Established 1914

Dhammacariya ca, lawful-conduct; this is the way to auspiciousness.

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 355
1st Waxing of Hnaung Tagu 1365 ME
Monday, 5 April, 2004

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 sees off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt who will pay a goodwill visit to Bangladesh. — MNA

YANGON, 4 April — At the invitation of Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt left here for Dhaka by special flight at 10.30 am today to pay a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and delegation were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, SPDC members, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Yangon Division PDC chairman Yangon Command commander, the minister for Foreign Affairs, senior military officers, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing De Cruz and heads of diplomatic missions and representatives of the UN agencies, Charge d’Affaires a.i of the Bangladesh Embassy Mr Md Eusuf Ali and officials and departmental heads.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Han, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tin Swe, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, Director General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein and heads of departments. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards total elimination of narcotic drugs

Narcotic drugs threaten the entire mankind as it causes a host of social problems. Therefore, emphasis is being put on wiping off the menace in every country and region.

In Myanmar also, narcotic drug elimination plans are being implemented with national concept. Efforts for elimination and control of narcotic drugs are being made and anti-narcotic drives accelerated with the active cooperation of the national people.

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the 15-year drug elimination plan and the New Destiny Project. Towards total elimination in the 15-year drug elimination plan and the New Destiny Project.

In growing poppy can be seen in the survey in border areas development projects have been implemented. Moreover, measures on growing poppy-substitute crops have been taken but also the New Destiny Project and success has been achieved in every phase of the plan.

Earnest efforts are being made to terminate the habit of cultivating poppy in border areas which is the evil legacy of colonialists. The Government is fulfilling the needs in striving for development of border areas and national races.

In implementing border area development projects, priority has been given to building of basic social and economic infrastructures for development of border areas and national races.

In Myanmar also, narcotic drug elimination projects are being implemented with national concept. Efforts for elimination and control of narcotic drugs are being made and anti-narcotic drives accelerated with the active cooperation of the national people.

Economic development and success have been achieved in every phase of the plan. As there have emerged job opportunities, prospects for economic development have become bright in the regions, it can be seen that dependence on poppy cultivation has decreased significantly.

In carrying out anti-narcotic drives, not only the measures for law enforcement have been taken but also the New Destiny Project that will totally eliminate narcotic drugs has been implemented.

Under the New Destiny Project, educational talks on growing poppy-substitute crops have been given to farmers. Moreover, measures such as distribution of seeds that will be suitable for the respective regions, providing pedigree animals for livestock breeding tasks and providing cash and food have been taken to end poppy cultivation. It can be seen that 79.5 per cent out of the total funds allotted for border areas development projects have been spent on development projects in areas related to poppy-growing. Therefore, significant drop in growing poppy can be seen in the survey made by Myanmar as well as in the poppy yield survey jointly conducted by Myanmar and the United States of America.

We would like to urge all the national people to actively participate in anti-narcotic drives at a time when success has been achieved in the 15-year drug elimination plan and the New Destiny Project.
Iraqi police, protesters clash in Basra, shots fired

Basra, 3 April—Demonstrators demanding jobs clashed with Iraqi police in the southern Iraqi port of Basra on Saturday, prompting police to fire shots into the air to try to pacify the violence.

Police said one officer was wounded by stones lobbed by the crowd.

British troops, who have overall responsibility for security in Basra, were keeping their distance, but witnesses said around 10 armoured British military vehicles were in the area and ready to intervene if the situation deteriorated.

Basra has been relatively quiet in the year since US-led forces invaded Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein, particularly in comparison to areas in the north and west of Baghdad.

But disturbances have increased in recent weeks, with the unemployed holding several marches and other protests led by Iraqis who feel the government is not providing enough opportunities for those seeking monthly salaries or pension payments.

Last Monday, protesters swung iron bars and threw stones at British soldiers outside the offices of a religious organisation. At least one protestor and two British soldiers were wounded.

At least one Iraqi was killed when demonstrators and police clashed on Thursday.

Late last month, protestors attacked a less domestic troop-carrier and threw petrol bombs, setting several soldiers briefly on fire. The British troops were injured. —Internet

Bangladesh to set up new sugar mills

Dhaka, 3 April—The Industries Ministry of the government has proposed setting up of five new sugar mills and four refineries in the private and public sectors to boost sugar export to the European Union (EU) countries to help the country avail itself of the quota facility.

Under the plan, the ministry proposed establishing a sugar refinery with a capacity of 100,000 metric tons (MT) in an export processing zone under a private initiative, The Financial Express reported Friday.

It has also proposed setting up of three other refineries near any seaport having availability of natural gas. These would be joint ventures involving Bangladeshi Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC), a government organisation, and local and foreign investors. The BSFIC will have 49 per cent stake in the three refineries and the remaining ownership will be shared by private and foreign investors.

Five new sugar mills will be set up in the private sector and the ministry has planned to establish these mills in the potential areas beyond the existing mill zones.

The ministry suggested that the production capacity of these mills be above 10,000 metric tons per year.

The BSFIC’s 15 state-owned sugar mills produce around 200,000 metric tons of sugar annually. The 15 sugar mills, however, incur huge losses every year that forced the government to privatize the mills one after another.

The EU has offered a special quota facility to 49 least developed countries under the “Everything But Arms” initiative recently.

China liquor aims to break the ice in American bars

Beijing, 3 April—Beijing’s most popular brand of firewater beloved by taxi drivers and political leaders alike may soon be the liquor of choice at fashionable US bars.

Beijing-based Red Star Co had signed a deal with an undisclosed US alcohol sales company to distribute its high-end Diamond Erguotou brand of “baijiu”, a high-proof spirit made from sorghum, the China Daily newspaper said on Friday.

Company sources revealed the mix and packaging of Diamond Erguotou would be adjusted to accommodate American tastes. “It may not be too long before Americans get the chance to sample a kind of erguotou that is reserved for the best of the best by Beijing’s more discerning drinkers,” the newspaper said.

Lower grades of baijiu are beloved in Beijing and across China for their spicy bite and sweet aftertaste.

China hopes US will stop fingerprinting Chinese visa applicants

Beijing, 3 April—China hopes the United States will stop fingerprinting Chinese visa applicants, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan here Thursday.

Kong made the remark at a press conference when answering questions about the US decision on March 22 to stop fingerprinting Chinese visa applicants, said China Daily newspaper.

China understands the US consideration about domestic security after the Sept 11 tragedy, but it is “totally unnecessary” to fingerprint Chinese visa applicants, said Kong.

Kong said the two countries exchanged over one million people last year, and the bilateral trade, cultural and educational cooperations are expanding in recent years.

The company plans to price its top-end white bottle Diamond Erguotou product at 30 US dollars in the United States.

While standard-size bottles of base-grade erguotou cost less than a dollar in Beijing, the company plans to price its top-end white bottle Diamond Erguotou product at 30 US dollars in the United States.

The company did not specify when shipments of Diamond Erguotou to the US distributor would begin.

A ship passes through the permanent five-stair-channel of the Three Gorges Dam in the central Chinese province of Hubei. China’s environmental watchdog has ordered the immediate implementation of pollution controls at the controversial Three Gorges Dam after it discovered environmental regulations were being flouted. —AFP

Two police officers shot dead in Iraq

Baghdad, 3 April—There was no let up in attacks against American soldiers in Iraq—Aljazeera correspondent said on Saturday the police chief of Kufa, Saeed Tryak, was killed and one of his escorts injured when their car was attacked at al-Adala in Najaf, south east of Baghdad.

US military police chief of al-Mahmudiya in Baghdad, Usama Husyan, was also killed when he was shot at by men in police uniforms. The attack took place when he was leaving his house in al-Khodra neighbourhood of Baghdad.

