies in hospital after a U.S. air strike over Najaf, on 28 May 2004.



Iraqi Hamza Abass, left, stands near his destroyed home outside of the town of Kufa, Iraq on 31 May, 2004, after a night of heavy fighting between Shiite militia members and US troops in the area.



An Iraqi Man is assisted at a hospital in Najaf after he was injured in clashes between US forces and Shiite gunmen on 30 May, 2004.

New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

Border and rural area developments



The 400-foot Yu Creek bridge on Tamu-Zedi Road in Sagaing Division is an important facility for the development of the Kabaw Valley, lying in the north-west of the nation and it will help develop the region.



The government is spending a large sum of money on water supply projects in rural areas. The photo shows machinery used to sink artesian wells as deep as over 1000 feet in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division.



Transportation plays a vital role in national development. The photo shows Mongnaung-Kehsi-Hamngai-Pankaytu Road in southern Shan State.



To provide effective health care services to rural people is one of the five rural development tasks. The government is carrying out the tasks in rural areas including border regions. The photo shows station hospital in Honamt Village in Maukmai Township, Loilem District, Shan State (South).



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and ambassadors of foreign embassies in Yangon. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being welcomed back at the airport by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and ambassadors of foreign embassies in Yangon. — MNA



Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi greets Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the former's office. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a souvenir to his Malaysian counterpart Dato Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and his Malaysian counterpart Dato Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi take the salute of the Guard of Honour. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party being welcomed by the Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Malaysia. — MNA



The Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister and party bid farewell to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrives at...

(from page 1)

welcoming party led by Deputy Minister of Internal Security Mr Chia Kwang Chye, Myanmar Ambassador U Hla Maung and wife, Myanmar Military Attaché Brig-Gen Than Aung and wife, staff and families of Myanmar embassy and military embassy.

Accompanied by the Malaysian foreign minister, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to Putrajaya, where the Office of Malaysian Prime Minister exists, in a special motorcade to attend a ceremony held by the Malaysian Prime Minister in honour of Myanmar delegation. On arrival there, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi cordially welcomed Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party. Next, the two Prime Ministers went to the dais to take the salute of the Guard of Honour. At that time, the State Band played national anthems of both countries. After inspecting the Guard of Honour, they returned to the dais. The Malaysian State Band played again the national anthems of both countries. Later, the Malaysian Prime Minister presented his ministers, deputy ministers and high-ranking officials, who included in the

welcoming party, to Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Likewise, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt also presented his entourage to his Malaysian counterpart. And Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greeted foreign diplomats of the embassies in Malaysia. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and the Malaysian Prime Minister posed for a souvenir photo. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt also had group photos taken together with the Malaysian Prime Minister and party. After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and his entourage, together with the Malaysian Prime Minister, proceeded to IOI Marriot Hotel in Putrajaya to attend a luncheon hosted by the Malaysian Prime Minister. The luncheon was hosted in Selangor Room on the first floor of the hotel at 1 pm. Also present at the luncheon were Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Hla Maung, and departmental heads. The Malaysian Prime Minister was accompanied by ministers, deputy ministers and high-ranking officials. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt signs in visitors' book at the Malaysian Prime Minister's Office. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party pose for a documentary photo together with Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi pose for a documentary photo. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party attend the luncheon hosted by Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi at the IOI Marriot Hotel. — MNA

Myanmar, Malaysian PMs discuss...

(from page 16)

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Hla Maung, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of the Political Affairs Department U Thauang Tun, Military

Attaché Brig-Gen Than Aung and senior officials. Also present at the meeting together with Malaysian Prime Minister were Minister of Foreign Affairs Datuk Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, Minister of Tourism Datuk Dr Leo Michael Toyad, Deputy Minister of Internal Security Mr Chia Kwang Chye, Deputy Minister of Internal Security Dato Noh Omar, Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Ahmad Husni bin

Hanadzlah, Deputy Minister of Energy, Water and Communications Dato Shaziman Abu Mansor, Advisor for Foreign Affairs to Prime Minister Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Mohamad, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato Cheah Sam Kip and senior officials.

The Prime Ministers of the two countries cordially discussed matters relating to bilateral relations and cooperation, especially, in the trade, investment, tourism, health and technological



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi hold a special meeting at the latter's office. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win being seen off by the Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia and embassy staff at the airport. — MNA

sectors. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that Myanmar greatly values her relations with Malaysia, thanking the country for its support for Myanmar in international and regional affairs. Myanmar is glad to see Malaysia's important role for Myanmar's development, he said, adding that his visit is to widen and strengthen the existing bilateral relations. The Malaysian Prime Minister

said that he warmly welcomed his Myanmar counterpart, expressing wish to extend economic ventures including investments in Myanmar, and hope to enhance bilateral cooperation based on common interest. After the meeting, the Malaysian Prime Minister accompanied Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and delegation to the motorcade. At the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Prime Minister General Khin

Nyunt and party greeted Minister of Foreign Affairs Datuk Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, Deputy Minister of Internal Security Mr Chia Kwang Chye and wife, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Than Aung and wife, Myanmar embassy staff and families. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived back here by air in the evening. — MNA

Group discussions of National Convention delegates continue



Group discussions of peasant delegates in progress. — MNA

YANGON, 1 June—National Convention delegate groups of political parties, intellectuals and intelligentsia, national races, peasants, workers, State service personnel and other invited delegates held discussions at the respective designated halls of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township today.

Delegate Group of Political Parties

The Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia met for group discussions at the meeting hall No 1 starting at 10 am today. U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Hsam of Wa National Development Party presided over the meeting. Deputy Director U Khin Maung Phyu of National Convention Convening Work Committee Group 3 emceed it together with Assistant Director Daw Yin Yin Than. The emcee announced the start of the meeting with the permission of the chairman as 89.66 per cent of delegates attended

the meeting. The chairman delivered an introductory speech. Resource persons U Khun Win Sein of Pa-O National Organization, U Kya Shee of Lahu National Development Party and U Khin Maung Aye of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party read papers regarding the detailed basic principles for sharing of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial powers that are to be included in framing the State Constitution. The meeting went into recess at 11.10 am with closing remarks by the meeting chairman.

Delegate Group of National Races

The Delegate Group of National Races held group discussions at Union hall at 9 am today. U Mann Ohn Maung of Kayin State chaired the meeting together with members of the Panel of Chairmen Duwa Zok Daung of Shan State (North) and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Taninthayi Division.

