Garavo ca, reverence; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends meeting for holding 4th World Buddhist Summit

YANGON, 22 April — The coordination meeting for holding the fourth World Buddhist Summit took place at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Mayangon Township this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding the summit Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the pro-rector (Admin) of the ITBMU, officials of the Leading Committee and subcommittees and guests.

Secretary of the Leading Committee for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung reported on measures taken through coordination with the Japanese Buddhist Association for successful holding of the summit, progress of work sector-wise, and future tasks; and chairmen of subcommittees, on progress of work for decoration, greening, invitation, accommodation, reception and transportation programmes, holding meetings, information and press release, financial and health sectors and future plans. Those present held a general round of discussions.

With regard to the reports, the Prime Minister made a speech, giving instructions on holding the summit on a grand scale in accord with characteristics of international summits, cleanliness and greening of the place where the summit will be held and its surrounding areas, holding of the Summit in conformity with the essence of Buddhism, customs and traditions of Theravada Buddhism, and emphasis to be placed on making the delegates to the summit notice the nation’s peace and stability and the nation’s unspoiled natural resources.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister inspected religious books to be used for the summit, furniture and samples of summit badges commemorating the summit and souvenir handbags.

Next, the Prime Minister looked into tasks for greening and beautifying the precinct of the Maha Pasana Cave and renovation of the cave and left necessary instructions.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects completion of decoration tasks at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill — MNA
**Perspectives**

Friday, 23 April, 2004

**Strive for industrial development for bright future of the State**

A study of the development situation of the industrial sector shows that its steady growth rate is about 9 percent during the first short-term plan period (1992-93 to 1995-96), 10.7 percent during the second short-term plan period (1996-97 to 2000-2001), 21.8 percent in 2001-2002, 26.8 percent in 2002-2003 and 22.6 percent in 2003-2004 of the current five-year short-term plan period. Thus, it can be found that the industrial sector is experiencing a rapid development.

The industrial sector is the second largest economic sector after the agricultural sector. There are over 100,000 private factories and mills all over the country, 90 percent of them small and medium industries, and they employ roughly 2 million workers. Therefore, if small and medium industries are encouraged, the productivity of the industrial sector will surely increase. Only then, the agricultural country of ours will become an industrial one based on agriculture and enhance a modern and fully developed nation in a short time.

The work coordination meeting No 1/2004 Myanmar industrial development was held at the training hall of the Ministry of Industry on 20 April and Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee Secretary-1 stated that the development of industrial zones during the period of about 9 years was very remarkable owing to the constant encouragement and guidance and close supervision of industrial development committee at different levels and regional authorities.

And he stressed that continued efforts will have to be made for further development of the industrial zones. For this, top priority must be given to industries that manufacture farm machinery, industrial equipment, transport vehicles and import-substitute items.

Now there are 19 private industrial zones all over the nation and the time has come for rapid development of the industrial sector. Therefore, the State has been taking all the necessary steps for speedy development of the industrial sector, starting from 2004-2005.

Therefore, we would like to urge all those responsible to try to the best of their ability for fast development of the industrial sector and for catching up with modern technologies of the present age.

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**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

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**Myanmar Gazette**

**Yangon, 22 April — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Managing Director of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 U Thaik Tun as Director-General of the Regional Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department of the same ministry from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — MNA**

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**Business Matching Meeting between Myanmar and China held**

**Yangon, 22 April — Business Matching Meeting between Myanmar Enterprises and Yunnan Enterprises of China was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning, attended by UMFCCI President U Win Myint and CEC members, Myanmar entrepreneurs. Vice-President of Yunnan Provincial Chambers of Commerce Mr Li Guopei and Chinese entrepreneurs. After UMFCCI President U Win Myint had extended greetings, Vice-President of UMFCCI Chairman of Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum U Won Myint and Vice-President of Yunnan Provincial Chambers of Commerce Mr Li Guopei made speeches on the occasion. Next, Joint-Secretary-2 of the UMFCCI Dr Maung Maung Lay reported on Myanmar investment policies and opportunities. The two sides held discussions on business matters. — MNA**

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**Myanmar delegation arrives back**

**Yangon, 22 April — The Myanmar delegation led by Director-General of UMFCCI Chairman of Greater Mekong Subregion Trade and Televison U Khin Hnin Win and Deputy Director of MRTV (Orchestra) U Win Aung and Staff Officer (Broadcast) Daw Hsan Hsan Oo also arrived back today after attending The Asia Media Summit 2004 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. — MNA**

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**Marijuana, heroin seized**

**Yangon, 22 April — A combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and policemen of Mingaladon Police Station, acting on information, stopped and searched Win Yadana Highway Bus running from Kyakto to Yangon at Wireless bus stop in Mingaladon Township on 23 March and seized 1.4697 kilos of marijuana inside passenger Hla Tun (a) Hsu Gyi’s rucksack. In connection with the case, action was taken against Daw Yan Kway Chi, daughter of U Yan Shouk Paik of Nathar, No 5 Ward, Lashio and Ye Phant, son of U Laung Shang of No 6 Ward, Lashio under Sections 15/19(A)/20(A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Lashio Police Station.**

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**Don’t smoke**

**Yangon, 22 April — A combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and Lashio Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched suspect Daw Yan Kway Chi at a tea shop on Bogyoke Street, No 2 Ward, Lashio on 24 March and seized 669 grams of heroin inside two paper boxes with dry noodle. Further information is yet to arrest of Ye Phant.**

In connection with the case, action was taken against Daw Yan Kway Chi, daughter of U Yan Shouk Paik of Nathar, No 5 Ward, Lashio and Ye Phant, son of U Laung Shang of No 6 Ward, Lashio under Sections 15/19(A)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Lashio No 1 Police Station. — MNA**

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**Two players qualified for Asian Tennis C’ship**

**Yangon, 22 April — Two Myanmar players were qualified for the trials of 2004 Asian Tennis Championship being held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 21 April. The two Myanmar players, Lwin Aung and Than Lwin Aung beat their rivals in the championship. Lwin Aung beat his rivals from Bangladesh and Malaysia 2-0 each and Than Lwin Aung beat those of Syria and Kazakhstan 2-0 each. In the women’s singles event, Hlaing Mon Kyu (Myanmar) beat Syrian player 2-0. — MNA**

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**Don’t smoke**

**Yangon, 22 April — U Win Myint, President of UMFCCI, welcomes back the delegation. — MNA**

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**The business matching meeting between Myanmar and China in progress. — MUMCCI**

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**The business matching meeting between Myanmar and China in progress. — MUMCCI**
**UK troops among injured in deadly Iraq blasts in Basra**

BASRA, 22 April— Suicide bombers have killed 68 people, some of them children, in strikes on Iraqi police stations in British-patrolled Basra, shattering months of relative calm in the mainly Shi‘ite city.

Basa mayor Wael Abdul-Hafez accused Osama bin Laden’s al Qaeda network of being behind the morning rush-hour blasts.

Near-simultaneous vehicle explosions hit three police stations in Basra and a police academy in Zubair, a mainly Sunni town 25 km (16 miles) to the south.

“All four attacks seem to have been carried out by suicide bombers,” said a British Defence Ministry spokeswoman in Basra.

The mayor told a news conference 68 people, not counting the bombers, were killed and 99 wounded. Among the dead were school children incinerated in a minibus caught by one blast.