Also in the capital, two people were injured when a rocket was fired at a residential area. Police said a house was damaged in the explosion and two men inside it injured. Angry residents blamed the Americans for the attack.

In Baquba, north of Baghdad, a car bomb exploded on Saturday morning near a US military patrol, wounding several people.

An Iraqi civilian wounded in the blast said it took place in al-Aswad village.

A policeman said two US vehicles were damaged and several soldiers wounded.

Also in Baquba, a member of the local council escaped an assassination attempt when armed fighters opened fire on his car, police said.

About two dozen armed men opened fire on the main road linking the city with the nearby village of Kanaan, First Lieutenant Vazir Mahmud told AFP.

Council member Abu Saied and Muhammad Saeed Kufi, an adviser to the city council president who was also in the car, escaped unharmed.

Basra also witnessed some violence on Saturday when a policeman was slightly injured when angry residents waiting to be guarded by the newly established customs service attacked his car, an AFP correspondent on the scene reported.

The job-seekers also hurled rocks at policemen who were guarding the customs building after British soldiers withdrew. They also attacked photographers on the scene.

“Jobs, not jobs. This is not the customs police department,” said one of the demonstrators. “We decided to protest because our demands are ignored.”

China liquor aims to break the ice in American bars

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A ship passes through the permanent five-stair-channel of the Three Gorges Dam in the central Chinese province of Hubei. China’s environmental watchdog has ordered the immediate implementation of pollution controls at the controversial Three Gorges Dam after it discovered environmental regulations were being flouted. —AFP

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Lower grades of baijiu are beloved in Beijing and across China for their spicy bite and sweet aftertaste.
Anti-American voices get louder across Iraq

Baghdad, 3 April — The people who burned and kicked the corpses of four American contractors in the Iraqi town of Fallujah this week were not armed guerrillas or foreign fighters. Children joined in as jubilant crowds played with the charred bodies, dragging them like trophies through the streets. It is a town overwhelmed by hatred for the occupying forces.

Those who participated in the violence may represent just a tiny minority of Iraqis, but across the country anti-American voices are getting louder and more insistent.

“There’s an increasing feeling of anti-Americanism definitely,” said Paola Gasparoli of Occupation Watch, an independent organization that monitors the occupation. “It’s like all their hopes were destroyed. Families who had some hope the Americans would help Iraq now have sons who were killed or arrested, houses destroyed. This hope has died.”

But one survey of 2,500 Iraqis released this week found that while they were happy to be rid of Saddam Hussein, 41 per cent said they had been humiliated by the invading troops, four in 10 had no confidence in occupation troops, and one in five believed attacks on foreign soldiers in Iraq were justified.

A number of factors fuel the growing resentment. A year since the invasion, there has been no let-up in violence, infrastructure is still poor, jobs scarce. There is often friction between civilians and occupying troops.

Raid across the country leave houses damaged and property broken. Iraqis complain that troops coming under attack are quick to fire in self defence, but fire randomly and without regard for civilians nearby.

In Tikrit last month, US soldiers killed a three-year-old boy when they fired on a car carrying four children and three women. The troops said the car jumped a checkpoint, the Iraqis said they never saw one.

Rights groups say that in the so-called battle for hearts and minds, the occupying forces are often their own worst enemy. One tank rumbling through Baghdad with “Bloodlust” painted on its barrel. Another says “Kill them all”.

Powell says evidence of Iraqi weapons labs may be wrong

Washington, 4 April — US Secretary of State Colin Powell acknowledged on Friday that the evidence he presented to the United Nations that two trailers in Iraq were used for weapons of mass destruction may have been wrong.

Powell also said he hoped a commission investigating the US intelligence on Iraq’s alleged weapons of mass destruction would reveal how the CIA ended up depending on unreliable sources for key evidence he used to argue for war.

Powell’s dramatic case to the Security Council that Iraq had secret arsenals of weapons of mass destruction failed to persuade the Council to directly back the US-led war. It helped mobilize sentiment among the American people for going to war. In Iraq, UN inspectors were unable to uncover the weapons, but US Administration officials have insisted they still might be uncovered.

David Kay, who led the hunt for the weapons, showed off a pair of trailers for news cameras last summer and argued that the two metal flatbeds were designed for making biological weapons.

In face of mounting challenges to that theory, Kay conceded in October that he could have been wrong. He said he did not know whether Iraq ever had a mobile weapons programme.

In February 2003, Powell made a major presentation of the US case against Iraq at a special session of the UN Security Council, where he said the United States had several sources showing mobile chemical weapons laboratories.

Mainland, HK sign agreement on cross-boundary dumping

Hong Kong, 3 April — Deputy Director-General of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) Chen Lian-zeng and HK Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works Sarah Liao signed the Cooperation Agreement on Cross-boundary Marine Dumping in Guangzhou on Wednesday.

According to a government press release, the cooperation agreement provides a foundation for closer cooperation and communication between the two sides on the management of cross-boundary dumping of dredged materials generated in Hong Kong, and the accommodation of inert construction and demolition (C&D) materials in Chinese Mainland waters.

Liao said at the signing ceremony that “the cooperation agreement will help Hong Kong to properly handle dredged materials in the long run and to better utilize inert C&D materials, thus relieving the pressure on our marine dumping grounds and fill banks. This is of great importance to the sustainable development of Guangdong and Hong Kong.”

She said that both Hong Kong and the Mainland share the common interest in ocean protection and the handling of waste and that it would be a win-win situation for both in strengthening cooperation in these areas of work.

Iraqis say US bid to pacify Fallujah doomed

Fallujah, Iraq, 3 April — Peering down the road to the anti-American flashpoint of Fallujah, nervous Iraqi security forces said on Friday there was only one way for US troops to pacify the town — stay away.

“The Americans should think before they act. If they enter Fallujah and use force it will only be met with force and this will happen over and over,” said Lieutenant Mohammad Yashar.

“This is Fallujah. Everyone is angry with the occupation and there are many tribes, which means there will be re-venge. The Americans should just keep out.”

The spotlight has been on Fallujah since residents burned and mutilated the bodies of four US contractors killed in an ambush on Wednesday. The US Army has promised an overwhelming response, but has not specified what that response will be.

Foreign civilians in Iraq armouring up, keeping under guard

Baghdad, [Iraq], 3 April — The four American civilian security workers brutally killed and mutilated in Fallujah on Wednesday were among thousands of ex-soldiers and others who work in the murky universe of private security firms operating in Iraq, frequently outside the control of the US military or any Iraqi authority.

Along with Blackwater USA, the elite North Carolina company that employed the victims of the Fallujah violence, more than 35 other security companies from around the globe employ an estimated 15,000 private security workers in Iraq. Dozens more companies are competing for lucrative contracts available here.

The security firms operate in a world where the military, the intelligence community and private companies merge. Many of the employees once served in elite units such as the Navy SEALs or Army Green Berets.

Those employees are also well paid, with some of the more dangerous positions reportedly garnering up to $1,000 per day.

Their clients, activities and even the names of security firm employees are largely kept from public view. Security experts estimate that dozens of the heavily armed security workers have been killed since entering Iraq after the ousting of President Saddam Hussein nearly a year ago.

The vast majority of their work in Iraq is government-funded, either through direct contracts with government agencies or indirectly as security for firms that have contracts to help rebuild Iraq.

Blackwater’s most high-profile client also is arguably the biggest target for insurgents: L. Paul Bremer III, the US civilian administrator for Iraq. Despite and in large part because of the continuing violence in Iraq, the private security industry is lucrative here.

