State Peace and Development Council Chairman
Senior General Than Shwe sends congratulations to President of South Africa
YANGON, 29 April—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Thabo Mbeki, on his re-election as President of the Republic of South Africa. —MNA

The Union of Myanmar
The State Peace and Development Council
The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Law
(‘The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 4/2004’) 
The 10th Waxing of Kason 1366 M.E.
(28th April, 2004)

The State Peace and Development Council hereby enacts the following Law:-

Chapter I
Title, Application and Definition
1. This Law shall be called the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Law.

2. This Law shall apply to providing assistance in criminal proceedings with States parties to an international convention or regional agreement to which the Union of Myanmar is a State party or with the State that has entered into a bilateral agreement or with the State that will provide reciprocal assistance though not a State party to the international convention or regional agreement or bilateral agreement with respect to investigation, prosecution and judicial proceedings in criminal matters.

3. The following expressions contained in this Law shall have the meanings given hereunder:
   (a) Offence means the offence, punishable with imprisonment for a term of one year and above under any existing law. The said expression also includes offences punishable with imprisonment for a term of one year and above under the law of any requesting foreign State;
   (b) Assistance means providing assistance in investigation, prosecution and judicial proceedings in respect of an offence for the purpose of this Law;

(See page 10)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Honorary Consul-General to Busan of ROK
YANGON, 28 April — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Honorary Consul-General of the Union of Myanmar to Busan of the Republic of Korea Mr Won Bae Dahn at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha at 4.30 pm today.

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Honorary Consul-General to Busan of Republic of Korea Mr Won Bae Dahn. —MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive for speedy completion of power projects and make thrifty use of electricity.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar is making every endeavour for the nation to be able to catch up with the development of other countries in the world. It hardly need be emphasized that the electric power sector plays a very important role in all our efforts for the national development.

The development of the electrical power sector can surely contribute to socio-economic growth. Therefore, electric power projects are being implemented wherever possible in the nation to fulfil its electricity needs.

The National Electric Power Development Coordination Meeting was held at the meeting hall of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) on 27 April and Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address at the meeting.

The Head of State, in his address, emphasized that all should understand every situation of the nation, including the projects, and that the key departments will have to make earnest efforts in implementing the projects and the related departments will have to render effective support to them.

The step-by-step implementation of the electric power development projects must be based on the national resources and other conditions of the nation.

For the electric power development, the government is implementing the plans for the national grid and the projects for supplying electricity to respective regions.

The purpose of the plans for the national grid is to supply electricity to the hubs of the nation and main industrial zones. The regional projects are specially intended for economic and social development of respective regions.

Eleven electric power projects are being implemented in the grid. They are Monechauk, Paunglaung, Tiktik, Yenwe, Shweili, Kengtawng, Pyu-chauk, Khaubauk, Kunchauk, Shweyin and Yeywa power projects. Out of these projects, the three, namely, Monechauk, Paunglaung and Tiktik power projects are nearing completion and they will be able to generate a total of 475 megawatts.

Another four projects for the national grid are to be implemented within four years. Similarly, projects for regional use are also under way.

We would like to urge all those responsible to put their energies into their work for speedy completion of the projects and the entire people to make systematic and thrifty use of electricity.

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**People’s Desire**

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize the 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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**Maritime Courses (Myeik Camp) opened**

**Yangon, 28 April**

The Basic and Advanced Maritime Course No 1/2004 (Myeik Camp) for new generation youths, co-organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) and the Commander-in-Chief (Navy)’s Office, was opened at Pale, Yadana Hall in Myeik on 26 April morning.

Present on the occasion were Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Commander of Taninthayi Naval Region Command Captain Win Shein, senior military officers, local authorities and guests. First, Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Captain Win Shein gave speeches.

Next, the commander accepted donations from wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them. Altogether 70 trainees — 50 at the basic course and 20 at the advanced course — are attending the course which will last five weeks.

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**Basic Aviation Course opened**

**Yangon, 28 April**

The Basic Aviation Course No 1/2004 (Nambsan Camp) for new generation youths, co-organized by the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) and the Commander-in-Chief (Airy)’s Office, was opened at the hall of Nambsan Station on 26 April morning, attended by Brig-Gen Thura Myint Thein of Nambsan Station, senior military officers, departmental officials and guests. Altogether 50 trainees are attending the course which will last five weeks.

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**Press Conference on Ninth Thailand Exhibition 2004 held**

**Yangon, 28 April** — The Press Conference on Ninth Thailand Exhibition 2004, to be organized by Office of Commercial Affairs of the Thai Embassy with the permission of the Ministry of Commerce under the economic cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand was held at Mingala Hall of Hotel Myawaddy. The press conference held on 28 April was opened by Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township from 5 to 8 May.

Also present on the occasion were Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhiraokasol, Adviser to the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Tin Kha, Director (News) U Hla Fun, chief editors and editors of Myanmar News Agencies (Internal and External), Patrons of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Hla Htway, President U Sao Kai Hpa and members. Commercial Counsellor of the Thai Embassy Mr Mayerwanpase Amatayakul, officials and guests.

First, the Thai Ambassador and the Thai Commercial Counsellor explained that the Thailand Exhibitions had been held for eight times, here, from 1998 to 2003, and the ninth exhibition will be held on a grand scale in May 2004. In the ninth exhibition, altogether 140 Thai companies of prominent manufacturers & exporters from Thailand will display their products such as automobile parts & accessories, chemical products, children products, construction material & hardware, cosmetics & fashion accessories, electronic products, food products, beverage & packaging, furniture, garments & textile, household products & kitchenware, leather products, footwear, machinery tools & tarts, pharmaceutical & sanitary products, service trade and stationery at 170 booths. As special events in this show, the Display Thai Fresh Fruits & Fruit Carving Contest and the Technology-Transfer Presentation on Beauty & Health will be held. As a result of holding the Thailand Exhibitions successively, Thai merchants could get opportunities to further strengthen ties with Myanmar and Thai businessmen. May 7 and 8 are the days for the general public without charge.

The ambassador and the commercial counsellor answered the queries raised by the journalists.
**Spain to float Iraq proposal to France, Germany**

**MADRID, 28 April—** Spain will discuss with anti-war allies Germany and France how to find a solution to the conflict in Iraq within the United Nations framework, a Spanish government source said Tuesday.

The idea is to see if Spain, France and Germany can help the United States find a solution in Iraq...and devise a formula for an international presence there that would not be perceived as an occupation by most of the population,” the source said.

New Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, whose first decision on taking office was to withdraw troops sent to Iraq by his predecessor, said Tuesday the last of Spain’s soldiers will have left Iraq by May 27.

Zapatero will discuss Iraq during talks with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Berlin Wednesday and with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris Thursday.

The Socialist leader is a strong advocate of acting within the United Nations framework. Any joint Spanish-French-German initiative would probably unfold in the UN Security Council — all three are members — though the source said the form it might take had not been decided.

**US toll in Iraq hits 115 for month**

**BAGHDAD, 28 April—** A US soldier was killed Tuesday by insurgents in Baghdad, bringing the American combat death toll for April to 115 — the same number of US combatants killed in the two-month invasion of Iraq a year ago.

Tuesday’s death occurred when Shiites armed men attacked a patrol near the Baghdad Shiite neighbourhood of Sadr City, Brig General Mark Kimmitt said. A US soldier also was wounded, he said.

The district is a stronghold of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr’s Al-Mahdi Army militia.

So far, 714 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year. Of those, 513 died as a result of hostile action and 200 died of non-hostile causes.

Since May 1, when President Bush declared that major military intervention in Iraq and neither joined the coalition.

Zapatero was elected on 14 March, three days after the train bombings that killed 191 people in Madrid. During the election campaign, he had pledged to withdraw troops from Iraq unless the United Nations took political and military control of the country by June 30.