A wounded Iraqi, Amin Dinari, said he had heard a huge explosion as he stood at the door of his house. “I looked around and saw my leg bleeding and my neighbour lying dead on the floor, torn apart,” he said from his hospital bed. The US-led occupation is due to end on June 30 with the handover of power to an interim Iraqi government, but preparations for the transition have been eclipsed by this month’s bloodletting and hostage-taking in Iraq. —Internet

**Poland considering Iraq exit options**

WARSAW, 22 April— Poland is considering options for withdrawing its troops from Iraq, but any possible pull-out will not be sudden and will be agreed with Washington, outgoing Prime Minister Leszek Miller said on Wednesday.

Miller said his likely successor as Prime Minister, Marek Belka, would map out a strategy for Polish troops in his first policy speech expected in early May.

“We will not make any rash gestures. A final decision about the pullout date will be agreed and well thought over,” he said.

He told reporters that Poland would not follow Spain’s example to pull its troop from Iraq quickly, because this could destabilize the situation in the country.

“The problem of (pulling out troops) exists. We cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that Spain and others are leaving Iraq,” Miller said. “I cannot say when we will leave Iraq, but I’m sure the new prime minister will say something more precise.”

A government official, who was not named, told Reuters, however, that Poland was ready to keep its troops in Iraq until the end of 2004 but would like to cut numbers from the current 2,500.

Poland’s soldiers are responsible for a swath of central and southern Iraq, leading a multinational force of which the Spanish contingent is currently part. —Internet

**Germany says UN resolution on Iraq needed soon**

BERLIN, 22 April— A UN resolution on Iraq is needed soon before US-led occupation authorities hand over power to an Iraqi Government on 30 June, Germany said on Wednesday.

“I do think this deadline will be met because there is no alternative. A UN resolution would have to come before that,” a German Government official, who declined to be named, said.

“We have to seize every opportunity to stabilize the situation. The political process has to be speeded up.”

Lakhdar Brahimi, who is working out a transition plan, indicated on Tuesday a resolution could be expected before US-led occupation authorities hand over power to an interim Iraqi Government, but preparations for the transition have been eclipsed by this month’s bloodletting and hostage-taking in Iraq. —INTERNET

**Missing Dane found dead in Iraq**

BAGHDAD, 22 April— A Danish businessman reported missing in Iraq last week and believed to have been kidnapped has been found dead, the Danish Foreign Ministry says.

The man has not been publicly identified and no details about how he died or where he was found are immediately available.

In a statement Wednesday, the ministry said it was informed by the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq overnight that the Danish citizen had been found by Iraqi police on April 12. He was reported missing April 10.

It is unclear whether the man was abducted.

“There are as of now no information on the culprits or motive for the killing,” the ministry statement said, adding that an Iraqi police investigation into the death has been made difficult by the present security situation.

The ministry said it had been “working intensely on the case since first being informed of the possible abduction” April 11. Currently, at least six people are believed to be held including a US soldier, a US contractor and three Italians. At least six more are reported as missing or status unknown.

Another Italian, Fabrizio Quatricchi was executed by his captors last week. It was the first confirmed killing of a hostage by militants in Iraq. —Internet

**Iraq’s neighbours to meet on Iraq reconstruction**

MEXICO CITY, 22 April— The parliaments of Iraq and its neighbours’ countries are to hold meetings next month in Amman, Jordan, to move forward the reconstruction of democratic institutions in Iraq after the United States transfers power to a local government.

Parliamentary presidents of Iran, Syria, Kuwait, Jordan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia would attend the meeting, Chilean Senator and President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Sergio Paez Verdugo said Tuesday during the 110th IPU assembly. A representative of the United Nations (UN) and a member of the Iraq Governing Council will also participate in the meeting, Paez added.

About 1,500 people, 700 of them being legislators from 138 nations, are taking part in the 110th IPU assembly in Mexico, which started Sunday and will end next Friday. During the assembly, the lawmakers expressed their concerns over the situation in Iraq and the worsening Israeli-Palestinian conflict after the assassination of Hamas leaders. They also called for unity of all nations in the fight against terrorism.

The parliamentary presidents of Iraq’s neighbouring nations met Monday to discuss the situation in Iraq. During the meeting, lawmakers from Poland, Armenia, Palestine and the European Parliament demanded that the United States transfer power to the Iraqi people as soon as possible. —MNA/Reuters

**China, Brazil to boost economic cooperation**

BRASILIA, 22 April— Visiting Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Lianguang and Brazilian Vice-President Jose Alencar said they are confident about the future of bilateral relations.

During their meeting Monday, Hui and Alencar highly appraised the strategic partnership between the two countries. They exchanged views on bilateral cooperation, saying their agreements are highly complementary, with broad space for cooperation.

On the same day, Hui also held talks with Brazilian Agriculture Minister Roberto Rodrigues and signed a memorandum of understanding on agri-cultural and livestock cooperation. —MNA/Xinhua

**Guinea’s only MIG-21 fighter crashes in Atlantic**

CONAKRY, 22 April— Guinea’s only operational MIG-21 fighter plane crashed into the sea off the capital Conakry, killing the pilot, military officials said Wednesday.

The pilot ejected from the aircraft just before the crash, but parachute did not open, officials said. He was the only aircraft of this type that we had. It was a Soviet-made MIG-21,” a senior military officer told Reuters. Guinea has a fleet of only a handful of military aircraft.

There was no word on the cause of the crash near an island in the Atlantic Ocean some three miles from Conakry. —MNA/Reuters
Islamic nations urge UN to lead in Iraq

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 April—Islamic nations are urging the United Nations to take the lead in Iraq when US administrators give up power, and Pakistan and Malaysia said Wednesday they might send troops to protect the world body if it returns to the country.

The move comes as Washington warns to a UN plan to install a caretaker government to replace the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council on June 30, and as American military planners try to find ways to bolster their forces amid rising violence and the planned withdrawal of US-led forces.

Islamic countries have avoided joining the US-led coalition that invaded Iraq a year ago, but some are responding more favourably to an US appeal for a new multinational force that would be tied directly to the United Nations.

On Wednesday, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Iraq was still too volatile for the organization to send back humanitarain workers who were pulled out in October after two bombings at the UN headquarters in Bagdad.

“We are monitoring the security situation. We hope attempts to reduce the violence will succeed,” but until that is done, security is a constraint for us,” he said.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Khursheed Kasuri confirmed Wednesday that his country had been asked to contribute to a UN protection force in Iraq. “At the moment we are considering that,” Kasuri told The Associated Press. “Of course, we will see the ground situation also, and public opinion in Pakistan.”

Kasuri was speaking ahead of an emergency meeting of the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference to discuss surging violence in the Middle East hot spots of Iraq and the Palestinian territories.

Malaysian officials have also said that Southern Asian countries may consider sending troops to Iraq — if they were deployed under a UN mandate rather than as US allies.

If the United Nations had a central role in Iraq, “then many countries may be able to participate, maybe some Islamic countries will be able to participate,” Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar told reporters.

“At present it is still seen as an occupation force,” he said. Thursday’s meeting is expected to urge the United Nations to take a pivotal role in Iraq when US administrators — who are aiming for a June 30 handover — step back from power.

Oil eases from highs on Saudi assurances

New York, 22 April — Oil prices softened from fresh highs on Monday as dealers balanced supply assurances from OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia against rising tensions in the Middle East and worries over US gasoline stocks ahead of the summer driving season.

