You may get many effective traditional therapies if you ask learned elderly persons. Indeed, Myanmar elderly persons are ready to share good traditional therapies with everyone.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Monday, 2 May, 2005

Ward off machinations of neo-colonialists with national outlook

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the Workers Day which falls on 1 May 2005 has sent a message to the workers.

In the message, it is stated that the entire mass of workers should clearly know the neo-colonialists, and their stooges’ slander and false accusations against Myanmar under the pretext of serving workers’ interest, with the intention of breaking up unity, and should ward off the conspiracies with national awareness.

Today, every nation of the world is striving in its own way for development. Likewise, the Union of Myanmar under the correct leadership of the State Peace and Development Council is exerting self-reliant efforts for further strengthening national solidarity and for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation.

As there have emerged a number of advanced factories and workshops as well as industrial areas and industrial zones in different parts of the nation, the workers themselves have now been able to skillfully operate modern machinery and electronic equipment to manufacture items of international standard.

Workers are enjoying the fruits of progress that are new job opportunities, increased income, the rights covering safe and pleasant working environment and higher living standard as the national development drive is gaining momentum.

A glance at the Myanmar history will reveal bitter experiences under colonial subjugation in which colonialists and their cohorts exploited the labour of workers resorting to unjust means to take hold of the nation’s rich resources and hatched plots to sow discord and dissension among workers, peasants and national people.

At a time when systematic measures are being taken with the participation of the national people including workers for national development, the neo-colonialists using their stooges under the guise of workers are bent on applying wicked means in the international arena to jeopardize the interest of Myanmar and her workers.

Their subversive acts have tarnished and undermined the dignity of Myanmar workers and also caused loss of jobs resulting in severe economic and social dislocation.

Therefore, when the entire national people including workers are making concerted efforts for boosting production in their respective regions, all are to guard against and ward off machinations of neo-colonialists with national outlook.

Annual General Meeting of MRMA on 7 May

YANGON, 1 May—Executive Committee of Myanmar Rice Millers Association invited its association members to attend without fail the 15th Annual General Meeting to be held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road on 7 May at 5.30 pm. Before the meeting, booths on rice mills will be stayed and products relating to the mill will be shown through video.

MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Deputy Energy Minister visits oil fields

YANGON, 1 May — Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, accompanied by the managing director of Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise and officials, inspected oil fields in Magway Division and factories under the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise from 25 to 30 April.

The deputy minister and party met with officials of petrochemical factory (Thaypanakan), Htakinshap oil field of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, Pahktannago main centre of the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise from 25 to 27 April.

On 28 and 29 April the deputy minister and party visited Mann oil field and discussed energy matters in meeting with the managing director of MOGE, general managers of oil fields and officials.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister attended the opening of the workshop of Salam Bargyar Co.

MNA

Play and script basic committee formed

YANGON, 1 May—Myanmar Motion Picture Association formed the play and script basic committee and executive committee at the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise (Head Office) this morning.

Managing Director of MMPE U Bo Kyi spoke on the occasion and the committee members elected the new executive committee members.

Likewise, basic committees for film producers and dramatists and editing, records and publications were formed on 29 and 30 April.

Other committees will also be formed on designated days.— MNA

Rules announced for Olympic Sports and Literary Competitions

YANGON, 1 May—The Olympic Sports and Literary Organizing Committee will hold the Olympic Sports and Literary Competitions for students at university, degree college, college and institute at 8 am on 7 May 2005 and the level-3 competition at 8 am on 8 May.

Likewise, basic committees for film producers and dramatists and editing, records and publications were formed on 29 and 30 April.

Other committees will also be formed on designated days.— MNA

MNA
China, ASEAN to further strategic partnership

SHANGHAI, 30 April — The 11th China-ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) Senior Officials Consultation held on Friday reached a consensus deciding to further the strategic partnership between the two sides.

Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong, and senior officials or representatives with foreign ministries from ten ASEAN member countries attended the consultations. They exchanged views on furthering cooperation, on current cooperation situation in the East Asia and on other international and regional issues of common concern.

During the meeting, participants discussed the implementation of the Joint Declaration for Advancing China-ASEAN Strategic Partnership, affirming that China-ASEAN relations have made positive progress. The two sides agreed to maintain the sound momentum of China-ASEAN relations, to further consolidate and expand the strategic partnership between the two sides, to continue to increase political trust and to promote construction of China-ASEAN free trade area.

Both sides also agreed in principle to focus on enhancing cooperation in transport, energy, culture, tourism and public health, which will be five new and major cooperation fields for China and the ASEAN. Participants discussed working principles of the China-ASEAN eminence persons group, and exchanged views on preparation for the celebration the 15th anniversary of China-ASEAN dialogue partnership. Both sides agreed to hold working group meeting soon for implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. China reiterates its willingness to join in the Protocol of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone Treaty. Both sides exchanged views on issues concerned with the East Asia Summit and the United Nations reforms. They agreed to enhance support and coordination in international and regional affairs.

The Chinese side respects the ASEAN’s consensus on the East Asia Summit, supported the ASEAN to continue its leading role in regional cooperation.

The ASEAN appreciated China’s important efforts made for safeguarding peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula. The Chinese side stressed the support for an integration process of the ASEAN, and the ASEAN side said China’s peaceful development is important for regional peace, stability and prosperity, and will bring more development opportunities for countries in this region.

Vietnamese women in traditional 'ao dai' dresses perform during celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War at the Ba dinh Hall in Hanoi on 29 April, 2005. — INTERNET

Four US soldiers killed by Iraq car bomb

BAHDAD, 30 April — Guerrillas launched fresh attacks in Baghdad and northern Iraq on Saturday, killing at least 10 Iraqis and wounding more than 30, officials said, in a second day of violence aimed at shaking the country's newly formed government.

At a meeting of Iraq's neighbours in Turkey, meanwhile, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned the violence was "not solely the concern of the Iraqis but ours as well." Some of the worst attacks occurred in the capital, still reeling from Friday's onslaught in which at least 17 bombs exploded in Iraq, killing 50 people, including three US soldiers.

A suicide car bomb exploded Saturday near the office of the National Dialogue Council, a coalition of 10 Sunni Arab factions that had been negotiating for a stake in Iraq’s new Shiite-dominated government. The blast killed two Iraqi civilians and wounded 18, police said.

Another suicide car bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol exploded Saturday near the Mohammad Rasoul Allah Mosque in eastern Baghdad, killing two Iraqi women and a girl, and seriously wounding four soldiers, police Lt Col Ahmed Abboud Effait said. Two Iraqis—a policeman and a former official in Saddam Hussein's Baath Party—also died in shootings on Saturday in Baghdad, police said.

The US military also said four US soldiers were killed and two wounded Thursday when a Task Force Freedom convoy was hit by a roadside bomb in Tal Afar city, 90 miles east of the Syrian border, the military said in a brief statement. It did not explain why the casualties were not announced earlier.

Vietnam celebrates 30th anniversary of national reunification

HANOI, 30 April — Vietnam on Friday held a grand ceremony, with participation of the country’s leaders and foreign delegates, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the national reunification.

Addressing the ceremony, Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai said: “The great victory in the spring of 1975 booked a red mark in the series of glorious exploits of our people... 30 April is our common festival, the day we bring into full play the national strength and unity.”

Thirty years ago, tanks of the Vietnam People’s Army, on 30 April stormed into the presidential palace of the Saigon regime based in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, just before the US-backed South Vietnamese Government surrendered to North Vietnam. Since the reunification, especially since the adoption of the doi moi (renewal) policy in 1986, Vietnam has seen remarkable socio-economic developments, the Prime Minister noted.