**Sisters of dead US soldier not going back to Iraq**

**MADISON (Wisconsin), 28 April—** The soldier-sisters of a Wisconsin military policewoman killed while serving in Iraq, said on Tuesday that they had decided not to return to Iraq to serve out combat duty with their Wisconsin National Guard units.

Rachel and Charity Witmer, who returned home to bury their sister, said they were swayed, in part, by the possibility that their highly publicized dilemma could make them targets in Iraq and endanger their comrades.

“During the last two weeks, we have been mourning the loss of our sister, Michelle, our hero,” said a statement from the sisters read by a family member at the Wisconsin National Guard headquarters.

“We have been faced with a very difficult and complex decision. It is by far the most difficult decision we have ever made,” the statement said.

Neither Rachel Witmer, 24, a specialist with the Guard’s 32nd Military Police Company, nor Charity Witmer, Michelle’s 20-year-old twin and a medic with the 118th Medical Battalion, appeared at the news conference. It was attended by their mother, Lori Witmer.

Michelle, who was also a specialist in Rachel’s unit, was killed when a convoy in which she was riding was attacked in an April 9 ambush near Baghdad.

Their unit’s tour of duty was recently extended by 120 days, an outcome of the military being stretched by conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Before the military had informed the Witmer family that the sisters did not have to return to Iraq under its re-enlistment program, John Witmer, the sisters’ father, said they should not have to go back because the family had “sacrificed enough.” The appeal prompted an outpouring of sympathy. The sisters’ commanders in Iraq have asked that they not return because of their high visibility. A National Guard spokesman said.

“A decision to return to Iraq will place these soldiers to increased danger, and that we would not,” the sisters’ statement said.

**UNSG urges eco, trade reforms for global development**

**UNITED NATIONS, 28 April —** United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged on Monday governments to conduct quick economic and trade reforms in order to reach the millennium development goals.

The millennium development goals, adopted in 2000, include halving the poverty rate by 2015, hiking rates of education and controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Under the consensus reached in the 2002 Monterrey conference for development financing, developed nations have increased official development assistance and eased external debt burdens of developing nations, Annan told a joint meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization.

**China’s “steel capital” Welcome world businessmen**

**SHENYANG, 28 April — China’s “steel capital”**, Anshan, in northeast China’s Liaoning Province, became the hot spot for business men from home and overseas at the 2004 China Anshan International Economic and Trade Symposium which was opened here.

“Anshan City is the first target of our investment during China’s great move to rejuvenate its northeast, the old industrial base of China,” said Mao Keqiang, chairman of Northern American Enterprises Investment Group.

The city is the centre of China’s northeastern old industrial base, Anshan is famous for its abundant ore resources. So far, 51 ore types have been discovered in Anshan and 37 are under exploitation.

Anshan boasts one-fourth of China’s iron ore storage, 80 per cent of China’s magnesite storage, or one-fourth of the world’s total and 40 per cent of China’s talc content.

Moreover, Anshan is also a city famous for its unique tourism resources. In Qianshan Mountains east of Anshan, a mountain with a naturally formed stone Buddha has attracted Buddhists from home and overseas.

An eight-metre tall jade Buddha sculpted entirely from jade and weighing 260.76 tons is another marvel of Anshan.

The city welcomes world businessmen.

**Traffic accidents daily claim 300 lives in China**

**CHONGQING, 28 April —** Death toll from traffic accidents has been on the rise in China in recent years, with an average of some 100,000 lives lost annually since 2001, according to the national meeting on road safety.

This meant close to 300 people were killed daily on average, said Zhang Junfei, head of the highway department of the Ministry of Communications Monday at the meeting held in Chongqing Municipality in southwest China.
**Swedish leader to press Bush on UN role in Iraq**

**United Nations, 28 April**—Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson said on Tuesday that he planned to encourage US President George W Bush to get the United Nations more involved in Iraq.

Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh expressed last year's US-led invasion of Iraq without prior UN Security Council approval, believes “it would not be possible to end the war without UN support,” said Persson, who is scheduled to see Bush at the White House on Wednesday.

Sweden, which has sent troops to Afghanistan, Liberia and Kosovo, has no plans to send soldiers to Iraq but will continue to provide humanitarian aid, Persson said after talks with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York.

“It will be of course for me extremely interesting to hear how he presents about how he looks upon the possibility to include the multilateral aspect in solving this conflict,” Persson said.

“That is something that many of us have asked for,” Persson added. **Number of diabetic cases in India, China, US rising**

**HOUSTON, 28 April**—India, China and the United States tops the list of countries with the maximum number of diabetes cases and this number is expected to grow more than double by 2030, a report said Monday.

Researchers estimate that 366 million people, or 4.4 per cent of the world's population, will be diabetic by 2030 that's up from 171 million, or 2.8 per cent of the population, in 2000. **New mineral found on the moon**

**WASHINGTON, 28 April**—A new mineral formed by repeated bombardments from meteorites and other space debris has been found in a meteorite that fell to Earth from the Moon in 2000, researchers reported on Monday. The finding shows that “space weather” can help create materials not seen on Earth, they reported in this week’s issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The new mineral is named Hapkeite, after Bruce Hapke, an emeritus professor of geology and planetary sciences at Cornell University in New York, who predicted its discovery.

Airless bodies such as the Moon, Mercury, and asteroids have an inorganic soil made of crushed rocks called regolith. In theory, it is formed by the impact of micrometeorites travelling at high speed. The heat from their impact melts and vaporizes metals, which are then redeposited on rock fragments as tiny, scattered beads in a glassy coating.

Researchers estimate that 366 million people, or 4.4 per cent of the world's population, will be diabetic by 2030 that's up from 171 million, or 2.8 per cent of the population, in 2000.

**Estonia adheres to liberating Arab lands occupied since 1967**

**Cairo, 28 April**—Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said recently that his country adheres to the commitment to liberating all the Arab lands occupied by Israel since 1967.

Mubarak made these remarks in a keynote speech to the Egyptian people and the Arab world on the occasion of Sinai Liberation Day. The President said that the country has been building up the strategy of liberation now and in 2025 years.

He added that there will be a path to a lasting peace, and that the two parties should live within the borders of the 1967 boundary as well as the land that has been given to them by the UN resolutions. **Annan cautions US against attack on Fallujah**

**United Nations, 28 April**—United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged on Monday the US-led coalition to work out a political settlement for the military standoff in the restive Iraqi city of Fallujah.

“I think basically the US itself has been very careful about how it handles the situation in Fallujah,” Annan told reporters upon his arrival in the UN headquarters.

He said that the US forces were forced to fight in built-up areas, it is a very tricky and a very dangerous situation because you want to protect civilians,” he said. “I hope they (the US-led coalition) will succeed in working out a political settlement.”

Annan said the US forces would find a way out without having to fight their way into Fallujah, he added. US troops launched their offensive on Fallujah, a city inhabited by Sunnis, on 5 April after four US contractors were killed there. The offensive has reportedly left over 800 Iraqis dead and more than 1,000 wounded.

**Spanish troops to leave Iraq by 27 May**

**Madrid, 28 April**—The last of Spain's troops in Iraq will have left by May 27, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said Tuesday.

Zapatero told parliament troops from the Plus Ultra II brigade. Spain's core force in Iraq since last year, had now pulled out and that the only forces remaining in the country were support and logistics troops who would carry out the withdrawal.

Spanish troops have already left Iraq's holy Shi'ite city of Najaf, where rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr is holed up with his militia, officials said. US forces killed dozens of insurgents there in battles overnight.

“It is foreseen that by 27 May there will be not any Spanish troops in Iraqi territory. All of them will be in Spain or in international waters on their way to Spain,” Zapatero said.

With the main Plus Ultra II brigade gone, about 900 Spanish troops remained, all of them belonging to the special unit carrying out the withdrawal, newspaper El Pais said. **Chinese FM spokesman says Iraqi sovereignty inseparable**

**Beijing, 28 April**—The sovereignty of Iraq is of course inseparable after the handover of its power which is scheduled for June 30, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan here Tuesday.