US light crude settled down 32 cents at 37.42 US dollars a barrel after hitting a four-week high at midday above 38 US dollars. London crude was down 18 cents at 33.46 US dollars a barrel after touching 34.20 US dollars to mark its priciest since the Iraq war.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Saudi Arabia’s ambassador to the United States had “committed to make sure prices remained in a range of, I believe, 22 US dollars to 28 US dollars per barrel of oil, and that they don’t want to do anything that would hurt our consumers or harm our economy.”

OPEC has an official price target band for its priciest since the Iraq war.

Blair attacked over Iraq war

London, 22 April — Britain’s Archbishop of Canterbury has attacked British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s handling of the war in Iraq, accusing him of damaging his country’s “political health.”

A government which “habitually ignored expert advice... repressed criticism (and) manipulated public media,” risked jeopardizing “its claim to obedience,” Dr Rowan Williams, the spiritual leader of the world’s 70 million Anglicans, said in a sermon published on Wednesday.

“We face a general weakening of trust in the structure of our system of nation,” he said in a carefully worded sermon which did not mention Blair or Iraq by name.

“There were things government believed it knew and claimed to know on a privileged basis which, it emerged, were anything but certain,” Williams said.

Blair’s decision to back the US-led war on Iraq has been savaged by former government ministers, political opponents and former chief UN arms inspector Hans Blix following the failure to find any weapons of mass destruc-
Annan says no role for UN peacekeepers in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 22 April— UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said he saw no role for UN peacekeepers in Iraq, meaning the Security Council would have to approve an international force after Iraqis begin self-rule, to help Iraqis set up an interim government to take sovereignty from the US-led occupation by July 1 and prepare for Iraq’s first post-Saddam Hussein elections early next year.

He pulled all international staff out of Iraq in October following a bombing at the UN’s Baghdad offices which killed 22 people, including top UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Faced with a serious escalation of violence in Iraq, the United States has turned to the United Nations for help in smoothing opposition to its plans for Iraq’s future.

But Annan again said any UN role in Iraq will be limited by the bloodshed, and recalled that an earlier council resolution allowed him to use his discretion concerning the return of UN staff.

“We would like to play an important role in Iraq but the circumstances have to allow us to do that,” he said. “We hope the attempts to reduce the violence will succeed. Until that is done, there is no role for UN peacekeepers in Iraq, meaning the Security Council would have to approve a international force after Iraqis begin self-rule, to help Iraqis set up an interim government to take sovereignty from the US-led occupation by July 1 and prepare for Iraq’s first post-Saddam Hussein elections early next year.”

He said the spread of violence to Basra, which has been relatively calm despite the bloodshed elsewhere in the country, was “not comforting” as the United Nations mulls how to proceed in Iraq.

“We have all been anxious to see the attempts to reduce violence succeed, not for it to spread. And of course, the security situation on the ground has a very important impact on our decisions.”

“We expect the return of the troops to take place in two months”

MOHAMMED BAQIR AL-HAKIM.

TOKICHLALFA (Honduras), 22 April — The 370 Honduran troops in Iraq will leave within two months, Breve said on Tuesday, six or seven weeks.

We have given precise instructions to the leadership of the general staff,” Breve told reporters.

Honduras, a close US ally, sent troops to Iraq last summer as peacekeepers only. They have been clearing mines and providing medical care in central Iraq.

The Hondurans were due to leave when their mandate expires in July, but there was uncertainty over whether a new contingent would be sent. The newly announced withdrawal schedule would bring them home in June without being replaced.

Breve said he hoped Honduras’ close ties to Washington would continue.

“I do not see any reason why relations between Honduras and the United States should deteriorate,” he said. Spain has been in charge of troops in Iraq from the Spanish-speaking nations El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. — MNA/Reuters

Deadliest attacks in Iraq since May 2003

BAGHDAD, 22 April— A look at some of the deadliest attacks in Iraq since major combat was declared over on May 1, 2003:

April 21: Five blasts near police stations and police academy in southern city of Basra kill at least 55 people.

March 2: Coordinated blasts strike Shiites, Muslims shine in Karbala and in Baghdad, killing at least 181.

Feb 11: Suicide attacker blows up a car packed with explosives in a crowd of Iraqis waiting outside a police recruiting center in Baghdad, killing 47 people.

Feb. 10: Suicide bomber explodes a truckload of explosives outside a police station in Iskandariyah, killing 53 people.

Feb. 1: Twin suicide bombers kill 109 people in two Kurdish party offices in Irbil.

Jan. 18: Suicide car bombing near main gate to US-led coalition’s headquarters in Baghdad kills at least 31 people.

Dec. 27: Suicide bombers and assassins with mortars and grenade launchers blast coalition bases and governor’s office in Karbala, killing 19.

Dec. 14: Suicide bomber detonates explosives in a car outside police station west of Baghdad, killing at least 17.

Nov. 12: Suicide truck bomber attacks headquarters of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense in central Baghdad, killing 54 people.

Oct. 27: Four suicide bombing attempts target International Red Cross headquarters and four Iraqi police stations in Baghdad, killing 40 people, mostly Iraqis.

Aug. 29: Car bomb explodes outside mosque in Najaf, killing more than 85 people, including Shiite leader Ayatollah Mohammad Bagir al-Hakim.

Aug. 19: Truck bomber strikes United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, killing 23 people including top UN envoy.

Aug. 7: Car bomb explodes outside Jordanian Embassy, killing 19 people.

US soldiers place barbed wires on a highway west of the Iraqi capital, which leads to the besieged town of Fallujah, on 21 April, 2004. — Internet

Mubarak says Arabs hate US more than ever

PARIS, 22 April — Arabs in the Middle East hate the United States more than ever following the invasion of Iraq and Israel’s assassination of two Hamas leaders, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who visited the United States last week, told French newspaper Le Monde on Monday.

He blamed the hostility partly on US support for Israel, which assassinated Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi in a missile strike in the Gaza Strip on Saturday weeks after killing his predecessor, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

“At the start some considered the Americans were helping them. There was no hatred of the Americans. After what has happened in Iraq, there is unprecedented hatred and the Americans know it,” Mubarak said.

“People have a feeling of injustice. What’s more, they see (Israeli Prime Min- ister Ariel) Sharon acting as he pleases, without the Americans saying anything.

Mubarak said in comments published on Tuesday.

He assassinated people who don’t have the planes and helicopters that he has,” Mubarak said the assassination of Rantissi could have “serious consequences” and that instability in Gaza and Iraq would not serve US or Israeli interests.

“The despair and feeling of injustice are not going to be limited to our region alone.”

Mubarak said the assassination of Rantissi could have “serious consequences” and that instability in Gaza and Iraq would not serve US or Israeli interests.

American and Israeli interests will not be safe, not only in our region but anywhere in the world,” he said.

He asked about Sharon’s plan to pull out of Gaza, saying he welcomed any withdrawal that was agreed with the Palestinians and in line with a peace “roadmap” drawn up by the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia.

MNA/Reuters

FOA warns of deforestation in Asia-Pacific region

WELLINGTON, 22 April—The 1990s in the Asia-Pacific Region is esti- mated at 585 million hectares and 2.5 million hectares of forestland annually.

This was revealed in a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Manila in mid-Nadi, Fiji, according to a report reaching here from Suva Tuesday.

The FAO report said that in the past decade, significant forest losses in the region were due to land-clearing for agriculture and forest logging.