Deputy Director of National Convention Convening Work Committee Group 5 U Thein Tun acted as master of ceremonies together with Assistant Director U Than Tun. The master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting as there were 617 out of 663 delegates listed accounting for 97.47 per cent. U Mann Ohn Maung made an opening address. U Saw Hta Lon and U Hann Hla Myaing of Kayin State and U Ha Shein Bwe and Daw Hsa Hsu of Chin State read the papers as regards the NCC Work Committee's sector-wise clarifications of the detailed basic principles for delegation of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial powers that are to be included in drawing the State Constitution, and the meeting went into recess. The meeting resumed at 10.45 am. Dr Hla Myint Lwin and Daw Nan Yee Yee Than of Sagaing Division read papers on



Group discussions of intellectuals and intelligentsia delegates in progress. — MNA



Group discussions of State service personnel delegates in progress. — MNA

suggestions. The morning session went into recess at 11.30 am. The afternoon session resumed at 2 pm. U Win Myint and Daw Yee Yee Win of Yangon Division and U Khun Kyaw Thu and Daw Nan Aye Tint of Shan State read papers. Afterwards, the chairman delivered concluding remarks, and the meeting concluded in the late afternoon.

Delegate Group of Peasants

The discussion of Panel of Chairmen of Delegate Group of Peasants

was held at meeting hall No 4 at 10 am today. Present on the occasion were delegates U Kan Nyunt of Sagaing Division, U Saing Tint Aung of Shan State (North), U Tin Maung Kyaw of Magway Division and U Mya Aye of Yangon Division. Deputy Director U Myint Thein of National Convention Convening Work Committee Group 6 acted as master of ceremonies together with Assistant Director U Myint Kyauing. The delegates from Kachin and Kayah States, Bago Division, Rakhine State and Yangon Division presented papers on suggestions with respect to the NCC Work Committee's clarifications of the detailed basic principles for sharing of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial powers that are to be included in drawing the State Constitution. Members of the Panel of Chairmen discussed matters on presentation of papers at the group-wise discussions. The master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting as all 48 delegates attended the meeting. U Khin Maung Aye made an introductory address on the occasion. Worker delegates Daw Aye Aye Thauang of Ayeyawady Division, U Poe Yai Aung Thein of Kayah State, U Sein Aung of Sagaing Division and U Aung Mon of Mandalay Division read papers on suggestions. U Than Myint of Delegate Group of Workers from Yangon Division presented a paper with regard to the social, management and legislative sectors.

Delegate Group of Workers

The Delegate Group of Workers held group discussions at meeting hall No 5 at 9 am today. U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Division presided over the meeting together with U Kyaw Win Tun of Mandalay Division and Dr Myo Thant Tin of Yangon Division. Deputy Director U Zaw Win of National Convention Convening Work Committee Group 7 acted as master of ceremonies together with Assistant Director U Aung Win. The delegates from Kachin and Kayah States, Bago Division, Rakhine State and Yangon Division presented papers on

suggestions with respect to the NCC Work Committee's clarifications on the detailed basic principles for sharing of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial powers that are to be included in drawing the State Constitution. Members of the Panel of Chairmen discussed matters on presentation of papers at the group-wise discussions.

The master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting as all 48 delegates attended the meeting. U Khin Maung Aye made an introductory address on the occasion.

Worker delegates Daw Aye Aye Thauang of Ayeyawady Division, U Poe Yai Aung Thein of Kayah State, U Sein Aung of Sagaing Division and U Aung Mon of Mandalay Division read papers on suggestions. U Than Myint of Delegate Group of Workers from Yangon Division presented a paper with regard to the social, management and legislative sectors.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairman at 10.20 am.

Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia

The Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia held group discussions at meeting hall No 6 at 9 am today. Chairman of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences U Tin Hlaing presided over the meeting together with Chairman of Myanmar Academy of Technicians Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw and Head of Department Professor Dr Thein Nyunt

(See page 11)



Group discussions of delegates of political parties in progress. — MNA



Group discussions of other invited persons in progress. — MNA



Group discussions of worker delegates in progress. — MNA

Group discussions of ...

(from page 10)

(Nyunt Wai-Katha). Deputy Director U Thein Myint of National Convention Convening Work Committee Group 8 acted as master of ceremonies together with Assistant Director U Than Win.

The emcee announced the start of the meeting as 55 out of 56

remarks, and the meeting ended at 10. 50 am.

Delegate Group of State Service Personnel

The Delegate Group of State Service Personnel held group discussions at meeting hall No 7 at 9 am today. Present on the occasion were Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence, U Ko Ko Kyaw



Group discussions of delegates of national races in progress. — MNA



delegates listed accounting for 98.81 per cent were present.

The chairman delivered an opening speech on the occasion.

Head of Office of the Ministry of Rail Transportation U Hla Myint (Manaw Maya-Padanya), member of Myanmar Language Commission U Myint Kyi, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Thabin Asiayon (Central) puppeteer U Ye Dwe, Chairman of Myanmar Architects Association Dr Hla Than, executive member of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science Daw Yee Yee Myint, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Thabin Asiayon (Central) musician U Sein Hla Myaing, and Secretary of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Association (Central) U Thant Sin (a) artist Hla Tin Tun read papers as regards the NCC Work Committee's sector-wise clarifications on the detailed basic principles for sharing of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary powers that are to be included in writing the State Constitution.

The chairman delivered concluding

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Myat Ko of the Ministry of Home Affairs, U Arnt Maung of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and U Hla Tin of the Ministry of Commerce. Deputy Director U Htay Win of National Convention Convening Work Committee Group 9 acted as master of ceremonies together with Assistant Director U Htein Min.

Afterwards, those present assessed the 11 papers presented by sector-wise paper compiling groups, and the meeting ended at 10.20 am.