“The Iraqi people should run their own country after the handover of its power so as to let the United Nations play its due role and create conditions for a lasting, secure, stable and peaceful Iraq in future,” said Kong at a regular Press conference.

However, the situation in Iraq is turning increasingly more turbulent instead of moving toward a good direction, Kong acknowledged. “China is very concerned about that.”

To settle the Iraqi issue, China holds that the voices of the Iraqi people from various strata should be heard on such major issues as transition and election, said Kong, adding that consensus can be reached according to their voices while the Iraqi sovereignty can be resumed based on the consensus. **Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero explains his reasons for pulling Spanish troops out of Iraq during a Parliamentary debate in Madrid, on 27 April, 2004. Zapatero promised to have all Spanish troops out of Iraq by 27 May, 2004. — INTERNET**

**ANNEX**

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**Russia puzzled over US sovereignty plan for Iraq**

Moscow, 28 April — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Tuesday expressed bewilderment over the United States’ plan on partial power transfer for Iraq.

“It has already been announced that the US doesn’t intend to give back full sovereignty. But then we need to know what will happen. Will this be occupation?” Lavrov was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying.

“If it’s occupation, what kind of sovereignty will be handed over on June 30?”

He said the new Iraqi government should be formed on a transparent basis and includes representatives of all opposition forces, but no terrorists.

“I am becoming increasingly convinced that it would be more in the political and practical interests of everyone, including the coalition, if the government were to be formed with the participation of all Iraq’s political forces,” the minister said.

He said the UN Security Council and Iraq’s neighbours should take part in forming the Iraqi government.

Lavrov’s comments came a day after US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday that an interim Iraqi government, due to take office on July 1, would have to cede some sovereignty.

— MNA/Xinhua

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**Spanish troops leave Najaf**

Madrid, 28 April — Spanish troops have left Iraq’s holy Shiite city of Najaf, where rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr is holed up with his militia, for their main base at Diwaniya, state radio reported on Tuesday.

“It was carried out today and was carried out according to plans, with all security measures and without any problems,” General Jose Manuel Munoz told state radio. The pullback appears to be a first stage in Spain’s plan — announced by new Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero earlier this month — to withdraw Spain’s 1,400 troops from Iraq.

The Defence Ministry was unable to confirm the report and the general declined to give more details on how the operation was done.

But Spain’s Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega said in a television interview the pullback seemed to be happening.

“And we are reassured to see that it (the withdrawal) is progressing and our troops are fulfilling the objectives we had set out,” she said. — MNA/Reuters

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**NZ man confirmed to be detained in Iraq**

Wellington, 28 April — New Zealand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) has confirmed that a man from New Plymouth is being detained in Iraq, New Zealand’s Press Association reported Tuesday.

Andreas Schafer’s family first feared he was being held in Iraq about a month ago after receiving an email suggesting he had been detained by the American-led Coalition Provisional Authority which administers the country.

However fears were held for his safety after the MFAT checked through diplomatic channels and found he was not being detained by American authorities.

Schafer’s family are therefore not surprises but the MFAT was seeking more information on where he was being held and why, Schafer said.

— NZPA

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**US soldiers patrol al-Abbasiyat area on the outskirts of Najaf on 27 April, 2004. Dozens of Iraqis were reported killed in heavy clashes with US-led troops near this Shiite holy city as British quashed speculation that it would rush more troops to Iraq.**

— MNA/Xinhua

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**France wants full transfer of power in Iraq**

Paris, 28 April — France said on Tuesday it wanted a full transfer of authority to an interim Iraqi government, due to take office on July 1, after US Secretary of State Colin Powell said the government would have to cede some sovereignty.

France reiterated its line on the transfer of power in Iraq following Powell’s comments on Monday, and after the United Nations’ special envoy to Iraq said on Saturday it would not be easy to meet a June 30 deadline to form the interim government.

“I refer you to what we have always advocated, which is the restoration of the effective sovereignty of Iraq in the hands of this transition government,” French Foreign Ministry spokesman Herve Ludosa told a regular press briefing. — MNA/Reuters

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**Cambodia, Pakistan sign three agreements**

Phnom Penh, 28 April — Cambodia and Pakistan Tuesday have signed three pacts aiming to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

Visiting Pakistan Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali and his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen signed memorandum of understanding on combating terrorism and transnational crimes.

Both leaders also signed the joint declaration as well as an agreement on the promotion and protection of investment between the two countries. Before the signing ceremony, Jamali held talks with Hun Sen. They exchanged views over regional and international issues of common concern. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation and relations between the two nations.

“So this is the start and we will go and build up an embassy in Phnom Penh,” Jamali told reporters after the signing ceremony. “And we ask Cambodia to support our membership in ASEAN (ASEAN Regional Forum),” he added.

Pakistan agreed to offer 10 million US dollars of low interest loan as a gift for the first visit to Cambodia. Hun Sen said that he would use the money for infrastructure.

Jamali arrived in Phnom Penh on Tuesday morning and his visit is part of a nine-day tour that also includes Laos, Thailand, China and Hong Kong. “This is the first official visit by a Pakistani Prime Minister to Cambodia. And the visit is also the first step toward in enhancing relations and cooperation between our two countries,” said Cambodia’s Foreign Minister Hor Nambong earlier.

— MNA/Xinhua

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**Iraqi police deploy in force in Fallujah**

Fallujah (Iraq), 28 April — Hundreds of Iraqi police fanned out on the streets of the restive town of Fallujah on Tuesday but the police commander said it was not clear when they would begin joint patrols with besieging US forces.

An agreement between the US-led administration and Fallujah civic leaders set a Tuesday deadline for guerrillas to hand over heavy weapons and said joint patrols between US Marines and police in the city would resume “as early as Tuesday.”

The police chief told Reuters he was waiting for news from the Americans on whether they would join his men.

Witnesses said the number of police on the streets was much larger than at any time since US Marines began a siege of the city on 5 April. Guerrillas have met attempts by US forces to probe into the town with heavy firing.

“We have increased the number of police on the streets on this day because the agreement goes into effect today,” Iraqi Police Colonel Sabbar al-Janabi told Reuters.

Prime said he would hold talks with US officials at a military base in the outskirts of the city of 300,000.

“I want to find out if we will be going on joint patrols today.” Witnesses said US forces clashed with guerrillas in the area of a highway north of Fallujah, 30 miles west of Baghdad, in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

US helicopters fired rockets and the sound of heavy artillery was also heard during the clashes, which lasted about an hour.

Information on casualties was not immediately available. — MNA/Reuters

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**Chinese forest to compete for World Heritage listing**

Xi’an, 28 April — The inland province of Shaanxi, northwest China, has sped up its preparations for putting up a 900-year-old forest of steles on the World Heritage List.

The Forest of Steles, based in the provincial capital of Xi’an, has a collection of more than 3,300 steles and gravestones built during various historical periods of China, with the earliest dating back to the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD), said Zhao Lingsang, deputy director of the Xi’an Steles Forest Museum.

The Popular Stele of Daqin Nestorianism, which stands out for the small cross at the top, engraved in AD 781 to mark the opening of a Nestorian church, the Nestorians, an early Christian sect, who were differ from orthodoxos Christianity in their belief that Christ’s human and divine natures were quite distinct.

Other tables include the Stone Classics of Kaichuang from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) inscribed with the thirteenth Classics and historical records, totalling 650,000 Chinese characters. It is also a treasure house of Chinese calligraphy by famous calligraphers from the Hang to the Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

The stele forest, dubbed the “largest stone library in China,” was first built in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), Zhao said.

Some of the steles recorded the introduction of religion into China and cultural and non-governmental exchanges between China and other countries.

— MNA/China Press

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**French police launch war on corruption**

Paris, 28 April — French police have launched a new operation against corruption.