In the 1990s, several countries lost more than 10 per cent of their forest cover. These were Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The report also stated that there has also been some progress in reducing deforestation in Asia and the Pacific in the last century.

It showed that the Asia-Pacific Region also leads the world in creating new forests and majority cover in the 1990s. — MNA/Xinhua

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It showed that the Asia-Pacific Region also leads the world in creating new forests and majority cover in the 1990s. — MNA/Xinhua
Shops destroyed near the site of a car bomb explosion in Basra, on 21 April, 2004.

Iraqi refugees from Fallujah hold up banners as they protest in the center of Baghdad, Iraq, against US Army forces, on 21 April, 2004.

An Iraqi man searches through the rubble of his bombed out house in Fallujah, Iraq, on Monday, 19 April 2004.

An Iraqi man gestures towards vehicles destroyed by one of three explosions which hit the southern Iraqi city of Basra early on 21 April, 2004.

Iraqis carry an injured person away as they rush to the scene of one of three explosions which hit the city of Basra, southern Iraq on 21 April, 2004.

An Iraqi boy cries as he looks at his destroyed house in Baghdad’s neighbourhood of Sadr City recently.

A car burns at the entrance of one of the police stations hit by an explosion in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 21 April, 2004.
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

- Newly opened Nayikan Bridge seen in Sittway Township, Rakhine State.
- Silver Sea Fisheries Industrial Zone seen in Hlinethaya Township.
- The 25-ton bran oil mill of the Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading in Shwebo, Mandalay Division.
- Progress in construction of Pulp Factory Project (Thabaung) which can produce 200 tons of pulp per day.

Mone Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project is situated two miles north of Sedoktara in Minbu District, Magway Division. The project is being implemented to irrigate 108,000 acres of farmland and to generate 330 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year.
Let’s collectively help learners

Moe Htet Myint (Delta Region)

Wungyi Padethaya once composed a poem, saying that literature and performing arts are the most captivating thing and most effective weapon of human life. Literature and performing arts of Myanmar continued to flourish under the colonialist rule, helping vitalize the anti-colonialist spirit and the spirit to liberate the nation. Literature and songs and music gave rise to the political, military and administrative movements of the Myanmar people. Literature widened the vision of Myanmar, changing and shaping the nation’s future. The more literature, theatrical art, movies, art and cartoon flourished, the more they could organize the anti-colonialist and national liberation movements.

In this regard, the Universities Library in Yangon has laid down a motto — Let’s collectively help learners. After reading the resolution of the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, one would appreciate the value of the history of Myanmar literature. And there is another motto — Let’s build a modern, strong and brilliant Tatmadaw inheriting the qualifications of the army as a force from a sayang Khaung Hlaik, Bayintnaung and Aung Sanu, while building a new democratic nation in accord with the seven-point policy programme.

Myanmar literature has documented the history of the Myanmar Tatmadaw, formed with persons possessing strong patriotism and nationalistic fervour, beginning from the time of Anawrahta. It is still recording the role of the Tatmadaw and the people, making brilliant efforts to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

On the occasion marking the 60th anniversary of the Myanmar Department of Yangon University, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said, “It is obvious that because of the richness of its language, a race enjoying literary development, is able to raise its standard of delicate and proud civilization to a higher level. ‘Myanmars have been skilled in the art of writing since over 1,500 years ago. And since before the emergence of the art of writing Myanmar literature, alphabets have been used in writing Pali, Pali and Mon literature. ‘I wish the Myanmar Department of YU, born of the strong and vitalized nation including remote border areas, to develop Myanmar literature so as to penetrate foreign countries, to make media always active and effective, to raise the quality of media so as to services, and to increase income while reducing unnecessary cost — as working guidelines for 2004.

The IPRD under the Information Ministry opened 61 district offices, 248 township offices, seven sub-township offices, 43 regional offices and 360 libraries. It is also running mobile libraries to raise the reading skills of the people. Over 70 per cent of Myanmar’s population of over 53 million live in rural areas. Mobile libraries have been operated on a wider scale to enhance the knowledge of the rural people whether they are living in remote areas, places difficult of access, border areas, hill regions or plains. The running of the mobile libraries is an effective means to have rural people always get in touch with literature and to gain knowledge. It is also an effective way to assist people raise their reading skill and time and the constant learning programme.

Under the sponsorship of the ministry, District and Township Union Solidarity and Development Associations have opened about 10,000 libraries on self-reliant long as the nation’s development in literary knowledge will lead to enhancing social thoughts and vision of the people and energetically implementing the rural development tasks laid down by the State. Myanmar is a country with fine traditions. As education is the strength of the nation and also a force behind human resources development, we will have to help people who are in search of learning at various parts of the nation including remote border areas, to develop reading skills, to raise reading skill and time and the constant learning programme.

Efficient use of electricity

* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electric light only if there is not enough natural light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US $ 5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appealed
Commander attends tree planting ceremony in Indaing Station

**Yangon, 22 April—** The tree planting ceremony under the arrangement of Yangon Command was held at the local battalion in Indaing Station this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay.

Also present on the occasion were No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Indaing Station Commander Col Hein Lin and station commanders, senior military officers of No 1 LID, departmental officials, commanding officers of regiments and units of Indaing Station, officers and the rank and file and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that Indaing Station is holding the tree planting ceremony the fourth time in the military stations under control of Yangon Command. Similarly, this is the fourth year of Yangon Command in holding the ceremony. So far, over 3,000 saplings have been grown at regiments and units from the first to fourth year. This year, over 700,000 saplings will be planted in conjunction with the forest conservation ceremony. The forest resources of Myanmar are to be conserved as well as more land are to be put under the forest plantations. As such, the country will be green and pleasant and will have natural resources. At present, as Indaing Station includes in the area of greening 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport all the year round, monsoon and summer paddy, cold season crops, pulses and beans, edible oil crops, vegetables and other crops are to be cultivated in vacant and virgin lands of the station. Therefore, saplings of the ceremony will contribute much to greening tasks all the year round. So, all regiments and units are to grow and conserve the trees.

Next, Col Hein Lin reported on management made for holding the ceremony and the plan to grow trees in coming rainy season. Deputy Director U Than Myint of Yangon Division Forest Department reported on nursery, growing and conservation tasks. Afterwards, the commander and party inspected the centenella oil mill of Myanmar Agriculture Service, technology on cultivation of centenella and pepper and grafting of teak and they viewed planted teak saplings. Next, they grew teak, Thitseint (Bellarica myrobalan) and gun-kino saplings to mark the tree planting ceremony.

Next, the commander inspected growing of saplings at regiments and units. A total of 51,700 saplings have been planted in Indaing Station this year and plan is under way to sow about 100,000 seeds.

The commander and party saw over digging of fish ponds where paddy cannot be cultivated in the wetland areas of Hmawby Township near the junction of Yangon-Bago six-lane highway and No 3 Highway. Officials reported on arrangements being made for digging 20 acres of fish ponds.

The commander and party looked into thriving of summer paddy in 83 acres of land of Yangon Command. Next, the commander gave necessary instructions. Arrangements are being made for reclaiming farmlands in Yangon Division in coming rainy season — **MNA**

**Ministry of Sports honours honorary title recipient persons**

**Yangon, 22 April—** Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Mr Sports Bir Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the ceremony to honour those who won honorary titles awarded by the State Peace and Development Council according to its notification No 2/2004 and No 5/2004 on 4 January 2004 at National Stadium-1 in Thuwunna this morning. Also present were officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of the Leading Patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation, officials of sports federations and winners. The minister presented certificates of honour to 113 persons — two persons for Excellent Performance in Social Field (First Class), 10 for the second class and 70 for the third class, six for the Excellent Performance in the Administrative Field (Third Class) and 25 for the Good Service Medal.