Group of Other Invited Delegates

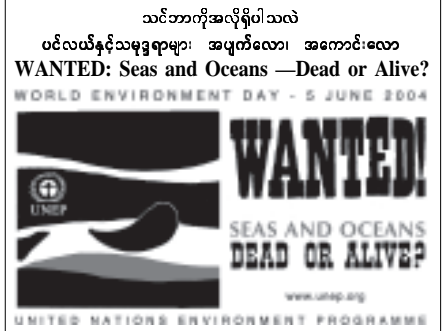
The Group of Other Invited Delegates held group discussions at meeting hall No 8 at 9 am today. U Paw Laik Kham of Shan State (North) Special Region 2 presided over the meeting together with Dr Manan Tue Ja of Kachin State Special Region-2 and U Aung Hkam Hti of Kachin State Special Region (6). Deputy Director U Aung Kyi of National Convention Convening Work Committee Group 10 acted as master of ceremonies together with Assistant

Director U Win Myint.

The emcee announced the start of the meeting as 99 out of 105 delegates listed accounting for 98.429 per cent were present. On behalf of the chairman, U Aung Hkam Hti delivered an opening speech on the occasion.

U Saing Khwan Mein of Shwepyithar (MTA) Group read the paper submitted by Shwepyithar (MTA) Group, Homein Region Welfare and Development Group and Manpan Regional Militia Group; and U Khun Tin Htut and U Khun Kyaw Kyaw of Shan State (South) Special Region 6, the paper submitted by Shan State (South) Special Region 6; member of the Panel of Chairmen U Aung Hkam Hti, the paper submitted by U Phado Aung San of Phayagon Special Region as regards the NCC Work Committee's sector-wise clarifications on the detailed basic principles for delegation of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial powers that are to be included in drawing the State Constitution, and the meeting ended at 9.55 am.

MNA



Winners of World Environment Day poster competition announced

YANGON, 1 June — Prize winners for World Environment Day Commemorative Colour Poster competition (open), organized by the Environmental Conservation National Commission, were announced today. They were the first prize winner, Mg Kyaw Tint (12/BaHaNa(N) 094676), the second, U Aung Moe (12/TaMaNa(N) 047881), and the third, Ma Tha Zin Soe Myint (12/TaMaNa(N) 099632). The consolation prizes went to Ye Htut Aung (Lawkanat Bachi) (KTN-091912), Mg Si Thu Aung (12/ThaGaKa(N) 161888), Ko Htwe (KTN-045679), Mg Zin Ko Ko (12/KaMaTa(N) 066192), Pho Shwe Lamin (12/KaTaNa (N) 007433), U Maung Maung (12/KaTaNa (N) 014739), Ma Khaing Tharaphy Din of Bohataung Township, Nay Maung Thura Min (Bachi-Babu), and Design Zaw Htet (Architect-Mandalay) (KTA-053975). Prizes will be presented at the ceremony of World Environment Day-2004. Winners are to contact ECNC of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs not later than 4 June 2004 at 11 am. — MNA

World Population Day poster, essay competitions to be held

YANGON, 1 June — The Ministry of Immigration and Population in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund will hold poster, and essay competitions to commemorate World Population Day 2004.

The chosen title for the poster is "Statistical Girl" in English Version and "Pyinnyakyan-ma Hkwint-lan-tha Pyae-sone-hla-pa Main-kha-lay-bawa Sa-yin-in-hnint Hnoon-so-pya" in Myanmar Version.

The poster competition will be categorized into five levels. The age group for the first level will be between 6 and 8; the second level, between 9 and 12; the third level, between 13 and 15; the fourth level, between 16 and 18 and the fifth level, between 19 and above. The competitions from the first to fourth level will be held at designated venues in the capitals of States and Divisions on 12 June under the supervision of State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments. Only 15" x 20" drawing papers to be issued by the Population Department are to be used in the competitions. Those wishing to participate in the competitions from the first to four levels are to contact the offices of State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments concerned for enrollment not later than 9 June. The fifth level is designated as an open invitational competition. Entrants can use any sort of 18"x24"- drawing papers and should send their works either to State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments concerned by 14 June or to the Population Department (Head Office Yangon) by 24 June. Prizes for the competitions from the first to four levels are K 50,000 for first prize, K40,000 for second prize, K 30,000 for third prize, and K 20,000 each for three consolation prizes. Prizes for the fifth level competition are K75,000 for first prize, K 50,000 for second prize, K 40,000 for third prize and K 30,000 each for three consolation prizes. Detailed information about the competitions can be obtained at State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments, and the participants from Yangon Division can obtain detailed information about the competition either at National Registration Departments or Population Department in Yangon Division.

Similar essay (Myanmar Version) competitions in commemoration of World Population Day 2004 will also be held under the title "Pyinnyakyan-ma Hkwint-lan-tha Pyae-sone-hla-pa Main-kha-lay-bawa Sa-yin-in-hnint Hnoon-so-pya."

The essay will be classified into two levels — high school level (8th, 9th, 10th grades) and middle school level — (5th, 6th, 7th grades) — held in major towns of States and Divisions from 9 to 11 am on 13 June. Prizes for both levels will be K 30,000 for first prize, K25,000 for second prize, K 20,000 for third prize and K10,000 each for three consolation prizes. First, second and third winners in central level, will be presented prizes at the ceremony of World Population Day to be held in Yangon and consolation prizes of essay will be sent through respective State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments to winners. — MNA



MWEA OFFICIALS LEAVE: At the invitation of Myanmar-Japan Relations Centre, a 25-member delegation of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association led by Daw Pwinthy Tin Htut left Yangon by air on 31 May to attend the Business Messe 2004 Osaka and to discuss with Osaka Japan Women Entrepreneurs Association. The delegation being seen off at Yangon International Airport by MWEA President Daw Khin Myint Myint and party. — (H)

Minister inspects preservation of cultural heritage

YANGON, 1 June — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, accompanied by Director-General of the Archaeological Department U Nyunt Han, arrived at Beikthanoe Myohauing in Taungdwingyi township on May 30 morning. The minister inspected the plot chosen for construction of the Beikthanoe archaeological museum and gave instructions.

The minister also visited Shweyaungdaw pagoda there and viewed round progress of renovation work at the pagoda.