“This place is the biggest job expo going in the security world. If you can’t make it here, you can’t make it,” said a seasoned security expert in Iraq who is working with a firm under government contract.

Security experts said business is booming because a surge in violence has come precisely as a flood of contractors is poised to roll into the country now that $8 billion in US contracts under the Iraq aid bill have been awarded.

Internet
NO LET UP IN ATTACKS AGAINST AMERICANS IN IRAQ

An Iraqi police officer tries to drive away from Iraqis pelting his car with bricks and stones during disturbances in the southern city of Basra, April 3, 2004.

Two attacks on Iraqi police south of Baghdad on Saturday left four people dead, officers said, in the latest of a string of attacks on local authorities linked to the US-led occupation.—INTERNET

Iraqi men shout at US soldiers as they walk past a US Army base in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, April 2, 2004.

Demonstrators run for cover as gunfire erupts near the Baghdad hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, during an anti-American protest on April 4, 2004.—INTERNET

Iraqis demonstrate near the US Green Zone in Baghdad March 30, 2004 in response to the closure of the Al Hawza newspaper.—INTERNET

Demonstrators rally past an American tank during an anti-American protest in Baghdad, Iraq, on April 4, 2004. In the southern city of Najaf, gunfire rang and at least four Iraqis, including two soldiers, were killed on Sunday during a protest outside a Spanish military garrison. —INTERNET
US voters favour Kerry over Bush on financial issues

LOS ANGELES, 3 April — More US voters think that Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry would better look out for their financial futures than would President George W. Bush, according to a survey released Friday.

In the survey conducted by the Los Angeles Times, almost half of those surveyed — 45 per cent to be specific — ranked economic issues as the most important problem facing the nation, about the same percentage put security concerns at the top.

The results suggest that the economic battleground in the presidential election campaign is taking an untraditional shape that transcends basic economic issues such as employment and price levels.

When asked to name the candidate who would be "best at protecting the financial security of the average American", 47 per cent of the respondents named Kerry, while 34 per cent picked Bush.

Among independents, a group that could play a crucial role in determining the winner of the presidential election in November, the gap was even wider: 49 per cent for Kerry and 26 per cent for Bush.

Those polled also view Bush’s White House as much more aligned with business interests than the interests of ordinary workers, and they express widespread doubts about the integrity of corporate America, the survey found.

A 63-per-cent majority said Bush was more concerned about corporations, while 21 per cent said he was more concerned about workers.

US voters are also concerned about corporate scandal and the integrity of the financial markets — and the way their leaders are dealing with these matters.

Half of those polled said they would describe corporate fraud as a "serious problem" in a system that is failing, while 40 per cent said only "a few corrupt individuals" engaged in such behaviour. Three out of four Americans said they could trust executives "only some of the time" or "hardly ever".

The Times poll of 1,616 adults nationwide was conducted between March 27 and March 30. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

MNA/Xinhua

Blair faces new pressure over Iraq intelligence

LONDON, 3 April — Prime Minister Tony Blair came under fresh pressure over the way he took Britain to war on Iraq, after US Secretary of State Colin Powell acknowledged key intelligence no longer appeared "solid".

Powell’s comments Friday referred to pre-war information the United States on Iraq’s mobile biological weapons laboratories to justify the military campaign last year, led by the United States and staunchly backed by Blair.

Powell’s remarks prompted calls from British critics of the war for Blair’s government to explain whether claims it made about Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction (WMD) were accurate.

The Times poll of 1,616 adults nationwide was conducted between March 27 and March 30. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

MNA/Xinhua

Portugal not to increase military presence in Iraq

Lisbon, 3 April — Portugal will not increase the number of military effective deployed in Iraq if the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) assumes a role in the Arab nation.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Teresa Mota Gouveia was quoted Friday by the Press as saying that she "sincerely did not see any possibility of significantly increasing "our presence in the region".

Portugal’s participation in international missions is high, the minister indicated in Brussels where she is attending a meeting of the 26 member nations of the NATO.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists dig out 2,450-year-old civilization in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 3 April — A group of Bangladeshi archaeologists have dug out an ancient road in northern Narsingdi, 50 kilometres northeast of the capital Dhaka, suggesting 2,450-year-old civilization which redefine the history of eastern India.

A team of archaeologists of Jahangirnagar University discovered the 18/16-metre and 27-centimetre-thick road about a month ago, dating back to 450 BC. An important trade centre, the road was in use till the British Raj. It was also vital for trade and commerce.

In recent years, archaeologists of Jahangirnagar University found other contemporary contacts with the ancient centre, which is now the province of the current generation.

Dr Sufi Mustafizur Rahman, associate professor of Jahangirnagar University, who led the group of archaeologists, said Friday that excavation of the road was essential for understanding the history of the region.

MNA/Xinhua

Loud blast heard in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 3 April — A loud blast was heard in Baghdad on Friday afternoon, rattling windows in the centre of the Iraqi capital, witnesses said.

The cause of the blast was not immediately clear. Baghdad has been on high alert for the possibility of a step up in attacks as the anniversary of the overthrow of Saddam Hussein nears on 9 April.

Guerrillas regularly fire rockets and mortars in the city, aiming for the US military and civilian headquarters in the so-called Green Zone, a heavily defended area in the city centre.

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi children watch US Army soldiers patrolling a street in Mosul, 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Friday, 2 April, 2004.—INTERNET

Internet
Myanmar and road transport

Aung Si Hein

Land transportation, air transportation, water transportation and pipelines are the world’s four modes of transport, and every mode has its own weaknesses and advantages. Of the means of land transportation, road transportation is interesting as cars can pass through every terrain whether it be a mountain, a plain, a valley or even a town road or a city road till reaching the passenger’s home.

The history of road transport started with the transport of goods. In the 18th Century, the industrial countries were transporting raw materials and workers to factories, and from these factories goods were conveyed to markets and consumers. Steam engines were invented in the 19th Century, and introduction of steam-powered rollers had led to the flourishing of smooth gravel roads. The road transport sector developed with high acceleration after the advent of tarred roads together with the petroleum and diesel engines in the 20th Century. For military purposes networks of transnational motor roads came into being continent-wise in Europe, America, Africa and Asia in addition to domestic roads. Moreover, the role of the transport commissions and administrative boards, road and bridge rules and laws, financial matters of the central and local governments, insurance and live saving, mechanical and technical sectors, traffic policy and emergency communication became wider and more important. The following table shows some countries of the world that enjoyed sustainable development in the road transport sector during the 50-year period from 1939 to 1988 as they built roads for political, economic, military and national unity purposes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Area (sq km)</th>
<th>Roads in km</th>
<th>1939</th>
<th>1988</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
<td>244,796</td>
<td>291,277</td>
<td>352,292</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>9,363,353</td>
<td>4,932,411</td>
<td>6,233,308</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>350,511</td>
<td>423,237</td>
<td>493,590</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>301,255</td>
<td>281,622</td>
<td>301,846</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>41,288</td>
<td>16,092</td>
<td>71,055</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>7,686,810</td>
<td>782,104</td>
<td>852,996</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>2,968,090</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,554,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>9,561,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>982,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>372,077</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,104,282</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROK</td>
<td>98,478</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>55,778</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The length of roads in East Germany are not included in the roads of Germany in 1988.