Achievements in the wartime and postwar period mainly originate from the strength of the national unity, Vietnamese people’s patriotism, the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the late president Ho Chi Minh, and support of the international community, he said.

Singapore, Germany to strengthen Maritime Transport Cooperation

SINGAPORE, 30 April—Singapore and Germany signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Maritime Transport here on Friday, said a statement by Ministry of Transport.

“This MoU paves the way for collaborative projects between government agencies, research institutes and private sector companies in areas such as, but not limited to safety, security, navigation and training,” said Permanent Secretary (Transport) Chor Shing Kwok at the signing ceremony.

Signed by Choi and Ralf Nagel, State Secretary for Transport, Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing of Germany, the MoU will also benefit projects in the field of maritime research and development, which have been jointly carried out by the two countries.

As encouraged by the MoU, proposals of new projects involving government institutions and universities from both sides are in the pipeline, according to the statement.

The two countries signed the Agreement on Maritime Transport in June 2000. — MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia calls for regional, int’l cooperation on disaster management

PHNOM PENH, 30 April — Cambodia calls on Friday for regional and international cooperation, solidarity and partnership on disaster management.

“The Cambodian Parliament strongly supports ... the effort to promote cooperation, especially in such organizations as the Asian Committee for Disaster Management, which aims at reducing the effects of disaster,” said Heng Samrin, acting president of the National Assembly of Cambodia.

Heng made the remarks at his opening address on the 21st meeting of the Asian Parliamentarians on Population and Development. — MNA/Xinhua
Asia expects to be world content provider

SINGAPORE, 30 April — As industries like movie and computer games are booming in Asia, the region has the potential to build itself a world content provider, businessmen attending the Asia Roundtable estimated on Friday.

John Chen, chairman, chief executive officer and president of the American company Sybase, expressed his confidence that there are a lot of chances around for Asia to present Information and Communication Technology (ICT) users novel and exciting products as the region possesses highly-trained personnel and advanced technology.

Speaking about the prospect of the Hong Kong Disneyland scheduled to open in September, Group Managing Director of the theme park Donald C Robinson hoped that stories about Hong Kong and the region around could be shown to the world so as to arouse more people's interest in visiting the fancy place to have "live" experiences.

Chairman of Japan Association of Corporate Executives Kakutaro Kitashiro saw the great potential that Asia will use its own technology to create its content since ICT engineers in China and India are competitive in software designing, a basic factor of the digitalized industry.

Thai-Japanese FTA might endanger European car maker

BANGKOK, 30 April — Thailand and Japan should carefully consider their proposed free trade agreement (FTA) so as not to hurt other trading partner, visiting European Union (EU) Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson has said here.

"The Thai Government will have to keep in mind that the FTA with Japan should not affect other people's interests," he was quoted by Friday's Bangkok Post as saying. Mandelson made the remarks on Thursday at a forum when answering a question of Andreas von Stechow, German Ambassado to Thailand.

Stechow raised his concern that the ongoing FTA talks with Japan could wipe out the European automotive industry in Thailand once implemented. Thailand is considering phasing out steel tariffs in order to facilitate Japanese investment under a framework of the currently negotiated FTA, which is expected to finish in a few months.

The proposal has raised concerns from European automobile producers having local investments, who threatened to move out if Thailand yields to the demand because their cars would then be three times as expensive as Japanese products.

Mandelson said he had been in dialogue with top Thai officials, stressing that Thailand should be mindful of long-standing relations with Europe and of European business interests, which are extensive in the automotive industry as well as other manufacturing sectors. "Thailand has encouraged European companies to invest here and encouraged strong economic ties and partnership between Thailand and Europe. We would like to see there are no setbacks," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia, Thailand hold joint maritime exercise

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 April — The navies and maritime police of Malaysia and Thailand are participating in a joint exercise code-named Seas Thamal 2005 in the waters off Malaysia's Kelantan State and Thailand's Narathiwat Province.

The Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) and Malaysian marine police as well as the Royal Navy of Thailand (TLDT) and Thai marine police are involved in the exercise, Malaysian Marine Region One Commander Noordin Ali said when officially launching the exercise at the Tanjung Gelang RMN base in Kuantan, central Malaysia on Friday. "The six-day joint exercise, which started yesterday, is the first of the two series of exercises planned for this year," he said.

He said the main objective of the exercise was to enhance the co-operation and understanding between the maritime agencies of both countries.

Some 200 Navy and maritime police officers from both countries are taking part in the exercise, which involves four vessels each from both countries. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq neighbours fear tension will spread

ISTANBUL, 30 April — Fears that the ethnic tensions and violence in Iraq will spread beyond its borders brought foreign ministers from neighbouring countries to Turkey for talks on Saturday.

Turkey's Prime Minister opened the conference in a former Ottoman palace saying Iraq's stability is "not solely the concern of the Iraqis but ours as well." Jordan, Syria, Kuwait, Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia were represented as was Egypt.

The foreign ministers were discussing the death of Sunni Muslims in Iraq's new government and Iran's growing influence in Iraq. Iraq's neighbours are overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim, except for Iran, where most people are Shiite Muslims, as in Iraq.

Iraq cannot be a place where one entity prevails over the others, nor can it be a place divided up as desired," Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said as he opened the conference in Dolmabahce Palace.

"Such attempts will meet the reaction of the countries of the region and the international community," he said.

"It is essential that the government is fully representative," he added. Turkey, Iran and Syria, which have substantial Kurdish populations, are also deeply concerned by the growing power of Iraqi Kurds. They fear Kurds could break away to establish their own state, which could stoke similar aspirations among Kurds in the neighbouring countries. — Internet

Bird flu vaccine lab to be set up in Thailand

BANGKOK, 30 April — The first hygienic virus-free laboratory for developing bird flu vaccine for fowls will be built in Thailand within several months, local Press reported on Friday.

In order to develop a vaccine prototype for fowls, a completed hygienic laboratory is needed to ensure accurate results, Yukol Limlamthong, director-general of the Livestock Development Department was quoted by Bangkok Post newspaper as saying.

Located in Phitsanulok, the laboratory will be the first of its kind in the kingdom.

Currently, the researchers are extracting highly virulent components from the virus' genes to obtain less harmful genes that would be developed as the initial prototype of the vaccines.

Yukol said there was no policy to apply those vaccines to animals raised in farms, but they will be needed to contain the spread of the virus in case of a major outbreak.

Livestock experts have warned against the use of vaccines for fear that it could result in the virus mutating into a more virulent strain.

As part of the department's three-year strategic plan to combat bird flu, some 1,000 new officials will be recruited to guard against a possible outbreak. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai rescue workers take part in a tsunami evacuation drill on the Thai tourist island of Phuket, on 29 April, 2005. — Internet

A South Korean model shows a new DMB mobile phone capable of receiving terrestrial digital television broadcast signals in Seoul on 1 May, 2005. — Internet
Asia becomes engine of world economic growth

SINGAPORE, 30 April — Asia with its rapid economic development has become the engine of the World economic growth, said a co-chair of the World Economic Forum's Asia Roundtable here on Thursday.

Jiang Juanying, also chairman and president of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, said that average economic growth in the Asian developing countries last year was 7.3 per cent, much higher than the 4 per cent in the world, and Asia will continue leading the world economy.