Next, the minister looked into road construction works there and gave instructions on systematic measures. The minister also inspected the progress of construction of Aungmyinzeaya stupa and heard reports. He also inspected renovation works being carried out at Shweintaung pagoda. The minister arrived at Pyay, through which he proceeded to Thayekhitaya Myohauing, where he checked the site chosen for construction of an archaeological technical training school. — MNA

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၂၂/၂၀၀၄ (၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ မေလ ၂၅ ရက်)

လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ဘဏ္ဍာရေးနှင့်အခွန်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့စီးပွားရေးနှင့် ကုသဝန်း
ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာနတွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရာထူး
များအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများ အလိုရှိပါသည်။

ရာထူး	ပညာအရည်အချင်း	လစ်လပ်
လက်ထောက်မန်နေဂျာ	၁။ ဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့ (သို့မဟုတ်) စီးပွားရေးပညာဘွဲ့ (စာရင်းအင်း) (သို့မဟုတ်) စီးပွားရေးပညာဘွဲ့ (ဘောဂဗေဒ)	၃ နေရာ

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည် -
(က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။
(ခ) ၂၂-၆-၂၀၀၄ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၃၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါက
အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၂၂-၆-၂၀၀၄ နေ့
အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။
၄။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ၊ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့် စာရွက်
စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၅၀/- ပေးသွင်းရမည့်လမ်း၊ ရေးဖြေ၊
နှုတ်ဖြေစစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန်လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍
ဤအဖွဲ့က ကြေညာချက်အမှတ်၊ ၁/၉၃/မြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော
ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ကကြော်ငြာခေါ်ယူသော ရာထူးများသို့
လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ
သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန် ဖြစ်သည်။

၅။ **ရန်ကုန်မြို့နှင့်ပန္နလေးမြို့** များတွင်ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲစာစစ်ဌာနများ
ထားရှိမည်။ မိမိဖြေဆိုလိုသော စာစစ်ဌာနကို လျှောက်လွှာတွင်
ရှင်းလင်းတိကျစွာဖော်ပြရမည်။

၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို
မိမိတာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် **ဌာနအကြီးအကဲမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏**
ခွင့်ပြုချက်ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့
၂၂-၆-၂၀၀၄ နေ့အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို
မိတ်ပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၇။ ၁၀-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့နှင့် ၁၁-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ်
ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲစာစစ်မည်။ ၈-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့မှစ၍ ပန္နလေးတိုင်းအထွေထွေ
အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးတို့တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့်ကတိပြားများကို
ထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၈။ စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုပါက ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊
တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် (၃၄၈၁၆၃)သို့ ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

ချိတ်ပိတ်စေရန်လွှာများခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက်
အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ပေးချေဝယ်ယူရန်
ချိတ်ပိတ်စေရန်လွှာများ မိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်
(၁)	Green Master မြက်မြိတ်စက်အရန်ပစ္စည်းများ	1 Lot
(၂)	High Tensile Wire များ	၉၄ တန်
(၃)	Myanmar Convention Centre တွင်တင်ဆက်ရန် 1 No Crystal Chandelier (Dia 350 cm x Ht 400 cm)	

ချိတ်ပိတ်စေရန်လွှာများကို ၁၅-၆-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီအချိန်
နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ တင်သွင်းရန်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်သိရှိ လိုပါက
ဘဏ္ဍာရေးနှင့်အခွန်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူ ရောင်းချရေး ဌာနမှ ဖုန်းအမှတ်
- ၂၅၂၅၃၇၊ ၂၅၃၁၂၁ လိုင်းခွဲ(၂၃၅)သို့ ဖုန်းချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်း
နိုင်ပါသည်။

၂၅၃၄
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

Investigation into fever,diarrhoea among Chinese school kids underway

Xi'an, 1 June — The
causes for fever and diar-
rhoea symptoms among 168
kids and teachers at the Jun-
ior Taijihe Middle School in
Shaanxi Province, north-
western China since about
two weeks ago remained
unidentified by Saturday,
according to a local source
on Sunday.

So far, all the patients
have been out of danger,
noted the source. On May
17, some students and teach-
ers in Jaijihe School in

Shangnan County got symp-
toms of fever, bellyache and
diarrhoea. As of 27 May, the
number of disease sufferers
increased to over 70, and rose
to 168 by Saturday.

Local officials, police-
men and workers from
health, education bureaus
and diseases control centres
rushed to the scene for
directing the work for res-
cue treatment.

Investigation into the
cause of the ailment's attack
is underway.—MNA/Xinhua

UAE company buys 25% stake in Dutch Leaseplan

ABU DHABI, 1 June — A
United Arab Emirates
(UAE's) company has joined
hands with two foreign com-
panies to buy a Dutch fleet
management giant from a
Dutch bank for two billion
euros (2.37 billion US dol-
lars), the official WAM news
agency reported recently.

UAE's Mubadala Develop-
ment company, Germany's
Volkswagen group (VW) and
Saudi Arabia's Olayan Group
will buy Leaseplan Corpora-
tion from ABN Amro Bank,
the report said.

Under the terms of the
deal, the government-owned
Mubadala and Olayan Group
will each own a 25-per-cent
stake in Leaseplan and
Volkswagen will own 50-per-
cent, the report added.

This is one of Mubadala's
biggest strategic investments
in a large-scale international
venture. The company is a
majority shareholder with a
51-per-cent stake in Abu
Dhabi-based Dolphin Energy,
the developer of the first inte-
grated natural gas network in
the Arab Gulf Cooperation
Council (AGCC) along with
France's Total and the US
Occidental Petroleum.

Leaseplan is the leading
multi-brand fleet management
services provider in Europe
and one of the leading players
worldwide. It has total assets
of 10.8 billion euros (12.8 bil-
lion US dollars) and 1.2 mil-
lion vehicles under manage-
ment in 26 countries. The
company made a net profit of
193 million euros (228.7 mil-
lion US dollars) in 2003 and
has over 7,000 employees.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO(623)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT Voy
No (623) are hereby notified that the vessel arrives on
2-6-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of
A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and ex-
penses 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Zimbabwe leads in tourist arrivals in SADC

HARARE, 1 June — The
Southern African Develop-
ment Community (SADC)
received 13.5 million tour-
ists in 2003 with over 40 per
cent of the visitors having
been hosted by Zimbabwe
alone, according to the Her-
ald newspaper on Monday.