The following table shows the development of roads in ASEAN nations during the decade from 1988 to 1997:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Area (sq km)</th>
<th>Roads in km</th>
<th>1989</th>
<th>1988</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>1,919,000</td>
<td>219,009</td>
<td>386,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>514,629</td>
<td>77,609</td>
<td>256,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>331,000</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>209,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>157,448</td>
<td>161,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>330,000</td>
<td>40,904</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>181,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the two tables, we can compare the road transport development between the developed and developing countries. A gap can be seen between the nations developing at high pace and slow pace, and it indicates the differences between nations in the global political experience, the international relations, wealth and the extent of sufferings from wars. It is said that the history of roads in Myanmar started in Mogok-Thabeikkyin region. In about BC 206, Chinese and ethnic Chins of Myanmar mined amber near Mogok. Later, jade and ruby were mined, and the flourishing of gem-based trade led to the advent of mule, horse, elephant and cattle tracks as the animals were used in transport.

Afterwards, people used bullock-carts in transporting goods. In the later periods, the military roads of the feudal monarchs of successive eras were built. In 1989, the British government formed Public Works Department in Myanmar, and used advanced technology in building roads. During the World War II, Allied Forces extended the India-Myanmar-Yunnan (China) Road, and the Japanese upgraded it in Myanmar and Thailand. After Myanmar regained independence, eight Union highways — Yangon-Pyinmana-Mandalay Road, Yangon-Pyay-Magway-Nyaungyon Road, Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Road, Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung Road, Toungoo-Lokkaw-Hopong Road, Muse-Bhamo-Myitkyina-Mogaung Road, Mandalay-Shwebo-Kalewa Road and Bago-Mawlamyine-Dawei-Myeik Road — emerged in the nation. But multi-coloured insurgency that broke out in the nation soon after the independence was restored delayed the road extension work. The road transport development of the nation excluding the length of earth roads was 23,779 kilometres in 2007 compared with 17,290 kilometres in 1987 and from 9,023 kilometres in 1951.

Myanmar is the second largest in terms of land area after Indonesia in Southeast Asia, and is sharing a common land border with five neighbouring countries. It is in the process of national modernization and development drive. Roads are like the arteries and veins of human body. Myanmar is building a network of roads reaching all parts of the nation. If we study the two above-mentioned tables, we can know the extent of roads we will have to build. The work programme to maintain and upgrade the existing roads and extend road links with ASEAN countries and also with China and India need a large volume of machinery, materials, financial power and manpower. All the national people should take Japan, which has the largest road network in the world, as an example and collectively strive for the foremost accomplishment of the State’s road transport projects.

(Translation: TMT)
Myanmar Alin, Kyemon 3-4-2004
Academic course for teachers in Sagaing Division opened

YANGON, 4 April—An academic course for teachers of basic education schools and monastic education schools in Sagaing Division was opened at No 3 Basic Education High School in Monywa on 2 April. Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye spoke on measures undertaken for promotion of education and called on departmental officials and teachers to implement the projects in unity.

Deputy Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department (Upper Myanmar) U Thaung Khai reported on academic matters and Division Education Officer U Ohn Kyaw on conducting of the course.—MNA

Undertakings of hotels, posts and telecommunications inspected in Rakhine State

YANGON, 4 April—Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications and Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw together with officials concerned on 2 April evening flew to Thandwe, Rakhine State. On his visit, the minister inspected Sandoway Resort Hotel at Ngapali beach.

The following morning, the minister inspected progress in construction of Amata Resort Hotel and Tamarind Beach Hotel and Ngapali Resort Hotel which belongs to Hhoa Trading Co Ltd as well as Myanmar Post and Telecommunication Office in Ngapali Shiwewa Chaung. Moreover, the minister inspected progress in construction of Jade Marina Resort Hotel, Thante Beach Resort Hotel, Lintha Oo Hotel, Bay View Hotel, Silver Beach Hotel, Amazing Ngapali Resort Hotel, Fortune Resort Hotel, Aden Hotel and Minzani Hotel.

In the afternoon, after inspecting the Ngapali Beach Hotel, the minister met with hoteliers and gave instructions on timely completion of the projects, conservation of natural environment for the beach and development of tourism and working together with family spirit. He also attended to their requirements and inspected Thandwe Post and Telegraph Office. —MNA

Youth Education Camp

Training Course opened in Kayah State

YANGON, 4 April—A ceremony to open the Youth Education Camp (1/2004) Training Course, sponsored by Kayah State Maternal and Child Welfare Association, was held at the City Hall in Loikaw on 1 April morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Col Myint Oo, the Secretary and departmental officials, Patron of Kayah State Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee Daw Khaiing Thet Mon and committee members, commanders of Loikaw battalion and unit, social organizations, course instructors and trainees.

Chairman of Kayah State PDC Col Myint Oo made a speech.

Patron Daw Khaiing Thet Mon presented commemorative pennants to Chairman Col Myint Oo and course instructors.

Next, Chairman Col Myint Oo greeted trainees and the opening ceremony ended.

Yesterday morning, Chairman Col Myint Oo attended the opening ceremony of Naungyah Bridge held in Loikaw.

The Kayah State Superintendent Engineer presented commemorative pennants to Chairman Col Myint Oo and officials.

Next, Chairman Col Myint Oo and those present on the occasion inspected the bridge and the ceremony ended.

The bridge, 673 feet long and 6 feet wide, was built at a cost of K 3.1 million contributed by Kayah State PDC and departments concerned.

Next, Chairman Col Myint Oo inspected summer paddy cultivation at Dawkawkale, Patent and Huaynghahla village-tracts and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Later, Chairman Col Myint Oo inspected cultivation of Shweyinaye paddy at Ngwedaung Plantations in Dimawhso Township and gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA

Drug traffickers sentenced

YANGON, 4 April—A combined team comprising members of Yangon Special Anti-Drug Squad and Kamayut Police Station, acting on informa-

tion, on 25 September 2003, searched the house of Ma Soe Soe Myint, of Apartment 301, Building 227, Sabai Maga Street, Ward 1, Kamayut Town-

ship and arrested her and Than Soe, who was at the house, together with 39.8 grams of dried opium concealed in the house.

Action is being taken against Ma Soe Soe Myint, daughter of U Sein Han, of Apartment 301, Building 227, Sabai Maga Street, Ward 5, Kamayut Township and Than Soe, son of U San Aye, of No 300, Circular Road, Ward 3, Kalaw, under Section 15/16 (C)/20 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Kamayut Police Station. Ma Soe Soe Myint and Than Soe were sentenced to 25 year imprisonment under Section 20 (A) by Yangon West District Court on 16 February 2004. —MNA

Don't Smoke

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on his departure for Bangladesh at the Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Diplomats and officials of UN agencies see off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the airport.—MNA

Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Simon Tensing De Cruz sees off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the airport.—MNA

ANGON, 4 April—A
HK chief executive approves chairmanship of HKEx

Hong Kong, April 4 — Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Tung Chee Hwa has approved the appointment of Charles Lee as Chairman of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEx).

The approval was made under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (SFO). Lee’s chairmanship takes immediate effect, and will coincide with his term as a director of HKEx Board, which will expire at the end of the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the HKEx.

Lee was elected Chairman of the HKEx by the directors at a board meeting held on Thursday. Announcing the approval, HKEx Hong Kong Financial Secretary Henry Tang said on Saturday that Lee has made invaluable contributions to the local securities market over the years.

“His leadership commands general support and respect by the industry. We are confident that with Mr. Lee’s direction, the HKEx will further enhance our market quality and competitiveness, and strengthen our position as the premier capital formation centre for the Mainland,” Tang said.

Lee is one of the three directors reappointed earlier by the financial secretary to the Board of the HKEx on a two-year term under the SFO.

He is a lawyer by profession. — MNA/Xinhua

China becomes largest ostrich raiser in Asia

Xi’An, April 4 — China has become Asia’s number one ostrich raiser with about 20,000 ostriches bred in captivity. The milestone was handed over by the President of the International Conference on the Development of Ostriches that opened in the western province of Shaanxi.