Next, the minister opened the 17th Inter-State/Division Table-tennis Tournament at Aung San Gymnasium. At the ceremony, previous champion Yangon Division men’s team and women’s team handed over their championship shields to the minister. Next, all the athletes took Sports Oaths. — **MNA**

**Thai delegation leaves**

**Yangon, 22 April—** The Thai delegation led by Director-General Mr Piamsak Milintachinda of Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC) of Thailand left here by air this morning after attending the Seventh Myanmar-Thai Annual Consultation on Technical Cooperation. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Director-General U Win Mra of International Organizations and Economic Department and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials of the Thai Embassy. — **MNA**

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**Ordination and novitiation ceremony of Northern Command held**

**Yangon, 22 April—** The ordination and novitiation ceremony, organized by the commander and wife and family of Northern Command, was held at the Dhammayon Monastery in Hliine Township. The commander and wife and family of Northern Command, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Maung Maung Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay gave away gifts to the course instructors.

Also present were Vice-Chairmen of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Wuntho Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silavamsa and members of the Sangha, 21 newly-ordained monks and 30 novices, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Maung Maung Swe and wife, Commander of Myitkyina Air Base Col Zaw Tun, senior military officers, authorities, officers, other ranks and family members of regiments and units.

The commander and party received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaws. Next, the commander and wife and officials donated provisions to the Sayadaws. After the ceremony, ‘soon’ was offered to the Sayadaws. — **MNA**

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**Commander inspects development works in Sagaing Division**

**Yangon, 22 April—** Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, accompanied by officials, arrived at the construction site of Yama Creek bridge on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa road on 20 April morning.

At the briefing hall of the construction site, the commander heard reports on matters related to the road and bridge construction and gave instructions on timely completion of the construction work meeting the set standard. Next, the commander inspected round the site. The bridge is 12.5 ft wide and 847 ft long wooden bridge.

The commander also inspected Ngwetha Reservoir Project and Salangyi Reservoir Project in Salangyi Township and gave instructions to officials.

Afterwards, the commander visited Nyangmyin-ai monastery, where he looked into the renovation of stupas in the compound of the monastery and attended to the requirements. — **MNA**

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**Myanmar-China Trade and Investment Cooperation Work Committee meets**

**Yangon, 22 April—** Myanmar-China Trade and Investment Cooperation Work Committee held a meeting at Ministry of Commerce this evening, with an address by Chairman of the committee Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone.

In his address the minister pointed out the need to speedily implement the trade and investment agreements reached between the two countries.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu also gave speeches. Participants including the vice-governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, members of the committee, heads of department and officials of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry also took part in the discussion. The minister attended to the needs. — **MNA**

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**International Relations Course concludes**

**Yangon, 22 April—** Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun this afternoon attended the closing ceremony of the International Relations Course No 1/2004 at the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College in Hlin Township.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general, deputy directors-general of departments under the ministry, the Principal and the deputy principal of the degree college, course instructors and trainees.

The deputy minister presented prizes to outstanding trainees. Next, the completion certificates were presented to the leader of the trainees.

Afterwards, Director-General Col Than Win of Education and Training Department gave away gifts to the course instructors.

Altogether 14 trainees attended the International Relations Course (Advanced) and 15 at the Course (Intermediate). The courses lasted 10 weeks. — **MNA**
ASEAN economic ministers to amend basic agreement on AICO scheme

SINGAPORE, 22 April — Ten Economic Ministers from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed here Wednesday the protocol to amend the basic agreement on the ASEAN industrial cooperation (AICO) scheme, which was introduced since 1996.

The protocol, which came following the end of a one-day ASEAN economic ministers’ meeting in the southern Singapore resort island of Sentosa later Wednesday, provided for new preferential tariff rates to be given to new approved AICO projects. The preferential tariff rate for participating countries shall be within the same band as follows: zero per cent for Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia and Singapore, 0-1 per cent for the Philippines, 0-3 per cent for Thailand and 0-5 per cent for Vietnam.

The AICO scheme, which was signed here in 1996, aims to provide the guidelines and institutional framework within which the ASEAN private sector may collaborate on the basis of mutual and equitable benefits for the ASEAN member countries and increased industrial production for the region as a whole.

Besides the signing of the protocol, the ministers also discussed the progress of ASEAN’s economic engagements with its dialogue partners such as China, Japan and India. — MNA/Xinhua

Millions of dollars of drug seized in Australia

Canberra, 22 April — Australian police have arrested a man and seized what is believed to be the country’s largest ever haul of liquid lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) worth $45 million Australian dollars ($33 million US dollars).

After two months of investigation, the 190 million doses of LSD was seized in a series of raids in Byron Bay and Ocean Shores in northern New South Wales on early Tuesday, Australian Federal Police Brisbane office manager Federal Agent Paul Jevtic said on Wednesday.

The drug was much enough to make almost 4 million doses, Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio quoted Jevtic as saying.

Police also seized 212,000 tabs of paper allegedly being prepared for the distribution of the drug, about one kilo of cannabis and 20 grammes of powder, which are believed to be ecstasy.

The man was charged with possession of a commercial quantity of LSD, possession of prohibited drugs, cultivation of a prohibited plant and manufacture of prohibited drugs.

He is expected to appear in court on Friday. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, Vietnam to enhance bilateral ties

Kuala Lumpur, 22 April — Malaysia and Vietnam on Wednesday agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations by forging cooperation in new fields of mutual interest.

The agreement was contained in the Malaysia-Vietnam Joint Declaration on the Framework for Comprehensive Cooperation signed at the end of talks between Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai.

According to the declaration, Malaysia and Vietnam will move forward in expanding cooperation in fields like education, information, information communication technology, trade and investment, security, agriculture and biotechnology.

Speaking at a news conference after the meeting, Abdullah said the two countries would further cooperate in stamping out international crime, drug trafficking and money laundering.

On the recruitment of Vietnamese workers, he said the matter was still in discussion at the ministerial level. The Malaysia-Vietnam Joint Commission would meet in August to discuss ways to enhance bilateral relations, he added.

In addition, Malaysia and Vietnam also signed two memorandums of understanding on cooperation in education and information communication technology (ICT). — MNA/Xinhua

Study shows Swedes most “digital-savvy” in Europe

London, 22 April — When it comes to Web surfing savvy and adoption of the latest digital gadgets, the Swedes are the most advanced in Western Europe while the Greeks rank last, according to a study released on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Britons shop more online than their European peers, with the average British Internet user spending 314 euros (374 US dollars) on everything from groceries to air tickets.

According to Jupiter Research’s inaugural “Digital Life Index” — a study that attempts to rank consumers’ digital sophistication across 17 Western European countries — the further south you venture, the fewer digital gadgets, satellite TV dishes and Internet connections there are.

“Europe’s constituent countries may be getting closer together economically, but the lifestyles of its inhabitants remain as diverse as ever,” said Jupiter analyst Mark Muligan.

The study counts a variety of factors from Internet shopping habits to uptake of satellite television and the number of digital devices and mobile phones among consumers in tabulating its “digital sophistication index.”

Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland rank highest in terms of digital sophistication while the Mediterranean countries, including Greece, Portugal and Italy, score below the Continental average, Jupiter said.