The statistics was re-
vealed at last week's annual

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၂၃/၂၀၀၄ (၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ မေလ ၂၅ ရက်)

လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ပညာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနအောက်ရှိ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါရုံးချုပ်နှင့်ဒီဂရီကောလိပ်များတွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသော
ရာထူးများအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများအလိုရှိပါသည်။

ရာထူး	ပညာအရည်အချင်း	လစ်လပ်
ဌာနချုပ်မှူး	မဟာကွန်ပျူတာသိပ္ပံဘွဲ့ (သို့မဟုတ်)	၁ နေရာ
ဌာနချုပ်မှူး	မဟာကွန်ပျူတာနည်းပညာဘွဲ့	၁ နေရာ
ဌာနချုပ်မှူး	ဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့၊ ရရှိပြီးလက်မှတ်ရ	၁ နေရာ
ဌာနချုပ်မှူး	ပြည်သူ့စာရင်းကိုင်	၁ နေရာ
ဌာနချုပ်မှူး	အောင်လက်မှတ်ရရှိသူ	၁ နေရာ

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည် -
(က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။
(ခ) ၂၂-၆-၂၀၀၄ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၃၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါက အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၂၂-၆-၂၀၀၄ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၄။ ဌာနချုပ်မှူး(ဘဏ္ဍာ)ရာထူးအတွက် ဒီဂရီကောလိပ်တစ်ခုထက်ပို၍ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းလိုပါက ဝင်ကြေးငွေ
၅၀/- ကို သီးခြားပေးသွင်းပြီး တက္ကသိုလ်အလိုက်လျှောက်လွှာသီးခြားတစ်စောင်စီတင်သွင်းရမည်။

၅။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ၊ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့်စာရွက်စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၅၀/-
ပေးသွင်းရမည့်လမ်း၊ ရေးဖြေ၊ နှုတ်ဖြေစစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန်လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့က
ကြေညာချက်အမှတ်၊ ၁/၉၃/မြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော **ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ကကြော်ငြာခေါ်ယူသော**
ရာထူးများသို့ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ
လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန် ဖြစ်သည်။

၆။ **ရန်ကုန်မြို့နှင့်ပန္နလေးမြို့** များတွင်ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲစာစစ်ဌာနများထားရှိမည်။ မိမိဖြေဆိုလိုသော စာစစ်ဌာနကို
လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ရှင်းလင်းတိကျစွာဖော်ပြရမည်။

၇။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် **ဌာနအကြီးအကဲမှတစ်ဆင့်**
ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ ခွင့်ပြုချက်ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၂၂-၆-၂၀၀၄ နေ့အရောက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။
လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိတ်ပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၈။ ၁၀-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့နှင့် ၁၁-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ်ရေးဖြေစာမေးပွဲကျင်းပမည်။
၈-၄-၂၀၀၄ နေ့မှစ၍ ပန္နလေးတိုင်းအထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးတို့တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့်ကတိပြားများကို
ထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၉။ စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုပါက ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် (၃၄၈၁၆၃)သို့ ဖြစ်စေ
ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

JUNIOR LEADER



အတွဲ (၆) အမှတ် (၁၀) မြန်မာ့လူငယ်
သတင်းစာနှင့်စာပေဇာတိ၊ စာအုပ်ဆိုင်၊ စာပေဇာတိ၊ စာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့်သတင်းစာ
ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။
The New Light of Myanmar
အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်လေ့ကျင့်ရန်၊ ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်ပါ။
Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

DON'T SMOKE

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဆက်ရေးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မှု



People pass the Archibald Fountain in Sydney's Hyde Park. Australians have been warned they face an environmental crisis unless they stop squandering scarce water resources in the world's most arid inhabited continent. — INTERNET

Expert says demand for surgery for obesity increases

PRAGUE, 31 May — The fattening of the rich world has sparked a surge in demand for surgery to help people lose weight, a European specialist said on Saturday.

Most people can drop excess pounds or kilos through exercise, eating less or medication, but for the most obese and people suffering a weight-related disease, this may not suffice.

Dr Martin Fried, of the Laparoscopic Obesity Treatment Hospital in Prague, told a medical conference more patients are opting for surgery to cure their obesity.

"Demand is increasing because people are getting fatter and are better informed," he said.

Weight-loss surgery restricts the food a person can consume or interferes with calorie absorption by shrinking the stomach with bands or staples or bypassing part of the organ.

Up to 50,000 operations

have been performed each year in Europe and many more in the United States where the surgery was invented and developed.

Only the most severely overweight — the technical term is morbidly obese — or people close to that category but have a serious illness linked to obesity, such as high blood pressure or diabetes, qualify for the surgery.

Morbidly obese people have a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or more — equal to being about 100 pounds or 50 kilos overweight.

BMI measures fat distribution. It is calculated by dividing weight in kilos by height in metres squared. A healthy person will have a BMI of 25 or under.

MNA/Reuters

Uganda to build more health units to check cholera outbreak

KAMPALA, 31 May — Ugandan State Minister for Primary Health Care Alex Kamugisha said here Saturday that the government would continue extending health services to the population by building more health units throughout the country to check the rampant cholera outbreak.

Kamugisha made the remarks while attending a graduation ceremony in the western district of Kasese, according to Radio Uganda.

He expressed concern at the increased rate of cholera in the East African country. A total of 24 people have been killed by cholera since the disease broke out in Uganda in February and about 10 died of the disease in Kasese.

He blamed the rampant cholera outbreak in Kasese on local leaders, who have not taken interest in sensitizing the community on sanitation and personal hygiene.

MNA/Xinhua

China builds 477 million square metres of low-price houses

BEIJING, 31 May — China has built low-price houses totalling 477 million square metres from 1998 to 2003, solving the living problems for six million middle and low-income families, statistics from China's Ministry of Construction (MOC) showed.

China started to build low-price houses specially for the middle and low-income families in 1998 when the country launched its large-scale housing reform.

The low-price houses have proven an effective way for middle and low-income families to buy houses, which also eased the problems of resettlement caused by the ongoing reconstruction in cities.

The large amount of low-price houses has optimized the structure of the housing market and balanced the price of commercial houses, said an official of the MOC.

The Chinese Government will give more support in the future to building more low-price houses for the middle and low-income families, which should be the major form of China's housing system, according to the MOC.

China's first regulation on low-price houses for middle and low-income families took effect this May, which stipulates the standard for the building and selling of low-price houses to ensure that they meet the needs of middle and low-income families.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian Naval Academy cadets complete training

PANAJI, 1 June — Some 111 cadets of the Indian Naval Academy recently celebrated their transition into officers at the passing out parade here in the western state of Goa.