“I am becoming increasingly convinced that it would be more in the political and practical interests of everyone, including the coalition, if the government were to be formed with the participation of all Iraq’s political forces,” the minister said.

He said the UN Security Council and Iraq’s neighbours should take part in forming the Iraqi government.

Lavrov’s comments came a day after US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday that an interim Iraqi government, due to take office on July 1, would have to cede some sovereignty.

— MNA/Xinhua

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**Two British soldiers in Iraq killed**

BAGHDAD, 28 April — Two British soldiers were killed in fighting in the restive southern Iraqi city of Basra Tuesday, the Defence Ministry said.

The Defence Ministry said two British soldiers were killed in fighting in the restive southern Iraqi city of Basra Tuesday.

— MNA/Reuters

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**An Iraqi man searches through the rubble of his house in Fallujah, Iraq, 60 kilometers, 37 miles west of Baghdad, Iraq on 27 April, 2004.**

— Reuters

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**Spanish troops leave Najaf**

Madrid, 28 April — Spanish troops have left Iraq’s holy Shiite city of Najaf, where rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr is holed up with his militia, for their main base at Diwaniya, state radio reported on Tuesday.

“It was carried out today and was carried out according to plans, with all security measures and without any problems,” General Jose Manuel Munoz told state radio. The pullback appears to be a first stage in Spain’s plan — announced by new Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero earlier this month — to withdraw Spain’s 1,400 troops from Iraq.

The Defence Ministry was unable to confirm the report and the general declined to give more details on how the operation was done.

But Spain’s Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega said in a television interview the pullback seemed to be happening.

“And we are reassured to see that it (the withdrawal) is progressing and our troops are fulfilling the objectives we had set out,” she said. — MNA/Reuters
An Iraqi boy walks on the rubble of a house that was destroyed on 12 April in Samarra, 90 kms north of Baghdad, Iraq.

Iraqi man Mohammedal-Rahmani retrieves his belongings from his house, which he and neighbours said was destroyed by a tank the day before, in the northern town of Samarra on 29 March, 2004.

Iraqi men search through the rubble of an old Iraqi army camp, which was bombed during the war, near Baghdad, on 26 March.

Iraqi men search through the rubble of an old Iraqi army camp, which was bombed during the war, near Baghdad, on 26 March.

Iraq men search through the rubble in the centre of Basra, southern Iraq, after at least three explosions on 21 April, 2004.

As residents try to return to their homes in Fallujah, Iraq, a girl cries during a melee at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Fallujah on 20 April, 2004.

A wounded boy is carried to an ambulance after one of three car bomb explosions in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, on 21 April, 2004.
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

Aerial view of Salangyi Textile Factory Project in Sagaing Division.


Mogaung Bridge on Nankaung Creek in Mogaung Township, Kachin State was opened on 10 February, 2004.
This year’s Thingyan Water Festival was somewhat significant for me. It was a festival with extraordinary aspects. At the invitation of Chairman of the National Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, cultural troupes of various national races of border areas arrived in Yangon beginning 1 April. They were accommodated at the hostels of Bayintnarung Transit Centre No. 1. All the 17 invited troupes arrived in Yangon two or three days later. They practiced yein dances with the assistance of instructors of the Ministry of Culture and also the traditional dances.

While I was visiting the cultural troupes one day, I noticed a girl with a hasan-yit (style of hairdo with a top knot and the circular fringe) dancing alone. She was not included in any of the 16-member yein groups practicing at the place, but she was dancing to their same tune and style. Later I came to know that when all the dancers of the cultural troupes were divided into 16 yein groups, and she was left alone, not included in any of the troupes.

Her name was Ma Cho Win. Little Ma Cho Win was crying because she thought that she would not have the opportunity to dance. She was an ethnic Kadu from Pinlethabyanauk region, Sagaing Division. Thus, she was practising as a reserve. Her height was a little short than others.

While watching her, I recalled the late famous actor Win Oo and Sanda Lin, who acted as his daughter in a movie “Hmon Shwe Yi”. In the movie, Sanda Lin, desiring of becoming a dancer, had to practise secretly. (Because her father Win Oo did not want her to become a famous dancer like her mother played by famous actress Khan Than Nu). But when she got an opportunity to dance, she was able to dance skillfully as her mother. For me “Hmon Shwe Yi” is always new.

Fortunately, there arose an opportunity for her to dance. All the other cultural troupes had their own programmes to perform a traditional dance. But the Kadu troupe had no such programme. The other troupes were going to perform their traditional dances on the stages of Thingyan pandals. TV Myanmar and Myawady TV would telecast their performances. Thus, something should be done, or else, the Kadu group would have to feel small among others.

As the Kadu group was invited, it was one item of the Kadu traditional dance, and the little Ma Cho Win was skilled in performing it. But other members of her group could not play the traditional drums. But it was not a problem, because Maung Bo Shine and his Myanmar orchestra troupe would do the job. Maung Bo Shine won many medals in the junior orchestra contests at the annual Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

Thanks to the officials who arranged the programme, little Ma Cho Win got the opportunity to perform the dance — the Shwe-O-Zi Dance of the Kadu Lari and the members of her group were happy. Maung Bo Shine and his troupe became Kadus for about a week.

Another significant group was the Mon cultural troupes. It had never visited Yangon during the Thingyan Festival in the past. At the invitation of the chairman of the WCDBARN, a 52-member troupe from the region upstream the Ye Creek in Mon State arrived Yangon on 1 April and stayed in the city till 14 April. There was another Mon cultural troupe to participate in the Yangon Thingyan Festival. It was from the southern region of Ye town. Moreover, an invited troupe from Chaungcho (Ayemontha) region in Taninthayi Division also comprised Mon nationals. What a coincidence! There were three Mon troupes in Yangon during the Thingyan Festival. Similarly, two Kayin cultural troupes — one from Mawchi region in Kayah State, and another from Hlaingbwe region, Kayin State — met in Yangon. There were two troupes — a Kadu troupe and a Naga troupe — from Sagaing Division alone. In the previous years, usually there were two ethnic Shan troupes — a troupe from Indawgyi region Kachin State, and another troupe from Myawady region, Kayin State, comprised in the invited troupes.

The above-mentioned para clearly proves that various nationalities are residing in the territory of the Union of Myanmar, and that all the regions and parts of the Union are like mini-Unions where various national races are living in unity and amity.

In addition to visiting famous pagodas in Yangon including those in Kyauktan and Thilawin, the Mon from the region upstream the Ye Creek were able to take part in the Yangon Thingyan Festival. While visiting the Union National Races Village in the city to watch the dance rehearsals for the opening ceremony, the Mon troupe entertained the hosts with a yein dance with the song ‘Mann Taung Yeik Kho’.

After the performance, Director-General of the Department for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Col Than Swe honoured the troupe. During the festival days, they visited the pavilions of the Ministry of Home Affairs and performed dances there. Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing also honoured them. Jeinphaw, Rawan, Kokang, Wa, Akha, Yun, Shan, Pa O, Kayan, Mon, Kayin, Thet, Kadu and Naga national races merely took part in the Yangon Thingyan Festival. They also proudly performed Thingyan yein dances and the respective traditional dances.

They stayed, visited places and danced together in Yangon for about 20 days. They exchanged knowledge of traditions and cultures, and learned each other’s dances, music and language.

It was like building a firm mini-Union during the Thingyan days. Love and friendship cultivated among the national races during the time was invaluable for the nation. ‘Mann Taung Yeik Kho’ sung together in harmony by the members of the cultural troupes during the Thingyan festival will live in the hearts of all the national races of the Union for many years.

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(Translation: TMT)
Commander inspects paddy cultivation and storage of paddy in Lashio

The commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe visited Sule Pagoda Road this morning.

ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2004-2009 was held at Traders Hotel at the meeting hall of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council this morning, attended by Chairman of the Upgrading Work Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

The commander listened to speeches and the programme of the meeting continues tomorrow.

Meeting to upgrade Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) held

The coordination meeting to upgrade the environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) was held at the hall of Water Plaza of Central Forest Zone in Kandawgyi Gardens this morning, attended by Chairman of the Upgrading Work Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

The commander listened to speeches and the programme of the meeting continues tomorrow.

Regional development tasks inspected in Kawthoung

The commander looked into construction of Kawthoung hospital with the donations of Adaman Club Co Ltd in Aye Mya Thaya ward, Kawthoung. Officials reported on facts about the project.

Competitions to be held to mark International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The commander gave a speech. Next, members of the Work Committee Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myat Kyu and Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Nge and departmental officials reported on matters related to upgrading the tasks. The commander attended to their requirements and gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks meeting the set standard.

General Banking Course for officers opens

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials concerned inspected Yangon-Samalaurk road section which is being built during the open season on 27 April.

Construction of roads, bridges inspected

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials concerned inspected Yangon-Samalaurk road section which is being built during the open season on 27 April.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials concerned inspected Yangon-Samalaurk road section which is being built during the open season on 27 April.

Third Consulative Meeting of Working Committee of APAEC held

The third consulative meeting of Working Committee of ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2004-2009 was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning.

Provisions donated to Ovadacarya Sayadaws of Shwedagon Pagoda

A ceremony to donate provisions to Ovadacarya Sayadaws of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees was held at the ancient Buddha images Tazaung of the pagoda this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivers an address at the opening ceremony.

Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of North East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Minister for Finance & Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe delivered speeches.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Hla Tun and Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe delivered speeches.

The commander inspected construction of Kawthoung-Bokpyin road section and oil palm farms along the road and gave necessary instructions.

Also present on the occasion were divisional and district authorities, the commander of Wireless and Traffic Police Force, departmental officials and guests.

The commander inspected construction of a new ordination hall and refectory and left instructions. Next, the commander inspected construction of Kawthoung-Bokpyin road section and oil palm farms along the road and gave necessary instructions.
The aims of this Law are as follows:

5. The Government shall form the Central Authority for rendering assistance among States, in respect of investigation, prosecution and judicial proceedings in criminal matters.

6. To enable liaison and communication with the international organizations, regional organizations and foreign countries in carrying out criminal matters.

7. To enable laying down and carrying out appropriate means and measures for providing assistance among States, in respect of investigation, prosecution and judicial proceedings in criminal matters.

8. To enable effective prevention and suppression of other serious crimes including terrorism, financing of terrorism, transnational organized crimes and crimes related to money laundering.

Chapter III

Forming the Central Authority and Duties and Powers Thereof

5. The Government shall form the Central Authority for rendering assistance among States in criminal matters, comprising the following persons:

(a) Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs
(b) Deputy Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs
(c) Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(d) Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance and Revenue
(e) Minister, Ministry of Immigration and Population
(f) Deputy Chief Justice
(g) Attorney General
(h) A Representative from the Ministry of Defence
(i) Director General, General Administration Department
(j) Director General, Myanmar Police Force
(k) Chief of Police General Staff

6. The functions and duties of the Central Authority are as follows:

(a) granting or refusing to provide assistance after scrutiny of the request;
(b) giving opinion to the Government with respect to entering into agreement between States for enhancement of skill and technology in implementation of this Law;
(c) laying down necessary training programmes for personnel from relevant departments and organizations for enhancement of skill and technology in implementation of this Law;
(d) liaising and coordinating, as may be necessary if requested issue is also involved with another State;
(e) coordinating with the relevant government departments, organizations and persons in respect of the requested issue;
(f) informing the relevant government department and organization to carry out matters related to the request and handing over the performances of the relevant government department and organization to the Requesting State;
(g) obtaining information, documents to be used for evidentiary purpose, records and extracts of relevant laws, rules and procedures exercised in one’s own State in respect of the request being in conformity with the forms, terms and means and ways prescribed by the Central Authority;
(h) meeting with the person or body of persons assigned by the authority of the requesting State and make inquiry or request supporting evidences.

Chapter IV

Requesting Assistance and Refusal

10. Any foreign State requiring assistance of Myanmar in criminal matters shall:

(a) the offence relating to the request being an offence covered by sub-section (a) of section 3;
(b) having no infringement with any fact that is ground for refusal contained in section 18;
(c) the request being in conformity with the forms and terms and ways prescribed by the Central Authority;
(d) upon the expenses incurred by the Union of Myanmar for rendering assistance having been coordinated and agreed between the two countries.

15. If the Central Authority, on receiving the request and on finding that the request is in conformity with the following facts may grant the request:

(a) the offence relating to the request being an offence covered by sub-section (a) of section 3;
The Union of Myanmar

The State Peace and Development Council

The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Law
(The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 4/2004)

The 10th Waxing of Kason 1366 ME
(28th April, 2004)

(Continued from page 10)

21. The Central Authority, on receiving the submission made by the relevant government department and organization under sub-section (b) of section 20 shall:
(a) if no performance can be made with respect to the request, inform the Requesting State giving reasons therefor;
(b) if performance can be made with respect to the request, carry out for enabling the handing over of the relevant information, testimony, documents, records and supporting evidences to the Requesting State within the stipulated time.
22. The Central Authority shall
(a) if there are matters that are to be kept confidential among the information and evidences to be sent by one’s own State with respect to matters that are given assistance or matters that are sought assistance by the Union of Myanmar, inform the Requesting State to keep in custody till the time of transporting him back to the Requesting State without delay.
(b) if there is no intention of handing over document, record and properties in their entirety to the Requesting State, mention to return the same without delay to the Union of Myanmar after completing performance of request.
23. The Central Authority shall, if it is required to conduct joint investigation between two or more States with respect to request or giving assistance, obtain prior agreement of the competent authority of the relevant foreign State on each issue of the matter through coordination.
24. The Central Authority and the relevant government departments and organizations shall not, with respect to information, testimony, document, records and supporting evidences handed over by the Requesting State to the Union of Myanmar use, handover or expose without agreement between the two states in relation to matters not mentioned in the request.

Chapter V

Search, Seizure, Control, Issuing Restraining Order and Confiscation of Exhibits

25. With respect to request of any foreign State the Central Authority shall, if granted after scrutiny the request of the foreign State to search, seize, control, restrain order or confiscate the exhibit is granted instruct the relevant government department and organization to search, seize, control, issue restraining order and confiscate in conformity with the existing laws.
26. (a) The Central Authority shall administer the property seized as exhibits, property controlled and property confiscated under the request of a foreign State in conformity with the bilateral agreement.
(b) If there exists no bilateral agreement between the two States, the confiscated property shall vest in the State.
27. If a person who is not involved in the offence can prove that he has in good faith and after giving consideration taken over and has in possession the property that has been seized as exhibit or has been confiscated, the right of such person shall not be affected.

Chapter VI

Sending a Person who is in Myanmar to Give Testimony and Statement

28. The Central Authority shall
(a) with respect to a request made to send a person who is in Myanmar to give testimony, statement or expert opinion in a foreign State, if the said person has agreed to testify,’ and the Central Authority has also decided to grant permission, inform the relevant government department and organization to make arrangements for travel and right to go abroad of the said person permitted to be sent;
(b) if the person permitted to be sent is a person in custody inform the relevant government department and organization to make arrangements to transfer and transport him safely in custody and to transport him back under the bilateral agreement.
29. (a) The Central Authority shall, in sending the person in custody, if Union of Myanmar has not sent a letter informing that the said person is to be released from custody, mention to keep the custody till the time of transporting him back to Union of Myanmar after completion of requested matter.
(b) The duration of time in which the person sent in custody is in the Requested State including the duration of time of transporting him in custody shall be deemed as if it were the duration of time in custody in the Union of Myanmar.
30. If the person who is to give testimony, statement or expert opinion is prohibited from giving testimony, statement or expert opinion under the existing Law of Myanmar, he may refuse for the said matter.
31. The Central Authority shall, if the person who is to give testimony, statement or expert opinion in any foreign State has committed any offence previously in the Requested State, within 15 days or if it exceeds 15 days from the date of arrival at the said State and making report thereof, raise the issue to get prior agreement with the said State so as not to prosecute, detain, punish or restrict personal liberty in the said State with respect to the previous offence, during the period agreed upon by the two States.
32. The Central Authority, shall, if the request of a foreign State to transfer a person in custody in transit from the Union of Myanmar or passing through the Union of Myanmar to foreign State is granted, inform the relevant government department and organization to give assistance for the security of such person in custody, within the territory of Myanmar.