Jiang pointed out that the Asian economic growth has entered into a new era. There used to be Japan and "four tigers" in Asia — Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan Province and Hong Kong. China has an annual growth rate of 9.45 per cent in the past 25 years and India began to develop fast in the 1990s. The two countries have become the engine of Asia's economic development.

Jiang said that Asian and the world economies must develop harmoniously. The slowdown of the United States and European economies, and the rise of oil prices will have some negative effect on Asia, while Asian development will have great impact on the recovery of the world economy. So in the background of globalization, it is necessary to promote harmonious development of Asian and world economies.

Jiang also called for balanced, co-ordinary growth in the face of problems in environment, energy, natural resources, employment, gaps between rural and urban areas.

As the head of a leading Chinese bank, Jiang stressed importance of financial stability to the sustainability of economic development. He said China is reforming the financial system and he believed a healthy financial system will emerge in China soon.

Jiang was speaking at the Asia Roundtable's Forum "The Strategic Impact of Asia's Economic Growth" Thursday morning. The theme of the two-day roundtable is "Tilting The Global Balance: The strategic Impact of Asia's Growth." — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, Morocco to strengthen bilateral ties

SINGAPORE, 30 April — Singaporean and Moroccan leaders on Friday vowed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation by launching a series of negotiations, according to the Singapore Foreign Ministry.

During their meeting on Friday, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and visiting Moroccan King Mohammed VI agreed to start talks on a closer economic partnership agreement as well as the proposed pact concerning the promotion and protection of investments.

The two countries will also exchange experiences on port management, and continue negotiating on the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (DTA), a statement of the ministry said.

Two bilateral documents, including the memorandum of understanding on the establishment of the Political Consultation Mechanism between the two foreign ministries and the Agreement on Economic, Technical, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation between the two governments, were signed at the witness of the two leaders on the same day.

King Mohammed VI started his first state visit to Singapore on Friday, which will last for two days.

He also had talks with President S R Nathan on Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

Poverty in Indonesia to decline 8.2% in 2009

JAKARTA, 30 April — Indonesian Coordinating Minister Aburizal Bakrie said that Indonesia's poverty rate would decrease by 8.2 per cent in 2009, faster than the estimation of the United Nations. Speaking after signing an agreement with the Australian Government in Yogyakarta Province on Thursday evening, Bakrie said that the prediction was based on the current development of infrastructure across the country, such as electricity, roads and sea ports, airports and irrigations.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korea to set up storm tidal warning system

SEOUL, 30 April — South Korea plans to set up a national tidal warning system that will allow it to better cope with destructive waves caused by typhoons, a state research institute said on Friday.

The National Oceano-graphic Research Institute said the government plans to establish the system by 2010 at an investment of 4.8 billion won (478.4 million US dollars).

Typhoons hit South Korea on a regular basis in summer and autumn and they are often accompanied by tidal waves that sometimes cause floods in coastal regions. The waves also pose dangers for coastal maritime activities and movement of ships.

Under the project, tidal monitoring centres will be set up in eight coastal areas including Busan, Masan, Jeju and Yeosu.

The institute said the wave monitoring is to use four separate mutually complementing systems to get a clear and accurate picture of developing situations. The systems will be ultra-high frequency wave detecting sensors based on land, underwater equipment that can pick up the height of waves, and surface buoys tethered to the sea bottom which check the flow of currents and size of waves heading for land.

A mobile buoy system that relays information via satellite will also be adopted, the institute under the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries said.

The mobile buoys can be dropped by helicopters 300-400 kilometres from shore and can provide vital early warnings on approaching typhoons to disaster prevention authorities.

"The information can be sent in real-time to fire departments, the weather service, the Coast Guard and other related parties, like the Navy," said an official at the Incheon-based institute.

He added that once the system is complete, the country will have better means of dealing with natural disasters caused by typhoons.

MNA/Xinhua

Rise of Asia good for Europe

SINGAPORE, 30 April — The rise of Asia is not only good for Asia, but also for Europe and the world, said Peter Mandelson, Trade Commissioner of the European Commission, here on Friday.

Speaking Asia Roundtable's forum "Tilting the Global Balance: Asia's New Trade Growth," Mandelson said it is his responsibility to remind European people that "the renaissance of Asia is good for Asia certainly, but also good for Europe and good for the world".

The economic and strategic impact of Asia on the rest of the world raises some issues for Europe, but he did not share the view of those who regard Asian growth rates above 9 per cent as a danger, he said.

"The growing economic power of this part of the world represents a new source of competition. But it also represents a new source of economic growth and stimulus to innovation, as well as an opportunity for cooperation."

In his view, what poses the far greater danger for the future is not the rise of Asia but the introspection and fearfulness of Europe. Europe needs to build a stronger, more dynamic relationship with the Asian countries, and also with the Asian region, the EU Commissioner said.

He called for more Europe-Asia co-operation and thought the EU model has something to offer to Asia. "Together, I would like to build a partnership between Europe and Asia to help deepen regional integration in Asia."

To do this, some reservations about each other need to be overcome, and both sides need to be realistic with each other, need to monitor economic change carefully, the commissioner said.

As to the trade between the two sides, Mandelson said, emerging Asia is, and will increasingly be the essential trade partner of choice for Europe. "There are already millions of wealthy households in China and India offering a huge future potential for EU business", he said.
New Delhi, 30 April — Declaring that time has come for Japan and India to renew and reinvigorate “our Asian identity, building on the commonalities of our interests, aspirations and values,” India’s Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday night said it was an opportune moment to build on past history of very cordial bilateral interaction.

Speaking at a banquet hosted in honour of visiting Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi here, he said “it is thus only befitting that we have decided during your visit to add a new strategic focus to our Global Partnership and to deepen and widen our cooperation in the New Asian Era. We see this as a many-layered initiative encompassing diverse areas of our interaction.”

Recalling the supportive role played by Japan in 1991 to tide over India’s economic crisis when he (Manmohan Singh) was Finance Minister, Singh said “it was as a result of such friendly support that India was able to emerge from the crisis and to subsequently embark on the path of economic reform that has changed the face of the economy.”

“We want to reduce the psychological and other barriers that prevent fuller exploitation of the immense potential that lies un/responded to in our economic ties,” he said.

The Prime Minister said that though both nations had gone through various phases in their relationship, “in times of difficulty, we have stood by each other. It is important to recall that India refused to attend the San Francisco Peace Conference in 1951 and signed a separate Peace Treaty with Japan in 1952.

“This Pandit Nehru felt, gave to Japan a proper position of honour and equality among the community of free nations. In that Peace Treaty, India waived all repatriation claims against Japan,” Singh said.

“It’s the dissenting judgment of Justice Radha Binod Pal is well-known to the Japanese people and it would always symbolize the affection and regard ‘our people have for your country,” the Prime Minister said.

Singh said contacts between the two countries date back to ancient times and is based on the “strong foundation of these age-old spiritual, cultural and civilizational ties” on which basis “we are striving to build a contemporary relationship, one that is based on our shared commitment to the ideals of democracy, peace and freedom.”

The Prime Minister said the business communities of the two countries must be induced to invest in this relationship and be persuaded that it is an economic opportunity to do so.

He said “we share the belief that both India and Japan should play their rightful and commendable role in international affairs.

“It is on the basis of this understanding that we have made common cause in the process of reform of the United Nations,” Singh said.

He said Japan has provided India with valuable assistance for the development of basic industries like fertilizers, petrochemicals and automobiles and “we greatly appreciate the fact that India is today the largest recipient of Japan’s ODA.”