Sweden’s top-rank position is driven by high adoption rates for high-speed Internet broadband access and brisk uptake of mobile handsets and pocket-sized digital assistants.

In contrast, Greece comes bottom in all six measures of digital sophistication which include adoption of: Internet access; digital and satellite TV; wireless, mobile and digital devices; and the level of online advertising and e-commerce.

The uptake of digital devices serves as an indicator of a market’s potential for consumer electronics and mobile firms.

For example, advertisers spend the least amount of money targeting Greek consumers with Internet adverts. Companies spend, on average, five euros per Greek Internet user to promote their products while they spend 18 euros per Swedish Internet user, the study said. — MNA/Reuters

Cambodia launches Khmer-language software initiative

Phnom Penh, 22 April — Open Forum of Cambodia (OFC), a local NGO, has launched KhmerOS software initiative for Cambodian computer users on Wednesday, the free computer programmes that are entirely in Khmer-language script.

“OFC believes that in order to enter a digital world without forfeiting its culture, a country must do it by using software in its own language,” OFC’s Press release on Wednesday said.

All computer programmes used in Cambodia are in foreign language, usually English. They can be used to type texts in Khmers, but in order to do it, the user first needs to learn some English to use the computer.

“The objective is to allow Khmer users to work with computers without having to learn a foreign language before, to avoid having all English words used in relation to computers, to reduce drastically the necessary time to learn the basic use of computers, and to open the door for the development of databases in Khmer,” OFC said.

Hout Ratanak, director of OFC, told reporters on Wednesday that 6,000 US dollars have already been spent for the project. According to Hout Ratanak, the latest number of computer users in Cambodia are about 20,000 people, among consumers in tabulating its “digital sophistication index.”

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Storns kill 15 Bangladeshi, floods hit north

DHAKA, 22 April — Strong winds and rain swept parts of Bangladesh, killing at least 15 people and injuring about 2,000, police and officials said here.

The Monday night storm, packing winds of up to 90 miles per hour, tore through the north and west around the capital Dhaka as well as the Mymensing area in the north, already badly damaged by the deadly storm last week that also injured about 2,000 people. Most of the deaths on Monday night happened when houses collapsed or were caused by flying debris, district officials said.

The Army and local administrations were providing food, medicine, water and tents to survivors, they said. The storms have been rescued already six people.

At least one dead as Pakistan building collapses

RAWALPINDI (Pakistan), 22 April — At least one person was killed and four were injured on Wednesday when a building collapsed in the northern Pakistan city of Rawalpindi, witnesses said.

People inside the five-story building heard a blast at around 10.45 am (0545 GMT) and private Geo TV reported that a gas cylinder had exploded. Police at the scene said they did not know of an explosion.

"An old building probably collapsed," said Marvat Ali Shah, a senior police officer. "Five people have been rescued already and the emergency services are here."

The private Edhi Welfare Trust charity, which runs a nationwide ambulance service, said four people had been hurt and taken to hospital.

"We don’t know about the people who are buried under the debris," said Sahar Fariad, an official at Edhi in Rawalpindi.

New Zealand regards FTA with China as insurance policy

WELLINGTON, 22 April — A free trade agreement (FTA) with China is an insurance policy against the collapse of World Trade Organization (WTO) talks, New Zealand Finance Minister Michael Cullen said Wednesday.

The New Zealand Government last week announced it would open negotiations on an FTA with China, potentially “hundreds of millions” to the economy.

Cullen told a business breakfast in Hamilton that there were compelling reasons to believe the deal would be clinched "relatively quickly."

New Zealand’s small size and its relatively few areas where tariffs are imposed offer a chance for China to have an FTA with an OECD economy.

New Zealand is a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

It would involve less complex negotiations than those with China would with larger developed economy trading partners, he said.

"The agreement is also strategically important to New Zealand, in that it would provide us with some insurance against the possibility of a serious collapse in the WTO process," he said. "If the current WTO round fails to deliver, one scenario would be the creation of free trade blocks in the Americas, Europe and Asia."

5 Filipinos arrested in Indonesia for explosive smuggling

JAKARTA, 22 April — The Indonesian police have detained five Philippine nationals for attempting to smuggle three tons of sodium cyanide, a chemical applicable for the making of explosive.

The five, a ship’s captain and his four crews, were detained at the police headquarters in North Sulawesi. But which shares maritime border with the Philippines’ mainland.

It remains unclear to whom the chemical is sent as officers cannot question further due to language constraints.

The chemical is suspected of being sold to local fishermen for poaching, the TV said.

1 killed, 4 missing in construction site collapse in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 22 April — One person was killed and four others missing when a rail transport (MRT) construction site along Singapore’s Nicoll Highway collapsed later on Tuesday.

According to the Land Transport Authority (LTA), the highway is now closed to traffic and police have cordoned off link roads leading to the highway.

Unconfirmed reports said that flames were seen in the area, and at least 200 workers were working when the incident happened.

The Singapore General Hospital has confirmed that it has received one casualty.

A Thai worker, who was in a wheelchair when he arrived in the hospital later on Tuesday.— MNA/Xinhua

Russian spacecraft docks with “ISS”

Moscow, 22 April — Russia’s Soyuz spacecraft docked with the International Space Station on Wednesday, delivering a Russian, an American and a Dutchman to replace the current ISS crew after a six-month stint in orbit.

The spacecraft successfully docked the ISS in automatic mode at about 9 am (0500 GMT), a Russian cosmonaut said. Soyuz TMA-4 lifted off from Monday from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan.

Hatches between the spacecraft and the ISS will be opened after docking procedures are finalized at 10:25 am (0625 GMT).

Russian commander Gen-

nady Padalka and US flight engineer Michael Fincke will spend six months in space.

Dutchman Andre Kuipers, from the European Space Agency, is accompanying them for an 11-day mission to conduct experiments. He will return to Earth with NASA astronaut Michael Foale and Russian Alexander Kaleri, who have manned the station since 26 March.

Russia has launched all manned and cargo missions to the space station for more than a year since the United States grounded its flights after the Columbia shuttle disaster—grated on reentry over Texas in February 2003, killing all seven astronauts on board.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters
President says Finland to continue sticking to one-China policy

Bangkok, 22 April — Thai businessmen should adopt the marketing plan in a more aggressive manner if they want to maintain the export market share in China, Thai leading think tank, Kasikorn Research Centre (KRC) said Tuesday. The research centre reported the Chinese economy was likely to slow down in the second half of this year as a result of the government’s measures to contain the economic bubble and inflation rates. Thailand’s export of commodities of various kinds to China might slightly decline while those of products in the electronics sector would continue to grow. However, it was believed the exports to China would be higher than target.

China fully confident in developing relation with Russia

Brunno, 22 April — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said here Tuesday that China is fully confident in the prospect of China-Russia bilateral relations.

Kong said at the ministry’s regular Press briefing that the comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Russia has been developing well in recent years and the bilateral cooperation and exchanges in all areas including in the political affairs were also improving continuously.

Kong said Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing will visit Russia later in April and attend the regular meeting for foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Moscow on April 23.

“An important visit and I believe it could start the personal exchanges between the Chinese and Russian Foreign Ministers from a new basis and the two ministers could set up a close working relationship to further promote the smooth development of China-Russia strategic partnership,” Kong said.