Chapter VII

Request by the Union of Myanmar

33. The government department and organization desirous of requesting assistance from any foreign State with respect to matters contained in section 11 shall, to obtain permission for assistance desired, submit to the Central Authority meeting completely the points contained in section 12.
34. If the Central Authority, grants permission under Section 33 on the submission of the relevant government department and organization to request assistance from any foreign State shall:
(a) if it is the State Party to the international convention or regional agreement to which the Union of Myanmar is a State Party or the State which has bilateral agreement with the Union of Myanmar, request assistance directly from the Central Authority of the said State;
(b) if it is the State Party to the international convention or regional agreement to which the Union of Myanmar is not a State Party or the State that has not entered into bilateral agreement with the Union of Myanmar, request the Central Authority of the said State through diplomatic channel.
35. The relevant government department and organization shall not prosecute, detain, punish or restrict personal liberty of a person sent by a foreign State with respect to any offence committed by him previously in the Union of Myanmar within 15 days or if it exceeds 15 days from the date of arrival and making report thereof, during the period agreed upon between the two States while he is in the Union of Myanmar to give testimony, statement, expert opinion or in person, in accordance with this Law.
36. The government department and organization that performs under the direction of the Central Authority shall, if the relevant foreign State does not send a letter informing to release the person in custody who has been transferred to give testimony or statement in Myanmar, have the authority to put him in custody during the time agreed upon between the two States and, after submitting to the Central Authority, carry out in accordance with the direction of the Central Authority, for enabling to transport him back to the Requesting State without delay, in conformity with the stipulations after completion of the said matter.

Chapter VIII

Bearing of Costs

37. In carrying out the tasks on requested matters, if there exists no specific agreement between the two States, the ordinary costs shall be borne by the requested State. The costs exceeding the ordinary costs or costs of extraordinary nature shall be borne by the relevant State in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed upon in advance.
38. If the cost of requesting assistance or providing assistance by the Union of Myanmar is to be borne by the Union of Myanmar, it shall be borne by the relevant government department or organization with the approval of the Government.

Chapter IX

Miscellaneous

39. (a) The Central Authority shall, if the requested matter of the foreign State is for judicial proceedings, inform to the Supreme Court.
(b) The Supreme Court may carry out the matter informed under sub-section (a) by itself or delegate to the relevant competent Court.
40. The Central Authority, with respect to testimony, documents, records and supporting evidences which are performed under the request of any foreign State:
(a) may determine and assign duty to any relevant government department and organization or any expert or a body of experts to submit the same after translation;
(b) shall, after authenticating on the translation, hand it over to the relevant foreign State.
41. With respect to mutual assistance in criminal matters, the communications made by telephone, fax or e-mail, or any other electronic means including communications made through computer network shall be entitled to be submitted as evidence.
42. With respect to any offence for which assistance is requested by any foreign State, if there is no explicit provision in this Law, regarding investigation, prosecution and judicial proceedings, the Central Authority and the government department and organization assigned duty by such body shall, comply with the provisions of the existing Law.
43. In implementing the provisions of this Law:
(a) The Ministry of Home Affairs may, with the approval of the Government, issue such rules and procedures as may be necessary;
(b) The Central Authority, relevant Ministry, the Supreme Court and the Office of the Attorney General may with the approval of the government; issue such notifications, orders and directives as may be necessary.

(Sd/) Than Shwe
Senior General
Chairman
The State Peace and Development Council
India’s “IT” workforce to hit two million in 10 years

New Delhi, 28 April — India’s IT labour force will grow into a formidable army of two million in the next 10 years as against an IT workforce of 650,000 at present and 6,800 in 1986.

The threefold increase in availability of IT professionals will ensure that wage inflation pressures are curbed, according to a recent report carried on the Economic Times, an New Delhi-based English newspaper.

The supply of IT professionals will outstrip demand within four years.

The paper cited a report on Indian IT as saying that there will be 48,000 surplus IT professionals in India in 2008. As of now, nearly one-third of the world’s software engineers are from India.

While the projected growth in the availability of skilled professionals will help the Indian IT industry maintain its edge over rivals, the English factor is also working to the advantage of India, the paper said. Statistics show that 7 per cent of India’s population can speak English, making it the second largest pool of English speakers after the United States. — MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GEE HONG VOY NO (408)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG Voy No (408) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-4-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION
Phone No: 256924/256914

Boao Forum for Asia aims to be world-class forum
Boao (Hainan Province), 28 April — The Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), which ended its annual conference here Sunday afternoon, is expected to develop into a world-class forum through progress by taking three substantial measures, Long Yongtu, secretary-general of the BFA from China, said Monday.

The BFA, which began in Boao, in China’s southernmost Hainan Island Province, in 2001, is a non-governmental and non-profit international organization.

First, the forum will follow conventional international rules and practices in organizing to meet demands of delegates of all levels and from all walks of life and sectors, Long said. For example, it will arrange more small discussions and seminars between business leaders and businesswomen and politicians.

This will help enterprises seek business ties and opportunities and also enable the forum to serve as a high-level platform for business negotiations and talks, according to the secretary-general.

Second, the forum will hold a series of special meetings in the future, to let Asia and the world as well as host voices from the BFA all the time, the secretary-general said, adding that the BFA has planned an Asian development and cooperation summit in June, an international education forum in July, the Asian education forum in August and the world tourism conference in September.

In order to engage in more Asian countries and regions, the forum will especially hold a series of discussions and seminars between business leaders and businesswomen and politicians.

TRADE MARK CAUTION
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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.F., D.B.L., for CHINON.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.

Mexico to invest more money to increase gas production
Mexico City, 28 April — The Mexican Government will invest about 1.578 billion US dollars in the Burgos Integral Project this year, an amount 55 per cent higher than that allocated in 2003, to boost its production to 1.1 billion cubic feet of natural gas a day.

The Energy Secretariat (SE) said Tuesday in a communiqué that the Burgos Integral Project developed by the oil company, Mexican Petroleum (Pemex), is part of the general strategy to increase gas production in the wake of growing demand.

The Burgos project covers the northern states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Coahuila, with an extension of more than 50,000 square kilometres. Burgos is the most important non-associated gas field in Mexico.

Honduran ship with cocaine seized in int’l waters
PANAMA CITY, 28 April — A Honduran ship loaded with 2.1 kilos of cocaine has been seized by the Panamanian, US and Colombian naval authorities, a Panamanian official said Tuesday.

The ship called Miss Loraine also had a Honduran crew and was captured Monday in international waters some 96.5 kilometres north of Colon, in Panama’s Exclusive Economic Zone, said the official from the National Maritime Service.

The ship left Colon last Saturday and was heading for the Honduran Roatan Island with electrical household appliances and furniture, while the drugs “could have been loaded from a fast motorboat”, he added. — MNA/Xinhua
Tarceva drug extends life in lung cancer patients

The drug, Tarceva, which is being developed by OSI Pharmaceuticals Inc., Genentech Inc. and Roche Holding AG, was tested in patients who had failed to respond to chemotherapy.