Singh said the “challenge we face today in India is to devise a model of strategic intervention that centres around fulfilling the basic needs and concerns of the common man but where the State places no oppressive burden on the creative spirit of free enterprise.”

He said there had been a paradigm change in the political ambience of relations between the two countries in recent years.

“Both countries have agreed to seek cooperation at various defence fields, such as rescue operation and natural disaster operations,” he added.

Ono’s visit is part of ongoing consultations of Japan with its Asian neighbours. Oga said.

But, he did not say if certain military agreements will be signed between Manila and Tokyo.

The defence chief will meet President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Defence Secretary Avelino Cruzson Monday. President Arroyo said the United States, China and Japan are the three countries with most influence on the country’s future.

Nepal launches anti-AIDS strategy for cops
KATHMANDU, 30 April — An anti-AIDS strategy as well as curriculum for Nepal’s senior police officials have been launched, Radio Nepal reported on Friday.

“The overall objectives of the anti-HIV/AIDS strategy for Nepal Police is to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS epidemic within the police force, their partners and families, and to sensitize them to the rights of vulnerable groups and their access to HIV/AIDS services,” said Deputy Inspector-General of Police Kumar Koirala.

The programme would focus on the forces deployed to UN peacekeeping missions in countries where HIV prevalence is very high, said Koirala who was quoted by the radio.

Koirala, who is also coordinator of the HIV/AIDS advisory team, said the Armed Forces, police and other uniformed services around the world face a serious risk of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, due to mainly the nature and characteristics of their profession.

Japan sees highest tourist arrival growth in March
SINGAPORE, 30 April — Over 732,000 visitors to Singapore, representing a 16.9-per-cent growth from a year ago, credited March with the most robust rise this year, unveiled the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on Friday.

STB attributed the boom mainly to the double-digit increase in tourist arrivals from markets such as Hong Kong, India, Thailand and the Philippines, which registered 67-per-cent, 50-per-cent, 34-per-cent and 28-per-cent growth respectively.

Singapore’s top five visitor-generating markets Indonesia, the United Kingdom, China, Japan and Malaysia contributed 49 per cent of total visitor arrivals in March.

In the same month, the island state was estimated to pool 867 million Singapore dollars (about 530 million US dollars) in tourism receipts, translating into a 19-per-cent increase over 2004 March.

NZ cancer rates world third highest
WELLINGTON, 30 April — New Zealand men and women have the third highest cancer rates in the world, said the Cancer Society of New Zealand on Thursday.

Cancer Society medical director Peter Dady said the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a part of the World Health Organization, compares incidence rates and the most commonly diagnosed cancers worldwide.

Male cancer rates are highest in the United States, Hungary and New Zealand, and lowest in Niger, Gambia and the Congo.

The United States also leads the world in female cancer rates, ahead of Israel and New Zealand, with Tunisia, Gambia and Oman at the bottom of the table of 2002 data.

Internationally, 10.9 million people a year are diagnosed with cancer and 6.7 million die from the disease.

About 16,000 New Zealanders develop cancer and there are 7,500 cancer-related deaths.

Peter Dady told the NZ Press Association he had no reason to doubt the IARC’s findings. — MNAVinhua

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Indian minister says Iran-India gas pipeline on its way

NEW DELHI, 1 May — Indian Petroleum Min-
ister Mani Shankar Aiyar has said that talks on a natural gas pipeline from Iran to India via Pakistan were progressing well and mainly await a pact over price, delivery and transmission routes.

“I am looking forward to going to Pakistan in the near future. A pipeline is very much on its way,” Aiyar told Hardnews magazine in an interview for its upcoming May is-

sue, referring to the 4.2 billion US dollars pipeline to import gas from Iran via Pakistan. “As far as the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline is concerned, there are two meetings with my counterpart in Iran. Then we had one techno-commercial discus-

sion in New Delhi fol-

lowed by a techno-com-

mercial workshop with the Teh-

ran,” the minister said.

“Now arrangements are being made for bilat-

eral and trilateral talks,” said Aiyar, scheduled to

A young man visited the home of Thadagoe.

Young man: Oh, what a feast!

Doe: Just a tea party, not a feast. You’re welcome!

Young man: Girls, make a cup of coffee for this young

Thadagoe

A cup of cold green tea to resist intense heat

smarting skin in Myanmar.

Young man: I’d like to know that.

Doe: Look, here’s a little green tea left in the cup.

I touch my fore finger and middle finger with

the green tea. And I apply it on knees and

thighs. Then, I fan them gently. Follow my line.

Young man: Good! It really makes me feel cold and

fresh.

Doe: You apply cold green tea on belly, legs and

neck of your grandparents. Then, fan them. That makes them free from having a smarting

skin and they’ll be in a state of enjoy-

ment. You can apply green tea on your whole

body and stay under current of cool air of an

electric fan. But, you shouldn’t use a piece of

cloth to apply green tea. You even may

get a paralytic stroke if you use a piece of

cloth and too much cold green tea. I pre-

sented a therapy to have cool plain tea to

resist intense heat. I also presented a therapy
to have a glass of water in two tiny pieces of

cloth to reduce body temperature. This therapy isn’t based on the use of chemi-

icals, so I don’t think people will think highly of that therapy. One will realize that it’s ef-
fектив treatment if one tests it.

Young man: It’s rewarding for me to visit your home today. Brother Doe, how and when you

got such potent traditional therapies to ease sufferings? It’s beyond my understanding.

Doe: You may get many effective traditional thera-

pies if you ask learned elderly persons. Indeed, Myanmar elderly persons are ready to share good traditional therapies with every-

one. They know a lot of traditional thera-

pies. Now, you use a cup of cold green tea to remedy having a smarting skin.

Translation: MS

Myanmar Alin+ Kyemon: 1-5-2005

Lion populations increasing in Gir Sanctuary in Gujarat

GANDhinagar, 1 May — The headcount of lion headcount of lions held at Gir Sanctuary in Junagadh District of Gujarat has revealed that the population of lions in the protected areas has increased to 359, Gir Forest Chief Minister Narendra Modi announced here on Thursday.

This is 32 more than the figure in the census conducted in 2001, he told reporters at the Gir Forest Eckological and Research Foundation (GERF Fou-
novation). “The Census of lions conducted during the last few days have seen the number of lions increasing from 327 in 2001 to 359 this year,” Modi said.

He credited the rising lion numbers to the effec-
tive conservation methods followed by the Gujarat Forest Department. Modi denied allegations that ani-

mal baits were used during the census. — MNA/PTI
Peace and tranquillity and prevalence...

They proceeded to Mongli model village in Hsenwi Township. The Secretary-1 met members of war veterans and presented saplings of honey orange and supplies to members of war veterans. The Secretary-1 planted a sapling of honey orange in the compound of a war veteran, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Aung Hwre, and Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Aung Hwre, Shan State (North) PDC Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental officials arrived at the construction site of Yandaingaung Sutaungpyae MyoU Pagoda on Wirayabumi Maha Hill at the entrance to Lashio.

Chairman of the committee for construction of the pagoda Police Col Win Naing reported on construction tasks and the commander gave a supplementary report. After inspecting the site, the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions to officials. Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party visited the 300-acre plantation of opium-substitute Hsinshweli honey orange of Lin Tun Co in Naungmon Village. The Secretary-1, after viewing the thriving plantation, urged the officials to export the products extensively and to build an orange juice factory.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party looked into construction of the offices of State Organization for Women’s Affairs and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Manager of Asia World Co U Win Maung reported on completion of construction work by 2005. Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected the construction site and left necessary instructions. The Secretary-1 and party arrived back here this afternoon.