Experts say the figure is the largest in the world. China started in 1992 to import and artificially breed ostriches, a species that was indigenous to Africa and has been raised around the globe since the 1980s as its feathers, meat, egg, hair and bone are used in high-end leather and as a value added product.

Ostrich breeding enjoys immense potential in China owing to the large number of ostriches in the Shaanxi region, whose dry climate and abundant land and fodder resources are conducive to the birds’ growth, said officials with the agriculture and finance ministries at the conference.

Ostrich raising will play a leading role in boosting the fodder processing industry, protecting the ecological environment, enriching the consumers’ market and increasing the local farmers’ income, according to experts with the China Ostrich Farming and Development Association, sponsor of the international conference.

The three-day event was initiated by the World Ostrich Association to promote the development of the global ostrich raising industry and showcase China’s achievements in this aspect.

The conference carries the theme of “opportunities and challenges facing the global ostrich industry”, and has drawn industry insiders from more than 20 countries and regions.

Participants will visit Shaanxi ICo Ostriches Co., Ltd, the largest ostrich breeding base in Asia, during their stay in the northwestern province.

Chinese Vice-Premier meets Saudi Arabian guests

Beijing, April 4 — Premier Zeng Peiyan met here Friday with Ali bin Ibrahim Al-Nuaimi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia.

Zeng said the two nations are complementary in economy and the Chinese Government wholeheartedly supported cooperation with Saudi Arabia and hoped the two countries could expand cooperation areas and enhance the cooperation level.

Al-Nuaimi said the Saudi Arabian Government and enterprises are very confident in the bilateral economic and trade investment cooperation. — MNA/Xinhua

Smoking linked to twin risk in heart attacks

London, April 4 — Ireland’s ban on smoking in pubs and restaurants could have added health benefits if research in the United States is anything to go by.

Nearly two years before the emerald isle became the first country to outlaw smoking in public places, the chief of Helena in Montana passed similar legislation and saw a sharp drop in heart attack deaths.

Researchers ... who had identified the US law overthrown but turned out in the six months it was enforced, hospital admissions for heart attack fell by 40 per cent in the city. “The observations...suggest that smoke-free laws not only protect people from the long-term effects of second-hand smoke but also that they may be associated with a rapid decrease in heart attacks,” said Professor Stanton Glantz of the University of California, San Francisco. Smoking is a risk factor for heart disease and stroke but Glantz’ research, which is published online by the British Medical Journal on Monday, is the first to report a link between a ban and heart attacks.

Only 24 people were admitted to the city’s heart hospital with a heart attack during the six-month smoking ban while the average of 40 during the same periods in the previous year had doubled and afterwards it was overturned.

Thirty-eight per cent of the heart attack patients in the city were smokers, 32 per cent had quit and 33 per cent had never smoked.

Further studies are needed to confirm the findings but Glantz said the impact is consistent with the known effects of second-hand smoke on cardiac disease.

The dramatic decrease in heart attacks in the Mont- ana study makes sense because exposure to passive smoking can increase the risk of heart attack,” a spokesman for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) said. A smoking group ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) said NCI data confirmed the need for a ban on smoking in public places and how crucial it is to public health,” a spokesman for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) said. A smoking group ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) said NCI data confirmed the
China works for world’s peace, stability

HANGZHOU, 4 April — China is an important country in the international community in both political and economic terms, making contribution to the world’s peace and stability, a senior official with the United Nations (UN) told Xinhua here Friday. “China is a responsible nation,” said Anand Panyarachun, former Thai prime minister and chairman of the panel of eminent persons on UN reform and the UN’s role, who is attending the Asia High-level Symposium on Threats, Changes and Change in Hangzhou, capital city of east China’s Zhejiang Province.

Anand said China, as a populous developing country, has created the world’s fastest economic growth, which the international community has called a “peaceful rising.” China has always been dedicated to peaceful coordination with other countries and in recent years has put a high value on partnerships for cooperation with other countries, he said. Therefore, China’s prosperity is welcomed, said Anand, adding that “some countries are still suspicious that the rising China will pose a threat to them, which is not necessary at all.”

The UN will celebrate its 60th founding anniversary next year. Anand said Asian countries and the UN are facing the same problem concerning peace and security. Over the past 10 years, security problems have been prominent as terrorism, infectious diseases, poverty, as well as international and domestic disputes led to unbalanced, unequal and unsustainable development.

The UN should seek solutions to the future development of the world can be more even, equal and sustainable, Anand said, and that China should also progress with the times and promote its reform.

He said that when the UN Charter was signed in 1945, many Asian and African countries were still colonized and did not participate in the signing of the UN Charter. At present, UN members have reached 191, and the international economic and political situation has undergone drastic changes. Any organization in the world has operated for such a long time needs inspection on its structure, achievements and future task, he said.

“We are reviewing whether the UN Charter conforms with the current political and economic situation,” Anand said.

He said the panel of 41 experts from 31 countries and renowned experts and scholars will have discussions on three major topics, namely, threats and challenges to the international peace and security, collective actions of the international community, and the UN’s operation, coordination and reform. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam’s agri, forestry, fishery production up in 1st quarter

HANOI, 4 April — Vietnam’s agriculture, forestry and fishery sector saw a production value of 36.1 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (2.3 billion US dollars) in the first quarter of this year, a year-on-year rise of 0.8 per cent.

In the period, production values of agriculture and fishery stood at 28 trillion VND (1.7 billion US dollars) and 6.4 trillion VND (423 million US dollars), up 0.1 per cent and 4.4 per cent respectively, said the Ministry of Planning and Investment on Friday.

Meanwhile, forestry’s production value decreased 0.6 per cent to 1.5 trillion VND (96.2 million US dollars).

Many products recorded export growth in the first three months. They included rice with an export value of 175 million dollars, up 6.6 per cent; coffee 180 million dollars, up 33.5 per cent; woodwork 193 million dollars, up 47.3 per cent; and seafood 438 million dollars, up 9.5 per cent.

Markets of such local products are the United States, Japan, and the European Union (EU). The agriculture, forestry and fishery sector posted growth of 4.1 per cent in production last year, and the figure is expected to reach 4.6 per cent this year. — MNA/Xinhua

Another cloned cow gives birth in Shandong Province

JINAN, 4 April — Cloned cow “Duo Duo” gave birth to a male calf on Friday in a Chinese Provincial Institute of Animal Science in east China’s Shandong Province. The calf, “Yin Long”, is 80 centimetres tall, 49 kilos. All the physical and mental indicators of Yin Long, including heartbeat rate, body temperature and breath, are all normal, according to the technicians. Wei Qiang, head of the technician team, said the birth of Yin Long is further evidence that cloning cattle have normal reproductive abilities. Yin’s father is from Canada. MNA/Xinhua

Singapore businessman gets 42 years jail for fraud

SINGAPORE, 4 April — A Singapore businessman who swindled banks of 117.1 million Singapore dollars (70 million US dollars) to feed a gambling habit was jailed for 42 years on Friday.

In the country’s biggest commercial fraud case, Chia Teck Leng, 44, pleaded guilty to forgery of documents and issuing false documents to obtain loans in the name of his employers, Asia Pacific Breweries (Singapore) Pte Ltd, that he then transferred to his own accounts.

Chia, who was finance manager at the brewers, created fictitious documents between January 1999 and March 2003 to borrow money from four foreign banks, according to court papers.

Prosecutors described a desperate high-roller who kept increasing his bets to try to cover his gambling losses. At one Australian casino, Chia staked as much as 400,000 Australian dollars (306,000 US dollars) on a single hand.