The cadets have completed their training successfully in the 68th edition of the various courses offered by the academy.

The parade was reviewed by Vice-Admiral Raman Puri, Chief of the Integrated Staff, for Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, who also presented medals to meri-

torious cadets.

Exhorting the recruits to keep pace with technology, Vice-Admiral Puri asked them to go for continuous self-learning. "It is only when you are in touch with the latest technology in the field that you will be able to keep up with the required military attack", he added. "Remember, you will serve the nation, not work for it, and as professionals, your clientele will be the society," he said. — MNA/PTI

Bangladesh allocates special funds for reducing ferry disaster

DHAKA, 1 June — The Bangladesh Government has approved a special 14.6 million US dollars allocation for improving infrastructure and logistic support in the shipping sector in a bid to reduce ferry disaster. The allocation was made for several projects under the next annual development programme, *The Daily Star* reported Monday.

Sources in the Ministry of Shipping said the projects include 1.7 million dollars to launch a ship model testing laboratory, 0.9 million dollars to install weather forecast centers in important places along the river routes, 4.3 million dollars to rehabilitate three passenger ships running on the coastal belt and 3.4 million dollars to rehabilitate two dredgers under the government. The project implementation work is going to start on July 1 in the next fiscal year (July 2004 to June 2005).

An unofficial estimate shows that around 4,000 passengers were killed in ferry disasters in one decade. However, official figure shows the number to be 3,000 since 1977. Faulty design, lack of government supervision and river routes without any demarcation of danger zones were the main reasons of frequent launch disasters. — MNA/Xinhua

"Harry Potter" makes European premiere in London

LONDON, 31 May — Spellbound fans flocked to central London on Sunday for the European premiere of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban", the third film in a blockbuster series about the schoolboy wizard.

Actors Daniel Radcliffe (Harry), Emma Watson (Hermione Granger) and Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley) struggled to make themselves heard above the din of screaming fans, many of whom arrived at dawn to secure spots alongside the red carpet.

"It's amazing, the dedication of people is terrifying, it's brilliant though and fantastic," 14-year-old Radcliffe told reporters at the Leicester Square premiere.

"I never thought I'd see scenes like this when we were doing the first movie... It's beyond comprehension, he added.

"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban", based on the book by British

author J.K. Rowling, had its world premiere in New York City last week to rave reviews that described it as deeper and darker than the earlier *Potter* instalments.

"This film is a lot more sophisticated and I think it will appeal to a wider range of ages," Radcliffe said.

Directed by Mexican Alfonso Cuarón, "Prisoner of Azkaban" has won generally favourable reviews from critics in Britain and opens on wide release on June 4.

The latest adventure of Harry Potter and his magical friends is the third of a planned seven films based on Rowling's best-selling books.

MNA/Reuters



Aqiyla Gomez (C) from Trinidad and Tobago poses after winning the 16th Miss Model of the World competition in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on 28 May, 2004. Ma Li (R) from China and Zhang Ying (L) from Hong Kong came second third respectively.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Danes fail to take chances, draw 2-2 in Estonia

TALLINN, 31 May—European Championship-bound Denmark were held to a 2-2 draw by Estonia in an international friendly on Sunday after failing to convert a flood of chances.

Denmark, who will face Italy, Bulgaria and Sweden in Group C at the Euro 2004 finals, quickly gained control of the match with some fine possession football against an Estonian side ranked 57 places below them in the FIFA rankings. Jon Dahl Tomasson duly opened the scoring for the visitors with a cool finish in the 28th minute after Dennis Rommedahl had worked his way into the box on the left and his pass found the AC Milan striker unmarked.

But thereafter Denmark spurned their chances in front of goal and Estonia, who had failed to create a single chance until that moment, equalized through a Kristen Viikmae header in the 77th minute.

Danish honour looked to have been restored when substitute Kenneth Perez put them back in front three minutes later, pouncing on the rebound after Estonia's goalkeeper Martin Kaalma had parried a Danish header. — MNA/Reuters



England soccer players Michael Owen, left, and Wayne Rooney compete in go-karts at the Forte Village Hotel in Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy, Tuesday May 25, 2004, where the England soccer squad are preparing for the Euro 2004 European Soccer Championships. — INTERNET

Owen tips Rooney for England wonder goal at Euro 2004

LONDON, 31 May—England's Michael Owen reckons his teenage strike partner Wayne Rooney could make the same impact on Euro 2004 as he did on the 1998 World Cup.

Owen was a relatively unknown 18-year-old when he scored one of the goals of the 1998 tournament in England's second round defeat by Argentina after a surging run from midfield.

Now he believes 18-year-old Rooney, who hit the headlines with a superb Premier League matchwinner for Everton against Arsenal aged only 16, could emulate that feat in his first tournament.

"Let's hope so," Owen told reporters at England's pre-Euro 2004 training base in Sardinia. "We all hope he's the sort of player who does things like that."

"Some players are just lucky, or whatever, and they do rise to the occasion. It's an unknown with Wayne because we've never seen him play outside the premiership, apart from a few qualifiers for England."

"But the early indications from the games

he's played so far are that he does like to score spectacular goals. Let's hope he can do it as well in the big games... and that he has a cracking impact on this tournament."

Rooney was the revelation of English football in 2002-03, muscling his way into Everton's starting line-up and going on to become England's youngest player ever as a 17-year-old against Australia in February of last year.

But although he did well for England in 2003-04, becoming the country's youngest ever scorer in a 2-1 qualifying win over Macedonia, Rooney had a fairly mediocre second season in club football.

Nine goals and 12 bookings with a struggling Everton side was a meagre return for England's most exciting youngster for a decade.

MNA/Reuters

Euro 2004 teams to get paid for wins and draws

GENEVA, 31 May—UEFA will give the 16 teams at Euro 2004 extra financial rewards for wins and draws, European soccer's governing body said.

UEFA announced that total income from the tournament would be 1,250 million Swiss francs (817 million euros). The 16 teams will be awarded a definite fixed payment of 7.5 million Swiss francs, a 56-per-cent increase on Euro 2000.

An extra one million Swiss francs will be paid out for every victory and 500,000 Swiss francs for every draw in the group phase, replacing the previous system which based prize money on final group positions.