Kong said Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ivanov will visit China from April 20 to 22 at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Cao Gangchuan.
Study says new evidence HIV not linked to polio vaccine

LONDON, 22 April—Scientists reported new research on Wednesday which they say is further proof that the AIDS pandemic was not sparked by polio vaccines used in Africa in the 1950s that were contaminated with a chimpanzee virus.

The controversial theory on the origins of AIDS has been dismissed by many medical experts who say there is no scientific evidence to support it. But doubts about vaccine safety have persisted and have been blamed for hampering World Health Organization efforts to stamp out polio in countries where it is still a problem.

A team of researchers led by Michael Worobey of the University of Arizona have discovered a new strain of chimpanzee virus near Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) that is very different from HIV and which, they say, is further evidence that the animals could not have been the source of human AIDS.

“The locally circulating strain (of the chimpanzee virus) is very distinctly related to HIV. It is not a virus that could have been the progenitor and therefore HIV did not come from that region,” Worobey said in a telephone interview.

He added that chimpanzees in the vicinity of Kisangani are endemic with simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) that is very different from the human strain.

But author Edward Hooper, who wrote about the polio vaccine AIDS theory in his book The River, said Worobey’s conclusion is wrong and does not refute the theory.

“If Worobey’s new research is helpful, the chimp groups his team has sampled are far from being representative of the chimpanzees that were used for the polio vaccine research,” Hooper said in a statement.

HIV attacks a person’s immune system and leads to full-blown AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). About 40 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS. — MNA/Reuters

160 with doctorates in service for China’s missile troops

BEIJING, 22 April—China’s Second Artillery Force, the country’s strategic missile troops, have about 160 high-calibre professionals with doctorates or post-doctoral education, thanks to its programme to introduce and train well-educated professionals.

Sources with the artillery force said 88.9 per cent of its servicemen have at least junior college education. It is the long-term strategic goal to build an army adapting to the trends of world military development and national defence strategy, said the sources.

The artillery force began to formulate plans to recruit and train high-calibre professionals in cooperation with seven non-military universities with an annual funding of 10 million yuan (1.2 million US dollars). The artillery force gives professionals with doctoral or postgraduate degrees 50,000 yuan (6,007 US dollars) and 30,000 yuan (3,658 US dollars) in subsidies, once they are recruited, with better living and working conditions. — MNA/Xinhua

A municipal worker listens to a talking trash bin in Berlin. In a unique mix of hi-tech gadgetry and environmental awareness, Berlin is installing talking trash cans in some of the German capital’s most popular squares. — Reuters

Mars travel hazard are electric mini-tornadoes

WASHINGTON, 22 April—If humans ever go to Mars, they may find electric mini-tornadoes that could make toxic dust stick to their spacesuits, researchers said here.

On Mars, jumbo-sized dust devils can range up to 500 yards across with heights of several thousand yards. Farrel and his fellow researchers said dust devils are like miniature tornadoes. Their findings were published in Tuesday in the Journal of Geophysical Research. Beyond this, there are huge dust storms that can cover whole regions of Mars or even the whole planet, and can last for months. — MNA/Reuters

Kim Basinger ring fetches $59,750 at US benefit auction

NEW YORK, 22 April—Actress Kim Basinger on Tuesday sold her 3.7-carat diamond engagement ring from ex-husband Alec Baldwin for 59,750 US dollars to a Beverly Hills jewellery dealer, who predicted it would fetch “$75,000 or more” at Christie’s in New York.

The actress, a noted animal rights activist, auctioned the ring of butterfly motif that went for 20,315 US dollars. Christie’s had predicted it would fetch $30,000 to $40,000 US dollars. Baldwin and Basinger had divorced in 1988 and the ring was the top-priced item in the auction.

The other only gift other from actor Baldwin, whose nine-year marriage to Basinger ended in 2002, on offer was a 203.15 US dollars. Christie’s had predicted it would fetch 8,000 to 10,000 US dollars. — MNA/Reuters

Injury replaces infectious disease as top killer of Asian children

BANGKOK, 22 April—Injury resulted from accident has replaced infectious disease as leading cause behind child deaths recorded each year in East Asia and the Pacific, a UNICEF news release issued here quoted a research result on Tuesday.

Child injuries account for half of the roughly 1.4 million child deaths recorded each year in East Asia and the Pacific, the UNICEF Regional Director of East Asia and the Pacific Mehr Khan was quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

Thailand to spend $2.564B to improve natural resources

BANGKOK, 22 April—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra announced on Tuesday during a trip in the severely drought-hit northeastern provinces.

“The government spending on natural resource programmes will be spent to improve natural resources,” Thaksin said in his opening address.

Thaksin made the announcement on Tuesday during a trip in the severely drought-hit northeastern provinces.

The government plans to improve the country’s natural resources.

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The government plans to improve the country’s natural resources.

IBM to equip US police cars with digital video system

LOS ANGELES, 22 April—IBM, the world’s leading information technology company, said that it will equip police cruiser fleet of a southern US town with digital video system that will allow them to better fight crime.

IBM said 60 cars of the police department of Tyler, Texas, will be installed with a digital video system that allows officers to capture video of traffic stops and criminal activity in progress.

The company said its “in-car” digital video system that will allow them to better fight crime.

NASA scientists have already detected whirlwinds and duststorms on Mars, and they figure they may generate electric charges just as small tornadoes on Earth do.

“There’s probably an electrical environment to Mars which up to now has gone unmeasured,” William Farrel of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center said by telephone. “Chances are probably pretty good that the same kind of physics is going on there that’s going on here.”

While the earthly electrical environment is most commonly seen during thunderstorms, Farrel said. “On Mars that may also be occurring, but driven by dust storms and dust devils.”

A dust devil on Earth is a tornado ranging in size from 10 to 100 yards with winds ranging from 20 to 60 miles per hour swirling around a hot column of rising air. Dust particles rub together in the twister to create an electric charge, much as shuffling across a carpeted floor can build up static electricity.

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Aberdeen end Celtic's 77-game unbeaten runs

ROMES, 22 April — As Roma’s Walter Samuel (top) stumbles over Bernardo Corradi of Lazio, during their Serie A soccer match at Olympic Stadium in Rome, on 22 April, 2003. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. — REUTERS

Roma’s title hopes in tatters after derby draw

ROME, 22 April — As Roma’s Walter Samuel stumbles over Lazio’s Bernardo Corradi during their Serie A soccer match at Olympic Stadium in Rome, on 22 April, 2003. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. — REUTERS

The result of the match, a replay of last month’s derby that was abandoned due to crowd trouble, left Roma on 67 points, eight behind leaders AC Milan with four games remaining. Juventi are third on 63 with Inter Milan a distant fourth on 52.

Italy striker Bernardo Corradi gave Lazio the lead five minutes from the end of a quiet first half when he hooked a Luciano Zauri cross past keeper Ivan Pizzolato. Roma’s Brazilian midfielder Mancini put the ball in the net from close range early in the second half only for Ambrosio to scoop the ball to safety.

Celtic solve Porto in thrilling European tie

Man Utd close gap in battle for second place

LONDON, 22 April — Manchester United moved within a point of Chelsea in the battle for second place in the Premier League after a 2-0 home win over Charlton Athletic on Tuesday.

While Chelsea were engaged in European action, a role Alex Ferguson’s side usually expect to fulfill at this time of year, United got on with domestic issues and secured a solid win. They remain third on 71 points from 34 games, one point behind Chelsea, who have also played 34. Arsenal look certain to win the league as they are clear on 81 points from 33 games.