USDA Secretary General Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huy Oo, Secretariat member Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and CEC members Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, and Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, who accompanied the Secretary-1, on 29 April visited the project site for reclamation of 5000-acre highland farm of the USDA (Headquarters) in Narshin region in Lashio. Project-in-charge Maj Khin Maung Myint reported on construction of cattle farm and staff quarters, digging of nine fish ponds, raising of 51 cows and fish and cultivation of 7000 coffee plants, 190 acres of macadamia and 200 acres of sunflower.

Local people on their part are to make efforts to ensure regional progress and to raise their living standard.

Gen Soe Oo and officials reported on cultivation of summer paddy and sufficiency of rice in the township. The Secretary-1 presented prizes for cultivation of Hsinshweli paddy to farmer U Sar Tun and Lt-Col Ko Ko Gyi.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party went to Mongyaw Village in Lashio Township by helicopter. They met villagers and officials concerned. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported on assistance for development of Mongyaw village.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said he and the ministers came to the region to fulfill the requirements for regional development.

(See page 9)
Peace and tranquillity and prevalence...

(from page 8)

As there was no peace and law and order in the past, regional development tasks could not be undertaken well. Although Myanmar regained her independence for over 50 years, local people could not be able to enjoy the independence. Now there is peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. The more the people are in contact, the more friendly they become. Regional development tasks can be carried out without any doubt among the people.

He said peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order are important for development of a region or a nation. After realizing the genuine goodwill of the government, SSNA led by U Kan Na exchanged arms for peace unconditionally. Therefore, local people are now free from fear and burden. He urged U Kan Na and his group to participate in the tasks for community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order. The government would provide assistance to them as far as possible, the Secretary-1 said.

After peace and stability has been restored well in the nation, the government launched three major projects — the border areas and national races development project, the 24 special regions development project and rural development project — to ensure equitable development of all parts of the nation. Now, the drive has borne fruitful results. The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was established to speed up implementation of the development projects.

Now, local people of border areas, that had poor transport in the past, have enjoyed remarkable development in various fields due to prevalence peace and stability.

The 24 special regions development project covers Taunggyi region, Lashio region, Kengtung region, and Panglong region, where national solidarity necessary for independence was conceived, in Shan State. Plans are well under way to help these four regions develop at a high momentum.

Furthermore, the government is putting into motion the five rural development tasks for the sake of the rural regions where the majority of the nation’s population reside.

Local people on their part are to make efforts to ensure regional progress and to raise their living standard.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 stressed the importance of harmonious endeavours to ensure rice sufficiency, growing cash crops, and raising chicken, pigs and cattle on a small scale and speedy development of the region.

After the meeting, the Secretary-1 had a cordial conversation with U Kan Na, U Pwan Wan and members, departmental officials, and local people.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented gifts to U Kan Na and U Pwan Wan.

The Secretary-1 inspected the construction of Mongyaw Affiliated BEHS and gave necessary instructions.

He also inspected Mongyaw Station Hospital and provided cash assistance for the medical staff.

In addition, the Secretary-1 viewed from helicopter the development of Lashio District, Shan State (North), progress of construction of Tangyan-Mongkaung-Mongshu road, and transport condition of the region.

The Secretary-1 arrived back in Lashio in the afternoon.
Managing Director Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Rtd), Director Col Ba Tun (Rtd) and Deputy Managing Director U Tin Kyi formally open Myanmar Bank Ltd (Bayintnaung). (News on Page 16)—MNA

**Shopkeepers of Zaycho Market presents USDA membership applications**

**USDA Secretariat member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung delivers a speech at the ceremony to submit membership applications.**—MNA

**CNG Filling Station No 001 opened in Mandalay**

**Yangon, 1 May—** A ceremony to open CNG Filling Station No 001 of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise was held in front of the sale centre at the corner of 41st Street and 85th Street in Maha Aungmyay Township, Mandalay yesterday. It was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, heads of department, members of social organizations and the Union Solidarity and Development Association and guests. Managing Director of MOGE explained the salient points of the filling station. Next, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Mandalay Division Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han formally opened the filling station. After that, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the signboard of the sale centre. Afterwards, the commander, the minister and the mayor inspected the filling station, and filling of gas into vehicles. The filling station is the second of its kind opened in Mandalay Division and its gas is being delivered from the CNG Filling Station in Paleik to Mandalay with the use of tube trailer.—MNA

**Yangon, 1 May—** A ceremony to open CNG Filling Station No 001 of Mandalay at the city hall-2 of Maha Aungmyay Township, Mandalay yesterday. The ceremony was attended by Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Lun Thi and attended to the needs. —MNA

**Construction Minister inspects road and bridge construction tasks in Namti**

**Yangon, 1 May—** Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials of Public Works, arrived at the office of Namti road construction special Group-6 on 27 April and heard reports on road and bridge construction works of Namti-Tanai, Tanai-Shinwweyan-Tagetykha and Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road sections. After hearing the reports, the minister attended to the needs. Afterwards, the minister and party inspected progress of road and bridge construction along Namti-Tanai Road. On April 28, the minister looked into the tasks being carried out along Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao Road and at the briefing hall, heard reports on future tasks by the officials. Next, the minister gave necessary instructions. Later, the minister and party inspected construction of road and bridges in Momauk Township, Bhamo District. On 29 April, the minister proceeded to the construction site of Namti Creek Bridge and looked into the progress of work. At the briefing hall, the minister heard the reports on future tasks to be carried out and attended to the needs. —MNA
YANGON, 1 May — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint together with Managing Director U Win Htain of Myanma Salt Enterprise and officials arrived in Pathein, Ayeyawady Division on 23 April morning.

At the office of Myanma Salt Enterprise, the minister met with local authorities and salt entrepreneurs and gave necessary instructions on delivery of iodine salt and cooperation with local authorities, service personnel and the entrepreneurs.

The minister inspected Ngwe Thaungyan and Nay Chi Oo Salt Mills in Pathein in the afternoon.

On 24 April afternoon, the minister arrived at Thetmyphyu salt production camp in Chaung Wa village tract in Ngapadaw Township. At the briefing hall, he heard reports on the salt production this year, health and agriculture of the staff.

Next, the minister inspected extension of salt pit and salt production and he urged them to boost salt production and the salt storage to be used in the long run.

At the briefing hall of Thingangalay salt production camp in Labutta Township on 25 April morning, camp manager reported on extension of salt pit and salt production this year to the minister. He then gave necessary instructions on the tasks of salt production.

On 26 April morning, the minister met with salt entrepreneurs in Bayintnaung hall in Labutta Township and explained the economic development of the State.

The minister then met with secretary and executives of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association and urged them to cooperate with the people in implementing rural development tasks.

In the evening, the minister met with local authorities and salt entrepreneurs at the office of Myanma Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise in Myanmya Township and explained the State’s economic development.

Tilapia Fish Festival 2005 continues

YANGON, 1 May — Under the leadership of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Tilapia Fish Festival 2005, co-organised by Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association, continue in the compound of MFF at the corner of Bayintnaung Road and the road to Pharmaceutical Factory in Insein Township at 3 pm today.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein together with officials viewed round the booths of the Fisheries Department, MFF, Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Salt Entrepreneurs Association, and gave necessary instructions on delivery of assorted tilapia fish were available at the festival and fish curry shops also were kept open.

The festival will continue tomorrow from 4 to 9 pm.