“In a giant leap forward for lung cancer patients,” said John Dauth and its New York Consul-General, Kenneth Lehman, at a cocktail party on Monday night in the UN General Assembly lobby hosted by Australia’s UN Ambassador Professor Robert Short, said the bandages

Top British policeman traces Diana’s fatal Paris drive

PARIS, April 28 — Britain’s most senior police officer inspected on Monday the site of the car crash that killed Princess Diana and spawned a host of conspiracy theories.

“It’s a giant leap forward for lung cancer patients,” said John Dauth and its New York Consul-General, Kenneth Lehman, at a cocktail party on Monday night in the UN General Assembly lobby hosted by Australia’s UN Ambassador Professor Robert Short, said the bandages

The biological bandages, launched at the British Burns Association meeting on Tuesday, have been used successfully on patients with severe burns and diabetics with chronic wounds.

“It is a convenient way of using the patient’s own cells to heal wounds,” Professor Sheila MacNeil, of the University of Sheffield, said in an interview.

“The is a simple dressing to take laboratory-expanded cells and deliver them back to patients’ wounds.”

MacNeil, who developed the bandages called Myskin with her Sheffield colleague Professor Robert Short, said the bandages can be placed on wounds five to seven days after a sample of cells has been taken from the patient and grown on specialized discs in the laboratory.

After the bandage has been applied to the wound, the discs release the cells and prompt new layers of tissue to form in the damaged areas. The bandage is removed after the cells have migrated to the wound. Doctors have been using patients’ own cells to heal wounds for 610,000 deaths worldwide. It validated an approach to cancer therapy known as antiangiogenesis that staves tumours of the mouse’s legs and chest from a bonfire accident, a 28-year-old with similar injuries and an 80-year-old man who had been badly burned in his face and body.

Considerate smile will remain on public view throughout. The tests are due to begin in 2005, when the patient is expected to move to a gallery of its own following a 4.5-million-US-dollar refurbishment. The Mona Lisa has been taken on a brownish cast due to the factors – chemical and chemical changes to the varnish covering its surface, but the museum has so far resisted pressure to restore the painting to its original colours.

Measles deaths drop worldwide

GENEVA, April 28 — The number of people, mostly children, killed by measles each year dropped by nearly 12 per cent.

“All my research has been focused on developing drugs based on the same technology. The new design is part of the government’s on-going efforts to stay ahead of counterfeiting and protect the integrity of US currency, said officials from the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve and the United States Secret Service at a news briefing.

The new 50 dollar note, which will be issued in late September or early October, is the second denomination in the Series 2004 currency. The first was the 20 dollar note, which began circulating in October 2003. Replacing the old 50 dollar notes will be safer, smarter and more secure currency: the new notes will be harder to fake and easier to check; smarter to stay ahead of tech-savvy counterfeiters; more secure to protect the integrity of US currency.
Maradona improving, has drip removed

BUENOS AIRES, 28 April — Diego Maradona, who has been in intensive care for eight days with heart and breathing problems, is improving and has had an intravenous drip removed, according to a hospital statement issued on Monday.

The 43-year-old Argentina World Cup winner can tolerate liquids, is breathing without the aid of an artificial respirator and will start a diet later on Monday, added the statement released by the Suizo-Argentina clinic in Buenos Aires. However, Maradona remains in intensive care and still requires another drip for a lung infection.

"Although there has been an evident improvement, the outlook is still cautious," read the statement.

Maradona, who has put on so much weight he is scarcely recognisable from his playing days, was taken to hospital on April 18 with a swollen chest and breathing difficulties. Doctors later said he also had pneumonia.

His fans have kept a vigil outside the hospital and join the media in the scramble for the official bulletins which are handed out in what has become a media ritual.

Thorst to defend 400m freestyle title at Athens

CANERKRA, 28 April — Olympic and world champion Ian Thorpe will be able to defend his 400-metre freestyle title at the Athens Olympic Games after his teammate Craig Stevens has waived his qualification.

"I’m excited about swimming in the event because I won my first Olympic gold medal in the event," Thorpe told a packed news conference at Sydney’s Olympic pool Tuesday. "I’m not worried about the pressure that comes with it, a little concerned, but not worried.”

Thorpe got disqualified from the 400m for a false start after flipping off the blocks during last month’s Australian trials where he qualified for the event and 200 metres as well as the three relays. He lost an appeal against the disqualification after being shown a yellow card when Stevens, who finished second to Grant Hackett at the trials, gave up his spot on Monday, saying, he wanted to concentrate on his other events, the 1,500m freestyle and 4x200m freestyle relay.

"I wouldn’t have swum this race if I wasn’t satisfied about the decision Craig had made and how he made the decision," said Thorpe. "I know Craig’s decision was what he wanted to do, not what anyone else wanted him to do."

"I discussed with him what he had been through in the last month, and after that I thanked him for making a decision that he’d made.”

Figo explodes after sending-off triggers Real defeat

MAADRID, 28 April— Real Madrid midfielder Luis Figo has launched a fierce attack on referee Alfredo Perez Burrell after he was sent off in Sunday’s 2-1 defeat by arch-rivals Barcelona.

"He was arrogant and didn’t give anything in our favour," the Portuguese international told reporters. "I want the referees to blow for what they actually see, not for what they want to see.”

With the score at 1-1 midway through the second half the former Barcelona winger was sent off after picking up a second booking for a reckless challenge on defender Carles Puyol.

Until then Barca had been on the ropes but Figo’s dismissal paved the way for Frank Rijkaard’s side to take control.

Barca snatched their first victory at the Bernabeu in more than six years when Xavi clipped the ball over Real keeper Iker Casillas following a Waghorn lofted pass from Rondaldinho four minutes from time.

Figo’s outburst is an indication of the tension Real are at Real after a month of disappointments at a club expected to sweep all before it this season.

A surprise 3-2 extra-time defeat in the King’s Cup final by Real Zaragoza on March 17 was quickly followed by a shock exit from the Champions League against Monaco.

Real have flirted away an eighth-point lead in the Primera Liga and now trail Valencia by a point at the top of the table.

To make matters worse they have lost their last two games against the Bernabeu and Barcelona and have closed to within four points of them in the standings.

"We have been benefiting from controversial refereeing decisions to scrape a 1-1 draw against Valencia earlier in the season and to edge a 2-1 win against Atletico Madrid last week."

Now they fear they might pay the price in the title run-in.

"We are suffering because of that penalty we were given in the last minute of the Valencia match," said Figo.

"From that day the referees have been scares and are giving everything against us. They are deliberately going against us in nearly every game.”

With four games to go to go to Valencia, who were held to a 1-1 draw at fifth-placed Athletic Bilbao on Sunday, lead the table on 70 points, one ahead of Real and five clear of Barca.

Real travel to play Champions League semi-finalists Deportivo Coruna next week-end before city rivals Espanyol in the last game of the season.

Thierry Henry celebrates after Arsenal clinched the Premier League title after a 2-2 draw with Meier did not see the inci- dent, during the match which Monaco won 3-1.

Beckenbauer says Bayern almost no chance of title

BERLIN, 28 April— Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer says the champions have virtually no chance of catching Bundesliga leaders Werder Bremen despite their 1-0 win over TSV 1860 Munich.

Bayern failed to shine and looked short of ideas in midfield against their city rivals on Sunday but closed the gap on Werder after the leaders wasted a host of opportunities in a 0-0 draw at VfL Bochum.

"We’re now six points behind (Werder Bremen) but if we play like this, we’ll go that going to work,” Beckenbauer said. "We don’t want the champions playing like that.”

"I’ve seen a lot in my life but never seen anything like the second half — there was nothing there,” Beckenbauer said.

"It was worse than watching Oberengieisburg against Unterengiesburg,” he added, referring to two amateur teams in Munich that play in a regional league.

Werder, chasing a fourth title and their first since 1993, had 68 points with four games to play. Bayern are second on 62 points and VfB Stuttgart third on 60.