Chia, who cried in court as his lawyer pleaded for leniency, lost some 62 million Singapore dollars in total at casinos around the world. — MNA/Reuters

Seminar on venture investment in south China gathers experts

SUNZHUAN, 4 April — The 2004 China Venture Investment Seminar opened Friday in Shenzhen, south China’s Guangdong Province, convening more than 700 government officials, scholars and professionals from worldwide.

Venture investment development has been accelerating technological innovation in China, and Sino-overseas venture investment projects are encouraged in the country. The seminar sent congratulatory messages to the seminar by Cheng Siwei, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress, and Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Xu Guannian. Israeli Science Minister Elizer Sandberg presented his country’s experience in beeping scientific and technological development through venture investment industries, and expressed readiness to enhance contact and cooperation with China in this regard.

Jean-Bernard Schmidt, chairman of the Association of Venture Investment in Europe, introduced the current situation of venture investment in Europe, saying that China has risen to be an important economic and trade partner with European nations and there is a bright future for cooperation between them.

At the two-day seminar, experts acknowledged that the favourable macro-economic policy adopted in China has created very good conditions for the growth of venture investment in the country, and venture capital from overseas will flow into China at a faster pace, prompted by China’s institution of regulations on overseas investment on venture businesses in the country. — MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
Bangladesh finalizes new Industrial Policy

DHAKA, 4 April — A secretary-level committee of the government finalized the new Industrial Policy 2004 envisaging creation of special economic zones in the country for new industries. The new policy lays emphasis on Small and Medium Enterprises and agro-based industries, continues the existing privatization policy and envisages establishment of a Country Fund at the Bangladesh Bank, the national bank of the country, to spur industrialization in the country, according to The Financial Express Friday.

Bangladeshi textiles to enjoy duty-free access to US markets

DHAKA, 4 April — Bangladesh, along with 19 Middle East countries is expected to enjoy duty-free access to the United States under the proposed Middle East Trade and Engagement Act (METEA). METEA 2003 is currently undergoing hearings in the US Congress and there is a growing hope that the bill would be endorsed by both Houses of the Congress. The Financial Express reported Saturday.

40 teams permitted for climbing 16 peaks in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 4 April — The Nepali Government has allowed 40 teams from 18 countries for mountaineering expedition for 16 peaks in the country during this spring season, The Rising Nepal newspaper reported Saturday.

The Nepal Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation has granted permission to 11 teams to climb the world's highest peak.

The attempting teams are three teams from the United States and one each from Britain, Germany, Greece, Belgium, Malaysia, Canada, South Korea and Mexico.

Only one of them is climbing the peak through South East ridge route and all the other teams will attempt from the normal route.

Meanwhile, there will be four teams each for Mt. Lhotse (8,516 metres) and Mt. Pumori (7,161 metres), three teams for Mt. Makalu (8,463 metres), six teams for Mt. Manaslu (8,163 metres), five teams for Mt. Annapurna IV (7,525 metres), Kabash (7,008 metres), Dhruv (7,264 metres), Raksh (7,129 metres) and two teams for Mt. Kangchenjunga (8,586 metres) and Mt. Dhaulagiri I (8,167 metres), Manaslu (8,163 metres), Baruntse (7,129 metres) and one team each for Mt. Yalung (7,129 metres). Mt. Ama Dablam (6,812 metres), two teams for Mt. Lhotse Shar (8,400 metres), Dhulaguri I (8,167 metres), Manslu (8,163 metres), Kumbamarna (7,710 metres), Annapurna IV (7,525 metres), Kabash (7,008 metres), Dhruv (7,264 metres), Raksh (7,129 metres) and Tungi Ragi Tau (6,948 metres).

Nepal has eight of the 14 highest peaks in the world and has opened 33 new peaks which are under the management of the Nepal Mountaineering Association. Mountaineering is one of the most attractive items to tourists to the country.

Uganda sets up smoking ban task force

KAMPALA, April 4 — One month after a smoking ban was imposed, Uganda has set up a committee to implement the ban on smoking in public, according to the New Vision newspaper to be published on Saturday.

The committee is made up of police and Health Ministry officials. Public relations officer of the Ugandan National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Wilfred Bansabukantu said here Thursday that it will come up with ways of implementing the ban. "We shall enforce the ban after the committee has studied the situation and come up with a way forward," he said.

He said smoking could not be stopped in one day but the implementation of the ban would be a process. Bansabukantu said some public recreational places in the country have already complied with the ban and have demarcated non-smoking and smoking areas. Early last month NEMA said smoking offences will be fined a minimum of 50,000 shillings (25 US dollars) to a maximum of 300,000 shillings (150 US dollars). — MNA/Xinhu

Japan to take part in minesweeping drills in waters off Singapore

Tokyo, 4 April — The Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (MSDF) will take part in international minesweeping drills in waters off Singapore between April 21 and May 7, the Defence Agency said Friday. It is the second time for the MSDF to participate in the western Pacific minesweeping drills co-sponsored by the Singaporean and Indonesian navies. The first participation took place in 2001.

A total of 17 countries, also including the United States, Australia and Thailand, will take part in the drills, in which mock mines will be used for detection and sweeping to improve participants' minesweeping skills. According to the agency, the MSDF will send the Unyo minesweeper tender and two other ships with some 230 troops aboard. — MNA/Xinhu

Jackie Chan promotes own garment line on mainland

BRUNEI, 4 April — Chinese martial arts action star Jackie Chan promoted his own garment line “JC Collection” here Friday, as a start in entering the Chinese Mainland market. “I would like to develop a fashion brand for all Chinese and bring it to the world stage,” said the 50-year-old Hong Kong movie star.

Chan has long been a hot action movie star in both Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland. He has done a good job in bringing Hong Kong movies to Hollywood and developed his own career quite successfully there. His movies “Rush Hour" and “Shanghai Noon” did very well at the box office in the United States.

Chan’s garment collection carries a label with a logo comprising a Chinese graphic of the dragon and the English word Jackie. In Friday’s promotion, Jackie held an informal fashion show for his collection, modeling the line himself. — MNA/Xinhu

For the duty-free access to the US markets, the 20 beneficiaries of the act will have to ensure a minimum of 35 domestic content requirements under the rules of origin provision. The proposed act, which would take effect up to 2011, coincided with the Bush Administration’s Middle East Free Trade Area initiative, which, however, did not include Bangladesh in the list of beneficiaries.

The bill, which was introduced to the US Senate as a bipartisan bill on May 22, 2003 is also known as Silk Road Bill. — MNA/Xinhu

Gambaran umum terhadap 14 gunung tertinggi di dunia yang ada di negara ini. — MNA/Xinhu

Unggah ini adalah 14 gunung tertinggi di dunia yang ada di negara ini. — MNA/Xinhu

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Elisha U Kywe) fell asleep in Jesus on 5th April 1968 may your most sensitive lines,” he told a lance on that line, and on the bomb was found, kilome-
ters away from the Madrid-Seville airport.

Angel Acebes said police were checking the Madrid-Seville trade with China in software, he said.

sector, India should also look for greater trade and finance ministries at the confer-
ence.

Trade will touch 20 billion dollars by 2010 provided there a change in the export basket and anything additional will be a bonus, he added.

Sure said one area in which India has so far not penetrated the Chinese market is foodgrains and agri-commodities in which that country fixes annual import quotas.

Apart from tapping the potential in agri-
sector, India should also look for greater trade with China in software, he said.

China’s military ser-
vice men to enjoy better medical care

Beijing, 3 April — People in military service are expected to enjoy better medical care as the Central Military Commission (CMC) has approved a reform scheme on the Ar-
my’s medical care system, which is to take effect on 1 May this year.

The average per-capita medical budget for military personnel will rise by 30 per cent and more, according to the reform plan, which promises to offer one-of-
charge medical care to serv-

ice men and preferential poli-
cies for their family mem-
bers, and to include civilian workers in the military into the official medical care system.