Abbas-Putin summit centres on M-E peace conference

RAMALLAH, 1 May — Talks between visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas are focusing on holding an international peace conference on Mideast peace, a spokesman for the Palestinian National Authority said Wednesday.

Rudeineh told reporters as the Abbas-Putin summit was underway that Abbas was determined to push forward holding such an international conference.

Rudeineh revealed that bilateral relations and an expected Israeli evacuation from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank will also be discussed. Abbas will urge Putin to exert more efforts to help implement the roadmap as Russia is one of the so-called Quartet committee of key mediators which also groups the United Nations, the United Nations and the European Union, said Rudeineh.

He expressed astonishment at Israel’s opposition to Putin’s proposal to give 50 armoured vehicles to Palestinian security forces and two transport helicopters to Abbas. We have officially asked the Quartet committee to press Israel to let the Palestinians rebuild security apparatus battered by Israeli attacks over the last four years of violence,” Rudeineh said. — MNA/Xinhua

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win arrives back here this afternoon after paying a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China from 27 April to 1 May at the invitation of Mr Li Zhaoxing, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China.

The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, officials from MOFA and Ambassador of the PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun.

During the goodwill visit, the Foreign Minister met with Member of the State Council of PRC Mr Tang Zhao Xuan, Foreign Minister Mr Li Zhaoxing, Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Xu Rongkai and discussed bilateral cooperation in a cordial manner.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint also arrived back here on the same flight. — MNA

Athletes taking part in 2005 Davis Cup Asia Oceania Zone Group IV Sunday. — MNA

President U Pyone Maung Maung of Myanmar Equestrian Federation presents award to one of the winners of equestrian competitions Sunday. — MNA

FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES BACK
Airbus to create 4th major engineering centre in China

BEIJING, 1 May — Aviation giant Airbus said on Saturday it would set up its fourth biggest engineering centre in Beijing to do aircraft design work for its super-long range passenger plane A350.

Jean-Hugues Depigny, vice-president of customer services of Airbus China, told Xinhua that the centre, which would be home to about 200 engineers, would be the second largest of its kind outside Europe after its engineering centre set up in the United States.

An A350 passenger plane will carry up to approximately 300 passengers, said the vice-president. According to a deal signed earlier this month by Airbus and China Aviation Industry Corporation II (AVIC II), the engineering centre will be a joint venture between the two firms, and will be located in the Tianzhu Airport Industrial Zone, adjacent to the offices of Airbus China.

Philippe Delmas, Airbus executive vice-president in charge of government relations, communications and external affairs, said “China has a solid foundation in aviation industry with a number of top professionals”. “We believe that the Chinese engineers, together with their peers in other Airbus engineering centres in the world, will be able to contribute significantly to the design of Airbus aircraft in the future. The engineering centre will also enable China to increase substantially the contingent of world-class aircraft engineers,” said Delmas. Chinese engineers have joined their partners of Airbus in Europe to design the A318 passenger plane, and five Chinese aviation firms took part in Airbus.

More than half of the 3,600-strong Airbus passenger planes in service have some of their parts made in China.

Airbus’ business in China has kept expanding since it first entered the country in 1985. The Airbus fleet in service in the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao has grown to 281 by the end of March from just 29 in 1995.

Depigny said Airbus, a leading aircraft manufacturer with the most modern and comprehensive family of airliners on the market, accounts for 53 per cent of passenger plane orders worldwide in 2004.

Earlier this month, three Chinese airlines have signed contracts for the purchase of 30 Airbus aircraft — MNA/Xinhua.

Flash floods kill 20 in Aceh

JAKARTA, 30 April — Flash floods swept through a village in the tsunami-hit Aceh Province, leaving 20 people dead, 10 missing and 28 others wounded, according to the Media Indonesia here on Friday.

Hundreds of villagers were internally displaced to other places for safety as their houses were destroyed by the floods, it said.

Rescue workers were still sifting through the debris and mud to find survivors.

The waters also damaged infrastructure such as roads and bridges, which hampered evacuations, said Darmansyah, an official of the Southeast Aceh regent office.

Illegal logging and heavy rains were the cause of the disaster, said Director of Indonesian Forum for Environment for Aceh Province Bambang Antarkasa.

Aceh Province was hit by the earthquake and tsunami disaster in December last year, which killed over 200,000 and caused widespread destruction.

MNA/Xinhua

Cuban, Venezuelan presidents criticize FTTA

HAVANA, 30 April — The presidents of Cuba and Venezuela strongly criticized the Free Trade Area of the Americas at a mass rally here on Friday.

Before a rally attended by thousands of students, lawyers, economists and businessmen from Latin America, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez defended his integration proposal dubbed the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA), and opposed the FTTA which is driven by the United States.

MNA/Xinhua
Scientists find major obstacle in developing HIV vaccines

LOUISVILLE, 30 April—Some HIV vaccines may have failed because they induce a class of antibodies that kill most HIV strains, researchers reported in this week’s Science.

This research offers new insights into how HIV evades the human immune system and new approaches for developing HIV vaccines, said researchers at Duke University who conducted the study.

The team discovered that certain broadly protective antibodies, which recognize and latch onto the HIV protein gp41, resemble antibodies made in autoimmune diseases. In most people, the immune system destroys these types of antibodies to prevent attacks against self.

The study suggests that HIV vaccines may have failed partly because certain proteins on HIV’s protective outer coat trigger only short-lived, self-reactive antibodies instead of long-lasting, HIV-specific antibodies.

The results also imply that during the initial infection stage in humans, HIV may escape destruction by the immune system because these seemingly vulnerable outer coat proteins activate self-reactive antibodies.

“The fundamental problem in all of HIV vaccine research has been that when you inject the envelope of the HIV virus into people or animals, no broadly neutralizing antibodies—those antibodies that kill most HIV strains—are made. This provides a plausible explanation for why broadly protective antibodies have not been made in response to currently tested HIV vaccines,” said Barton Haynes, lead author of the study.

The antibody-producing portion of the human immune system is broadly divided into two categories. The first, innate B cell immunity, comprises fast-acting but weak antibodies that fight a broad range of pathogens. These antibodies can also attack the body itself, as in autoimmune disorders.

When viruses activate innate B cells, the body destroys the B cells to protect against autoantibodies that could cause autoimmune disease or other harm.

The second immune system category is adaptive B cell immunity, a slower response that creates powerful, pathogen-specific antibodies and provides lasting immunity. The body’s normal response to infection is to produce adaptive antibodies that target only the invading virus or other pathogens.

Many widely used non-HIV vaccines “train” adaptive antibodies to seek out a unique protein on the protective outer coating of viruses. HIV researchers have attempted to induce broadly neutralizing antibodies, long-lived HIV-specific antibodies that can kill all or most HIV strains, with a similar vaccine design.

The antibody-provoking portion of the human immune system is broadly divided into two categories. The first, innate B cell immunity, comprises fast-acting but weak antibodies that fight a broad range of pathogens. These antibodies can also attack the body itself, as in autoimmune disorders.

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Luxemburgo hails Real Madrid’s win over Real Sociedad

MADRID, 1 May—Brazilian Vanderley Luxemburgo, the coach of Real Madrid, was satisfied with the result obtained by his team which was preceded by “a demanding work in the first half” and the search for victory at the end of the game against Real Sociedad.

“They controlled the ball longer but could not score, whereas in the second half we were superior, and Real Madrid took it all on the physical condition of the players. We endured 90 minutes, not 60,” said Luxemburgo after the game.