Chelsea piled on the pressure in the closing stages but could not find a winner themselves. Chelsea’s 77-game unbeaten run

Glasgow, 22 April — Australian striker David Zdrilic ended champions Celtic’s hopes of completing the Scottish league season unbeaten when he struck an injury-time goal for Aberdeen in a 2-1 victory at Parkhead on Wednesday.

Aberdeen have 34 points from 33 matches and cannot now be caught by bottom club Partick Thistle.

Manager Steve Paterson added: “Celtic were probably a little off focus having clinched the title but I can’t believe some of the performances we got out there. It was terrific and I’m proud of them.”

Swedish striker Henrik Larsson sped clear to slip home his 36th goal of the season on 15 minutes for Celtic, who clinched their third title in four years under Northern Irish manager Martin O’Neill after Sunday’s 1-0 win at Kilmarnock.

But a young Aberdeen side — second-bottom of the table coming into the match with five teenagers in their squad — fought doggedly to level after 56 minutes.

Goalkeeper David Marshall failed to hold the ball and former Celtic striker Brian Prunty converted Scott Murphied’s header.

Celtic piled on the pressure in the closing stages but could not find a winner themselves. Murphied might have snatched the victory when heammered the ball over Zdrilic finished off the champions on the counter attack deep into injury time.

Celtic stay 16 points ahead of Rangers, who are clear on 81 points from 33 games, one point behind Chelsea, who have also played 34. Arsenal look certain to win the league as they are clear on 81 points from 33 games.

United got on with domestic issues and secured a solid win. They remain third on 71 points from 34 games, one point behind Chelsea, who have also played 34. Arsenal look certain to win the league as they are clear on 81 points from 33 games.

United had a strong penalty claim waved away when Paul Konchesky went down in the box early in the second half and the game was settled in the 65th minute when Saha set up Gary Neville.

The England defender, who scored his first Premier League goal for United in more than three years to beat Leicester City last week, had started the move deep in his own half and finished it calmly for his second of the campaign.

“I was amazed that one went in,” said 29-year-old Neville. “It just went across the keeper. It gave us an easier 20 minutes at the end though.”

Both sides hit the woodwork late on, Ruud van Nistelrooy for United and Shaun Bartlett for Charlton, but United were comfortable winners.
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Tuesday, 22 April, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State and Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (5°C) above normal in Kayin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Mon State, Bago, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) below normal in lower Sagaing Division and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) each in Min Bu, Aungnlan, Hpa-an and Yangon (Kaba-Aye).

Maximum temperature on 21-4-2004 was 41.5°C (107°F). Minimum temperature on 22-4-2004 was 22.4°C (72°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 22-4-2004 was 71%. Total sunshine hours on 21-4-2004 was (10:0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 22-4-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-4-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Chin, Kachin and northern Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated or thundershowers in northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-4-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-4-2004: Partly cloudy.

Aslepy in Jesus
Naw Ruth
April (75 years)

Beloved wife of Saw Shwe Thein, beloved mother of (Naw Eh Hno), Rev. Saw Lee Htoo (Pastor, Myanmar section, Calvary Baptist Church, Washington D.C., USA)- Thanu Marlene Ahmu Po (Karen Baptist Theological Seminary), Naw Eh Say — Saw Mg Mg, beloved grandmother of Naw Ana Mg, Saw June Aye Mg, Naw April Mg, Saw Terence Keh Blt Htoo and Saw Clarence Mah Blt Htoo, slept in the arms of Jesus on Wednesday, 21st of April, 2004.

Funeral service will be held on Sunday, 25th of April, 2004 at 11:00 am at Judson Church, Yangon University Estate and thence to Ye-We Christian cemetery.
Tube-well opened in Dagon Myothit (South) Township

YANGON, 22 April — A ceremony to open a tube-well drilled on a self-reliant basis took place in Huaypi Yadana Street, Ward 56, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon East District, this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended the ceremony and opened the tube-well. Also present were YCDC Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Commander of No 2 Military Region Brig-Gen Myo Myint, local authorities, officials, members of social organizations, and local people.

On the occasion, the secretary of the Dagon Myothit (South) Township USDA explained measures taken for the digging of the tube-well. Next, the mayor made it clear the assistance to be rendered by YCDC for adequate supply of clean water for the people living in the municipal area of Yangon.

Later, a local spoke words of thanks for the opening of the tube-well which can tap a total of 1,600 gallons of water per hour and supply water to 230 households. Afterwards, the commander and the mayor inspected Minpyawuwa Street, which is being tarred by the Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) of YCDC with the use of heavy machinery, in Dagon Myothit (East) Township and heard reports concerning the tarring works. After hearing the reports, the commander and the mayor gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks meeting the set standard. They also attended to the requirements.

Measures are being taken to finish in time the tarring of a four-mile-long road section in the township.

Myanmar industrial development work coordination meeting successfully concludes

YANGON, 22 April — Work coordination meeting No 1/2004 on Myanmar industrial development successfully ended today at the Industry-1 Ministry with an address by Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

The Secretary-1 said that steel plants equipped with advanced machines will emerge in Mandalay, Monywa and Ayethaya industrial zones, and it will be a turning-point for their progress. The Government’s assistance and capital of entrepreneurs are the consolidated force behind the establishment of the plants.

Farm machinery industries should be integrated, and persons possessing high efficiency and capital must be organized in doing so. The accomplishments resulting from the integration of capital and techniques of the entrepreneurs have become obvious in car assembling industry.

Long-term development of the industrial sector depends on the rise in the production through combined efforts of qualified entrepreneurs having considerable amount of capital for investment. The State wishes to pave the way for industrial development in the interest of both consumers and producers in accord with the law and rules and regulations. For example, it is desirous of rendering assistance for manufacturing machinery including engines and gear boxes needed in assembling power-tillers domestically. Innovation, efforts and unity of the zones is important, he said.

All should work with efficiency without losing sight of the aim — to develop the nation’s industrial sector in leaps and bounds beginning 2004-2005. Only then will the nation become a modern and developed one in the future, he concluded.

The Secretary-1 and party cordially conversed with officials and industrialists. At the three-day meeting, ministers, deputy ministers and officials of the IDC, the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee, the Myanmar Industrial Development Work Committee and subcommittees, the ministries and organizations sought means to develop industrial zones, increase farm machinery production and assembly of cars in accord with the designated models and designs. The industrialists on their part discussed zone-wise preparations to extend manufacturing of farm machinery and engines and gear boxes, while presenting requirements in producing cars.

Chairmen and members of supervisory committees and management committees of 19 industrial zones and invited persons also attended the three-day meeting.

Books donated to Yezin Institute of Agriculture

YANGON, 22 April — A total of 295 books were handed over to the Institute of Agriculture (Yezin) at a ceremony held at Tatmadaw guest house on Inya Road here this afternoon. Lecturer U Myo Win of Charles Sturt University in Australia donated the books in memory of his late father CEO U Ba Tin of the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry of the Union of Myanmar.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, senior officers of Office of the Chief of Military Intelligence, departmental heads from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Education, officials, former Minister-Counselor of Myanmar Embassy to Australia U Thein Win and faculty members of the university.

U Thein Win explained the purpose of the donation. Next, Maj-Gen Kyaw Win handed over the donation to Managing Director of Myanmar Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise Dr Thein Huy.

After expressing words of thanks, Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, together with senior military officers and guests, viewed the books.