Quarterfinalists will pick up an additional three million Swiss francs, a further four million payment for reaching the semi-finals and the winners and runners-up will be awarded 10 million and six million respectively.

If the eventual champions won all three

group games they would pick up total prize money of 27.5 million Swiss francs, almost double the 14.4 million Swiss francs France earned when winning Euro 2000.

A total figure of around 200 million Swiss francs will be paid out to the 16 nations in prize money, UEFA said.

"We have moved on to a higher level and this is visible in the commercial results," said UEFA's chief executive Lars-Christer Olsson. The total expenditure of UEFA and Portugal to host the tournament is around 350 million Swiss francs.

A further 300 million Swiss francs will be banked by UEFA in order to cover its own costs for the next three years, the majority of which will go into financing youth and women's tournaments. — MNA/Reuters

Flamengo still winless after losing two-goal lead

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 May—Flamengo are still without a win in the Brazilian championship after the country's most popular club threw away a two-goal lead in a 2-2 draw at Goias on Sunday.

The Rubro-Negros have only four points from eight games, are languishing 22nd in the 24-team championship and look set to spend the season fighting to avoid being relegated for the first time.

Striker Negreiros and veteran midfielder Zinho, a survivor from Brazil's victorious 1994 World Cup-winning team, scored as Flamengo stroled to a 2-0 halftime lead.

But Goias striker Alex Dias replied with two goals, the second in the 89th minute after the Flamengo midfield had given the ball away, taking his tally to eight in the championship.

Flamengo also had a goal disallowed when they were 2-1 ahead.

"It's better for me not to say anything," Flamengo coach Abel Braga said.

"Some players did not respect the institution of Flamengo."

Crisis-hit Corinthians were happy to settle for a 1-1 draw against arch-rivals Sao Paulo as Tite took over as their fifth coach in less than one year.

Tite replaced Oswaldo Oliveira, fired amid protests from the volatile Corinthians

supporters club known as the Hawks of the Faithful, following last week's 5-0 home defeat by Atletico Paranaense.

Sao Paulo, Brazil's lone survivors in the Libertadores Cup and second in the table behind Criciuma on goal difference, went ahead through Fabio Simplicio but a Renato free kick before halftime salvaged a point for Corinthians, who are a lowly 19th.

Only 17,000 fans watched the match at the 80,000-capacity Morumbi Stadium.

"The Sao Paulo supporters are focused on the Libertadores and the Corinthians fans are at home, ashamed," Sao Paulo director Marco Aurelio Cunha said.

"The Faithful aren't faithful any more."

Palmeiras went third with a 2-0 win over Coritiba as Estevam Soares made his debut as their coach while Ponte Preta, the club Soares left to take up his new post, stumbled to a 1-0 home defeat against Juventude.

Striker Valdir scored twice and Serbian midfielder Dejan Petkovic converted two penalties as Vasco da Gama beat Botafogo 4-0 in front of only 12,000 fans in the Rio de Janeiro derby. — MNA/Reuters

Police to check all cars at Euro 2004

LISBON, 31 May—Security officials will check every car at Euro 2004 soccer stadiums, including those of top Portugal officials, tournament chief operating officer Martin Kallen said in a report published on Saturday.

"All vehicles will be inspected, including that of the Prime Minister (Jose Manuel Durao Barroso)," Kallen told Portuguese newspaper *Expresso*.

The underground garages of the stadiums will be used by VIPs and "will stay practically empty", he said.

Kallen said he is particularly worried about Benfica's Luz Stadium in Lisbon, which will host the final. Members of the media will not be able to park in that underground area and will be directed to Colombo Commercial Centre, he said.

"Fans should get there three hours before the game or they won't be able to park," Kallen said.

Police have been worried about hooliganism and possible terror attacks during the tournament, which takes place 12 June through July 4. — MNA/Reuters

Italy enjoy 4-0 friendly win over Tunisia

TUNIS, 31 May—Italy completed a confident 4-0 victory over African champions Tunisia on Sunday in their final warm-up game before Euro 2004.

After an own goal from Riadh Bouazizi in the 15th minute three Italians scored their debut goals for the national side.

A header from Fabio Cannavaro in the 27th minute gave the Italians a 2-0 lead at the break.

Coach Giovanni Trapattoni made six changes at halftime but his team maintained their dominance against a weakened Tunisia with two late goals ensuring a convincing scoreline.

A brilliant curling free kick from Andrea Pirlo in the 86th minute and then a last minute strike from Gianluca Zambrotta ensured a confidence-boosting victory for the Azzurri.

Italy have a habit of struggling in pre-tournament friendlies, having lost their last three such matches but they never looked in

danger of failing at a sparsely attended November 4 stadium.

Right from the outset Trapattoni's side looked confident and determined although it took a stroke of good fortune to break the deadlock.

Francesco Totti produced a superb turn and launched the ball towards Christian Vieri and Bouazizi's headed intervention was directed past his keeper Ali Boumnijel.

Italy are investing high hopes in the Totti-Vieri partnership and it almost delievered a second minutes later when a brilliant pass from Totti put in his strike partner whose shot whistled just over the bar

Poor defending assisted Italy's second when an unmarked Cannavaro rose to head in a Totti corner.

MNA/Reuters



Italy's Christian Vieri (R) looks back for the ball, stripped away by Anis Ayari of Tunisia, during their friendly match in Tunis, May 30, 2004. — INTERNET



Malaysian dignitaries being introduced to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. MNA



Myanmar delegation members being introduced to the Malaysian Prime Minister. MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint delivers address at meeting with departmental personnel and townselders in Pauk. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects development tasks in Kyaukhtu, Pauk, Pakokku

YANGON, 1 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected extension of Matupi-Mindat Road on 29 May.

Accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, he visited the Tatmadawmen digging a drainage canal of the road. He also inspected the durability of Mone Creek Bailey Bridge, building of a road session passing through the rocky terrain, earth moving work at a place where soil erosion took place, a rural road to Aung village at the border of Htilin Township from the Mindat-Matupi Road.