On the other hand, Real Sociedad coach Jose Maria Amorrortu, thought the same happened with his team saying “they had a control of the game, but Real Madrid were more effective,” and did not complain about the victory of the Madrid club.

Finally, Luxemburgo said the League is not over “and Barcelona will have to work hard to win it.” — MNA/Xinhua

China eyes clean sweep as table tennis world c’ships opens

SHANGHAI, 1 May—Chinese table tennis players launched their attack at another title-sweep as the five-event individual world championships opened here on Saturday.

Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress, declared open the tournament that runs through May 6 in the super-modern and sports-crazy Chinese city. A total of 574 players from 140 countries and regions, both a record for the world championships, will compete in the sport’s biggest event.

When last China held the world championships in 1995, host players walked away with seven top honours including two team titles. The biennial championships was split into two tournaments — team and individual — since 1999 except for 2001 when Japan’s Osakam hosted the last unified championships.

China made it seven out of seven in Osaka but the country which regarded table tennis as its “national game” lost the precious men’s singles gold in the 2003 championships in Paris and suffered a heavier blow in the Athens Olympic Games when South Korean Ryu Seung Min stunned Chinese Wang Hao in the men’s singles final.

“Table tennis may be just a sport in other parts of the world, but it is part of the national pride in China,” said Cai Zhenhua, director of the Administration Centre of Table Tennis and Badminton.

Moya leads in Estoril Open

LISBON, 30 April—Former French Open champion Carlos Moya led fellow Spanish Tommy Robredo and Guillermo Garcia-Lopez into the semifinals at the Estoril Open Friday as Argentine Gaston Gaudio occupied one last four berth.

Top seed Moya, 2000 tournament champion, broke once in the first set and twice in the second to quell the upset hopes of France’s Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 in the $532,000 event. Moya has been successful in a reconstruction effort this season after losing in the first round at Monte Carlo and the third round last week in Barcelona.

Current Roland Garros holder Gaudio followed the form book with an easy win over Spain’s eighth seed Feliciano Lopez 6-2, 6-2.

Gaudio beat countryman Guillermo Coria in an all-Argentine final for the Grand Slam championship in Paris 11 months ago. Robredo beat Italian veteran Davide Sanguinetti 6-2, 6-2 and Garcia-Lopez put out Juan Antonio Marn of Costa Rica 6-1, 2-6, 6-3.

On the women’s 140,000-US-dollar side of the draw, Dinara Safina reached her second semi-final in as many appearances, rolling over American Jill Craybas 6-4, 6-2, 6-7.

The Russian second seed was stopped in her second semi-final by European Open winner Marat Safin, who will face a tough challenge Saturday from Claudia, director of the Administration Centre of Table Tennis and Badminton.

Beattie admitting struggles in Everton

LONDON, 30 April—James Beattie, whose transfer cost Everton six million pounds, admitted on Saturday that his form has been a major disappointment since his arrival at Goodison Park from Southampton.

Beattie has scored only two goals in nine appearances and was criticised for a head-butt on Chelsea’s William Gallas that earned him a three-match ban.

He said: “There’s nobody more disappointed with the start to my Everton career than myself.

“I’m a big self-critic and I know that there are better times to come.”

Beattie was hoping his move to Everton would reignite his England career, but a struggle for form has also not been helped by a knee injury.

He said: “With a lack of matches between now and the end of the season, and for the fact that I haven’t played many games since I signed, it’s probably going to be next season before the fans see me at my best.” — MNA/Xinhua

China beat Bolton to win title

LONDON, 1 May—China clinched their first-ever Premiership title, the second league title in club’s history, when they beat Bolton 2-0 away on Saturday.

Frank Lampard turned out the hero for Chelsea with both goals in the second half to seal their first title success in 50 years.

The Blues were made to work hard for victory with their resilient defence paving the way for the victory after Bolton dominated the first half.

Bolton missed a golden opportunity to break the deadlock on 22 minutes when Kevin Davies got on the end of Bruno Peiato’s free kick unmarked six yards from goal, but he got his header all wrong sending it wide of the target.

Chelsea came out for the second with renewed vigour and Tiago volleyed over the crossbar from the edge of the area on 55 minutes.

The visitors then grabbed the breakthrough they were so desperately seeking on the hour mark with Lampard netting his 17th goal of the season.

The England international shrugged off the challenge of Vincent Candela inside the box to collect Didier Droga’s flick on and he kept his cool to cut inside Tal Ben Haim before drilling his shot through the legs of goalkeeper Jussi Jaaskelainen to send the away fans into raptures.

With Bolton pushing more and more forward they were leaving gaps at the back and on 76 minutes Chelsea caught them on the break through Lampard to seal the win and the championship.

Beattie has scored only two goals in nine appearances, rolling over American Jill Craybas 6-4, 6-2.

Beattie was hoping his move to Everton would reignite his England career, but a struggle for form has also not been helped by a knee injury.

He said: “With a lack of matches between now and the end of the season, and for the fact that I haven’t played many games since I signed, it’s probably going to be next season before the fans see me at my best.” — MNA/Xinhua

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

BEATTIE ADMIRING EVERTON

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Bayern clinch German 1st Division title with Makaay hat-trick

BERLIN, 1 May—Roy Makaay made a brilliant hat-trick to send Bayern Munich to their 19th German First Division soccer champion with a 4-0 win over Kaiserslautern on Saturday.

With Schalke 04’s challenge fizzling out in a 3-3 draw against Bayer Leverkusen, Bayern’s win gave them an unassailable 1-point lead at the top of the standings with three games to play.

Bayern’s fifth Bundesliga title in seven years came in their first season under new coach Felix Magath.

With 31 games played, Bayern lead with 68 points, followed by Schalke on 57 after they squared a 1-1 at home to Leverkusen and failed to take advantage of the sending-off of Roque Junior with over 20 minutes still to play.

Bayern will seal a domestic double if they beat Schalke in the Cup final in Berlin on May 28.

Michael Ballack set Bayern on their way with a top-class finish.

Ballack, captaining the side in the absence of injured goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, pounced on a backheel from Makaay and drilled in near the post in the 19th minute.

Makaay’s flick header from a Willy Sagnol cross made it 2-0 in the 35th minute and the Dutch international smacked in the third three minutes into the second half after nodding an Owen Hargreaves through ball past the keeper to set up the chance.

Makaay completed his hat-trick in the 67th minute when he took a long ball forward from Ballack and steered the ball past the keeper. — MNA/Xinhua

Johs wins 100 metres in Martineique

WASHINGTON, 1 May—Marion Jones won her first race in 11 months Saturday, sprinting to victory in the 100 metres at an IAAF Grand Prix meet at Fort-de-France, Martinique.

Jones led from the start and paced an American sweep in the event, finishing in 11.28 seconds, ahead of Wylliesheia Myricks and Melissa Barber, who each finished in 11.35. France’s Sylviane Felix was fourth in 11.36, according to reports.

The winning time at the Meeting du Conseil General was a season-best off Jones’ personal best of 10.88.

Jones got off to a slow start this season, finishing last in the 400 metres at the Mount Saint Antoine College Relay 55.03. At the Kansas Relays, Jones’ 800 relay team was disqualified after a poor handoff.

— MNA/Xinhua
Zimbabwe calls for expansion of trade links with Mozambique

HARARE, 1 May—Zimbabwean Minister of Industry and International Trade Obert Mpofu has called on business people in Zimbabwe and Mozambique to take advantage of good relations to expand trade ties.

He was speaking on Friday at the 46th edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Bulawayo which was officially opened by Mozambican President Armando Guebuza. Mpofu said the two sides had signed a number of bi-lateral agreements that seek to boost trade.