A spokesman of the Gen-

eral Logistic Department of the Chinese People’s Lib-
eration Army (PLA) told Xinhua that it is necessary to reform the medical service in the Army as the existing military medical care sys-
tem is out of date.

The new scheme gives better care to retired soldiers and officers, those stationed in remote areas or involved in special duties, and those who suffer from serious illness.

Gulf Air plane makes emergency landing

New Delhi, 3 April — A Gulf Air pas-
senger plane made an emergency landing at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here Sunday morning after one of its engines failed.

Just before the GA-133 Dubai-Delhi flight was about to land, a snag was detected prompting the pilot to send a distress mes-
sage to the Air Traffic Control at 8.15 am, police and airport sources said.

Full emergency was declared with fire tenders and ambulances rushing to the tarmac, the Press Trust of India quoted the sources as saying.

The plane landed safely at 8.23 am, the sources said.

China to reexamine, regulate national technology standards

Beijing, 3 April — China will reexamine and regulate its national technology standards this year so as to keep pace with the fast economic and technological development, the Science and Technology Daily reported Wednesday.

The move was announced by an official of the Standardization Administration of China at a national conference on standardization work held on 30 March, the paper said.

China now has more than 20,000 national standards. This year, the administration will reexamine them and some will be amended and integrated, while outdated ones will be annulled.

Standards for construction projects will not be regulated this time, and the final result will be published online.

Indo-China trade pegged at $20b by 2010

New Delhi, 3 April — Economics will be the driving factor in its relationship with China and trade between the two countries is expected to double to 20 billion US dol-
ars by 2010, a government official said here Friday.

Bilateral trade in 2004 is pegged at 10 billion US dollars.

There are not only growth opportunities in traditional areas like steel, pharmaceuti-
cals, automobiles and chemicals, but also export potential in sectors like foodgrains, Nalin Surie, India’s Ambassador to China, said.

“I am very positive, there is a desire on both sides to take the relationship to a qualita-
tively new level. Economics will be a driving factor,” he said in a speech to the Confederation of Indian Industries.

He said trade between the two countries had touched a significant 1.87 billion US dollars during the January-February period and could exceed 10 billion US dollars this year.

Trade will touch 20 billion dollars by 2010 provided there a change in the export basket and anything additional will be a bonus, he added.

Sure said one area in which India has so far not penetrated the Chinese market is foodgrains and agri-commodities in which that country fixes annual import quotas.

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al ostrich industry”, and has drawn industry insiders from more than 20 countries and regions.

Participants will visit Shaanxi IKO Ostriches Co., Ltd., the largest ostrich breeding base in Asia, during their stay in the north-
western province.
Russia gets no guarantees on ratification of CFE treaty

**Bonnéls, 3 April—** Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Friday he did not get “guarantees” from NATO on signing the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty (CFE) by the Baltic states, which became NATO members during recent NATO enlargement.

“I got assurances, not guarantees,” said Lavrov at a Press conference after he met with all the 26 NATO old and new members, who came to Brussels for a flag-raising ceremony for seven new NATO members as well as an informal ministerial meeting.

One of Russia’s chief concerns following the Eastern enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is that four NATO members including the three Baltic states are not signatories to the CFE. Some Russian officials fear that if they do not join the treaty limiting the deployment of weapons they could become NATO outposts for nuclear arms or Army bases.

However, NATO argues that until Russian forces and weapons are pulled back from Georgia and Moldova, the trio cannot ratify a subsequently amended version of the treaty.

On the NATO expansion, Lavrov was not so in- dignant. “We didn’t want this enlargement, and we will continue to maintain a nega- tive attitude. It’s a mistake,” Lavrov said.

He said Russia and NATO should “find new ways of dealing with threats rather than se up new fences” to divide the two.

MNA/Xinhua

Rising oil prices may revive US-Saudi tensions

**Washington, 3 April—**Rising oil prices are threatening to revive tensions between the United States and Saudi Arabia, even as the desert kingdom is cooperating more in the US-led war on terrorism.

Bush Administration officials and experts said here they did not expect the dispute over production levels to top issues improving relations between Washington and Riyadh.

But opposition Demo- cratic Senate President George W. Bush in the November election put a sharper edge on the debate.

“I think the (US-Saudi) relationship has changed. The administration hasn’t realized it, but the Saudis, when it comes to oil, are no longer our friends,” Demo- cratic Senator Charles Schumer of New York told reporters on Wednesday.

Some Democrats intend to target the relationship between Riyadh and Bush, a former Texas oilman who said during the 2000 elec- tion that a President must get “on the phone with the OPEC cartel and say ‘we expect you to open your spigots’”.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC’s most influential member, was seen as leading a cartel move to cut production by about 4 per cent.

MNA/Reuters

US medical school establishes obesity course

**Washington, 3 April—** Duke Medical School said on Friday it was setting up a course in treating obesity, saying that with nearly two-thirds of Americans over- weight, doctors need specialized knowledge of the condition.

Coursework will include the underlying causes of obe- sity and how to treat it. “The students learn how to man- age overweight and obese patients non-judgmentally and counsel adults and chil- dren to make healthy lifestyle choices,” the NorthCarolina- based medical school said in a statement.

“We are one of the first medical schools in the coun- try to establish an obesity management course for medi- cal students,” added Dr. Jarol Boan, and assistant profes- sor of medicine and surgery who set up the month-long course.

Physicians have typi- cally had very little exposure to obesity treatment. Part of the reason for this is that obesity is not considered a dis- ease, so students don’t get training for it,” Boan said.

MNA/Reuters

Sun Microsystems Inc, Microsoft Corp reach agreement

**Washington, 3 April—** Sun Microsystems Inc and Microsoft Corp announced Friday they had reached a “broad cooperation agreement” and set all outstanding litigation between the two rivals.

Sun, a computer server and software maker, said it planned to cooperate with Microsoft company it had branded an un- pражненный monopolist.

While announcing it is cutting 3,300 jobs, Sun also said its net loss for the fiscal third quarter will be wider than expected.

35,000, Sun also said its net loss for the fiscal third quarter will be wider than expected.

MNA/Xinhua

US to fingerprint British visitors, other allies

**Washington, 3 April—**The United States said on Friday it will fingerprint and photograph the citizens of 27 nations that do not require US visas, including visi- tors from close allies like Britain, Australia and Japan.

State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said the new policy would be put in place at all US airports and seaports by September 30, requiring citizens of 27 Visa Waiver Programme countries to provide “two digital index finger scans and a digital photograph” to verify their identity.

The photographs and fin- gerprints are already required of citizens of other na- tions that do require US vi- sas and have proved unpopu- lar among many, although US officials say the process takes a matter of seconds and is needed to protect against attacks like those of Septem- ber 11, 2001.

Under US law, the 27 nations must introduce pass- ports “with biometric” data like fingerprints by October 26 but the State Department and the US Department of

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Houllier hits out at Henchoz

LIVERPOOL (England), 3 April— Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier has told defender Stephane Henchoz he is "out of order" for questioning why he has been left out of the Premier League side.

Henchoz was dropped following the 2-0 league defeat at Southampton on March 14 and since then Liverpool have picked up seven points without conceding a goal.

The 29-year-old will again be a substitute when Liverpool play Blackburn Rovers at Anfield on Sunday, when Houllier's side will be hoping to hold onto fourth place.

Henchoz, who won his 60th cap for Switzerland in their 1-0 defeat by Greece in midweek, said he could not understand why he had been left out of the team, where he has been replaced by Igor Biscan. "He was out of order," Houllier told reporters on Friday.