At the 30th mile camp, he met with drivers of passenger buses and trucks, inquiring them about the passenger and freight situation. Officials reported to him on the number of buses running daily on the Pakokku-Mindat Road and development of rural roads. He inspected the different sections of the road. In Kyaukhtu, he visited delivery room, operation theatre, X-ray room, and solar room at the township hospital, and the multimedia room of the township basic education high school.

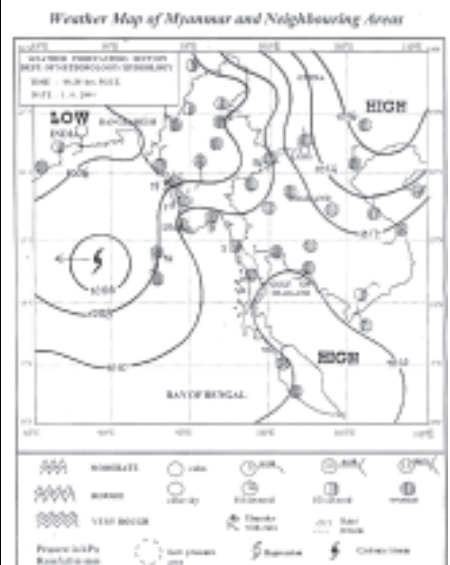
He met with departmental personnel, social organizations and local elders in the town, saying that Kyaukhtu is located in a place where Saw-Pauk-Pakokku, Htilin-Gangaw and Pakokku-Mindat-Matupi roads meet. The Government is providing assistance for the developing town. Departmental personnel will have to work harder for further development of the town. Small-scale dams should be built to boost its paddy output. They should make efforts to enable the township to produce food for Magway Division as well as Chin State. They will have to work together with the people to smoothly run the town administrative machinery.

The next morning, he inspected the generation of power with a 3,000-watt turbine to supply electricity to the

town hospital round the clock. The turbine is run by the water from Yawmingyi Creek. Later, he inspected durability of Gonbo Bridge on Yaw Creek that is 440 feet long and 12 feet wide, monsoon paddy cultivation, and digging of 18,500-foot long diversion canal of the Minlwe daw Diversion Weir. The weir is irrigating 935 acres of crops.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint also inspected sections of Kyaukhtu-Pauk-Pakokku and Mindat-Pakokku roads and Pauk Township People's Hospital. At his meeting with departmental personnel, social organizations and local elders, he said that Pauk Township is still weak in agriculture and livestock breeding. Thus, there is still weakness in the regional undertakings. Departmental personnel are required to find water resources and build dams and lakes to extend paddy cultivation. Although there is progress in agriculture, more efforts are still needed. Departmental personnel are required to make extra efforts to develop the economy of the town. They will have to work in harmony and with goodwill.

In Pakokku, he met with departmental personnel, social organizations and local elders, and said that Pakokku has already been designated as the capital of the west bank of Ayeyawady River, efforts are being made for all-round progress of the town. Road transportation network has been upgraded and extended to supply required materials for progress of southern Chin State via Pakokku. Efforts are required to ensure food sufficiency for the township. Officials and experts should help farmers to reclaim more land for cultivation. Local authorities will have to look into the requirements of development of the regional industrial zone, and health, education and social requirements. The township development affairs committee will have to build more recreation centres and parks to beautify not only the township but also the whole Pakokku District. Government employees are required to implement the border areas development project, 24-zone development project and five rural tasks with the help of local people and social organizations. — MNA



WEATHER

Tuesday, 1 June, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing and Magway Divisions and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and Mandalay Division, scattered in Shan and Rakhine States and Tanintharyi Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (5.87) inches, Gwa (2.80) inches, Yangon Airport (2.52) inches and Mawlamyine (2.13) inches. Maximum temperature on 31-5-2004 was 29.5°C (85°F). Minimum temperature on 1-6-2004 was 19.5°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-6-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 31-5-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 1-6-2004 was 64mm (2.52 inches) at Yangon Airport, 31mm (1.22 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 27mm (1.06 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 497 mm (19.57 inches) at Yangon Airport and 454mm (17.87 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 556mm (21.89 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (16:40) hours MST on 31-5-2004. **Bay inference:** According to the observations at (12:30)hrs MST today, yesterday's depression over East Central Bay has moved into Southeast Bay and is centred about (550) miles East of Chennai (India). It is forecast to move west ward slowly and expected to be weakened as a low pressure area within next (24) hrs commencing noon today. Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 2-6-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in upper Sagaing, Division, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). **State of the sea:** Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Gulf of Mottama, Deltaic and Rakhine coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Thundery conditions in the central Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-6-2004:** One or two rains or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-6-2004:** Partly cloudy.

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Storm News

(Issued at (13:00) hours MST on 1-6-2004)

According to the observations at 12:30 hrs MST today, the depression over Southeast Bay has centred about 550 miles East of Chennai (India). It is forecast to move Westward slowly and is expected to be weakened as a low pressure area within next 24 hrs beginning this noon.



Senior General Than Shwe and party welcome back Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the airport. — MNA

Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

YANGON, 1 June — At the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt of the Union of Myanmar arrived back by air this evening after going on a working visit.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, members of State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, senior military officers, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and officials of foreign embassies in Yangon, resident representatives of UN organizations, the charge' de affaires of Malaysia Embassy and

officials and departmental heads.

The Myanmar delegation members Secretary-1 of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and departmental heads also arrived back on same flight.—MNA

Myanmar, Malaysian PMs discuss cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, health, technology sectors

YANGON, 1 June — Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt held talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi at Putrajaya, Malaysia, this afternoon. The Malaysian Prime Minister welcomed the Myanmar delegation.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt signed in the visitors' book of the Malaysian Prime Minister's Office.

Special meeting of General Khin Nyunt and Dato' Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi was held at the office of the Malaysian Prime Minister.

It was also attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin

Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Hla Maung and Director-General of the Political Affairs Department U Thung Tun, Foreign Affairs Minister of Malaysia Datuk Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, Deputy Minister of Internal Security Mr Chia Kwang Chye, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato Cheah Sam Kip and senior officers.

Afterwards, the meeting between two countries followed at the meeting hall of the Prime Minister's Office at 3 pm. It was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, (See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and his Malaysian counterpart Dato Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi hold a meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister. — 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

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Italian President

YANGON, 2 June — 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 Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, President of the Republic of Italy, on the occasion of the Anniversary Day of the Proclamation of the Republic of Italy, which falls on 2 June 2004. — MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.