“Business communities in both Zimbabwe and Mozambique should take advantage of efforts by our respective governments to put in place a conducive framework to enable them to do business and so increase the level of economic cooperation,” he said. Mpofu said the bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement between the two neighbouring countries, which became operational on 1 March this year, and the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, would serve as a basis for increasing the volume of trade and investment. “The resuscitation of discussions on the intended memorandum of understanding on the Beira Development Corridor also presents immense business opportunities that can be exploited for the mutual economic benefit of Zimbabwe and Mozambique,” he said.

Other memorandum of understanding signed by the two countries include one on Labour and Social Security signed last year in February, another on information exchange between media houses and on rail transport between the National Railways of Zimbabwe and Mozambique and Ports and Rail Authority to provide for the use of locomotives on both sides of the rail network, Mpofu said.

Guebuza becomes the second Mozambican President to open the ZITF after Joaohnes Chissano, who retired last year. About 600 exhibitors are participating in the ZITF, which ends on 30 April.

U Soe Myat Oo @ Shri Tapan Naha
Age 61 years

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 2 May, 2005

Monday, 2 May

View on today:

8:30 am 8. International news
8:45 am 9. Grammar made easy
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. Practice in Reading
4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm 5. အသားအစား အိုက်စား လာဒီး ကြည်စိုက် (November 2004) – လုံးဝေးဒီးလာချင်း
5:15 pm 6. Dance Variety
5:30 pm 7. ၎င်ကြား စာဝိုင် - ကြိုးတစ်လျား (襄春) – အဖွဲ့တွင်သာ (襄春) – အဖွဲ့တွင်သာ
5:45 pm 8. Song and Dance of National races
5:50 pm 9. Musical programme

(Mr Radio Myanmar)
Modern Music

Troup)

8:00 pm 10. Discovery
8:15 pm 11. စားလှယ်ရွေးချယ်မှု (စားလှယ်ရွေးချယ်မှု)
8:30 pm 12. Evening news
8:45 pm 13. Weather report
9:00 pm 14. Musical programme
9:15 pm 15. Industrial achievement
9:30 pm 16. Musical programme
9:45 pm 17. စာဝိုင်ကြည်စိုက် (襄春) – အဖွဲ့တွင်သာ (襄春) – အဖွဲ့တွင်သာ
10:00 pm 18. News
10:15 pm 19. International news
10:30 pm 20. Radio Programme
22. the next day’s programme

Runaway US bride turns up 1,200 kms away from home

WASHINGTON, 1 May—A bride-to-be in the southeastern US state of Georgia who had disappeared days has turned up alive in the southern state of New Mexico, police said on Saturday.

The woman, Jennifer Wilbanks, who disappeared on Tuesday while jogging around the house where she was living with her fiance in Duluth, Georgia, travelled to Las Vegas, in the western state of Nevada, by bus before going to Albuquerque, the capital city of New Mexico, some 1,200 kilometres from her home, said Ray Schultz, chief of police in Albuquerque. It was in Albuquerque that she found herself broke and called her fiance from a pay phone late Friday that she had been kidnapped while jogging, he said. She admitted after being questioned by police that she had gotten cold feet about the scheduled wedding on Saturday and decided she needed some time alone, Schultz said.

Wilbanks, a nurse, was now in police custody in Albuquerque, and her relatives were on their way there to pick her up. Her disappearance has been widely reported in national newspapers and TV news programmes and caused a nationwide hunt.

WEATHER

Sunday, 1 April, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayin State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Minbu (0.18) inch. Day temperatures were (6°C) above normal in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Magway and Minbu (41°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 30-4-2005 was 103°F. Minimum temperature on 1-5-2005 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-5-2005 was 69%. Total sunshine hours on 30-4-2005 was (10.3) hours (approx). Rainfalls on 1-5-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (1.46) inches at Yangon Airport, (1.93 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (0.32 inch) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (13:15) hours MST on 30-4-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the West Bay and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 2-5-2005: Like-lihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kayin State, upper Sagaing, 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 in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of thundery conditions in Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-5-2005: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-5-2005: Partly cloudy.

Strong wind warning

(Issued on 1st May, 2005)

As the day temperatures rise markedly all over the country till the onset of Southwest monsoon, local strong winds are likely in the afternoon/ evening over most of the areas. Surface winds speeds may reach (40) to (50) mph, accompanied at times by squalls and hails in some places.

MNA/Khinhaung

MNA/Xinhua
Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

**Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects Kaukkway Creek Dam Project, agricultural services in Lashio**

YANGON, 1 May — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Shan State (North) PDC Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officials and officials of the SPDC Office and departmental officials, arrived at the Kaukkway Creek Dam Project site near Manhsu village in Lashio on 29 April afternoon.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo and officials welcomed the Secretary-1 and reported to him at the briefing hall on implementation of the project. Next, Deputy Director of Irrigation Department U Kyaw Win reported on facts about Kaukkway Dam, clearing of weeds and bushes, earth work, construction of embankment and canals and arrival of fuel and machinery, and the command gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave instructions on measurers to be taken for completion of earth work before the rainy season, use of machinery at full capacity, effective use of fuel, minimising loss and wastage and requirements to be presented if any. Next, he viewed the undertaking of the project from the view point of the briefing hall.

At 2 pm, the Secretary-1 and party attended the ceremony to release fish fries into Sanyya fish pond of the Shan State (North) PDC near Manhsu Village.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party and Chairman U Ma Htu Naw of Shan State (North) Special Region-5, Chairman U Aik Mone of Special Region-7 Palaung Peace Group and Vice-Chairman U Nyi Lone put the fingerlings into the pond. Lt-Gen Thein Sein next greeted those present at the ceremony.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party visited the five-acre plantation of Hmawshwi paddy where they viewed thriving paddy and broadcasting of fertilisers. — MNA

**New building of Myawady Bank Ltd (Bayintnaung) opened**

YANGON, 1 May — A new building of Myawady Bank Ltd (Bayintnaung) was opened on Nwethagi Road in Bayintnaung Brokerage, Mayangon Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Myawady Bank Ltd member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Managing Director of Myawady Bank Ltd Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) and members of the board of directors, heads of departments, officials and staff.

Next, Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), Director Col Ba Tun (Retd) and Deputy Managing Director U Tun Kyi formally opened the new building.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye formally unveiled the stone plaque of the building and inspected it.

In his address, Lt-Gen Tin Aye said the government is building a peaceful, modern developed nation in accord with the four political, four economic and four social objectives. Only when there is economic progress, will there be political and social developments and will the defence power be high.

After the introduction of market-oriented economic system in Myanmar, private banks were allowed to open in accord with directives, rules and regulations of Central Bank of Myanmar. With the increase of deposits at the bank, loans are disbursed to entrepreneurs, he said.

Banking services contribute much towards the development of agriculture, industries, trade and other services. With the economic development, there will be job opportunities for the people, he added. Myanmar is cooperating with regional countries and participating in the tasks of ASEAN Financial cooperation.

Myawady Bank Ltd is making efforts for progress of banking services in Myanmar, he said.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun spoke on the occasion. Deputy Managing Director U Tun Kyi reported on the new building. In commemoration of the opening of the new building, alms were offered to ten members of the Sangha led by Bhaddanta Indobhasa of Kyaku Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Dagon Township.

SPDC Member Lt-Gen Tin Aye presses the button to open stone inscription of Myawady Bank (Bayintnaung) new building. — MNA