"You have to respect your teammates. You cannot say like that, that you expect to play. "It is a lack of respect to players now playing. He has been too spontaneous and too naive. "What he has to do is work with his head and come to reason when his time comes.

"When he was injured he was never bothered about who was playing. Now we have three clean sheets in the Premier League so he just has to wait." Liverpool are 16 points adrift of third-placed Manchester United, on 46 points and in a tight battle for the final Champions League spot with Newcastle United and Birmingham City, who have 15 points.

"I have some players because I know what they want, when they wake up every morning it has to be in their hearts, in their legs and in their minds," Houllier said.— MNA/Reuters

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Chelsea's Ranieri voted manager of the month

LONDON, 3 April— Under-pressure Chelsea coach Claudio Ranieri received a boost on Friday when he was voted the English Premier League's manager of the month for March.

Ranieri's future has been the subject of speculation since Russian Roman Abramovich bought Chelsea last July even though the Italian has guided Chelsea to second in the Premier League and a place in the Champions League quarterfinals. In March Chelsea won all three of their Premier League matches against Bolton Wanderers, Fulham and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

"Loved by the fans, and respected by his players, Claudio Ranieri has done a fantastic job at Chelsea under the media spotlight," said awards panel representative Nic Gault.

Ranieri has done a fantastic job at Chelsea under the media spotlight," said awards panel representative Nic Gault.

"The serious doubt is Ranieri. It's looking very doubtful for him at the moment," Ferguson told a news conference on Friday.

"We are hoping there can be a change in the next 24 hours. There were no problems after the game (last Sunday) but when he turned up for training with Holland there was swelling. We are having to work hard to try and get the swelling down."

Van Nistelroy, who has scored 26 goals this season, is United's main attacking threat as Louis Saha, who scored their late equalizer at Highbury last weekend, is ineligible for the tie after joining from Fulham in January.

"He (van Nistelroy) is a man who can win a game for us. It would be a bigger blow, but we will get on with it. We have other players who can replace him and different options," Ferguson added.

One of those options is Diego Forlan, who has been placed on stand-by following his mid-week international commitments with Uruguay.

Forlan was due to be given the weekend off but is flying back and will meet up with the United squad at their hotel.

Ferguson's selection problems have not been helped by Wednesday's England international and the United manager was unhappy at the length of time Phil Neville and Nicky Butt played in the 1-0 defeat by Sweden.

Neville completed the match and Butt was used for 78 minutes when Ferguson was expected England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson to play them for just the first half.

Ferguson said he did not think the pair could play in another big game less than 72 hours later.

"They have ruled themselves out," said Ferguson. "It's changed my thinking on the team so we are probably looking at the same team as last week.—MNA/Reuters

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Cora saves four match points to reach Miami final

MIAMI 3 April— Third seed Guillermo Coria pulled off a miraculous comeback on Friday against Fernando Gonzalez, saving four match points to beat the Chilean 4-6, 7-6, 6-1 and seal a place in the Nasdaq-100 Open final.

For all Coria's grit, his win owed plenty to the attack of stage-fright Gonzalez who suffered when he served for the match at a set and 5-4 up.

He missed two match points in that game to allow Argentine Coria to level at 5-5.

Gonzalez looked to have the match in the palm of his hand again in the second set tiebreaker when he mustered a further two match points, only to find himself once again paralysed by his own nerves.

He surrendered the set on a double fault and having been handed a lifeline, Coria, 22, ran away with the third set as Gonzalez became increasingly dispirited.

Coria was a semifinalist at the French Open and is better known for his prowess on clay than on hard-courts.

Of his seven career titles, six have been won on clay -- his victory indoors in Basel in October last year being the exception.

Coria, the World No 4, now plays either Andy Roddick or Vince Spadea in the final. — MNA/Reuters

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Arsenal out to settle Cup score with United

LONDON (England), 3 April — Manager Arsene Wenger says Arsenal need to avoid the mistakes which cost them a potential double in 1999 when the holders face league champions Manchester United in Saturday's FA Cup semifinal.

Arsenal lost a Cup semifinal replay to United at the same Villa Park venue five years ago and Wenger is convinced the defeat had an effect on their failed league run-in and United's treble, which was unprecedented for an English team.

"It had a bearing," the Frenchman told reporters on Friday. "Maybe if we'd won that game, we would have been under a bit less pressure and done the double again."

"It was a defining moment in Manchester United's season and in ours because it gave them that plus to go on and win it.

"On Saturday, a week after the two sides drew 1-1 at Highbury, Arsenal go into the tie as unbeaten league leaders and hoping for a third domestic double under Wenger after 1998 and 2002. They face four games in nine days, including Tuesday's Champions League quarterfinal second leg against Chelsea, and Wenger is wary of their season unravelling a second time after a Cup defeat by United.

"You never know the psychological consequences of a defeat on your team," he said.

"At the moment, we're on a roll where every game is hugely important. It's important that you win the next one because it has consequences for the game after.

"We don't really know what competition we're playing in, we just want to win every game. We don't calculate too much. This is a massive game for us."

Wenger believes it will be a special one for his Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp, who had a late penalty saved by Peter Schmeichel in the 1999 replay before United's Ryan Giggs won the tie with a wonder goal in extra time.

He's done fantastically well this season and I'm sure he will use that opportunity tomorrow to put things right," Wenger said.

"If he has to (take a penalty), I would love him to do it."
Monday, April 5, 2004
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WEATHER
Sunday, April 4, 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

Dust afternoon. Becherest: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the day.

Forecast valid until evening of 4-4-2004: Isolated rain or downpour likely in Kachin, Shan, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions and showers will be partly cloudy, cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight decrease of day temperature are likely in upper Myanmar areas. Forecast for Monday and Tuesday: Further increase in the pressure of isolated light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
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22,457

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**Myanmar Economic Bank branch in Hmawby opens**

YANGON, 4 April— The opening ceremony of Myanmar Economic Bank branch was held at the building in Hmawby, this morning, attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Swe and the Managing Director formally opened the new building. Later, the minister visited the branch. Also present were Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, officials and guests. — MNA

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**Provisions donated to monks who sit Pahtamabyan**

YANGON, 4 April— A ceremony to offer ‘soon’ to the monks of the Sangha who set the Pahtamabyan Examination was held at the two-storey Aung Yadaw Build- ing of Minkyaung Pariyatti Monastery in Pabedan Region, Mawlamyine, on 1 April morning.

Present were Minkyaung Pariyatti Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Aggavamsabhivamsa and Shan State Peace and Development Council Commandant Maj-Gen Myint Swe of General Administration Department accepted K 300,000 for the Sayadaws donated by Mon State Peace and Development Association; K 300,000 and 10 bags of rice by Mawlanyine District Peace and Development Council; K 300,000, five bags of rice and 100 viss of salt by Mawlamyine Township Peace and Development Council; K 300,000, each by Mawlamyine Vehi- cule Discipline Enforcement and Supervisory Committee; Mon State Union Solidarity and Development Association; and Arrow Myanmar family; and donations by others.

Next, the Minkyaung Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. After the ceremony, the commander and officials offered ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha.

Altogether 1,357 members of the Sangha are sit- ting the examination which will last till 8 April. — MNA

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**Spring Art Show continues for second day**

YANGON, 4 April— The Spring Art Show comprising works of artists from Dawei continued for the second day at the National Museum on Pyay Road from 9 am to 4 pm today. Leading Patron of the art show Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung visited the show. Paintings of Alinka Kyawswa Artist U Ngwe Gung, other well- known artists and their suc- cessive new generation art- ists can be seen at the show. Anyone may view and purchase the works of the artists till 7 April. — MNA