Besiktas chairman to quit next month

ISTANBUL, 28 April— Besiktas chairman Serdar Bilgili will quit next month after being abused at a derby match with Istanbul rivals Fenerbahce on Sunday.

Champions Besiktas, playing at home, lost 3-1 to Fenerbahce, virtually ending their chances of retaining the league title and leaving them with only a slim chance of reaching the Champions League next season.

Bilgili told a news conference on Monday he had decided to call an extraordinary general meeting within a month and would not put his name forward as a candidate for the chairmanship.

Bilgili said the abuse at Sunday’s game came from parts of the stands where club congress members were sitting.

"The situation in the stands at the match hurt me inside. We are divided against one another,” he said.

"I sit in the Besiktas chair’s seat and will not allow insults directed towards that seat... I decided to call an extraordinary general meeting within a month.

"I will not be a candidate. My decision is final,” he said.

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France coach Santini expresses interest in Spurs job

LONDON, 28 April— French national coach Jacques Santini said on Tuesday he was interested in managing English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur.

Santini, who had a perfect record steering holders France to the European championship finals in Portugal starting on June 12, said he would be open to discussion if approached by Spurs.

"If Tottenham contact me and they want me to do, not what anyone else wants me to do,” Santini was quoted as saying in the London Evening Standard.

He added, "I have always thought that one day I might manage abroad and the Tottenham job would interest me if they wanted me to do it.”

Santini benefited from controversial refereeing decisions to scrape a 1-1 draw against Valencia earlier in the season and to edge a 2-1 win against Atletico Madrid last week.

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15:30 Signature Tune
15:55 Royal Rose
9:35 Kayin Traditional Vegetable Curry (Tarlabaw)
9:40 Song ‘Commencement of Dry Summer’
9:42 Oboe: Myanmar Musical Instrument
9:50 Let us preserve the Waterareas
9:55 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights ‘Come and See Myanmar’

24.04.2004 (Thursday) Evening Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)
15:30 Signature Tune
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights ‘Mingalabar’
15:36 Lawka Nanda Sanctuary Garden
15:40 Headlines
15:42 Novation Ceremony
15:45 National News
15:40 Offshore Fishing Boat Construction
15:45 Royal Rose
15:40 Lawka Nanda Sanctuary Garden
15:40 Kayin Traditional Vegetable Curry (Tarlabaw)
15:40 Myanmar Modern Song ‘Opening performance of Dry Summer’
15:40 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights ‘Come and See Myanmar’

WEATHER

Wednesday, 28 April, 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST
During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin, Kayah, Kayin States, lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Tanintharyi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kayin State, Magway, Ayeyawaddy Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Shan, Chin, Rakhine States, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were (44°C) in Magway, (43°C) in Mimb. Noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were (1.97) inches in Shweygin, (1.26) inches in Mandalay.

Maximum temperature on 27-4-2004 was 41.0°C (101.8°F). Minimum temperature on 26-4-2004 was 26.4°C (79.4°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 27-4-2004 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 27-4-2004 was (10.2) hours approx. Rainfall on 28-4-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since (1-1-2004) was 5 mm (0.20 inch) at Yangon Airport and 12 mm (0.47 inch) at Kaba-Aye and 3 mm (0.12 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (17.30) hours MST on 27-4-2004.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the south Bay, Andaman Sea and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 29-4-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Kachin, Mon, Kayin States, Ayeyawaddy, Yangon, Tanintharyi 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: Isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in lower Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 29-4-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon evening. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast valid for Manipur and neighbouring areas for 29-4-2004: Partly cloudy.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 29 April, 2004
Coord meeting on Manufacturing and Selling Myanma Handicraft and Souvenirs held

YANGON, 28 April — A coordination meeting on manufacturing and selling Myanma Handicraft and Souvenirs was held at the meeting hall of Ministry of Cooperatives on Bogyoke Aung San Street yesterday afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Subcommittee for Manufacturing and Selling Myanma Handicraft and Souvenirs Minster Maj-Gen Htay Oo.

Also present on the occasion were the director-general of the Cooperative Department, the director-general of the Cottage Industries Department, the acting managing director of the Cooperatives Exports and Imports Enterprise, the chairman of the Central Cooperatives Society, the chairman of the Industrial Production Cooperatives Syndicate, the chairman of Yangon Division General Economic Syndicate, and officials of the Ministry of Commerce and officials and private entrepreneurs.

At the meeting, the Minster gave instructions on production for high quality Myanma handicraft and souvenirs, distribution of handicraft and souvenirs, production of import-substitute products, sale of souvenirs for tourists.

He said that the arrangements are to be made for export of quality products, the establishment of a sales promotion team for handicraft and the extended formation of new cooperatives societies.

Concerning the suggestions made by those present at the meeting, the directors-general of the Cooperatives Department and the Cottage Industries Department gave supplementary reports. The minister made concluding remarks. — MNA

Seminar on Reproductive Health Information System commences

YANGON, 28 April — The opening of the Seminar on Reproductive Health Information System organized by the Ministry of Health was held in conjunction with prize presentation at the Institute of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, Myanmar UN Fund for Population Activities and WHO and officials and guests.

The minister delivered a speech.

In his speech, he said that the Ministry of Health has been implementing the national health plan for betterment of the people’s health standard. In the process, priority is given to family health care projects, he said.

In raising the reproduc-

Up to now, Myanmar does not have to organise the family planning yet, but has to give priority to reproductive health care in building a modern, developed nation, he said.

Reproductive health plan was implemented with the funds of the UN Fund Population Activities and the WHO, and it covered 86 townships.

Arrangements are being made for increasing the number of the townships up to 93 in 2004, he said.

Greater success will be achieved through discussions of representatives of the project townships and officials from states and divisions, he said.

Next, resident representative of UN Fund of Population Activities Mr Najib M Assifi delivered a speech.

The minister presented prizes for outstanding performance in information on reproductive health to 21 health staff.

At the seminar, Secretary of the National Health Committee Director-General of the Health Planning Department Dr Kyi Soe, Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and officials gave talks on reproductive health.

The seminar continues till 30 April. — MNA

Bago Yoma greening tasks coordinated

YANGON, 28 April — Under the guidance of the Head of State to implement the five-year plan for greening Bago Yoma beginning May, the Ministry of Forestry held a work coor-

The chairman of the Central Cooperatives Society, the chairman of the Industrial Production Cooperatives Syndicate, the chairman of Yangon Division General Economic Syndicate, delegations and officials of the Ministry of Commerce and officials and private entrepreneurs.

At the meeting, the deputy minister for Forestry reported on the preservation of natural forests, cross-breeding, the establishment of forest plantations, the conservation of existing forests, the setup of model villages, the nurturing of forests owned by local people, the launching of educational campaigns to attract the public attention, the application of wood-substitution fuel, the undertaking of water campaigns to attract the public.

In response to the reports, the commander said that Myanmar is a country rich in land, water and forest resources, adding that in particular Bago Yoma region is where valuable teak and hardwood are produced in the world. He continued that despite the Ministry of Forestry’s efforts to conserve the forests, the danger of deforestation might loom large and harm the natural environment on account of the expanding population, the cutting of trees in disproportionately for firewood and illegal timber extraction.

He also spoke of the need to maintain watershed areas and forests as irrigation facilities were provided to make successful the agricultural undertakings of local people.

Later, he urged local authorities and officials concerned to organize the local people into adapting themselves to the practice of systematic timber extraction in line with the guidance of the Head of State.

Afterwards, the first session of the meeting went into recess. In the second session of the meeting, local authorities, departmental officials and responsible personnel of the Forest Department took part in discussions. — MNA

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ANNED 1366 ME

Thursday, 29 April, 2004

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses meeting on greening of Bago Yoma.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address at meeting on Manufacturing of Myanma Handicraft and Souvenirs. — COOPERATIVE